



Pathology Biology Section – 2006

G77 Photography of Abuse: Is There a Best Method?

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The goal of this presentation is to discuss methods of recording photographically injuries both visible and invisible to the unaided eye.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating how there is a need for further research in the development of a standardized protocol for photographing injuries that are not immediately visualized. A standardized protocol for documentation of old injury patterns would be useful in elder and child abuse cases.

Historically, documentation of bruising of abuse victims was accomplished using standard film cameras, recording injuries visible to the naked eye. Presently documentation of abuse has advanced to include both infrared and ultraviolet imagery using both fast black and white film and high-speed infrared film. This research will attempt to establish standardized parameters and techniques for optimum light source and filtration together with an ideal photographic protocol for documentation of fresh and older patterned injuries. When developing a photographic protocol for this research, specific attention is given to techniques appearing in past literature concerning UV and IR imaging of bite marks and bruising. Several methods appearing in the literature on the documentation of pattern injuries are explored and tested. In the research the authors are attempting to determine if any one of those selected protocols explored proves more beneficial than the others, ultimately determining a "best method" if one exists. Since this is a time of technological shift from film to digital media, both types of cameras are examined for compatibility, advantages, and limitations. Photographs were taken for six weeks at twoday intervals using numerous filters with both digital and film capabilities in an attempt to discern if the digital camera is comparable for this type of forensic work. Different alternate light sources are tested during ultraviolet and infrared digital photography. The digital camera has advantages and limitations when working with infrared and ultraviolet photography.

Abuse, Ultraviolet, Infrared