



Pathology & Biology Section – 2004

G59 Who was Driving: A Case Report

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After attending this presentation the attendee will learn the power of DNA technology in solving problems concerning traffic accidents.

The forensic community will realize the importance of the application of DNA technology to traffic accidents.

The traffic accidents form one of the major sources of socioeconomic loss for almost all the countries. This loss figures as material as well as personal loss. One of the most important strategic approaches is the certainty with which the cause the accident can be established together with the responsible. The possibility of the determination of the responsible can be considered as the best method of prevention.

In case where the responsible is the driver the question is to identify him. The denial of driving is a very common phenomenon in traffic accidents. However the development in DNA technology the last decade made possible the personal identification in a very high accuracy.

Using this technology we have identified the driver of an accident with two deaths. Following the accident that took place in Izmir, a city in Aegean coast of Turkey, the Institute of Forensic Sciences of The University of Istanbul was asked to determine the driver performing a detailed crime scene investigation. There were two deaths and two survivors from whom the one had amnesia and the second accused the first to be the driver.

The car examination revealed biological material from the front seat and from the windshield that matched the DNA profile of the second survivor.

The success of the identification was not only because of the power of the technology used but also because of the careful and detailed car examination that was performed. It is true that to end up with a satisfactory result requires a correct crime scene investigation at first part.

Traffic Accidents, DNA Technology, Crime Scene Investigation