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15 - EXHUMATION, FORENSIC MEDICINE AND FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SKELETONIZED BODY OR SKELETAL REMAINS: IMPROVEMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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Exhumation is the procedure of removing the dead body by opening the grave or burial ground after burial for postmortem examination and autopsy. It can be performed in formal burials due to doubts about the identity of the deceased and emerging suspicion of murder or in secret and illegal burials for the reason of elimination of the dead body by the perpetrator. In forensic cases, postmortem examination becomes more difficult as the decomposition progresses. Estimation of time and manner of death is a part of skeletal remain analysis as well as identification of the deceased.

In this compilation presentation; we aim to draw attention to forensic archeological crime scene investigations, forensic autopsy and forensic anthropological examination process of skeletonized bodies or skeletal remains as a part of forensic anthropology which is an important component of forensic sciences and forensic medicine practices within the framework of current legal legislations in Turkey and indicate improvements and suggestions in the related field.

In forensic practices it is important to perform detailed autopsy procedure on time and in place. We have come to conclusion that exhumation is a forensic examination method that contains limited information due to postmortem changes however it will always maintain its importance in the field of forensic medicine as there is a possibility of new claims and emerging information everyday, and forensic medicine and forensic anthropology professionals should work together at every stage of the investigation of skeletal remains and skeletonized bodies and conduct more researches.

Keywords: *Death, time of death, manner of death, exhumation, forensic anthropological examination.*