



## Odontology Section – 2004

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### **F30 Pattern Injury Bite Mark Investigative Protocol**

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The goal of this presentation is to discuss protocol for bite mark investigations.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by documenting and differentiating the patterned injury which must precede a bite mark work up.

"Thorough documentation and thoughtful interpretation are essential prerequisites if justice is to be done."- Joseph H. Davis, MD. The role of the forensic odontologist in bite mark cases is first to be able to recognize bite patterns and differentiate them from other surface traumas. A protocol should be followed and a differential diagnosis made before the forensic odontologist begins his bite mark work up and analysis. Misinterpretation of patterned injuries has led to tragic consequences that could have been prevented if the appropriate investigative protocol had been followed. Investigative opinion and evidentiary opinions are not the same and the understanding of the difference as well as the application of these opinions will be discussed. First things first. Documentation and differentiation of the patterned injury must precede a bite mark work up.

**Bite Mark, Odontology Protocol, Odontology**