

I.4. Demonstration of ossification centres of foot & hand

Gross:

- The given specimen shows dissected foot & hand
- Presence of calcaneum (5th month IUL) & talus ossification

(7th month IUL) centres are appeared.

Dissection of Foot:

- The foot is grasped in the left hand behind the heel, the toes pointing towards the dissector.
- An incision is made between the interspace of third and fourth toes with a long knife, backwards through the sole of the foot and heel.
- If centre in calcaneum and talus are not exposed, thin slices of cartilage of these bones should be cut until the presence or absence has been shown.
- **Calcaneum appears at 5th** and in **talus at 7th month of intrauterine life.**
- A centre may be present in **cuboid at birth**, or it may appear shortly afterwards.

Hand:

Scaphoid – 5 years

Lunate – 4 years

Triquetral – 3 years

Pisiform – 11-12 years

Trapezium – 6 years

Trapezoid – 5 years

Capitate – 2 months

Hamate – 2 months

Medicolegal importance:

Useful in estimating the Age of the foetus

