

FORENSIC RESEARCH PROJECT

RESEARCH PROJECT

Title	: Bone age estimation based on the study of the medial extremity of the clavicle
Keywords	: identification, biological profile, forensic anthropology
Forensic Expertise Area	: Forensic Anthropology
Department	: Pathology Service
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SHORT DESCRIPTION

Nowadays, age assessment in the living is one of the most important topics in forensic anthropology due to the increase of non-documented individuals who came into the European Community. Therefore, it has become necessary to develop new standards which help provide a response to the demands of the justice administration. The assessment of the ossification status of the medial clavicular epiphysis, plays a decisive role in forensic age diagnostics to determine whether a person has completed his or her adulthood. These studies performed are based on the recommendations for estimating age of adulthood among living subjects involved in court proceedings published in the year of 2001 by the German Group for Forensic Age Diagnostics (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Forensische Altersdiagnostik, AGFAD). Currently, computed tomography is the gold standard method for age diagnosis. Nevertheless, applying comparative methods is still a challenge for professionals especially when the individual is over 18 years old.

This project is a collaboration between the IMLCFC and both the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Escuela de Medicina Legal.

Research questions:

- To compare the staging results for clavicles of autopsy cases by sonography, computed tomography, and macroscopy in order to improve the ossification staging methods and their application in the forensic field.

Methodology:

- Macroscopic analysis of autopsy case specimens according to the fusion stages established by Schmeling et al. in 2001.
- Comparison of the previous results with the stages obtained using CT, MR and Ultrasound in order to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of each technique.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED EXPERTISE

. Human anatomy / biology knowledge

REFERENCES

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