

Stature estimation using head circumference

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ABSTRACT

Stature is an essential measurement in anthropometry that resolves individual representation of the body. Forensic determination is the resolution of origin, sex, and natural height. Many previous study has been done on estimation of height using various measurements of teeth and skull. The aim of this study was to estimate stature from head circumference and to derive a linear regression formula between them. The study was conducted in Saveetha Dental College among 70 1st year students (35 males and 35 females). Stature was measured using a stadiometer and head circumference was measured using measuring tape. All the measurements were tabulated and linear regression equation was done using the SPSS software (version 23). For males, $Y = 1.85x + 71.12, r = 0.487$; for females, $Y = 2.07x + 46.24, r = 0.433$. By the study, we know that in both genders, head circumference has moderate correlation in estimating stature. From the present research, we conclude that head circumference is a moderately reliable parameter for stature estimation in both genders.

Key words: Head circumference, human stature, innovative stature estimation, linear regression equation

INTRODUCTION

Stature is an essential measurement in anthropometry that resolves individual representation of the body.^[1] Forensic determination is the resolution of origin, sex, and natural height.^[1,2] Forensic science was explained as the implementation of scientific techniques and procedures for valid purpose.^[3] Human variation is an essential constituent of human population.^[4] Anthropometry is a sequence of customized measuring procedures that conveys the measurable proportions of skeleton and body.^[5,6] For stature

estimation using skeletal remains, long bones of the body have been used most commonly.^[7]

Stature estimation of decayed, incomplete, and crippled human bodies are of major forensic significance. Forensic specialists frequently require the height determination of the deceased from such a body.^[8] Anthropometry work of the skeleton from various biological structure for evaluation of stature is needed not only to forensic specialist but also to anatomist.^[9] Stature in relation to skull and jaw dimension is most often described in different population.^[7] Calculation of stature of individual assists in the examination of a person in huge catastrophe.^[10]

Many previous studies have been done on the estimation of height using various measurements of teeth and skull:^[7] Footprint measurements in Bangladeshi adults,^[11] forearm length in North Karnataka population,^[6] maxilla and facial measurements in a Indian population,^[12] intermastoid distance,^[11] long bones of American white and negros,^[13] and from hand and foot measurements in a rare tribe of

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Kerala state in India.^[13,14] The extensive knowledge and experience of our research team have been translated into high quality publications.^[15-34] The present study was taken with an aim to investigate the stature estimation using head circumference and to derive the linear regression formula and to prove head circumference is a reliable source for stature estimation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Saveetha Dental College among 70 1st year students (35 males and 35 females) with age of 18–20 were selected. This study was approved by SRB of Saveetha Dental College (IHEC/SDC/ANAT/21/215).

Stature

The stature (or) height of an individual was measured in erect standing posture from heel to the vertex using a standing height measurement frame.

Head circumference

The head circumference of the subjects was measured from glabella to glabella using nonstretchable plastic measuring tape which has passed through opisthocranium (just above eye ridges) [Figure 1]. The measurements were tabulated and a linear regression equation was estimated using IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 23).

RESULTS

Using the data from Table 1, the linear regression equation was estimated using the formula:

$Y = a + bx$, Where, x = Head circumference in cm, Y = Height in cm, a and b are constants.

- For males, $Y = 71.12 + 1.85x \pm 3.14$; $r = 0.48$ which is having moderate correlation
- For females, $Y = 46.24 + 2.07x \pm 3.98$; $r = 0.43$ which is having moderate correlation.



Figure 1: Measurement of head circumference

DISCUSSION

Stature estimation can be done in various ways. In our study, we observed that correlation coefficient was found to be 0.48 for males and 0.43 for females. Similar findings in the previous literature, where the linear regression equation were expressed as $Y = 2.81x + 137.39$, $r = 0.57$ in males had moderate correlation and $Y = 0.49x + 155.39$, $r = 0.39$ in females having weak/no correlation was observed.^[1]

Another study describes that correlation coefficient of total facial height (TFH) in male was found to be 0.038 which is having weak/no correlation in males. Whereas correlation coefficient of nasal height (NH) in male was found to be 0.034 which was also having weak/no correlation in males. Whereas the linear regression equation was expressed as stature (cm) = $156.34 + 1.28 \times \text{TFH}$ for total facial height and the linear regression equation is expressed as stature (cm) = $156.86 + 3.01 \times \text{NH}$ for NH in males. Correlation coefficient of total facial length (TFH) in female was 0.026 had weak/no correlation, whereas correlation coefficient of NH in female was found to be 0.038 which is also having weak/no correlation. Whereas the linear regression equation is expressed as stature (cm) = $144.96 + 1.12 \times \text{TFH}$ for total facial height (TFH) in females. Whereas linear regression equation is expressed as stature (cm) = $142.71 + 3.11 \times \text{NH}$ for NH in females.^[12]

In another study, the linear regression equation of the right forearm length (RFL) in males was found to be stature (cm) = $2.887 \times \text{RFL} + 95.82$ with a $r = 0.500$ and the linear regression equation of the left forearm length (LFL) in male was found to be stature (cm) = $2.128 \times \text{LFL} + 116.5$ and r value was 0.615 both had moderate correlation. Whereas in females, the linear regression equation of RFL was found to be stature (cm) = $2.427 \times \text{RFL} + 99.46$ and for LFL in females was found to be stature (cm) = $2.632 \times \text{LFL} + 95.08$, respectively, in North Karnataka population.^[6] In the present study, the sample size was limited for stature estimation using head circumference. In future, we are planning to increase the sample size and measure among different age groups.

Table 1: Values of various measurement obtained in study

	Male	Female
<i>n</i>	35	35
Mean of head circumference (<i>X</i> in cm)	55.23 ± 2.33	54.26 ± 2.45
Mean of height (<i>Y</i> in cm)	173.54 ± 3.81	158.62 ± 4.12
Correlation coefficient (<i>r</i>)	0.48	0.43
A	71.12	46.24
B	1.85	2.07

CONCLUSION

From the present research, we conclude that head circumference is a moderately reliable parameter for stature estimation in both genders.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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