



D60 A New Method to Assist in the Rapid Identification of Unknown Bodies Utilizing a Nationwide Database of Specialized Forensic Data

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The goal of this presentation is to familiarize the non-dentist attendee with a new computer program to assist in the rapid identification of unknown bodies utilizing a nationwide database forensic data. The attendees will be introduced to a client/server-based system that securely links to a national database of forensic odontological data to assist in possible identification.

Following this presentation the attendee will understand the model for establishing and linking multiple law enforcement institutions to access and utilize forensic odontological data and the importance of collecting this data during a missing persons or unknown body forensic investigation.

The linking of local forensic databases to a national or international database has created a powerful tool in the rapid identification of unknown bodies. Database of fingerprint or DNA information has matured over the last 20 years and have provided invaluable in assisting in this identification. Unfortunately, both have some severe limitations. Fingerprints require that fingers are present and that the body has not decayed to the point of making the print unreadable. DNA information is far more reliable but is limited by the difficulty in creating an antemortem or postmortem database and currently requires a specialized laboratory and far more time to perform reliably. Forensic odontological data is easy to obtain and easy to utilized but there is currently no available system that can link local officials to a national or international database.

Dr. James McGivney's WinID8 dental identification program has been the gold standard used by forensic odontologist's for many years for mass disaster. Its usefulness has been well documented but is limited to local crime scenes. Query Analyzer for WinID8 (QA For WinID8) has been designed from the ground up as a client/server based system to selectively match local data to a national or international database allowing for the creation of worldwide clearinghouse for forensic data. Its algorithms make extensive use of the filters, which in computer jargon are referred to as queries, and are designed to reduce the number of possible matches by eliminating "unexplainable discrepancies." Because of the universality of the Standard Query Language (SQL), the method QA for WinID8 uses to filters information, it allows for an easy method to bridge with other database programs. This filtering is done automatically by QA For WinID8 and therefore does not require any knowledge of the SQL.

The purpose of this presentation is to familiarize the non-dentist in the use of this program and to aid them in setting up a nationwide database of odontologic data. It will describe a mechanism whereby local law enforcement agencies will have the capability to attempt to find possible matches of unknown bodies or missing persons with antemortem information against a national database. Finally by presenting this lecture in the General Section it will emphasis the importance of obtaining this information as standard operating procedure when local law enforcement officials collect evidence for a missing person or when attempting to identify an unknown body.

Computer Program, Forensic Identification, Mass Disasters