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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ROLE OF MAXILLARY CANINES IN SEX DETERMINATION IN NORTHERN CENTRAL REGION OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Gender determination is one of the important parameters in the forensic science. The forensic odontologist is to identify the sex from whatever human dental remains are presented as a specimen. No two teeth have similar morphology and the purpose of this study was to investigate whether sexual dimorphism can be established by odontometric study of permanent maxillary canines' teeth as well as canine arch width. Morphology of individual teeth is unique and is determined by genetic factor.

Aim and objective:

- To identify role of maxillary canines in sex determination.
- To find out maxillary canines index and sexual dimorphism methods for sex determination.
- To review the findings in light of available literature.

Material and methods: The study was carried out on 100 objects 50 males and 50 females selected from NIMS medical college Jaipur (raj) belong to northern central region of India for role of maxillary canine in sex determination. The mesiodistal dimension of permanent maxillary canines was measured with the help of vernier calliper.

Results: The mesiodistal dimensions of the right and left maxillary canines were significantly different in male greater than female.

Permanent maxillary canine exhibited larger mean values of mesiodistal dimension in males compared to females in northern central region of India.

Conclusion: The results of the present study showed that maxillary canines exhibiting significant sexual dimorphism and can be used for sex determination in individual as well as in group such as in mass disasters like earthquakes, floods.

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INTRODUCTION

The identification of a dead body may be required in cases of sudden and unexpected death, fires, explosions railway or aircraft accidents, hidden decomposed bodies, and often needs great medico legal purposes. The law enforcement community expects and requires that the forensic scientist report the identification of partial or complete remains of an individual to the best of his or her ability. Various methods are used to establish the identity of unknown remains, the reliability of each method varies. The only methods that can give a totally accurate result is the DNA technique, but in many cases and several reasons it cannot be used. The growth and developmental trends of teeth and jaws are known to be influenced by racial, social and geographic factors among others, therefore, standards developed for a population cannot hold good for other population. India being a vast country with diverse climates, religious and food habits.

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Sex determination is one of the important parameters in forensic identification and using dental features is based upon the comparison of tooth dimensions in male and females. Sexual dimorphism refers to this systemic difference in the shape and size between individuals of different sexes in the same species. The jaw bones, immovable maxilla and movable mandible are very much concerned in the profession of the dentistry, as these bones bear the teeth. Though bones are hard, teeth are the hardest structures in the body and enamel of tooth is the hardest structure in the body, and is the fourth hardest structure in the universe because of its content of calcium apatite crystals, a homogenous mass. Every tooth either deciduous or permanent has similar structure like enamel, dentin and pulp, but different morphological appearance. No two teeth have similar morphology and morphology of individual tooth is unique and is determined by genetic factor. The different morphology of different teeth helps for different function like incisors to bite, canine to tear, premolar to crush and molar to grind. As human tooth is hard, it gives resistance to fine chemicals and toxins; hence damage to tooth is not as easy and immediate process.

Many authors have done the measurement of crown in teeth between males and females and found certain variations. Though the morphology of the structure is similar to male and female, there is no need that, the size of the structure should remain same, as the size of structure is determined by various factors like exercise, nutrition, metabolic activities etc. Few studies have established that the mesio-distal diameter of upper canine is less in females than males and they have established variations, only in permanent canines alone.

Hence, the present study has been aimed to measure the mesio-distal diameter, of maxillary canines provides evidence of sex determination due to dimorphism. Further this study includes to measure the inter-canine arch distance of maxilla in both males and females and to correlate the maxillary canines' index of upper canine for sex determination. Thus the aim of present study would help in providing a methodology for dentist and scientist in forensic dentistry for determining the sex determination in northern central region of India with the help of crown measurements of canine.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1. Selection criteria

The study sample consisted 100 subjects, 50 male and 50 females in the age group of 17-25 years selected from students of NIMS Medical college Jaipur (Rajasthan) belonging to northern central region of India. Who were selected based on the following criteria

Inclusion Criteria

1. Healthy state of gingival and periodontium.
2. Caries free teeth.
3. Normal overjet and overbite.
4. Absence of spacing in the anterior teeth.
5. Normal molar and canine relationship.

Exclusion criteria

1. Caries teeth
2. congenital missing teeth
3. Fracture or prosthesis.
4. Spacing between teeth.
5. Age below 17 years and age above 25 years.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The subjects divided in to 2 groups. Group A as male and group B as female. The measurements of these two group used to evaluate:- Maxillary Canines index and Sexual dimorphism

Materials

1. Stainless steel Vernier caliper-for measurement of mesiodistal crown width of maxillary canine tooth.
2. Divider with a fixing device. For measurement of maxillary canine arch width.
3. Stainless steel flexible tape

Material for formation of cast

1. Alginate powder
2. Dental Stone
3. Perforated Tray
4. Rubber Bowl
5. Spatula

Role of maxillary canines in sex determination in northern central region of India

Methods

Measurement of distance between two flange of vernier caliper is recorded in millimeter. Vernier caliper with resolution of 0.02 mm is used for measurement of mesiodistal crown width of four maxillary canines. Measurement of inter-canine distance done by divider, tip of one end of divider is kept over the center of tip of one side canine tooth and another end is kept over the center of opposite side canine tooth. All the measurements were done by a single examiner. The data thus collected were subjected to statistical analysis. For determination of the size of teeth, the mean range and standard deviation were calculated.

$$MCI = \frac{\text{Mesiodistal crown width of maxillary canine}}{\text{Maxillary canine arch width.}}$$

Sexual Dimorphism

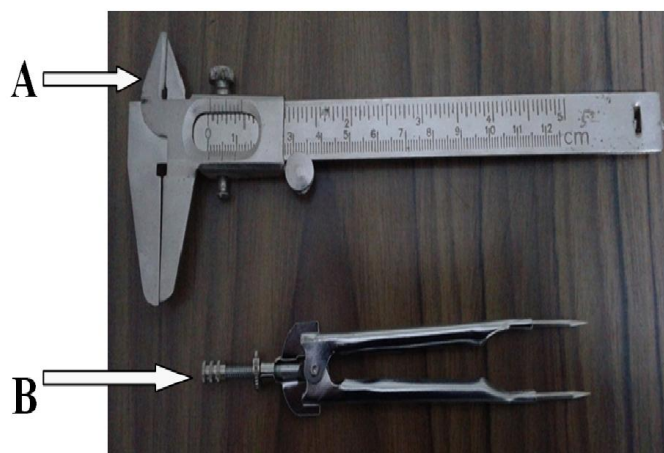
Sexual dimorphism was calculated based on mesiodistal width of maxillary canines. The reading obtained was subjected to statistical analysis to derive Conclusions and sexual dimorphism in right and left Maxillary canines was calculated using formula given by Gran and lens as follows:

$$\text{Sexual dimorphism} = \frac{X_m}{X_f} \times 100$$

X_m = mean value of males

X_f = mean value of females

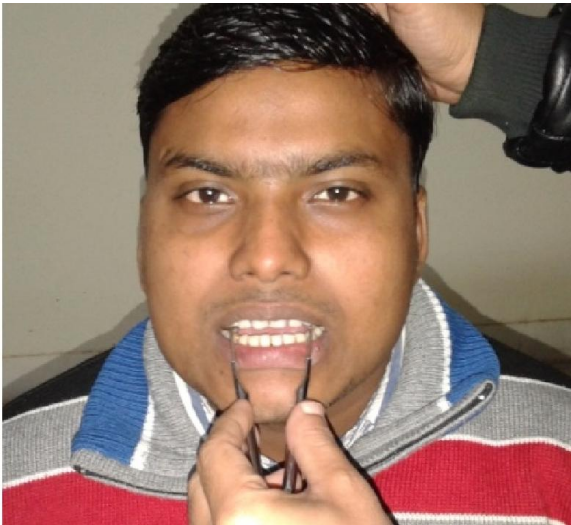
$$\text{Observed maxillary canine index} = \frac{\text{Mesiodistal crown width of maxillary canine}}{\text{Maxillary canines arch width or inter canine distance}}$$



Verniercaliper B-Divider



Measurement of canine width by Vernier Caliper (orally)



Measurement of inter-canine distance by Divider (Orally)



Measurement of canine width by Divider (on cast)



Measurement of inter-canine distance by divider (on cast)

RESULTS

The present study was conducted in the department of Anatomy NIMS Medical College Jaipur. The purpose of the study was to role of Maxillary canine in sex determination to compare the mesio-distal crown width of permanent maxillary canines between males and females to compare the mesio-distal crown width of right and left permanent maxillary canines. To compare the inter-canine arch width of maxilla between male and females, to derived the mean value of maxillary canines index and assess their reliability in predicting sex identity by deriving percentage accuracy. The study was carried out on 100 (50 male 50 females) Jaipur (Rajasthan) subjects with age ranging 17-25years. Subjects were selected based upon the inclusion and exclusion criteria set forth in the beginning of the study and informed consent was obtained. Full arch maxillary impression were made and poured with dental stone. Maxillary right and left canine width and inter-canine arch width were recorded for each subject, thus, 100 maxillary canines were considered for the measurements. All the parameter recorded were tabulated and subjected to statistical analysis using statistical mean and slandered deviation .The result obtained and observation are as follows:- table 1 shows maxillary canine mesio-distal width intra-oral both male as well as female. Table 2 Showing maxillary canine mesio-distal width on cast of both male as well as female. Table 3 shows Mean \pm Sd of Inter canine distance of cast and intra oral according to sex. Table 4 shows Mean \pm Sd of Right and Left maxillary canine index of cast and intra oral in male. Table 5 Mean \pm Sd of Right and Left maxillary canine index of cast and intra oral in female.

Table 1. Showing maxillary canine mesio-distal width intra-oral

Sex	Mean \pm Sd	
	Right canine width	Left canine width
Male	7.22422 \pm 0.15905	7.219 \pm 0.13643
Female	6.4882 \pm 0.8161699	6.588 \pm 0.11414

Table 2. Showing maxillary canine mesio-distal width on cast according to sex

Sex	Mean ± Sd	
	Right canine width	Left canine width
Male	7.2258±0.1663959	7.2202±0.12918
Female	6.6144±0.13377	7.2202±0.11368

Sd- Standard deviance

Table 3. Showing Mean ± Sd of Inter canine distance of cast & intra oral according to sex

PARAMETER	Mean ± Sd	
	MALE	FEMALE
INTRA-ORAL	25.31542±0.124696	23.81413±0.74969
ON CAST	25.31676±1.20938	23.84366±0.70911

Sd- Standard deviance

Table 4. Mean ± Sd of Right and Left maxillary canine index of cast and intra oral in male

Parameters	Mean ± Sd		Significance
	RMC index	LMC index	
Intra oral	0.28192±0.01203	0.2794±0.0087	HS
Cast	0.2826±0.0116	5.91352±39.84135	HS

a-RMC-Right maxillary canine b-, Left maxillary canine

Table 5. Mean ± Sd of Right and Left maxillary canine index of cast and intra oral in female

Parameters	Mean ± Sd		Significance
	RMC INDEX	LMC INDEX	
Intra oral	0.7702±0.0101047	0.2794±0.0087	HS
Cast	0.27694±0.01095	0.27678±0.01084	HS

a-Right maxillary canine index b- Left maxillary canine index

Conclusion

After a detailed study and comparison of my work with other workers. The mesio-distal width of maxillary canine teeth is greater in males than females in age group 17-25 years which is statistically significant maxillary canine arch width is also greater in male than females which is statistically significant. The diagnostic efficacy of maxillary canine Index and sexual Dimorphism method given by Garn and Lens very important for sexual dimorphism by these methods we can easily determined the role of maxillary canines in sexual dimorphism the relevant values always higher in males as compare in females

DISCUSSION

Dental anthropology is an important aspect of physical anthropology. Teeth are a very stable substance within the body, and are often the best-preserved portion of the body in archaeological and forensic cases. In many cases, teeth are the only evidence that can be used for analysis. Especially in forensic cases, teeth can be the deciding factor in identification of individuals. In archaeological cases, dental anthropology can reveal much important information about individuals and populations. [Arya et al. \(1974\)](#) further quoted [Moorese \(1959\)](#) that the teeth in males were invariably bigger than females and the largest sex differences were appreciated with canines in both dentitions. The canines were significantly

difference only in the permanent dentition observation is similar in my thesis. [Arya et al. \(1974\)](#) quoted found less pronounced sex differences in the deciduous dentition, than in the permanent dentition with maximum for permanent canines. The canines were larger in males as compared to females. The canines were significantly different only in the permanent dentition. He also found that, in females the continued enamel deposition occurring is less than in males observation is similar in my thesis.

[Howe R.P NicNamara and O'Connor \(1983\)](#) examined dental crowding and its tooth size and arch distance / dimension and also different with males having slightly larger mesio-distal dimensions. These differences were more for maxillary incisors and canines. They also added the sexual dimorphism in mesio-distal tooth size may be due to different in dentin thickness and enamel deposition observation is similar in my thesis. [Tescher - Nicola \(1986\)](#) quoted sexual dimorphism of tooth crown diameters by measuring (mesio-distal and bucco-lingual diameters of upper canine) was 80% successful stating the average of both the deciduous and permanent teeth of female tooth possess altogether teeth of smaller dimensions. In males there was a small statistically increased in arch width from 12 to 15 years of age observation is similar in my thesis.

[Staley and Hoag \(1988\)](#) studied the widths of the male canines were significantly larger than females. They reported that the all measurements taken from African Primates and revealed that permanent canines contributing most to the discrimination of sex. Hence, the canine width could be useful for sex discrimination in forensic dentistry. [Rao et al. \(1989\)](#) derived Maxillary Canine Index (MCI) for establishing sex identity. The index was derived as ratio between two parameters in permanent maxillary canines. Namely the maximum crown width and canine arch width (mm) and was calculated.

$$MCI = \frac{\text{Mesiodistal crown width of maxillary canine}}{\text{Maxillary canine arch width.}}$$

Accuracy of sex determination was found to be 84.3% in the males and 87.5% in females observation is similar in my thesis in my thesis there is comparison between observed and standard maxillary canine index and value is almost similar. [Hashuri and Murrhid \(1993\)](#) investigated whether sex differences is these in measuring the mesio-distal tooth width between Saudi males and females. His reports confirm that canines in both jaws exhibited a significant sex difference. They reported the width of male canines were significantly larger than females ($p < 0.001$).

These results showed the existence of a relative dental dimorphism (male > female mesio-distal diameter) with humans for sex determination observation is similar in my thesis.

1. The present study was carried out to established sex determination using the mesio-distal distance, intercanine distance for males and females in northern central region in India.

2. The study was conducted for width and length measurements of canine with the help of 100 individuals of which 50 males and 50 females.
 3. Mesio-distal width of canines was measured using divider with one portion of divider in contact point of mesial side and another portion of divider in contact point of distal side. The distance was recorded in millimeter. The mean value and mean \pm S.D value was calculated for measurements in male and female individual teeth. The mean value of measurements was compared between male and female with statistical analysis.
 4. The maxillary canine index was calculated by dividing the mean value of mesio-distal width of upper canine with that of mean value of inter-canine arch distance in upper canine. The mean value of male and female was compared statistically and results were recorded.
 5. The mean value mesio-distal distance of all canines was increased in males ranging 7.2 to 7.8mm, than females ranging 6.7 to 7.6mm.
 6. Mesio-distal distance of canine of males reveal that mesio-distal distance was more in males than females and reduction of mesio-distal width in female canine with range (male 7.5 to 8.3, female 7.5 to 7.9) is established with statistical significant $p < 0.0001$.
 7. The incisio-cervical distance of all canine teeth is more in males than females in individuals and range (male 11 to 11.4, female 10.5 to 10.6). This reduction in incisio-cervical length in females is established the significant $p < 0.0001$.
 8. The sex determination can be done with help of distance of canine tooth in forensic dentistry to help of law and justice.
 9. Rao *et al.* have demonstrated that in inter-canine distance and canine index are useful parameter as measured in differentiating the sexes.
 10. **Gabrial (1958)** has also found that mesio-distal diameter was significantly greatly greater in males than females.
 11. Mohmmad *et al.* in his study on Saudi Arbiyan population observed the mean mesio distal width of maxillary canines having values 7.54 ± 0.68 mm (right) and 7.54 ± 0.67 mm (left) in males. While in females it was 6.8 ± 0.925 mm (right) and 6.8 ± 0.934 mm (left) but the differences in males and females were not statistically significant.
 12. The present study shows these value as right and left canine width of intra oral and cast in male it was RCW 7.22422 ± 0.15905 mm in oral and slightly differ on cast it was 7.2258 ± 0.16639 mm and LCW 7.219 ± 0.13643 mm intra oral and 7.2202 ± 0.12918 on cast and RCW 6.4882 ± 0.81699 mm in oral and slightly differ on cast it was 6.6144 ± 0.13377 mm and LCW 6.588 ± 0.11414 mm intra oral and 6.5954 ± 0.11368 on cast.
- Compare of inter canine distance of cast and intra oral in males and females indicates that values higher in males as compare to females. It was 25.31676 ± 1.20938 on cast for male and 23.84366 ± 0.70911 on cast for females 23.81413 ± 0.74969 for female on oral and 25.31542 ± 1.24696 for male.

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