



F29 A Retrospective Analysis of the Forensic Files at One of the Dental Faculty Archive in Turkey

Humeyra Kocaelli, PhD, Istanbul University, Istanbul, TURKEY; and Feryal Karaman, PhD, Istanbul University Institute of Forensic Sciences, Cerrahpasa, Istanbul, TURKEY*

After attending this presentation, attendees will see the importance of forensic odontology during the dental education.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing that forensic science will take more importance in coming years.

In this study, 870 files have been searched at Istanbul University Dentistry Faculty which were saved at the Faculty Dean's archive between February 22, 1984 and June 12, 2008. Among these files, 249 trauma cases, 104 malpractices, 304 files with missing documents, and 213 of other subjects (such as expert report requests, arrested person's health check requests, price and check up investigation letters among the related departments, patient request and claims applications, etc) have been found. Traumas consisted mostly of maxillofacial traumas, traffic accidents, weapons, and other injuries. Most of the claims were concentrated in prosthetic treatments, where surgical and orthodontic treatments were followed in 104 malpractice cases.

During records review, it was realized that 285 of the 304 files with missing documents were associated with cases before 1990. Filing and properly retained documents were achieved with greater care after 1992.

Distribution of documents according to the related official departments, revealed that requests and claims by the deans started from 1992 and incremental increase seen by 2003. This increment may be related with the ISO 2001 Certificate of Istanbul University Faculty of Dentistry that was taken in 2004. Before 1992, investigative affairs generally took place in police stations or by public prosecutors. As time passed, they were transferred to the courts and this has increased since year 2000. Fewer investigated malpractice cases were found in past years, but have also increased since 2000. The reasoning is that patients may understand their rights and also new laws regarding malpractice have been implemented or revised.

During investigating the reports with missing documents, it was discovered that the dentists did not have enough information and knowledge in how to avoid malpractice affairs. In addition, they did not have the knowledge for preparing a forensic report. Due to that reason, we are recommending Forensic Odontology lectures should added to the general forensic medicine lectures in dental curriculums.

Forensic Odontology, Forensic Files, Retrospective Study