

Determination of Sex from the Fragments of Femur.

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- **Abstract:**One of the objectives of medico-legal investigation is sex determination, especially in skeletal remains, decomposed or mutilated bodies. Pelvis and skull are considered to be the bones which have highest accuracy for sex determination as they exhibit prominent sexual dimorphic features. However in cases where these bones are absent, long bones are useful to determine sex as they are better preserved and have sexually dimorphic features which are easily measurable. In such instances femur is the most suited of all long bones in sex determination as it is the largest of all long bones. As previous studies suggest, a single standardized formula cannot be used within all population groups for determining the sex of individuals as there is considerable intra- and inter-population variability in femoral dimensions. Genetics, environment and socio-cultural factors all influence the development of bone. This made us to think that it might be necessary to derive standards for the contemporary south Indian population. Femurs of 100 individuals (50 males and 50 females) were analyzed in this study and an attempt has been made to use various osteometric data from femur of south Indian origin to develop standards for determining sex from complete and fragmentary remains. In the present study epicondylar breadth and bicondylar width was found to have highest accuracy for sex determination and distal end of femur was a better sex discriminator compared to proximal epiphysis.
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