ABSTRACT

Forensic odontology is a dentist knowledge who can be used as a means of proof in the case of forensics, helping the justice system and the investigation and identification of individuals in a criminal case or mass disasters. Palatal rugae has been suggested as an alternative method for identification when there is loss of teeth (used for identification), most commonly caused due to trauma. Palatoscopy or palatal rugoscopy is the name given to a study of palatal rugae with the purpose to enforce the identity of someone. This study report that there is a difference on the amount of palatal rugae in diverging and circular patterns, and difference on the present of diverging, curved, straight, and circular patterns between male and female. That difference may showing the palatal rugae characteristic of javanese the population.

Key words: Palatal Rugae, Palatal Rugoscopy, Forensic Odontology, Identification