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SOME MEDICOLEGAL ASPECTS OF ODONTOLOGY (Case Reports)

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Forensic odontology is one of the most important tools in medico-legal investigations. Examination of teeth, mandible, maxilla and gingiva helps for personal identification, age estimation, diagnosis of sex, race, poisoning and some congenital anomalies. The impressions of teeth on soft tissues or materials (Bite marks) may provide data for identification of the assailant, date of crime and type of crime. In this work, the significance of bite mark as a guide to the perpetrator is illustrated through a case report of physical abuse.

Practicing dentistry maybe affected by some mistakes that lead to some medico-legal problems. A case report of iatrogenic TMJ dysfunction due to dental work is presented. Also, case reports are presented to show that orthodontic work to correct dental abnormalities may result into changes of very important criteria of personal identification. Keeping dental records is essential to facilitate personal identification in mass disasters, missed unknown persons and criminals.

KEYWORDS: Forensic Odontology, Bite Marks, TMJ dysfunction.

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