ABSTRACT

Determination of sex is the first and foremost step in the process of identifying human remains in forensic casework. Identifying the unknown remains is a challenging and crucial task in the field of forensic medicine. In Cases such as major accidents, completely burnt bodies, mutilated bodies, decapitated bodies and in buried bodies, sex and age of the victims should be determined for the purpose of identification. Though hyoid bone exhibit sexual dimorphism and morphometric variables, it has drawn less attention in studies of this nature. Sex determination becomes challenging to forensic experts when the bodies are badly mutilated or in advance state of decomposition or even at times skeletonised. Sometimes only neck structures may be available for examination and further investigation. In such cases hyoid bone which can easily be secured for examination, forms a vital key in determination of sex. There are many osteometric measurements which can be used in the determination of sex of the hyoid bone. Hence, the present study was conducted to distinguish between male and female hyoid bones using fewer and reliable osteometric measurements

Key words: Hyoid bone, Determination of sex, osteometric measurements and sexual dimorphism