



D41 Evaluation of Parentage Cases in Turkey

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After attending this presentation the attend will learn the disputed parentage cases in Turkey analyzed in a socio-demographic approach.

The forensic community will learn the current situation about the paternity practice in Turkey and will be informed about various sociodemographic parameters related to the subject.

Disputed parentage and specifically paternity is one of the most frequent type of testing of biological relationship performed in the Institute of Forensic Sciences of the University of Istanbul. Cases such as identifying the parents of an adopted, and possible baby mix-ups can also be categorized within the same group. Controversial cases of both civil and criminal origin as well as private applications are being examined. Many aspects of parentage testing have changed in the past decade in our country. We see an increase in the demand for testing which may be explained in several ways. The most valid one is the tremendous amount of information about the DNA technology, its validity and reliability that passed through media to public and increased the awareness. The result of this continual publicity about DNA is that more and more testing is being requested directly by individuals without involvement of lawyers or the courts. Even the number of exhumations for this purpose has been increased seriously. In this study we performed a socio-demographic analysis of 356 paternity cases. The material used, consists mainly of information obtained by the individual consent forms of the subjects taken during the application for the analysis used in completely anonymous format and the final paternity reports. The cases have been evaluated as to the age of the mother, the child and the questioned father, the sex of the children the marital status of the couple, and the degree of the exclusion of the paternity. Additionally the civil, criminal and private applications were examined separately. The seasonal fluctuations of the applications and the applicant (the father or the mother) have also been analyzed. Some of the outcomes of the study are as follows. The 47.7% of the children to be examined found to be males. The most frequent months of applications seem to be November (19.9%), December (10.5%) and January (13.2%). The exclusion rate is 29%, which is comparable to results found in various European and North American populations. When we examined the question with which the application was done, the reason for the analysis can be classified as suspicion in first place followed by wealth problems and finally the desire to prove the legitimacy to the family, a characteristic that reflects the culture itself.

Parentage, Paternity, Turkey