



F19 Guide of International Dental Chartings Translated to English – Decoding International Antemortem Dental Chartings for INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Forms (F2)

Scheila Manica, MSc, University of Glamorgan Wales, 53 Street Dunstons Avenue, London, W3 6QD, UNITED KINGDOM*

After attending this presentation, attendees will be aware of a wide variety of symbols and abbreviations in different languages present in various dental chartings from INTERPOL member countries.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by presenting a guide that could be a source of consultation for different needs such as: dental identification on foreign patient in mortuaries (when previous dental records are not written in English); and, additionally by aiding dental teams working for the antemortem dental records section in disaster victim identification in international scenarios while decoding international dental records.

The INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification forms have a global standard of application for mass disasters and the collection of international antemortem dental records could be optimized by a guide of dental terminology applied on dental chartings from several languages to English.

The goal of this study was to analyze the tooth numbering system, symbols, and abbreviations used on dental charting worldwide. The countries studied are composed of the 188 INTERPOL member countries.

The logical approach to obtain current dental chartings from those countries was contacting national dental associations through the FDI (*Fédération Dentaire Internationale*) website. The letter addressed the goals of the project and requirements of samples of dental chartings. They were sent to the national dental associations email addresses and additionally by mail. In order to complement the amount of information, the letter was also sent to the twenty-one IOFOS (The International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology) members.

A total of 50 countries replied to the query. There was a wide variety of dental notations applied in a same country or the absence of those in other countries. Some of the samples were of little value; however, a fair amount of information and detail was present in most of them.

A literature review summarized the spoken language and density of dentists in each country as well as all the received information from the replies. This pointed out the two most used tooth numbering system in use namely: the FDI and the Palmer notations.

Focusing on the gathering of information for the filling of the INTERPOL DVI form F2 where the most important dental information is.

Twenty-four common dental alterations were selected such as: decay, fillings and prosthesis, and their symbols and/or abbreviations were summarized in ten languages. Some findings were very surprising, for instance: one determined symbol has two different meanings in different countries. Another example is the tooth surface nomenclature named “vestibular” which is not widely used in Europe.

This report also compares most of the historical tooth notations from Zsigmond (1861) to FDI two-digit (1971). After the results, it is also shown a percentage of the tooth numbering system most commonly used today.

This guide could be useful when the handwriting, symbols, and abbreviations on the antemortem dental chartings are not clear and this is paramount when antemortem x-rays and casts are not available.

Disaster Victim Identification, Antemortem Dental Record, INTERPOL DVI Form