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Assessment of dentistry sequelae in civil expertise

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Introduction

The evaluation of the body injuries, in civil law, is a field of medical expertise that has been gaining relevance in forensic practice. It is performed to learn about the consequences that a trauma, usually accidental, has in the psico-physical integrity and on the health of an individual(1-3).

Oro-facial traumatic injuries are a common problem and several studies report an increase of the incidence of these lesions in the past decades (4-7). Different situations may be appointed as cause, but traffic accidents are the most frequent of them (8). Dental damage is often considered less important in the context of life threatening, sensitive or motion limitation injuries, found in severe accidents, but its valorization should not be neglected(9). Dental injuries can lead to severe complications with limitation to some orofacial functions, impairment of social life or even of the professional career of the victim(10).

The combination between the reduction of the prevalence dental cavities with the impact of violence, traffic accidents and sports activities has contributed to the establishment of dental injuries and orofacial trauma as problem related to public health with significant economic consequences (11).

In Portugal, accident victims who have not entered into an agreement with insurers (3%) are evaluated in the National Institute of

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