



G50 A Forensic Odontology Aspect of Disaster Victim Identification Across Members of the International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology

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The goal of this presentation is to present protocols from members of the International Organization of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology (IOFOS) that will aid in the sharing and decipherment of new technologies, management of unique cases, improving methodologies, and assisting fellow nations in disaster management.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by promoting efficient and reliable guidelines in the identification of human remains in order to achieve concise and effective results.

Discussion: When it comes to the forensic odontology aspect of Disaster Victim Identification (DVI), each country operates differently as per the political climate or individual background/organization. It is a well-established fact that the Interpol Standing Committee on DVI includes forensic odontology as part of their guidelines. Forensic odontologists play a key role in DVI. Interpol provides designated forms and protocols to aid odontologists as part of their DVI manual.¹ This results in quality assurance as recommended by the IOFOS.

Besides evidence collection, examination and recording, interpretation, reporting, and presentation, protocols are one of the key tasks of forensic odontologists involved during a DVI when tsunamis, plane crashes, terrorist attacks, etc. occur.²

A study of protocols from members of the IOFOS will aid in the sharing and decipherment of new technologies, management of unique cases, improved and revised methodologies, and assisting each other in disaster management. The advantage of sharing protocols would be to promote efficient and reliable guides in identifications of human remains. When a standardized operation procedure has been utilized and maintained, a more concise and effective result can be obtained.

Goal: The goal of this study is to research and evaluate policies, protocols, programs, and an associated documented system of the forensic odontology aspect of DVI from countries who are current members of the IOFOS.

Methods: Currently, the IOFOS consists of 31 member nations. All participating members were emailed with a brief description of the study and a request to share the odontology aspect of the DVI protocol that was currently being used.

Results: The forensic odontology protocols of all the members who willingly shared this information were evaluated for efficiencies and deficiencies that included similarities, differences, and technology among others.

Conclusion: Improving guidelines based on research and recommendations will enable a nation to be self-sufficient as well as help in the aid of other nations during their time of need with the utilization of shared manpower and technology.

References:

1. Sigrid I Kvaal, Collection of post mortem data: DVI protocols and quality assurance, *Forensic Science International* (Impact Factor: 2.31). 06/2006; 159 Suppl 1:S12-4.
2. M Rajshekara, M Tennanta, The Role of the Forensic Odontologist in Disaster Victim Identification: A Brief Review, *Malaysian J of Forensic Sciences* 5(1), 2014, 78-85.

Disaster Victim Identification, IOFOS, Forensic Odontology Protocols