



Odontology Section – 2003

F13 Self Contained Forensic Odontology Training Program Using WinId3

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Upon completion of this presentation, attendees should be able to train themselves for a mass disaster using WinId3.

Preparation for a Mass Casualty Incident is very time consuming. Organizing groups of people at one time can be difficult. Scheduling conflicts can create additional problems. Trainees may not live in close proximity to a forensic group and may need to travel to attend a seminar or multi-day program. People will volunteer to give up time to be trained, but motivating people to maintain their level of training can be more difficult. Many professionals sometimes feel that if they saw it once, they are experts and do not need to train again. Using these professionals in a real disaster can become a disaster if they make a mistake. With the recent events that have occurred such as the World Trade Center terrorist attack followed by the American Airlines #587 accident many people have received onsite forensic training. This is not an ideal way to learn because mistakes will occur. In Forensic Odontology, one mistake generally means two mistakes. The psychological trauma to the families of the deceased is unacceptable. Therefore, forensic specialists must be able to train and more importantly maintain proficiency on an ongoing basis.

There are several computer programs available to use for comparisons of antemortem and postmortem records. The Suffolk County Medical Examiners Office and organizations such as DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team) have decided to utilize WinId3 as the computer program of choice for any mass casualty event. WinId3 was written by Dr. James McGivney and is always being upgraded. The program itself is not difficult to learn. To use WinId3 to its fullest potential means additional training time. When a dental examiner is reading the X-Rays without a chart, there is room for interpretation. As the computer programs are getting more sophisticated, there can be room for interpretation. However for training purposes, everyone should be trained at the same level if possible. Consistency is also extremely important.

This presentation is designed to create discussion on training for comparing antemortem and postmortem records. The result of this presentation will provide forensic odontologists with the ability to train themselves. The WinId3 has been utilized as the basis for the author's training program. Everything necessary to train with a group or alone will be available on a compact disk. Anyone using this training program has to have at least the basic knowledge and understanding of computer usage.

A version of WinId3 is on the compact disk for those who may not have Internet capability. More up to date versions are available on the Internet as freeware thanks to Dr. McGivney. A database consisting of antemortem and postmortem records is provided to place into WinId3. An antemortem records database with a blank postmortem database is included for the training exercise. This allows for the creation of postmortem records to compare. Charts and X-Rays of all the antemortem records and postmortem X-Rays are included in the program. An answer key and instruction manual in cookbook style is also provided. Everything is in a separate folder for easy access. Commonly used identification forms are also included to aid in creating records and comparisons.

WinId3 comes with an antemortem and postmortem database for practice. The authors go several steps further. By including Charts and X-Rays, the trainee can create his/her own charting for the antemortem record, enter those records, and run comparisons. Postmortem X-Rays can be obtained also outside the main database and used to construct a postmortem record. These records can then be entered into a database that contains only antemortem records. Comparisons can be run. The trainee can check for mistakes using the main database or the answer key. Since WinId3 is also networkable, a group can practice together simulating a mass fatality incident.

The authors provided a compact disk to several members of a study group, The Suffolk Society of Forensic Dentistry, to try. With very little help everyone was able pull up charts, X-Rays, and forms. It was suggested that forms and charts be printed and that X-Rays can be viewed on screen. Participants then created the ante or postmortem records, accessed the appropriate database, and entered the records. Comparisons were run, and mistakes were reviewed and corrected.

With this computer-training program and advances in computer technology, it is possible for anyone wishing to train and maintain his/her forensic skills to do so anywhere anytime.

Forensic Odontology, Mass Disaster Training, WinId3 Training Program