

## Coronoid Head And Neck Height On Left Side Of The Mandible Using Orthopantomogram For Gender Determination.

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### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** Coronoid process can be an admirable graft for maxillofacial reconstructive surgeries. The mandibular coronoid process is derived from a Greek word 'korone' and described as a triangular piece of flattened bone which projects upwards from the anterior part of the mandibular ramus. However it exists in various shapes and sizes. Coronoid morphology and clinical and other applications in reconstructive surgery and anthropology have been thoroughly established in the literature. Maxillofacial surgeons can use knowledge of the coronoid process's various morphological forms during reconstructive procedures and as a donor site for sinus augmentation. It is also useful in anthropological studies and in forensic dentistry. This study focuses on the determination of the various coronoid process head and neck height on the left side and its correlation with age and sex estimation.

**MATERIALS AND METHOD:** For the study, 30 Orthopantomogram of 15 male and 15 female were obtained from Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals who underwent examination for several reasons at the university dental radiology and imaging clinic. After obtaining the height of the coronoid processes statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 23.

**RESULT:** The coronoid head and neck height for males were obtained as 3.69 +1.93 and for females as 5.70+1.44.

**CONCLUSION:** The coronoid process on the right side was more dimorphic in nature than the left side. Hence, the coronoid process can serve as an important anthropometric measurement for identification....

**Keywords:** Coronoid process, anthropometric measurement, orthopantomogram, gender determination..

### INTRODUCTION

The mandible is the strongest and largest bone of the skull, having various morphological features which can be useful in the age, sex, and race estimation of the skeleton. Coronoid process can be an admirable graft for maxillofacial reconstructive surgeries. (1) The mandibular coronoid process is derived from a Greek word 'korone' and described as a triangular piece of flattened bone which projects upwards from the anterior part of the mandibular ramus. However it exists in various shapes and sizes. (2) The shape of the coronoid process and sigmoid notch is useful in anthropological studies and forensic dentistry. The margins and medial surface of the coronoid process give attachment to temporalis muscle. Secondary accessory cartilage appears in the region of the coronoid process by about 10 to 14 weeks of intrauterine life. (3)

Coronoid process is also being used as a non-metric skull variant in excellent estimation of age, gender, race and species. Coronoid morphology and clinical and other applications in reconstructive surgery and anthropology have been thoroughly established in the literature. (4) Maxillofacial surgeons can use knowledge of the coronoid process's various morphological forms during reconstructive procedures and as a donor site for sinus augmentation. It is also useful in anthropological studies and in forensic dentistry. (5) The coronoid process seems to be suitable for paranasal augmentation. Its clinical application is also favourable because its size and morphology fits into the paranasal region, with the additional advantages of biocompatibility, availability, and reduced operation time for harvesting. (6) Due to the closeness of the medial aspect of the coronoid process to the distal molar, difference in anatomy of the coronoid process might result in a significantly small vestibular space. No functional limitations are apparent after removing the coronoid process. (7) Coronoid process enlargement may be seen in some pathological conditions like osteochondroma, exostosis, osteoma and other developmental anomalies. Though mandibular fracture is a common occurrence, still coronoid fracture incidence is rare (2%) and requires ..

no treatment unless obtusion on the zygomatic arch is present. (8) The coronoid height is the distance between the coronoid and most protruding portion of inferior border of the ramus of mandible. The

length of coronoid process is the measurement from the line tangential to the deepest part of mandibular notch to apex of the coronoid process. This study focuses on the determination of the various coronoid process head and neck height on the left side and its correlation with age and sex estimation.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

For the study, 30 Orthopantomogram of 15 male and 15 female were obtained from Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals who underwent examination for several reasons at the university dental radiology and imaging clinic. The patients' ages were from 25 to 30 years. Scans were included if they showed coronoid processes bilaterally. The coronoid process height was measured from the scans.

**Statistical analysis**

After obtaining the height of the coronoid processes statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 23. Krussal wallis test was applied to compare classes. Graphs were obtained and results were derived.

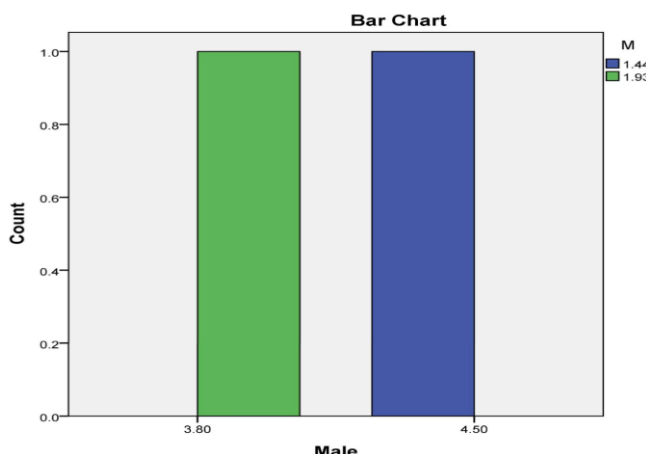
**RESULTS**

The coronoid process is the smaller of two projections located on the proximal end of the ulna. In table 1.1, it was found that the standard deviation of the coronoid process neck height on the left side for male was 1.93 whereas for females was 1.44. The mean for the coronoid neck height for male was found to be 3.69 and for females 5.77. Therefore the coronoid head and neck height for males were obtained as 3.69+1.93 and for females as 5.70+1.44. From figure 2.1 and 2.2 shows the graphical representations of the male and female mean coronoid neck height against the count of samples.

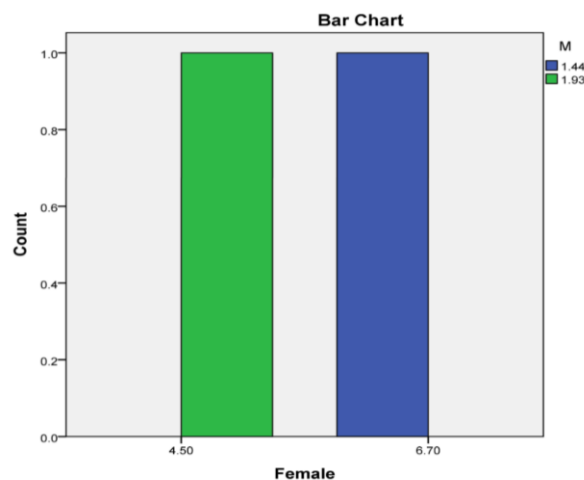
Moreover age related bone remodelling process and the dental occlusal play have been found to determine some changes and alterations in the shape of the mandible hence altering the height of the coronoid process. Skeletal deformities in muscle deformation inherent to craniofacial morphology of the coronoid process like in prognathism, the spatial anatomy difference of the skeletal structure as a result of bilateral difference in muscle volume.

**Table 1.1. Tabular column showing the mean and standard deviations in coronoid neck height for male and Female respectively.**

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Male	31	1.20	8.70	3.6935	1.93441
Female	26	3.50	8.70	5.7077	1.44303
Valid N (listwise)	26				



**Figure 1.1. Graph showing the mean for the coronoid head and Neck height in male**



**Figure 1.2. Graph showing the mean for the coronoid head and Neck height in female**

## DISCUSSION

In a study by Subbaramaiah et al, the height of the coronoid process and ramus length at the coronoid process found to have significant differences on the right and left side in male and female mandibles and concluded that it can serve as a novel parameter in sex determination.(2) Al-Guniad et al reported in his study on various mandibular measurements including coronoid height on the determination of sex of the mandible and it was identified that men showed higher values in the majority of the variables compared to women population.(9) In the study by Nayak et al, the size of the coronoid process on the right side was approximately 1.5mm longer than on the left side.(10)

In a study by Jovevska et al, the coronoid height was found to be 0.01 mm longer for males than for females and 0.01 mm longer for dentulous than edentulous.(11) In the morphometric analysis of the coronoid process of the mandible in the Malaysian population by Alias et al, the coronoid process in the Malaysian population too showed greater values for men than women. The discriminant function showed accuracy in identification for men 75.8% and female 63.1%.(12) In a study by Jyothsna et al, it was shown that the accuracy of determination of gender using coronoid height is 74% on the right side and 73% on the left side. (13)

Kambylalkas at al, conducted a study and concluded that the estimation of total ramus height is reliable and found to show a true asymmetry using panoramic radiograph. (14) In a study by Samatha et al, it was found that mandibular ramus height was the best parameter with statistical significance of  $p=0.005$ .(15) Saini et al, in her study on the dry mandibles of Indian population found that the ramus showed strong sexual dimorphism. The best parameters were coronoid height, condylar height and projective height of the ramus.(16)(17,18)

## CONCLUSION

Anthropometric study has always been handy as a helpful tool in various fields of study whether it be forensics or archaeology. Human remains have been a major source of identification of bodies during disasters. Many times, during these situations, the human skull, being one of the hardest in the body, is obtained from the sites. Mandible and mandibular measurements provide the most important sources of victim identifications. In the present study, the use of the coronoid process serves as an important factor for identification. It was found that the coronoid processes are longer for males compared to females and undergo resorption faster than females. The comparison with several studies showed that the coronoid process on the right side was more dimorphic in nature than the left side. Hence, the coronoid process can serve as an important anthropometric measurement for identification.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors reported the conflict of interest while performing this study to be nil.

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