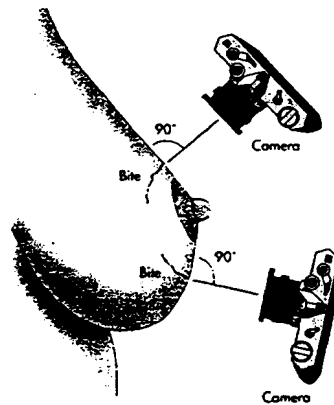


## Forensic Photography Tips

1. Equipment
  - a. The best all around lens for documenting bodily injuries is a macro lens with a focal length of 100-105mm.
  - b. Ring flash is essential to avoid “white-outs”
2. Documentation
  - a. Do not photograph more than one victim per roll of film.
  - b. Begin each roll of film with a facial view of the victim, clothed body view and a close-up view of the victim’s hospital identification card. Include a color bar on the first picture of the roll.
  - c. Adhere to highest standards for privacy and confidentiality regarding developing, storage, retrieval, and review of photos.
3. Technique
  - a. Pay attention to the background
    - 1) Position the victim to avoid clutter around the finding to be documented
    - 2) Avoid backgrounds that are bright and highly reflective
    - 3) For extremity findings use a blue or green surgical towel for background
  - b. Positioning
    - 1) The plane of the film should be parallel to the plane of the finding. If the finding is on curved surface (arm, breast, etc.) multiple shots will be required (see figure below).
    - 2) If the findings are textured (swelling, indentations, laceration, etc.) include additional shots a variety of tangential or oblique angles.
    - 3) Always remember to modestly drape the patient whenever possible.



- c. Anatomic context and scale: Every finding should appear in at least three photos
      - 1) A regional shot that orients the viewer to the finding’s general location and position on the body – the view must be wide enough to show multiple anatomic landmarks in relation to the findings.
      - 2) Close-up shot(s) that “zoom-in” on the findings to be documented. The camera orientation should be the same as used for the regional shot.
      - 3) At least one close-up shot (positioned identical to #2) that includes a scale adjacent to the finding. The scale must be parallel to the film plane. The victim’s identification number should be on the scale.
    - d. Scales should not appear in all pictures to avoid concern that something is hidden and best reserved for just the close-ups
4. Review Your Photographs to Improve Technique
  - a. Use magnification
  - b. Peer review for technique as well as content and interpretation

