



## Odontology Section – 2004

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### **F4 Dental Development as an Aid for Identification of Carbonized Juvenile Remains**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the use of dental age estimation for identification purposes.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating how dental age estimation can contribute to victim identification.

Identification of victims in mass disasters is always a tedious and time consuming occupation for the DVI teams, as the bodies are very often in very bad conditions due to the nature of the disaster. Although most DVI teams apply an interdisciplinary approach for the identification process the classic methods are sometimes insufficient to establish a positive identification. Particularly when dealing with carbonized remains of mass disasters the circumstantial evidence has most likely disappeared and other scientific methods will have to be applied to identify the victims. In this E 34 motorway accident, which occurred in June 2001 near Antwerp, six people from different nationalities lost their lives when a truck collided with a tour bus. Due to the heavy subsequent fire the vehicles burned to ashes and all bodies were heavily carbonized which made the identification extremely difficult. Amongst the victims in one particular car were two young boys of different age. Despite the fact that the team disposed of antemortem dental records the identification had to be carried out by dental age estimation from the present and the developing dentition. Comparing with existing tables and charts allowed the forensic odontologists to make the distinction between the two boys.

**Mass Disaster, Identification, Dental Age Estimation**