THE FACE

Giovanni Maciocia
The bones of the face include six paired bones and a single vomer and mandible.
palatine

maxilla

a single vomer
Most of the facial bones are under the influence of the Yang Ming channels, i.e:

- Stomach
- and Large Intestine

The only exceptions are:

- the zygomatic bone which, in addition to the Yang Ming channels, is also influenced by the Small Intestine channel; and
- the sphenoid and temporal bones which are influenced by the Triple Burner channel.
The face contains many different types of small muscles, all of which are under the influence of the Stomach and Large Intestine Muscle channels primarily and also of the Small Intestine Muscle channel secondarily.

The superior auricular and the epicranius muscles are under the influence of the Triple Burner and Gall-Bladder Muscle channels:

![Triple Burner](image1.png)  ![Gall-Bladder](image2.png)
MUSCLE CHANNELS

The face is richly supplied by the muscle channels of all the Yang organs and particularly the Stomach Muscle channel, which meanders up and down the cheeks and chin.

In pathology, the rich supply of Yang Muscle channels in the face accounts for muscle pathologies such as paralysis (as in Bell’s palsy) and tremors or tics.

- The three Yang Muscle channels of the legs meet at S.I.-18 Quanliao.
- The three Yang Muscle channels of the arms meet at G.B.-13 Benshen.
DIVERGENT CHANNELS

Of the Yang Divergent channels, some reach the neck, such as the:

- Large Intestine
- Stomach
- Bladder

while others reach the face or cranium, such as the:

- Triple Burner
- Gall-Bladder
Of the Yin Divergent channels, these ones reach the face:

Spleen  
Heart  
Pericardium

The function of the Yin Divergent channels in this area, is to precisely to allow Yin channels to reach areas not reached by their Main channels and therefore to balance out the predominant Yang energy of the face with some Yin energy.
LUO CHANNELS

Of the Yang Luo channels, only these reach the face

Large Intestine  Stomach
of the Yin Luo channels, only the Heart reaches the face.

This may be another reason why the face is often described as “the banner of the Shen”

it is because of the influence of the Heart Main and Luo channels that emotional and mental problems are readily reflected on the face.
LARGE INTESTINE MUSCLE CHANNEL

From the shoulder the main channel ascends to the neck from where a branch ascends across the cheeks to bind at the side of the nose.

The main channel ascends anterior to the Small Intestine muscle channel, crosses the temple to the corner of the forehead, and crosses over the top of the head to connect with the mandible on the opposite side.