
Gender determination using odontometric measurement of mandible

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ABSTRACT:

Introduction:

Teeth are known for being the foremost resistant mineralized tissue against different agents for destruction. They are used for reconstructive identification. They are useful in the determination of gender by using different odontometric techniques and are of real interest just in case of major catastrophes when bodies are often damaged beyond recognition. male teeth have been found to be larger than those of the female.

Materials and methods: The studied sample consists of 60 people (30 males and 30 females) and age groups from 18 - 20 years. The measurements of width between the 2nd mandibular premolar. All the measurements were taken using a Digital Vernier Caliper. For one person, an average of three different values were taken. After collecting the data, it was uploaded in Excel sheet and then uploaded in SPSS software version 23.

Result: Wilcoxon Signed Rank test was done. The p value was 0.009 that is less than 0.05. That is gender determination can be done using odontometric measurements of the mandible

Conclusion: Odontometric measurement of mandibles is a reliable source of gender determination.

Keywords: odontometric measurement , mandible , novel gender determination,.2nd premolar

INTRODUCTION:

Teeth is the most mineralised tissue against various agents for destruction. They are used for reconstructive identification. They are also used for gender determination using odontometric measurement.(1) Various methods used for sex determination are mandibular canine indx, mesiodistal width measurement of maxillary incisor , canine and first molar. Male teeth are larger than females. This method can be a problem due to crowding , attrition, cervical abrasion, presence of dental calculus etc.(2)

The durability of dentition to survive fire, bacterial decomposition etc makes it invaluable for identification of diagnostic features in the innominate bones of an adult. Sex may be determined by the cranium, long bone dimension, pelvic structure etc, tooth enamel can withstand high temperature , humidity, desiccation, extensive trauma etc;(Mohommed Asif Syed(3) odontometric studies of dentition plays an important role due to strength of the teeth and their resistance to post mortem destruction and fragmentation. Widely used dimensions are maximum mesiodistal and buccolingual crown measurements. But these measurements are different to attain worn off teeth.(4) Gender determination has chief importance in forensic investigation sex determination can be done by DNA analysis , osteometry, odontometric parameters. Osteometry is not preferred because the bodies will be badly mutilated .(5)odontometric measurements exhibit sexual dimorphism. 70% of identification are obtained from forensic dentistry; it is a great alternative for DNA analysis. Molars have greater potential for sex determination. When visual identification of sex is impossible we use odontometric measurement challenges faced by man in early days is to establish the identity of an individual. (5,6)Establishment of identity is accomplished by age, sex, footprint, race, communal characters complexion features etc

Teeth being the central component of the masticatory apparatus of the skull are good sources of materials for civil and medico legal identification.(5–7) In addition to degree to which they provide resistance to damage in terms of bacterial decomposition , fire and fracture. Sexual dimorphism refers to the difference in the size, structure, appearance between male and female. Tooth size is determined by cultural, environmental, racial and genetic factors (8).Our team has extensive knowledge and research experience that has translated into high quality publications (9–16),(17),(18),(19),(20,21),(22),(23),(24–28). The aim of the research is to determine gender using odontometric measurements of width of mandibular 2nd inter premolar distance

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The study population was taken from the dental students of Saveetha dental College and hospitals, Chennai. The sample size chosen for the study was 60, which included 30 females and 30 males. A digital verniers caliper, with accurate adjustments were used to measure the inter-2nd premolar mandibular distance of the participants with their prior consent. The premolar distance was taken by inserting the digital verniers caliper into the oral cavity of the subjects and measuring the distance from the buccal surface of the mandibular right second premolar to the buccal surface of the mandibular left second premolar. Separate measurements were taken for males and females to use the data collected for analysing whether the second mandibular premolar odontometric measurement can be useful for determination of gender.The data collected was then subjected to statistical analysis

using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS 23) software and related samples Wilcoxon signed rank test was done.



Figure 1: measurement of 2nd premolar mandible

RESULT:

Table 1- Range, mean and standard deviation of mandibular 2nd interpremolar width in males and females

Mandibular 2nd inter premolar width in cms	N	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Male	30	35.32	52.55	46.59	4.01
Female	30	34.27	52.55	43.28	4.47

*Related samples Wilcoxon signed rank test, p value was 0.009 ($p < 0.05$)

Related samples Wilcoxon signed rank test was done. The mean value is 46.59cm for male and 43.28 for female, the standard deviation for male is 4.01 and 4.47 for female. The p value was 0.009 ($p < 0.05$). So, it is statistically significant, hence sexual dimorphism can be determined using mandibular 2nd inter premolar width.

DISCUSSION:

The present study establishes the existence of a particular statistically significant sexual dimorphism in mandibular canine.(29) It establishes the intercanine distance and mandibular canine index as useful parameters in differentiating the sexes.(30) It is the y chromosomes which intervene the most

in the size of the teeth by controlling the thickness of dentine, whereas the x chromosome comes into play concerning the thickness of enamel.(31). The mandibular canines are considered to demonstrate the greater percentage of sexual dimorphism among all teeth in their mesiodistal width. Odontometry has been performed on various tooth groups with the objective of establishing measurements that can serve as standard in dental surgery and forensic odontology.(32) Dental identification involves either a comparative method or post mortem dental profiling. Various odontometric dimension have been used for the purpose of sex estimation.(33)

The buccolingual dimension of the teeth, and the height of the teeth studied the magnitude of sexual dimorphism by measuring the mesiodistal width of canine teeth and showed that mandibular canines showed a greater degree of sexual dimorphism than maxillary canine.(33). Any measurement of the teeth unaccompanied by information about age, sex, race must be created with great caution. The correct identification of sex from skeletal remains is one of the main challenge in forensic anthropology and osteoarchaeology as a reliable biological feature.(34). The diversity of factors which contribute to dimorphism such as environmental factors, food resources used by different populations, cultural factors and generate factors.(35).. The correct identification of sex from skeletal remains is one among the most challenges in forensic anthropology and osteoarchaeology. Dental sexual dimorphism has long been acknowledged as a reliable biological feature during this respect, and studies have demonstrated that dental dimensions are often wont to accurately assess the sex of skeletal remains in different populations.(36). In view of the fact that odontometric parameters show differences in specific populations and even within the same population. This necessitates the need to determine population specific and region specific values of odontometric parameters in order to assist in forensic investigation.(35,37)

LIMITATIONS:

The sample size taken for the study was considerably small and the results of the study can not be generalized.

FUTURE SCOPE:

To increase the sample size and also to include people with various age group and race,

CONCLUSION:

From the present study it was found sexual dimorphism can be determined using mandibular 2nd inter premolar width, Significant dimorphic differences between male and female teeth width, males exhibiting larger teeth than females. So odontometric measurement of mandibles was found to be a reliable source of gender determination.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Jessly Daniel: Study Design, Data collection, Data Analysis, manuscript writing

Yuvaraj Babu K: Study Concept, Data verification, Data Analysis, manuscript drafting and correction

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors reported the conflict of interest while performing this study to be nil

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