



F24 Third Molars and Estimating Age of Majority in Young Adults From Thailand

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After attending this presentation attendees will have gained an insight on the methodology and usefulness of using the developmental stages of third molars for estimating the age of majority in young adults, and more specifically in male and female youngsters living in Thailand.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by providing an additional database for dental age estimation of unaccompanied minors in an effort to globally counteract child trafficking in a more scientific approach.

All over the world people are entering countries illegally. Child trafficking is one of the existing illegal pathways which is counteracted by authorities worldwide in an effort to protect children's rights. However some of these unaccompanied minors claim to be minor but are not in reality. Therefore, age estimation procedures have been designed in many countries internationally and are most of the time based on a developmental evaluation of bones of the hand wrist, the collar bone and teeth.

The purpose of this research was to analyze the development of third molars in relation to chronological age in an original population of young adults in Thailand.

The developmental stage of third molars was determined on panoramic radiographs according to an earlier published methodology of the main authors. More than 900 panoramic radiographs were taken in male and female youngsters between 15 and 23 years of age. All these individuals were original inhabitants from Thailand and had the Thai nationality.

The examined radiographs were from individuals that had at least one developed upper and one lower third molar present, they showed no relevant medical history and had no obvious dental pathology. Their chronologic age at the moment of taking the panoramic radiograph was calculated based on their date of birth and the date when the panoramic radiograph was taken.

The results are discussed in full extent and allow the age calculation of unaccompanied minors originating from Thailand in a scientifically more sound approach.

Dental Age Estimation, Third Molars, Forensic Odontology