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Permanent maxillary canine tooth dimorphism: An ondontometric study for establishing sex identity in North Indian population

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Aim: To investigate whether sexual dimorphism can be established by odontometric study of permanent maxillary canine teeth as well as inter-canine width in north Indian population.

Study design: The study was carried out at Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, India on students and patients reporting at OPD. Out of total 250 subjects examined 125 subjects were female and 125 were male. Impressions of the upper arch were made using alginate and casts poured in dental stone. The mesiodistal diameter of the crown of permanent maxillary canine both on right and left sides and inter-canine width were measured. From these measurements, maxillary canine index was calculated. The percentage of sexual dimorphism was assessed for all the parameters.

Results: In the present study, the mesiodistal diameter of maxillary canine for both right (p=0.001) and left side (p=0.005) was significantly higher among male subjects than females, Similar observation was found for inter-canine width too (p=0.0001). However, the maxillary canine index for right and left was almost similar (p>0.05) for both male and female subjects. The sexual dimorphism in right and left mesiodistal diameters of maxillary canine was 4.2% and 3.6% respectively. For, inter-canine width it was maximum i.e. 13.7%. However, sexual dimorphism in right and left canine index showed negative values i.e. -2.1% and -0.9% respectively.

Conclusion: There was sexual dimorphism in mesiodistal diameter and inter-canine width of permanent maxillary canine teeth. Sexual dimorphism was more on right permanent maxillary canine teeth than left permanent maxillary canine.

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John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865) and Lewis Thornton Powell (1844-1865): Controversial identifications of two southern conspirators found guilty of Abraham Lincoln's death

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On April 14, 1865, at about 10:10 pm, a man shot Abraham Lincoln in the back of his head at point blank range. His name was John Wilkes Booth. The President of the United States died the following day. Meanwhile, a man broke into William Seward's office, the Secretary of State and seriously wounded his face. The attacker's name was Lewis Thornton Powell. Both of these men succeeded in leaving the American capital without any trouble. However, few days later, Booth was arrested in a farm in Virginia and was summarily executed. His body was repatriated and an autopsy was conducted on April 27, 1865. While the report was absolutely positive concerning the murderer's identification, the journalists remained doubtful. Were we definitely sure it was Booth's body? As for Powell, he was arrested three days later. He was judged and sentenced to death. But examinations resulting from his trial have shown dental idiosyncrasies which turned to be crucial in the identification of a skull discovered several years later.

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