Release of antemortem dental records and radiographs.


Nelson-Craig-L.
ISFO, Deputy Coroner, Allen County, USA.
English.
2006.

Identifying victims of September 11, 2001, and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.


English.
2006.

Case presentation: making a positive identification.


Nelson-Craig-L.
ISFO, USA.
English.
2006.

Bite mark analysis.

Parks-Edwin-T.

Department of Oral Pathology, Medicine, and Radiology, Indiana University School of Dentistry, USA.

English.

2006.

The strange deaths of Hugo Johnston.


Stuckey-Clay-W.

English.

2006.

Cold case homicide from St. Joseph County.


Douglas-David.

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English.

2006.


Journal (Indiana Dental Association), {J-Indiana-Dent-Assoc}, 2006-2007 Winter, vol. 85, no. 4, p. 6-12, ISSN: 0019-6568.

McGue-Brian-C.

Bcm702@verizon.net.

English.

2006.

Kidneys, kidneys, kidneys.

Journal (Indiana Dental Association), {J-Indiana-Dent- Assoc},
(Medical expert opinions in oral and maxillofacial medicine regarding incisor tooth trauma).

Frontzahntraumata als Gegenstand von Gutachten.


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BACKGROUND: The treatment of traumatized patients plays a significant role in the everyday life of oral and maxillofacial surgeons as well as of dentists. Traumas of incisor teeth account for a considerable part. These traumas are often followed by lawsuits. The aim of this retrospective analysis was to highlight aspects of these lawsuits of special significance and to show the consequences for surgeons and general practitioners. MATERIAL AND METHODS: A total of 398 medical expert opinions were evaluated. Moreover, an online search of databases for relevant court decisions was performed. Analysis was initially based on formal aspects of the cases and reports. It was later supplemented by a differentiated assignment of the questions addressed by the courts to the expert consultants. RESULTS: In 97 (24%) medical expert opinions traumas of the incisor teeth were the main subject. In 35% the trauma was caused by traffic accidents followed by assaults. In one-third the medical expert opinion was commissioned by accident insurance companies. The compensation for pain and suffering was between 1500 and 2000 euros per lost tooth.
CONCLUSION: Traumas of incisor teeth are often followed by litigations. Clinicians performing first treatment should ensure that documentation of clinical and radiological findings is detailed and complete. This documentation plays a decisive role in medical expert opinions.

German.
2006.

Esthetics and implantology: medico-legal aspects.
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In recent years the high number of malpractice lawsuits in dentistry has attracted closer attention of dental practitioners to its medico-legal aspects. Implantology, in particular, presents many points of medico-legal concern connected with the difficulties inherent to dental procedures and objectives (both functional and esthetic), as well as full patient collaboration as an essential part of successful treatment. An accurate assessment of each case by the clinician is fundamental, especially in circumstances where esthetic considerations are preponderant as, for instance, in the frontal sectors. In such cases, the options of implantology or of a traditional fixed prosthesis need to be carefully weighed in light of the patient's anatomic condition. The patient should therefore receive complete information and be made fully aware of the risk of treatment failure, as well as possible complications, limits to the procedures, and the fact that successful outcome will also depend on her/his scrupulous observance of the practitioner's instructions. In short, the aim is to make the patient an active "accomplice" in
treatment. To this end, the use of an extremely detailed information leaflet is strongly advised; after careful clarification of any doubts the patient may have, the patient's written informed consent should be obtained. Nevertheless, there is the risk that excessive intrusion of bureaucracy into medical procedures in defence of the practitioner against malpractice suits may hinder the principal aim of traditional medicine, i.e. to provide the best care for the patient through mutual trust fostered within the doctor-patient relationship.

English, Italian.

2007.

**Maximum intensity projection of cranial computed tomography data for dental identification.**


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Dental radiographs play the major role in the identification of victims in mass casualties besides DNA. Under circumstances such as those caused by the recent tsunami in Asia, it is nearly impossible to document the entire dentition using conventional x-rays as it would be too time consuming. Multislice computed tomography can be used to scan the dentition of a deceased within minutes, and the postprocessing software allows visualization of the data adapted to every possible antemortem x-ray for identification. We introduce the maximum intensity projection of cranial computed tomography data for the purpose of dental identification exemplarily in a case of a burned corpse. As transportable CT scanners already exist, these could be used to support the disaster victim identification teams in
Age estimation in children by measurement of open apices in teeth.


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This paper concerns a method for estimating the age of children based on their teeth. The sample consisted of 455 Italian white children (213 boys, 242 girls) aged between 5 and 15 years. The purpose of the present investigation was to present a method for assessing chronological age based on the relationship between age and measurement of the open apices in teeth. Pearson’s correlation coefficients between age and these variables showed that the correlations between age and the open apices in teeth were significant and negative. Furthermore, gender and the number of teeth with the apical end of the root canals completely closed (N(0)) showed a significant correlation with chronological age. With the aid of a stepwise multiple regression model, a linear relationship between open apices, N(0), and age was shown. Statistical analysis indicated that these morphological variables explain 83.6% of the variations in estimated chronological age. The median of residual errors between the actual and estimated ages was -0.035 years (interquartile range (IQR)=1.18 years).

Importance of dental records for victim identification following the
Indian Ocean tsunami disaster in Thailand.

Public health, (Public-Health), Apr 2007 (epub: 05 Feb 2007), vol. 121, no. 4, p. 251-7, ISSN: 0033-3506.


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OBJECTIVES: To determine the usefulness of dental records for victim identification following the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster in Thailand, and to evaluate the dental identification system in Thailand, the homeland of a large number of the victims. STUDY DESIGN: A descriptive study conducted at the Thai Tsunami Repatriation Centre in Phangnga Province one year after the tsunami hit Thailand on the 26th December 2004. METHODS: The dental records of 3750 dead bodies and 3547 missing persons in the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) database, updated on 12th December 2005, were analysed. RESULTS: The identification rate of missing persons with dental records was significantly higher than that of those without (P<0.01). Most victims identified by dental records were returned home within the first four months after the disaster. Dental records were the primary identifier in 46.2% of those identified. However, among the Thai citizens reported missing, only 2.0% used dental identification, 18.1% had dental charts and 0.8% had dental X-rays. In addition, only 7.4% of Thai dental records could be used for dental identification and one-third of Thai victims remained the majority of those unidentified. CONCLUSIONS: Based on this study, the usefulness of dental records for victim identification in a disaster was confirmed. The dental identification system for nationals of Thailand could not work efficiently due to lack of dental records and insufficient recorded detail.

English.

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A dental chart is very useful as a standard source of evidence in the personal identification of bodies. However, the kind of dental chart available will often vary as a number of types of odontogram have been developed where the visual representation of dental conditions has relied on hand-drawn representation. We propose the Digital Dental Chart (DDC) as a new style of dental chart, especially for open investigations aimed at establishing the identity of unknown bodies. Each DDC is constructed using actual oral digital images and dental data, and is easy to upload onto an Internet website. The DDC is a more useful forensic resource than the standard types of dental chart in current use as it has several advantages, among which are its ability to carry a large volume of information and reproduce dental conditions clearly and in detail on a cost-effective basis.

English.

2007.

Disaster dentistry.

Hinchliffe-J-A.
This article gives a brief glimpse of some of the issues involved with dental identification of fatalities in disaster situations. It is based on the personal views and experiences of the author as a forensic dentist in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami and the Sharm el Sheikh bombings.

2007.

Tooth dimensions of Southern Chinese.

Homo : internationale Zeitschrift fuer die vergleichende Forschung am Menschen, {Homo}, 2007 (epub: 18 Jan 2007), vol. 58, no. 1, p. 67-73, ISSN: 0018-442X.

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Teeth in casts of a random sample from the Hong Kong Oral Health Survey of 12-year-old children (n=459; 295 boys and 164 girls) were measured in the mesiodistal, buccolingual, and clinical crown height dimensions. Sexual dimorphism was evident in all tooth types in nearly all tooth dimensions, with the exception of the mesiodistal dimension of mandibular central incisors. The Chinese male tooth dimensions were larger than in females in nearly all characters. The measurements were compared with other human groups. Results showed that the Southern Chinese had larger tooth dimensions than the Japanese and than the White Americans. Hence it is important to have data concerning a relevant human group for purposes of clinical diagnosis and planning of treatment. These data may also be useful in
forensic dentistry.
English.
2007.