



Review Article

Role of dentist in suicide case- A review

Shaik Ali Hassan^{1,*}, Sumit Bhateja², Geetika Arora³, Francis Prathyusha¹

¹Dept. of Dental, Dr. Francis Maxillofacial and Dental Clinic, India

²Manav Rachna Dental College, Faridabad, Haryana, India

³Inderprastha Dental College & Hospital, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India



ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 21-05-2020

Accepted 04-06-2020

Available online 06-08-2020

Keywords:

Forensic

Palatascopy

Rugoscopy

Bite marks

DNA methods

Radiology

ABSTRACT

The normal teeth are the most solid organs in the collections of vertebrates, and mankind's comprehension of their past and advancement depends vigorously upon remainder dental proof found as fossils. The utilization of highlights novel to the human dentition as a guide to individual recognizable proof is broadly acknowledged inside the criminological field. Near dental distinguishing pieces of proof assume a significant job in recognizing the survivors of viciousness, catastrophe, or different mass disasters. The correlation between mortem and after death dental records to decide human character has for some time been set up. In this article, we will tell you about the use of dentists in forensic case especially when suicide.

© 2020 Published by Innovative Publication. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)

1. Introduction

Forensic Odontology or forensic dentistry was characterized by Keiser-Neilson in 1970¹ as "that part of forensic medication which in light of a legitimate concern for equity manages the best possible taking care of and assessment of dental proof and with the correct assessment and introduction of the dental findings." Forensic Odontology is a significant segment of cutting edge examinations for the distinguishing proof of individuals in mass catastrophes, mishaps, or where the casualty's bodies can't be perceived by visual techniques. The characteristic teeth are the most solid organs in the assortments of vertebrates, and mankind's comprehension of their past and development depends intensely upon remainder dental proof found as fossils.² The utilization of teeth as a proof isn't new. There are recorded reports of ID by perceiving explicit dental highlights as ahead of schedule as 49A.C. Be that as it may, Forensic Odontology, as a science, didn't show up

before 1897 when Dr. Oscar Amoedo composed his doctoral postulation entitled "L' Art Dentaire en Medicine Legale" depicting the utility of dentistry in forensic medication with specific accentuation on identification.

Distinguishing proof depends on examination between known attributes of a missing individual (named bet mortem information) with recuperated qualities from an obscure body (named after death information). Numerous individuals know about the idea of dental recognizable proof; it is oftentimes referenced on media. Yet, the subtleties and complexities of the procedure are infrequently comprehended. The focal authoritative opinion of dental distinguishing proof is that after death dental remains can be contrasted and antemortem dental records, including composed notes, the study throws, radiographs, and so forth to affirm character. People with various and complex dental medicines are regularly simpler to recognize than those people with next to zero treatment. The teeth not just speak to an appropriate storehouse for such remarkable and distinguishing highlights, they likewise endure most after death occasions that can upset or change other body

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: alishaikhassan@gmail.com (S. A. Hassan).

tissues.³ Visual ID in those conditions is dependent upon mistake. Strategies for human distinguishing proof that are recognized as logical are unique mark, DNA, dental and clinical characteristics.² These techniques differ in multifaceted nature, however, they share a comparable degree of sureness. The dental attributes technique is remarkable in being the simplest and speediest strategy for recognizable proof. The assorted variety of dental attributes is wide, making every dentition unique.⁴ Dental polish is the hardest tissue in the body, and would subsequently withstand peri and posthumous harms, thus would dental materials abutted to teeth.

Comparative Dental identifications assume a significant job in distinguishing the casualties of savagery, fiasco, or different mass disasters. The great comparative dental ID utilizes both after death and risk mortem dental records to decide similitudes and avoid disparities. As a rule, the speculative ID of the individual is obscure and hence risk mortem records can't be found. In such cases, a dental profile of the individual is created to help the quest for the person's character. With such a profile a forensic odontologist can distinguish and report pointers for age at the time of death, race, and sex. Notwithstanding these parameters, the forensic dental specialist might have the option to give more knowledge to the person. This article plots for the non-master, a portion of the extra close to home data that can be gotten from the teeth of the expired, and which may aid their definitive distinguishing proof.

The correlation of risk mortem and after death dental records to decide human personality has for some time been set up. Without a doubt, it is as yet a significant distinguishing proof strategy in criminal examinations, mass calamities, horribly disintegrated or damaged bodies, and in different circumstances where visual ID is neither conceivable nor desirable.⁵ Dental identifications are speedy, exact. Regardless of the very much looked into nature of comparative identifications, posthumous dental profiles have been to some degree ignored in the forensic literature.⁶⁻⁸

After death, dental profiles are utilized when the conditional personality of an individual isn't accessible and along these lines bet mortem records can't be sourced. Such circumstances are normal when remains are skeletal, horribly disintegrated, or are discovered exposed in areas irrelevant to their place of living arrangement. The motivation behind the posthumous profile is to give data to examiners that will confine the pursuit to a littler populace of people. Forensic odontologists can normally decide the sex, race, and age (at the hour of death) from the cautious investigation of the teeth, their anatomical plan, and the skull's osteological highlights. They can likewise remove more data from the teeth of the perished relying upon the propensities, proficient occupation, and other standards that realize certain anatomical and protected changes in the

teeth. There are various ways by which a dentist can help in identifying the person who did suicide, of these the best ones are, rugoscopy, cheiloscopy, bite mark analysis, tooth prints, dental DNA analysis, radiographs.

1.1. Rugoscopy

The palatal study called Palatoscopy and the investigation of the examples of the depressions and edges (rugae) of the sense of taste to distinguish is called as Rugoscopy. Palatal rugae involve around three to seven edges transmitting out extraneously from the sharp papilla. Venegas et al.⁹ decided the shape, size, number, and position of the palatal rugae. The most common palatal rugae shape was twisted trailed by bend, line, point, and polymorphic assortments. The palatal rugae that were bigger were twisted. The example of these rugae is viewed as special to an individual and can be utilized as a dependable technique in posthumous cases. The weaknesses in applying rugoscopy as a complete instrument in criminological odontology are many. After death distinguishing proof is beyond the realm of imagination without the antemortem records. To give rugoscopy such significance, past chronicle, examining, and safeguarding through dental throws and PC records are basic. Kapali et al.¹⁰ have seen that dental replacement wear, tooth malposition, and palatal pathology can cause modifications in rugae designs. Palatal rugae are regularly decimated in fire mishap cases and those instances of decay and along these lines rugoscopy doesn't have application after this specified period.¹¹

1.2. Cheiloscopy

Lip prints are ordinary lines and gaps as wrinkles and furrows present in the zone of change of human lip, between the inward labial mucosa and external skin, assessment of which is known as cheiloscopy.¹² Lip prints are exceptional for people like the fingerprints. Lip print recording is useful in the measurable examination that manages recognizable proof of people, given lip follows. A lip print might be uncovered as a surface with obvious components of lines speaking to the wrinkles. This trademark design assists with distinguishing the people since it is novel for people. One basic issue that is experienced during the cheiloscopic considers is that of smearing or ruining of lip prints prompting unidentifiable imprints. When the lines are not satisfactory (Only the state of lines is printed), singular recognizable proof of person dependent on this follow is amazingly troublesome, except if the following contains increasingly singular qualities like scars, clefts and so forth, and frequently distinguishing proof closures with bunch identification.^{13,14}

1.3. Bite marks

The science of identification of bite mark identification can be used to link a suspect to a crime. The bite can be defined as the mark made by human or animal teeth in the skin of alive people, cadavers, or unanimated objects with relatively softened consistency.¹⁵ Bite marks depending upon the crime or circumstances are impressions left on food, skin, or other items left at a scene. In assault cases, they may be found on the victim. Besides the agent identification, bite mark analysis, in a forensic investigation, can elucidate the kind of violence and the elapsed time between its production and the examination. It can show if the bite was produced intravital or post-mortem and in case of several bite marks, identify their sequence.¹⁵ The identification of the perpetrator can also be done by the determination of ABO blood groups from the saliva on the bite mark, and linking bacteria and other microorganisms found in the bite mark to the oral milieu of the perpetrator. Newer techniques that have enhanced bite mark identification include the application of electron microscopy and computer enhancement technique. However, bite marks do not embody all the requisites of an ideal identification method (unicity, immutability, practicability, classifiability), but it can represent in some cases, the unique signs of real value to a criminal investigation.

1.4. DNA method

Procedures including DNA in Forensic Dentistry offer another device when conventional recognizable proof techniques bomb because of the impacts of warmth, traumatism, or autolytic procedures, just as in twists and challenges in the analysis.¹⁶ They can give a wellspring of DNA to simple identification. Because of this plenitude of material, the utilization of the strategy dependent on PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) has obtained incredible significance in DNA after death examination in criminological cases. Polymerase Chain Reaction is an enzymatic enhancement of a particular DNA grouping, pointing a great many duplicates creation from this succession in a test tube, which was first portrayed by Kary Mullis, in the late 1980s, and empowering another procedure of quality investigation however a basic and quick technique, pardoning all the relentless phases of genic cloning.¹⁶ The strategy utilizing PCR empowers the qualification of a subject among different ones with a significant level of dependability, beginning by $\ln g$ (nanogram), proportional to a solitary part in a billion grams, of the DNA target.¹⁷ Saliva is an extremely helpful DNA source because of the reality of being gathered by the effortless and non-equivocal way, ready to be utilized in any event, when it is put away in the most varied conditions.

1.5. Radiology

The circumstances where measurable radiology can be applied to determine legitimate issues are numerous and changed. The significance of radiographic methods in clinical measurable medication is broadly perceived. It is a regular practice to get radiographs as a major aspect of posthumous assessments to find outside bodies or archive cracks or other injuries.¹⁸ The phase at which radiology is actualized during post-mortem examination shifts as indicated by the individual conditions, yet for the most part it is after the outer assessment and before the dissection.¹⁹ The usage of radiographs in distinguishing proof is significant if adequate antemortem records are accessible. Different morphological and neurotic changes can be concentrated from the radiographs. Crown and root morphology helps in recognizable proof.

1.5.1. Factors help in identification

1. Based on occupation of individual
2. Information on a person's occupation can help enormously in the situating of risk mortem records. Most word related infections bring about the loss of dental hard tissues or tooth recoloring. Word related tooth substance misfortune can happen because of three primary frameworks – abrasion, disintegration, and caries.
3. People working inside dusty or particulate conditions will much of the time show abrasion of their dental hard tissues. This is brought about by the crushing of teeth onto hard, roughened particles inside the mouth. Such abrasion is most usually observed on the gnawing surfaces of the teeth (occlusal and incisal).²⁰ Industries, for example, flour mill operators, stone processors, and concrete specialists may without legitimate prudent steps, display such tooth substance loss.^{21,22} Such wear may, in the end, lead to the introduction of dentine and at last the mash complex. Medicines incorporate the arrangement of glue gold onlays (gold which is put on the tooth to supplant the lost tissue) or gum fortified tooth hued remedial materials. While it is difficult to recognize the real particulate causing the abrasion, for example, concrete, stone, or flour, the area of a manufacturing plant of this sort in the region of body revelation may help a definitive recognizable proof.
4. Medical condition
Information on a person's wellbeing status can be a significant hint in the assurance of character and can give another important variable to limit the quest for bet mortem records. Clinical records can be looked through utilizing catchphrases identifying with a specific issue or treatment and when joined with other characterizing attributes, may empower agents to give a conditional distinguishing proof. Conditions that

have a hereditary part can be followed utilizing family ancestries which may in these uncommon conditions, give a helpful knowledge to a person's character. The huge number of cloud ailments that can introduce intra-orally can be limited while considering those which sway upon the dental hard tissues.

5. Based on habits

6. Various way of life propensities affects dental tissues. This can be valuable in the quest for an individual – data with the end goal that the individual was a funnel smoker can encourage the bet mortem record search and brief individuals who may have known them. Normal propensities, for example, tea and espresso drinking, cause outward stains however because of their high occurrence in the populace, their utilization as distinguishing highlights might be irrelevant. Be that as it may, different propensities offer progressively helpful pointers for agents. Funnel smoking is a genuine case of this. Routinely, pipe smokers place the funnel stem in a similar area and consequently make, after some time, a worn design around there. Funnel smoking is likewise connected with the standard nicotine stains and scope of delicate tissue appearances.

7. Based on residence or location

The assurance of a likely spot of habitation can be founded on the dental strategies, the nature of work, and dental materials that have been utilized to reestablish the perished's dentition. A supposition that is made that the individual had their dental work acted in their nation of habitation. It is improbable that a specific nation can be recognized; in any case, topographical zones can be distinguished. Dental strategies and the materials accessible to perform them fluctuate generally, and are typically impacted by the riches of the nation. Dental preparation is an additional profoundly factor, and in numerous nations, there is almost no conventional dental preparation.

2. Conclusion

This article mainly deals with the determination of a victim based on various methods and also factors play a vital role in identification in forensic. A dental specialist conveys a significant duty since his logical sentiment is often solicited when every single other way from recognizable proof has been depleted. There are cases in which teeth are the main safeguarded human remains and present the main methods for recognizable proof to limit the pursuit inside the missing individual's record and empower a progressively effective methodology. In these cases, last recognizable proof may rely upon explicit ontological coordinating of pre and after death dental information, DNA-composing and fingerprinting, Anthropometry. Forensics is also used for mass disasters (like earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods), for age determination, bite marks, and dead body identification.

3. Source of Funding

None.

4. Conflict of Interest

None.

References

1. Keiser-Neilsen S, Bristol. Bristol: John Wright and Sons; 1980. Person Identification by Means of Teeth,.
2. Tobias P, Gorge O. Cambridge University;1990. The Skulls, endocast and teeth of Homo habilis. New York,.
3. Interpol. Disaster victim identification; 2011. Available from: <http://www.interpol.int/Public/DisasterVictim/default.asp>.
4. Adams BJ. Establishing personal identification based on specific patterns of missing, filled, and unrestored teeth. *J Forensic Sci.* 2003;48:487–96.
5. Pretty IA, Sweet D. Teeth in the determination of human identity. *Br Dent J.* 2001;190:359–66.
6. Whittaker DK, Macdonald DG. London: Mosby; 1989. A Colour Atlas of Forensic Dentistry.
7. Practical Forensic Odontology. London: Wright; 1992.
8. Weedn VW. Postmortem Identification of Remains. *Clin Labor Med.* 1998;18(1):115–37.
9. Venegas VH, Valenzuela JSP, López MC, Galdames ICS. Palatal Rugae: Systematic Analysis of its Shape and Dimensions for Use in Human Identification. *Int J Morphol.* 2009;27(3):819–25.
10. Kapali S, Townsend G, Richards L, Parish T. Palatal rugae patterns in Australian Aborigines and Caucasians. *Aus Dent J.* 1997;42(2):129–33.
11. Komar DA. Decay Rates in a Cold Climate Region: A Review of Cases Involving Advanced Decomposition from the Medical Examiner's Office in Edmonton, Alberta. *J Forensic Sci.* 1998;43(1):57–61.
12. Utsuno H, Kanoh T, Tadokoro O, Inoue K. Preliminary study of post mortem identification using lip prints. *Forensic Sci Int.* 2005;149(2-3):129–32.
13. Mishra G, Ranganathan K, Saraswathi TR. Study of lip prints. *J Forensic Dent Sci.* 2009;1(1):28–31.
14. Sivapathasundharam B, Prakash PA, Sivakumar G. Lip prints (cheiloscopy) Indian. *J Dent Res.* 2001;12:234–7.
15. Strom F. Investigation of bite marks. *J Dent Res.* 1963;42:312–6.
16. Pötsch L, Meyer U, Rothschild S, Schneider PM, Rittner C. Application of DNA techniques for identification using human dental pulp as a source of DNA. *Int J Legal Med.* 1992;105(3):139–43.
17. Sweet D, Lorente JA, Valenzuela A, Lorente M, Villanueva E. PCR-Based DNA Typing of Saliva Stains Recovered from Human Skin. *Journal of Forensic Sciences.* 1997;42(3):447–51.
18. Sholl SA, Moody GH. Evaluation of dental radiographic identification: an experimental study. *Forensic Sci Int.* 2001;115(3):165–9.
19. Kahana T, Hiss J. Forensic radiology. *Br J Radiol.* 1999;72(854):129–33.
20. Donachie MA, Walls AWG. Assessment of tooth wear in an ageing population. *J Dent.* 1995;23(3):157–64.
21. Bachanek T, Chalas R, Pawlowicz A, Tarczydło B. Exposure to flour dust and the level of abrasion of hard tooth tissues among the workers of flour mills. *Ann Agric Environ Med.* 1999;6:147–56.
22. Tuominen M, Tuominen R. Tooth surface loss among people exposed to cement and stone dust in the work environment in Tanzania. *Comm Dent Health.* 1991;8:233–41.

Author biography

Shaik Ali Hassan Dental Surgeon

Sumit Bhateja HOD

Geetika Arora Reader

Francis Prathyusha BDS, MDS

Cite this article: Hassan SA, Bhateja S, Arora G, Prathyusha F. **Role of dentist in suicide case- A review.** *IP Int J Forensic Med Toxicol Sci* 2020;5(2):43-47.