

Human identification in forensic dentistry: learning strategies for dental students

.....
Julia Gabriela Dietrichkeit
Pereira ¹
Paula Barreto Costa ¹
Victor Jacometti ¹
Karinna Fróes Lima ²
Fernanda Braz Romano ²
Ricardo Henrique Alves
da Silva²

¹ Forensic Odontology, University
of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto
Medical School

² Forensic Odontology, University
of São Paulo, School of Dentistry of
Ribeirão Preto

.....
Corresponding author:
juliadie@usp.br

POSTER PRESENTATION
.....

J Forensic Odontostomatol
2017 Nov 1; Supp1(35): 124
ISSN :2219-6749

ABSTRACT

Forensic Odontology is a subject in the majority Dental Schools in Brazil and, routinely seen as bureaucratic and time-consuming issue. It is because they are supposedly theoretical and distant subjects of the traditional clinical activity. One of the themes is human identification and it is a challenge for the professor to link the theoretical knowledge of this issue with a practical situation to the students. At USP - School of Dentistry of Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, the practical activities of human identification with the students is organized in a group activity where the students, in front of several simulations of real situations, must make decisions and prepare reports on each activity. The objective of this study was to present a brief description of the practical activities capable of being structured in the context of the human identification in Forensic Dentistry. The practical activities for human identification are: I) Forensic Archaeology: students perform field digging using forensic archaeology techniques and document the process through photos and sketches of the local examined. A synthetic skull and mandible are buried and must be removed from the site. Their dental arches should be analysed to get the post mortem data. In a second moment, four different dental records are distributed to the students that differ in format and content, where one of them is compatible with the one found in the site. II) Simulated dental mannequins: The artificial teeth of the dental mannequins were submitted to several procedures involving extractions, fillings, prostheses, among others. The first stage of the activity consists of a detailed examination of the mannequins to obtain the post mortem information of the victim. Subsequently, it is done the comparison of the information obtained and the ante mortem information contained in four dental records in order to obtain a possible identification. III) Simulated local crime: the activity is developed through the creation of a fictitious story, with a criminal outcome. The purpose of this activity is to simulate a crime scene for the students, where they need to find all evidences for the subsequent report elaboration. Through the implementation of these activities it was verified that the use of several materials and methods to perform practical activities on human identification in the graduation is viable and applicable and these methods facilitate students' learning and memorization through real practical experience.