

Title	Forensic dentistry in Cork: a look at the past three years
Authors	Brady, Paul;Hayes, Martina
Publication date	2013-11
Original Citation	BRADY, P. & HAYES, M. (2013) 'Forensic dentistry in Cork: a look at the past three years'. International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Irish Division Annual Meeting. University College Cork, Cork, 14-15 November.
Type of publication	Conference item
Link to publisher's version	http://www.iadr.ie/
Rights	https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Download date	2025-06-01 10:01:29
Item downloaded from	https://hdl.handle.net/10468/2524



University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



Forensic Dentistry in Cork A look at the past three years Brady, Paul; Hayes, Martina

Cork University Dental School and Hospital, Cork, Ireland Email: paul.brady@ucc.ie



Background

An important role of the forensic dentist is in the identification of the deceased. Dental identification has proved to be extremely useful and reliable and is quicker and less expensive than DNA identification. The identification of individuals missing for prolonged periods can bring closure to family members and allow burial of the remains.

The objective of this poster is to describe the application of forensic dentistry in Cork University Hospital to identify human remains over a three year period.



Key words: Forensic dentistry, record-keeping, Ante mortem, Post mortem

- Methods

The ante mortem and post-mortem dental records of deceased persons examined over a three year period in Cork University Hospital were reviewed and data extracted by two independent reviewers.

Results

Forensic odontology was requested for 23 (21 M, 2 F) deceased persons over a two year period. 19 of these were successfully identified using ante-mortem dental records, 1 was subsequently identified using DNA testing and three are unidentified to date.

The mean age of those identified was 45.6 years (range 33-75). Dental records were available for 19 cases, 17 of these were in English and two were in Polish. Dental radiographs were available in 11 cases. The time elapsed between the ante-mortem dental records available and the post-mortem examination was on average 4.4 years (range 1 to 17 years).

Dental features which aid identification

Post mortem records







Torus mandibularis

Fixed prosthodontics

Direct restorations

Time elapsed between dental records and post-mortem exam



Of the 19 sets of ante-mortem dental records obtained, 11 were judged to be



of satisfactory quality and detail to enable comparison and identification. Four sets of notes were of fair quality but were lacking in details or had reconcilable errors (e.g. mis-charting a first molar as a second molar). Four sets of dental records were of poor quality with little or no detail or charting.



— Conclusions

Comparing ante mortem and post mortem dental records is a reliable method of identification of human remains.

There is a need to emphasise the importance of good contemporaneous dental record keeping.

Every effort should be made to obtain the most recent as well as historical dental records.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the assistance we received from Mr Dan Collins and Dr Margaret Bolster in the preparation of this poster.