

INTRODUCTION

Lip prints, as a new means of personal identification, have an increasing interest in medicine. Le-Moyne in 1950 suggested that wrinkles and cracks of the lips have the same individual characteristics as the finger prints do. Santos in 1966 stated that labial wrinkles and grooves, could be divided into simple and compound types. Later on, Suzuki and Tsuchihashi (1970) mentioned that there is an individual specificity in the morphology of lip grooves and they are not similar in two persons, but are alike in uniovular twins. They have also classified lip grooves into five simple patterns, clear cut vertical, partial branched, branched, intersected and reticular.

In 1977, Fahmy and Hassan suggested another classification of the lip prints. They described seven types of lip patterns; Ia, Ib, IIa, IIb, III, IV and V.

Lip prints are most probably genetically determined and their characteristics were suggested to be inherited from one of the parents.