As you look and evaluate the initial computer imaging that has been provided to you it is important that you understand what it is and its purpose.

The purpose of computer imaging in facial reshaping surgery is done to help determine what the patient's aesthetic goals are. It is a method of interactive visual communication between the patient and surgeon to help establish what specific facial changes the patient wants. Your task is to evaluate this initial imaging and determine what you like and don't like about it. Then I adjust the imaging to make it the way you eventually like it. This then establishes the aesthetic target from which I design the operation to try and achieve. This does not mean the targeted imaging can be exactly achieved surgically. But I am certain you have no chance to come close to a target that you don’t have.

With that concept in mind here are the important points to remember:

1. It is not done to show you want your exact surgical outcome will be. It is done for you to react to it and tell me what you like and don’t like about it.

2) Do not over interpret the details of the imaging. There

 will be numerous imaging artifacts in it. (asymmetries,

 irregularities etc) We are evaluating some facial

 changing concepts. (the big picture) This is just image

 manipulation so some distortions will always exist.

3) Imaging helps establish three important preoperative issues: 1) are the changes the right concept for what you are seeking, 2) if they are then what is the flavor or degree of change you are seeking (how much or little), and 3) it also tells how the potential feature changes affects how other facial features will then look. (do the proposed changes make other facial features look better or worse)

Dr. Barry Eppley