

**Commentary on:** Cameriere R, Ferrante L, Molleson T, Brown B. Frontal sinus accuracy in identification as measured by false positives in kin groups. *J Forensic Sci* 2008;53(6):1280-2.

Sir,

We read with much interest the article titled "Frontal Sinus Accuracy in Identification as Measured by False Positives in Kin Groups" by Cameriere et al. (1). It is an informative article with regard to any identification of an individual but the accuracy may be questioned. The frontal sinus is the one of the sinuses which is rudimentary at birth and it develops later on. Interestingly, past research reports depict that the anatomical variations of the nose and paranasal sinuses are more common in children and the prevalence of such varies according to the development of these sinuses during childhood (2).

An interesting point which may be raised is the similarity in the anatomy of the paranasal sinuses in twins. A past study reported the fact that the differences in anatomical structure of the paranasal sinuses between identical and non-identical twin pairs were not statistically significant (3). This gives enough evidence to believe that the environmental factors are more important than the genetic ones for the development of these anatomical variants of paranasal sinuses (3).

It has also been reported that old age may account for the bony resorption thereby leading to alteration in the size of the frontal sinus (4). Hence, frontal sinus size may vary with increase in age. As per research studies, in any individual, the size of the frontal sinus increases up to 19 years (4). Thus, anatomy of the frontal

sinus is bound to vary even in the same family members as it is influenced by different factors like environment and age rather than being specifically linked to any genetic cause.

The bilateral absence of the frontal sinus in 10% of cases as reported in the present study appears to be interesting. The authors have rightfully commented that we cannot identify the kinship of an individual with observation of the frontal sinus, rather it may be used to identify skeletal remains (1). Overall, it is an interesting topic with a lucid style of representation and the authors need to be commended for their work.

## References

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