



Odontology Section – 2009

F17 A First Bite Mark Case

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be shown how to apply bite mark training to prepare for a case and to review basic principles of bite mark analysis.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by providing an example of how to apply training to forensic odontology.

After several exciting AAFS or ASFO meetings, many become frustrated by the lack of opportunity to use what is learned. This presentation is an example of how one may use knowledge and skills acquired during these meetings. My first bite mark case was a fabricated exercise. A bite was made, examined, photographed, and preserved. All suspects with access were located and evidence obtained. An initial comparison based on general characteristics allowed exclusion of one suspect. A more detailed analysis using individual characteristics revealed good concordance with one suspect and poor concordance with another. Faced with the comparison, the culprit confessed.

This bite mark comparison has been used effectively in presenting the principles of bite mark analysis to both professional and lay audiences. The presentation reviews gathering of evidence, preservation of evidence, and different methods of comparison. Working with the legal system can also be discussed. The case also provides an opportunity to use and practice techniques learned during courses and articles devoted to bite mark evidence.

Bite Mark, Forensic Odontology, Dentistry