Odontological identification without teeth

Irena Dawidson [1]

[1]DDS., PhD. Forensic odontologist, The National Board of Forensic Medicine
Forensic Odontology Section, Box 1284, 171 25 Solna, Sweden

Corresponding author:
irena.dawidson@rmv.se

ORAL PRESENTATION

ABSTRACT

The importance of including all information on the dental status of a missing person in the repository of the missing people became evident when only few skeletal remains were found in 2015 in a wooded area in Sweden between the cities of Norrtälje and Uppsala. Among the remains, apart from a few assorted bones there was a human skull. The alveolar bone was missing and there were no teeth in the vicinity of the find. However, a partial upper denture was present near the skull.

The quality of the denture showed that it was apparently of Scandinavian origin and it had been fitted on four teeth in the first quadrant and on two teeth in the second quadrant. The teeth present would have been 15, 14, 13, 12, 23 and 24. The anthropological features of the skull pointed to the deceased being a female. A search of the Swedish repository of the missing persons and unidentified bodies, compiled in the DVI System International data program, yielded a missing woman who had disappeared in 2008 from the city of Uppsala. Among other features she had had a partial denture in the upper jaw that had been fitted to the same teeth as the recovered denture.

As there was a tentative missing person to investigate, a DNA comparison was made between the skeletal remains and the two sons of the missing woman. The results showed that the bones had belonged to a person who was clearly strongly related to the compared men. The probability of her being their mother was at 99.99%.

This case illustrates the importance of including all dental information, such as dental records and dental radiographs, into the files of the repositories of missing persons.