



Gender determination using maxillary sinus in Cone Beam Computer Tomography

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Abstract

Background: Radiological identification of gender is employed when body is decomposed and fragmented. Various body parts are being used for gender determination such as skull, pelvis, long bones, foramen magnum, sella turcica, mandibular ramus, and paranasal sinuses in unknown remains.

Aims & Objective: This retrospective study aim to assess the reliability of morphometric measurements performed on the maxillary sinus for sex determination by using CBCT scans

Material & Methods: A hospital based observational study was carried out in the Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology at Jaipur Dental College and Hospital. CBCT scan images of 50 subjects who were referred for CBCT imaging of skull for various reasons and fulfilled our inclusion criteria were selected for the study.

Results: In the present study, total average area of the maxillary sinus was $6.66 \pm 2.35\text{cm}^2$ and the volume was $11.96 \pm 5.18\text{ mm}$. There is no significant difference between area and volume of maxillary sinus in different age groups. (P-value $0.92 > 0.05$, P-value $0.34 > 0.05$). The area of the maxillary sinus was more in males as compared to females and this was statistically significant. In the present study, out of 400 maxillary sinuses, 190 (47.5%) maxillary sinus showed septa. More number of pathologies in maxillary sinus were detected in males as compared to females. Maxillary sinus pathologies did not show predilection for any particular age group.

Conclusion: Maxillary sinus height was the best discriminating parameter for forensic identification with an overall accuracy ranging from 70% to 80%.
Conclusions: Maxillary sinus measurements revealed anatomic variability between genders, and this approach can be applied as a complementary method for human identification.

Keywords: maxillary sinus, cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT), gender, forensic identification.

INTRODUCTION

Forensic science is the application of science to criminal and civil laws. Forensic identification of a human body or remains will be relied on by the prosecution in a criminal trial. Gender and age estimations are challenging and important procedures in the identification of unknown skull. Gender determination is part of forensic odontology and it is very important especially when natural calamities, mass disasters, and crime occur where forensic investigator receives unknown skeletal remains^[1-3].

Radiological identification of gender is employed when body is decomposed and fragmented. Various body parts are being used for gender determination such as skull, pelvis, long bones, foramen magnum, sella turcica, mandibular ramus,

and paranasal sinuses in unknown remains. But in many instances these bones were recovered either in a fragmented or incomplete state where gender determination is difficult to perform. So, it is key to use denser bones that are often recovered intact such as maxillary sinuses^[4-6]. The maxillary sinus is the largest of paranasal sinuses located in the body of maxilla. The sinus develops at 10 weeks of intrauterine life and it is first to develop. It opens in the middle nasal meatus of the nasal cavity. At birth size is of pea and enlarges after eruption of deciduous teeth and again, with permanent teeth and with the completion of the eruption of the third molars, the pneumatization of the sinus ends. Szilvassy suggested various shapes of maxillary sinus, that is, triangular, leaf, scapular, and renal shaped. It has been reported that triangular sinuses were the most common in both females and males^[7]. It varies greatly in size, shape, and position not only in different individuals but also in different sides of the same individuals. Hence maxillary sinus can be used for gender determination. Sinus radiography has been used for identification of remains and determination of gender. It has been reported that CT scans are excellent imaging modality in the identification of unknown remains as they provide an accurate assessment of the paranasal sinuses and craniofacial bones^[8]. CT measurements of maxillary sinuses, that is, length, width, height, and volume, may be useful for supporting gender determination in forensic medicine. The aim of this study is to assessing the reliability of morphometric measurements performed on the maxillary sinus for sex determination by using CBCT scans.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A hospital based observational study was carried out in the Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology at Jaipur Dental College and Hospital. CBCT scan images of 50 subjects who were referred for CBCT imaging of skull for various reasons and fulfilled our inclusion criteria were selected for the study.

Ethical clearance was obtained from the Ethics committee of the institution. CBCT head was performed using CS Carestream 8200. (figure 1) All the scans were made at high-resolution 3D images of up to 75 microns.

Four groups were formed according to age, each comprising of 25 males and 25 females: Group 1: 20-29 yrs; Group 2: 30-39 yrs; Group 3: 40-49 yrs; Group 4: 50-59 yrs

INCLUSION CRITERIA

1. CBCT scans of patients above 20 years of age showing maxillary sinus completely and bilaterally.
2. The data consisted of dentate and edentulous patients.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. CT images of patients with edentulous posterior region.
2. Patients below 20 years of age
3. Patients with history of trauma to the maxillary sinus
4. Patients with history of surgery in the maxillary sinus region.

Informed Consent- Each participant will be informed about the study verbally in order to take the initial approval of participation. Then, they will be provided with the patient information sheet which clarified the nature of the study in the form of sequence of questions and answers.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:

The data on maxillary sinus parameters was obtained on 50 subjects. The frequency distribution according to age and gender was obtained, also the descriptive statistics like mean, standard deviation and range for demographic parameters were obtained. These descriptive statistics were obtained for maxillary sinus and foremen magnum parameters. The comparison of each parameters between males and females was performed by student 't' test and also the comparison between different age groups was performed using one way ANOVA test. The anatomical variations were analyzed using chi-square test. The entire analysis was performed using SPSS Software (Version 26.0) with validated scripts and excel. The statistical significance was tested at 5%.

RESULTS

CBCT scan images of 50 subjects who were referred for CBCT imaging of skull for various reasons and fulfilled our inclusion criteria were selected for the study.

Over all mean area and volume was $666.3 \pm 235.81\text{mm}^2$ and $11966.5 \pm 5188.34\text{mm}^3$ respectively. In group 1 area was $645.89 \pm 191.15\text{mm}^2$ while volume was $11653.03 \pm 5206.9\text{mm}^3$, in group II area was $778.23 \pm 285.06\text{mm}^2$ and volume was $14533.65 \pm 6885.131\text{mm}^3$. In group III and group IV area were $776.38 \pm 227.78\text{mm}^2$ and $657.78 \pm 191.33\text{mm}^2$ respectively while volume were $13763.71 \pm 4684.68\text{mm}^3$ and $15428.62 \pm 5671.622\text{mm}^3$ respectively. P-value ($0.92 > 0.05$), there was no significant difference between area of PSAA for different age groups. P-value ($0.34 > 0.05$), there was no significant difference between volume of PSAA for different age groups. (Table 1)

Table 1 A&B describes the mean area & volume of MS according to gender. Mean area & volume were significantly high among male as compare to female.(P<0.05)

Out of 400 maxillary sinus, 190(47.5%) maxillary sinus had septa. 93(48.95%) septa were present on right side, and 97(51.05%) septa were present on left side. In group I and III, total septa present were 48. In group II total septa present were 49 while in group IV it were 45. As p-value (0.07>0.05),(0.058>0.05) therefore right and left septa are insignificant of age groups. (Table2)

Table 2 A describes percentage of presence of septa in male patients according to side. 93 (46.5%) maxillary sinus had septa in male patients. 53(56.9%) septa were present on right side and 40(43%) on left side in males. On right side, group IV had 15 septa, followed by group I (14) and group II and III as (12) each. On left side, group III had 14 septa, followed by group II (12), group I (8) and group IV (6). Table 2 B describes percentage of presence of septa in female patients according to side. Around 97(48.5%) septa were present in female patients. 40(41.2%) septa were present on right side and 57(58.7%) on left side in females. On right side, all groups had 10 septa. On left side, group I had 16 septa followed by group II (15), then group IV (14) and group III (12). (Table2 A& B)

Table 3 describes overall pathology present according to age group. Out of 400 maxillary sinus, pathologies were seen in 159(39.75%) maxillary sinus. In group III 55, maximum pathologies were present. In group I 31 pathologies were present, in group II and group IV 35 and 38 pathologies were present respectively. 101(63 %) mucositis were present in total number. Polyp 22(13.83%) were fewer as compared to mucositis and sinusitis 36(22.64%). Here p-value (0.06>0.05) which showing significant difference between all the pathologies according to age. (Table3)

Table 3 A shows overall pathology present in male patients. In group III, maximum pathologies 29 were present followed by group IV 26, group I 22 and group II 21. Around 70(70.7%) of mucositis were found in male patient, 20(20.2%) of sinusitis and 9(9.09%) of polyp were present in males. p-value is (0.0006), there was significant difference between different pathologies in male. Table 3 B describes overall pathology present in female patients. Group III had maximum pathologies (25) followed by group II(14), group IV (12) and group I(9). 31(51.66%) of mucositis were present, 16(26.66%) sinusitis and 13(21.66%) of polyp. P-value 0.002, which shows significant difference between pathologies in female patients. (Table3A&B)

Table 1: Variation of area (in mm²) and volume (in mm³) of MS according to age

Age group	Area	Volume
I	645.89 ± 191.15	11653.03 ± 5206.9
II	778.23 ± 285.06	14533.65 ± 6885.131
III	776.38 ± 227.78	13763.71 ± 4684.68
IV	657.78 ± 191.33	15428.62 ± 5671.622
Total	666.3 ± 235.81	11966.5 ± 5188.34
P-value*	0.92(NS)	0.34(NS)

Table 1.A : Mean area of MS according to gender

Age group	Male	Female	*P-value
I	1123.20 ± 2318.03	708.03 ± 203.40	0.025(S)
II	792.14 ± 239.10	718.28 ± 214.76	0.013(S)
III	777.19 ± 271.44	687.57 ± 218.29	0.039(S)
IV	687.85 ± 274.72	649.07 ± 189.31	0.021(S)

Table 1 B: Mean volume of MS according to gender.

Age group	Male	Female	*P-value
I	15165.94 ± 6141.53	12850.82 ± 4400.01	0.034(S)
II	14828.36 ± 5388	12812.47 ± 4633.09	0.024(S)
III	13853.2 ± 6878.14	12089.57 ± 4049.11	0.16(NS)
IV	12340.74 ± 6176.5	11678.9 ± 3979.85	0.42(NS)

Table 2: Percentage of septa present on right and left side of maxillary sinus according to age group.

Age groups	Septa		
	Right	Left	Total
I	24	24	48
II	22	27	49

III	22	26	48
IV	25	20	45
Total	93	97	190
Percentage	48.95	51.05	47.5
*p-value	0.07(NS)	0.058(NS)	

Table 2.A: Percentage of presence of septa in male patients according to side.

Age groups	Right	Left	Total	Percentage
I	14	8	22	23.6
II	12	12	24	25.8
III	12	14	26	27.9
IV	15	6	21	22.5
Total	53(56.9%)	40(43%)	93(46.5%)	

Table 2.B: Percentage of presence of septa in female patients according to side.

Age groups	Right	Left	Total	Percentage
I	10	16	26	26.8
II	10	15	25	25.7
III	10	12	22	22.6
IV	10	14	24	24.7
Total	40(41.2%)	57(58.7%)	97(48.5%)	

Table 3: Overall pathologies present according to group.

Age groups	Mocositis	Sinusitis	Polyp	Total
I	15	13	3	31
II	22	4	9	35
III	41	9	5	55
IV	23	10	5	38
Total	101	36	22	159 (39.75%)
Percentage	63.52	22.64	13.83	*pvalue=0.06 (NS)

Table 3.A: Overall pathologies present in male patients.

Age groups	Mocositis	Sinusitis	Polyp	Total
I	11	8	3	22
II	16	2	3	21
III	25	3	1	29
IV	18	7	1	26
Total	70	20	9	99
Percentage	70.7	20.2	9.09	*p-value = 0.0006 (S)

Table 3.B: Overall pathologies present in female patients

Age groups	Mocositis	Sinusitis	Polyp	Total
I	4	5	0	9
II	6	2	6	14
III	16	6	3	25
IV	5	3	4	12
Total	31	16	13	60
Percentage	51.66	26.66	21.66	*pvalue=0.002(S)

DISCUSSION

Maxillary sinus is the largest of all the air sinuses and grows very rapidly as the permanent teeth erupt until 15 to 20 years of age. After this age the size of the maxillary sinus usually remains static. But if the posterior teeth are extracted due to any reason there is inferior expansion of the maxillary sinus causing increase in the area and volume of maxillary sinus⁹. Inadequate bone volume due to alveolar bone resorption in association with pneumatization of the maxillary sinus often causes difficulty while implant placement for replacement of teeth. To increase the bone volume, sinus lift surgeries are performed using lateral approach and by alveolar ridge approach. Recently, maxillary sinus bone graft using the alveolar

ridge approach has been increasingly used with the development of equipment, but it is hard to secure a clear view and if the amount of residual bone is insufficient, the survival rate of this approach is low. Therefore, the lateral approach has been widely used as a much stabler and predictable maxillary sinus bone graft⁵.

The blood supply of the maxillary sinus is by three arteries namely, infraorbital artery (IOA), posterior superior alveolar artery (PSAA) and anterior superior alveolar artery. They are the branches of the maxillary artery that run into the lateral wall of the maxilla and supply the maxillary sinus and the Schneiderian membrane¹⁰. The introsseous branch of PSAA supplies the maxillary molar and maxillary sinus¹¹. Since the maxillary sinus has a complex location and a rich blood supply it is very crucial to investigate it to avoid complications during and after surgeries which are discussed as under.

Many imaging techniques such as the conventional radiographic views like lateral cephalograms, panoramic radiography, Water's view were used for the assessment of maxillary sinus. But due to the disadvantages like superimposition of images and limited total visualization of the sinus, one should not rely upon them as a guide for the diagnosis and treatment. With the advent of newer imaging modalities like Computed Tomography(CT) and Cone Beam Computed Tomography(CBCT) it has been possible to obtain both two dimensional and three dimensional images.

The CBCT scan images of patients who had undergone CBCT imaging for any reason were included in the study. The study sample comprised of CT scan images of 200 subjects (100 males and 100 females) which were divided into following groups : group 1: 20-29 yrs , group 2: 30-39 yrs, group 3: 40-49 yrs and group 4: 50-59 yrs. Each group included 25 males and 25 females.

In the present study, total average area of the maxillary sinus was $6.66 \pm 2.35\text{cm}^2$ and the volume was $11.96 \pm 5.18\text{cm}^3$. In the studies conducted by Kanthem et al⁹, Ariji et al¹³, Attia et al¹⁴ and where they found larger area (8.5 to 10.2cm^2) and volume (14cm^3 to 31cm^3) of maxillary sinus. This discrepancy may be due to different geographical population used sample size collection and different methods of calculating the dimensions. The data which was automatically computed were 14-17% higher than the manually calculated volume³⁸. (Table 1)

There is no significant difference between area and volume of maxillary sinus in different age groups. (P-value $0.92 > 0.05$, P-value $0.34 > 0.05$). However according to Ariji et al¹³ there was statistically significant difference among age groups, in which as age increased size of the maxillary sinus decreased. After birth, the maxillary sinus continues to pneumatize into the developing alveolar ridge as the permanent teeth erupt. At the age of 20 years with the completion of the eruption of third molars, pneumatization of sinus ends. The change in adult maxillary sinus volume with age is thought to be related to the presence or absence of posterior maxillary teeth¹⁷. (Table 1). There was no significant difference observed between the area and volume of right and the left MS. Ariji et al¹³, and Attia et al¹⁴; also found results similar to present study.

The area of the maxillary sinus was significantly more in males as compared to females. This was in accordance with the studies conducted by several Indian authors^{1,17}. Whereas no significant difference was seen between males and females in the studies conducted by Ariji et al¹³, Kawarai et al¹⁵, Attia et al¹⁴. This could be due to population variation as our study was carried out in Indian population. (Table 1).

Other complications that may interfere while performing surgeries are the anatomical variations of maxillary sinus which includes septas. The septae are composed of cortical bone and may be either complete or partial⁷. Septae can be seen in many patterns like complete horizontal, partial horizontal, complete perpendicular, partial perpendicular, single or multiple (2 or 3)⁶. Due to presence of septa, during the maxillary sinus surgeries it can obstruct the proper visualization of the maxillary cavity so there are chances of membrane perforation.

In the present study, out of 400 maxillary sinus, 190 (47.5%) sinuses showed septas. Whereas in the studies conducted by Sigaroudi et al⁶, Orhan et al¹⁶ septas were found in the range of 55% to 69%. This difference could be due to the thickness of the imaging slice, septae may be missed if the slice thickness is more. (Table 2).

Overall maxillary sinuses of 97 (48.5%) females and 93 (46.5%) males had septa which is almost equal for both the genders. Similar results were found by Orhan et al¹⁶ where near about equal number of septas were seen in males and females. Whereas male predilection was seen in the study conducted by Havenil et al (54.5% males, 45.4% females) and female predilection were seen in the study conducted by Sigaroudi et al⁶ (61.2% females, 38.8% males). This variation may be due to the different methodology used and variations in sample size and population.

In the present study, the number of maxillary sinus having septas were independent of the age group similar results were obtained by Orhan et al¹⁶. When compared among right and left, 93 septas (48.95%) were on right side while 97 septas

(51.05 %) were on left side. This is in accordance with other studies who also did not find any significant difference between right and left⁷. (Table 2, Graph 2)

While viewing the maxillary sinuses one should look for other incidental findings like mucosal thickening, opacification, polypoid mass, neoplasms, etc. should be viewed in the imaging field. For dental implant site assessment in the maxilla, the configuration and status of the maxillary sinus is important to assess the available amount of bone. If a sinus lift is indicated, the visualization is useful, because the success rate of sinus lift procedures is crucially dependent on the configuration and status of the maxillary sinus. Hence, in order to avoid unnecessary treatment or provide appropriate treatment planning and follow-up, the significance of incidental pathologic findings should be clarified.

Although in the present study, out of all the 400 maxillary sinuses, such incidental pathologies were seen in 159(39.75%), previous studies have only reported an occurrence of such pathologies in only 14% to 58%. (Table 3)

Such difference may be due to the difference in the sample size in different studies and differences in the population. Other reason could be due to use of different imaging modalities for detection of maxillary sinus pathologies.

The pathologies in the maxillary sinus like mucosal thickening (mucositis), polyps, opacification (sinusitis) were evaluated. Mucosal thickening is the thickening of more than 1 mm in any wall of the maxilla. Polypoid lesions are the homogenous round opacities with distinct demarcating boundaries at the base of the maxillary sinus. Complete opacification is the completely opacified maxilla in all axial and coronal slices suggestive of maxillary sinusitis¹⁸. Out of all the pathologies, mucositis was the most commonly seen 101(63.52%) followed by sinusitis 36(22.64%) and polyp 22(13.83%). The variation in the results may be due the slice thickness of 1 mm which was used in our study, this could also have influenced the high occurrence of mucosal thickening in our study. (Table 3).

Maxillary sinus pathologies did not show predilection for any particular age group (P value is 0.06>0.05). The studies conducted by Lim et al¹⁸, also had the similar results. No significance of age could be due to the fact that the patients varied in age from 20 to 59 years of age and did not include patients under 12-years of age. The formation of their MS is still incomplete and certain abnormalities such as mucosal thickening and opacification are common findings in early childhood. (Table 3).

Total 76 pathologies were present on the right side while 83 were present on left side. There was significant difference between the pathologies on the right and the left sides. On right side mucositis (50) was maximally seen followed by sinusitis (17) and polyp (9). On left side mucositis (51) was maximally seen followed by sinusitis (19) and polyp (13). There is significant difference between males and females among different pathologies in maxillary sinus. Mucositis was seen in 70.7% of males and 51.66% of females. Sinusitis was seen in 20.2% of males and 26.66% of females, polyps were seen in 9.09% of males and 21.66% of females. On the contrary no significant difference in the occurrence of pathologies between males and females was observed by Malik et al¹⁷. The reason could be due to the difference in male and female sample size.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, total average area of the maxillary sinus was $6.66 \pm 2.35\text{cm}^2$ and the volume was $11.96 \pm 5.18\text{ mm}$. There is no significant difference between area and volume of maxillary sinus in different age groups. (P-value 0.92>0.05, P-value 0.34>0.05). The area of the maxillary sinus was more in males as compared to females and this was statistically significant. In the present study, out of 400 maxillary sinuses, 190 (47.5%) maxillary sinus showed septa. Overall 48.5% females and 46.5% of males had septa. When compared among right and left side of MS, 93(48.95%) MS had septas on right side while 97(51.05%) MS had septas on left side and found to be almost similar. There was statistically insignificant difference between the presence of septa among right and left side of maxillary sinus. More number of pathologies in maxillary sinus were detected in males as compared to females. Maxillary sinus pathologies did not show predilection for any particular age group.

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