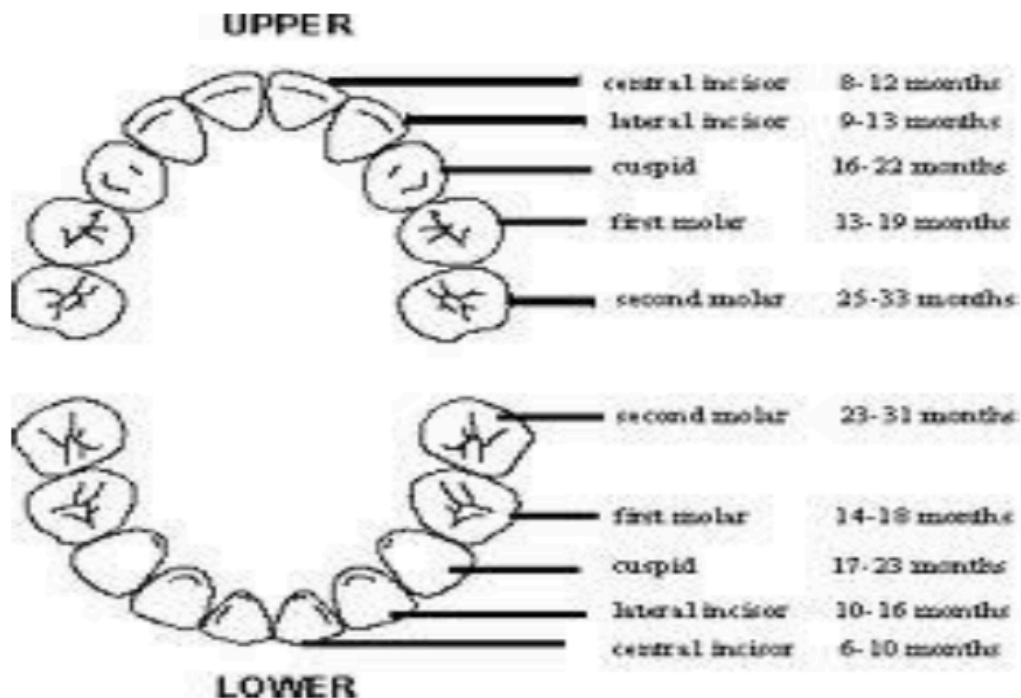


Information on dental Forensics



Dental forensics concerns the application of dentistry to law. In a criminal trial, dental forensics can be helpful in two ways: 1. To establish the identity of a homicide victim or 2. To associate a suspect with a crime using bite-mark analysis.

Teeth marks left in partially eaten food or even on skin occasionally show up at some crime scenes. Teeth are tough. Even when the rest of a body is unrecognizable or gone, teeth survive. And each person's teeth are different. Biting and chewing changes your teeth. So does the work of a dentist. Your teeth are not like anyone else's, so teeth can be used to make a positive identification.

Teeth marks are also useful because most people visit a dentist at some time in their life and have x-rays done. Therefore dental records are readily available. However, teeth do change over time so records need to be recent.

A forensic dentist can read clues in teeth about the person they belong to. For example a person's age, their work or even their hobbies can sometimes be indicated by markings in their teeth.