



Odontology Section – 2004

F40 Tooth Prints: Dentistry's Role in the Identification of Missing and Unidentified Children

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The goal of this research project is to introduce tooth prints as a reliable dental method in the identification of unknown remains in the absence of diagnostic dental records.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by introducing an additional forensic tool available for all specialists in the rapid identification of missing and exploited children utilizing the dentition as well as facial recognition and saliva for DNA analysis.

The disappearance and identification of missing and unknown children have received much attention in the national and local media. Dentists have historically helped in providing dental information on missing individuals when requested from law enforcement agencies and have continued to be a vital participant in the identification of unidentified human remains. Unfortunately, diagnostic dental records/radiographs are not available on all forensic examinations for comparative identification. Reasons for this increasingly common dilemma focus on the young age of the individual, length of time of non-active dental status of the person, or records which have been accidentally misplaced, or, even worse, destroyed. Because the human dentition continues to depict an individualized uniqueness, bite impressions provide a reliable method for identification purposes. This presentation introduces tooth prints as the bite impression technique in the establishment of a record of an individual's dentition at a given point in time, as well as providing a saliva sample for DNA identification.

Tooth Prints, Bite Registration, DNA