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**Morphological Study of Palatal Rugae Pattern as an Adjunct- Forensic
Identification and Prosthodontic Implication**

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ABSTRACT:

OBJECTIVES

1. To find/evaluate the relationship of palatine rugae to the maxillary anteriors.
2. To recommend the palatal rugae as a guide in predicting the positions of central incisor and canine in the maxillary anterior teeth for improved function and esthetics.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

One hundred and fifty maxillary casts obtained from fully dentate subjects with Angle's class I occlusion will be studied and analysed. Subjects will be both males and females between age group of 25 and 65. Previous palatal surgeries involving rugae, orthodontic or prosthodontics treatment will be the reasons of exclusion.

METHODOLOGY

The manufacturer's instructions for handling the impression and pouring process will be followed and metallic scale would be used to obtain measurements between the rugae's and the central incisor and canine. Five consecutive readings will be taken and mean will be considered. Data so obtained will be statistically analysed.


Results

The study was conducted among 139 subjects among which male (85) and female (54) with in the age group of 18-65 years. The palatal rugae pattern were assessed based of these parameters-shapes, count of rugae, placement of primary rugae from baseline, distance b/ w primary rugae and central incisor and canine.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that there was no difference of number, pattern and distance seen in males and females though the difference in number of rugae on right and left was found different in females. Dentulous and edentulous states also showed no change in pattern and distance. Age also has no role in changes in pattern, number and distance. So, it can be concluded that rugae being the important landmark can be helpful in forensic identification and guide in predicting the positions of central incisor and canine in the maxillary anterior teeth for improved function and esthetics.

Key Words: Rugae parameters, identification, teeth arrangement, forensic identification.

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