

POSTER 138

Forensic dentistry: from presumption to individuality

Paula Correia^{1,3*}, Augusta Silveira^{1,2,5}, Cristina Cardoso e Silva^{1,5}, Sofia Mira de Almeida⁶, Inês Guimarães^{1,4,5,7}¹Faculty of Health Sciences, Fernando Pessoa University, Porto, Portugal;²CIBB - University of Coimbra Center for Health Studies and Research.³Egas Moniz Higher Institute of Health Sciences;⁴2Ai Laboratory of Applied Artificial Intelligence;⁵FP-13ID, 2Ai, Fernando Pessoa University, Porto, Portugal;⁶Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal e Ciências Forenses - Centro Delegation;⁷Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal e Ciências Forenses - Northern Delegation.

*✉ paulaa_correia@hotmail.com

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Resumo

Introduction: Forensic dentistry is a discipline of Forensic Sciences that is based on the application of legis artis to justice, highlighting the areas of identification and evaluation of bodily injury. **Objectives:** To understand the current contribution of dental expertise in the process of human identification, strengthening the importance of individualization factors to establish an individual diagnosis. **Methods:** A bibliographic search of scientific articles in the data bases PubMed, SciELO, Science Direct and books was carried out. This search resulted in a total of 93 articles which, after applying the exclusion criteria, resulted in 38 used in this work, in a time window of 20 years. The inclusion of articles was made according to the following criteria: articles in English, Portuguese and Spanish languages, articles in the form of meta-analyses, systematic review, practice guideline, guidelines, and review. **Results:** Teeth are provided with unparalleled durability, remaining available for long periods post-mortem, even when subjected to extreme situations [1,2]. The analysis of individualizing factors is based on

the observation of each individual's dental particularities as well as on the existence of dental treatments, medical devices, traumatology and pathology associated to the oral cavity [3]. The cross-referencing of the information collected during the forensic examination (post-mortem data) with the dental clinical record (ante-mortem data) allows an individual diagnosis and, therefore, identification to be established [4,5]. **Conclusions:** Extra and intra-oral individualising factors acquire an extraordinary identifying value for their uniqueness and intra and inter individual variety. Dental parts, morphology, shape, size, anomalies, and particularities become, in extreme circumstances, the only signalling elements of identification. The inexistence of ante-mortem data (clinical records, photographs, radiographs, models) hinders and creates an obstacle to forensics, since comparative analysis is one of the methods of medico-legal and dental identification that can be used. The inclusion of dentists in multidisciplinary medico-legal forensic teams is fundamental, as is their inclusion in specialised courses.

Keywords: forensic dentistry; human identification; dental identification; individual diagnosis; dental anomalies

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