

National standard terminology for forensic odontology

Forensic odontologists are repeatedly called upon to assist in the identification of deceased persons. A great deal of information is available in the literature as to how and why comparative dental investigation of identification is performed but there is little information on the descriptive terms used in reporting these identifications. A forensic odontology report sets out the findings of a comparison between antemortem and postmortem evidence and indicates the odontologist's opinion on the identification. This opinion needs to be defensible in a court of law. Since there are significant legal, cultural or religious differences, and similar practitioners and clients, variation between regions within India would seem hard to justify. National standard terminology should be encouraged.

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