

**Forensic Odontology and Forensic Medicine: focusing on an optimal symbiosis.**  
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Forensic odontology is multidisciplinary and covers various subdisciplines. The multidisciplinary character is prominent towards forensic medicine, especially considering the major forensic odontological subdisciplines: human identification, age estimation and bite mark analysis. Optimal collaboration and casework results are obtained by learning each other's respective expertise and by merging it.

The multidisciplinary approach of human identification is described in the Interpol Disaster Victim Identification procedures and standards. Consequently, the medical autopsy should include systematically a dental autopsy even in single forensic identifications. It allows an immediate registration of all post mortem dental information. Moreover, a direct access to available full body CT images permits forensic odontologists to start a search for ante mortem dental data before the start of any autopsy.

In the living, human age estimation procedures are mainly requested in the context of asylum and migration. In particular, unaccompanied young fugitives with doubted age documentation are to the utmost extent examined based on developing biological structures. The observed status of those structures need to be evaluated by forensic medical and odontological experts. Combing this information is essential to obtain optimal age prediction performances.

In human bite mark analysis case work recognition and selection is essential. A major task of forensic odontologists is to instruct about the recognition and correct registration of bite marks to all individuals possibly confronted with bite mark injury victims. Related to this task first forensic medicine personnel should be informed, enabling them to act as liaison to all perchance involved parties.