

# Activities by Ohu University in the Aftermath of the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami

—Outline of the Autopsies of Unidentified Tsunami Victims—

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Immediately after the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami occurred on March 11, 2011, Ohu university school of dentistry responded to the request for cooperation from Japan Dental Association and Japanese Association for Dental Science, and took part in the autopsies of unidentified tsunami victims. The authors carried out the autopsies at Soma in Fukushima with dentist officials of the Japan Air and Ground Self-Defense Forces from March 29 to May 31.

In these autopsies, we first took facial and oral photographs of the dead body with its number tag. If there were dentures in the mouth, we took them out and took photographs of them. Next, we, in pairs, examined the victim's mouth and filled in the dental chart. We took dental X-rays of the body whenever possible in order to compare them with the lifetime records.

All data of the facial and oral photographs and the dental X-rays were saved in a personal computer.

In the identification process, while there were some cases where the identity was immediately proved on the autopsy day, there were some other cases where the bereaved did not accept the identity of the dead body.

The achievements to our credit were a total of 139 cases, five re-autopsies, 73 identifications, and as a result we had a total of 217 affairs in these autopsies.

Key words : the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, unidentified victims, autopsy