



Physical Anthropology Section – 2007

H90 Most Common Variation and Dental Anomalies in Skeletons Analyzed in the Laboratory of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be introduced to data obtained about morphology, variation, and dental anomalies of the skeletons analyzed in the FAFG that will demonstrate differences with other groups or populations.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating the importance of odontology in forensic anthropology in Guatemala for identification of individuals.

In several cases, features were observed in the teeth that are not common to all dentition, or to all persons. Occasionally, these features were scored as anomalies until a review revealed that they were in fact morphological variation. Occasionally, these variations were a difference of major or minor grade that does not alter the form of the tooth but gives it a different appearance. Anomalies are simply a deviation of normality. These deviations can occur as a result of local conditions, as well as inheritance or, in some cases, systematic alteration.

Dental anomalies not only affect tooth form, size, layout, number or time of eruption, they are also modifications of histological structure. The different teeth vary in length, width, thickness, curve of the root, features of the crown, evolution of the marginal crest, form, and definition of the cusp.

One of the most common questions is: what are the morphological features of the inhabitants of Guatemala? However, performing an investigation of this type would involve a population too big, therefore this study will specifically report on variation and anomalies observed in the permanent dentition of the skeletons recovered in the regions most affected by the civil war in Guatemala, which were analyzed in the laboratory of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG).

Due to shortage of studies about dental morphology in the Guatemalan population, other data (from other groups) were used, because there are not enough investigations performed that could clearly prove if the dental morphology of the Guatemalan is the same or different from what it is commonly described.

Dentition, Morphology, Anomaly