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**DENTAL PULP TISSUE – AN ENIGMA OF  
HIDDEN TRUTHS**

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*The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.*

*Predicting the time of death is an important aspect in forensic sciences. Various methods exist which help the forensic personnel in determining the post-mortem interval (PMI). However each of these methods, whether it is performed by some investigators at crime scene or determined by forensic pathologists at autopsy like rigor mortis, alger mortis, body lice, stomach contents etc., have their own limitations because of variable environmental conditions like humidity, temperature, insect activity, site of body etc. leading to difficulty in indicating the exact or near probable time of death of the individual. With the death of an individual all the tissues start to undergo degeneration and decomposition. The rate at which each tissue undergoes these changes differs, simply because of the nature or location of the tissue. Dental pulp is one such soft connective tissue which is safely enclosed within the dental hard tissues of all teeth. Thus, it is well protected and resists decomposition for a longer period even without formalin fixation. By studying the histological changes in the pulp at different times after death, it is possible to predict a probable time of death of an individual in varied environmental circumstances. Hence, this poster is an attempt to summarize our study on the histological findings in the dental pulp tissue at different times of death and thereby predicting the time of death of the individual.*

**KEYWORDS:** Forensic Odontology, Identification, Post mortem interval

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