



Profile of Medicolegal Autopsy Cases: A One Year Retrospective Study

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Abstract

Background: Medico-legal autopsies form an integral and indispensable part of an investigation of sudden suspicious death.

Material and Method: The present study is a one year retrospective study of autopsies performed in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at S N Medical College & Hospital, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

Result: In our study, maximum number of autopsy cases (32.00%) were in the age group of 21-30 years, followed by in 41-50 years i.e., 20 cases (20.00%). Male cases predominated over the female cases, which were 78 (78.00%). Hindus were majority in number with 91cases (91.00%).

Conclusion: It is observed that majority of cases were in 3rd decade of life and Preponderance of male sex is seen over female sex.

Keywords: Autopsy, Age, Sex

Introduction

Medicolegal autopsies form an integral and indispensable part of an investigation of sudden suspicious death. The profile of medico legal autopsy cases is important in order to know the death statistics

in a region due to unnatural causes and also help to address the demographic needs according to the mortality statistics specific to that region. It is also necessary in order to prevent the preventable casualties in future and to study the genuine crime rate in the area.¹

Medicolegal autopsy, which is performed on the requisition of the legal authority in circumstances relating to suspicious, sudden, obscure, unnatural, litigious or criminal deaths, and the information so derived is applied for legal purposes to assist the course of justice.²

The objective of postmortem examination (also known as autopsy or necropsy) is to establish the identity of a body, when not known, to ascertain the time since death, and the cause of death; and whether the death was natural or unnatural and if unnatural, whether it was homicidal, suicidal, or accidental. In case of newly born infants, the question of live birth and viability assume importance and should be determined.³

Material and methods

The present study is a retrospective study of autopsies performed in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at S N medical college & hospital, Jodhpur,

Rajasthan. Relevant information like age, sex and cause & manner of death were collected from Post mortem registers/records, Inquest papers and Post mortem reports. The information was compiled, tabulated and analyzed.

Results

Table 1: Age Wise Distribution of Cases

Age group	Total	Percentage
0-10	2	2.00
11-20	15	15.00
21-30	32	32.00
31-40	20	20.00
41-50	15	15.00
51-60	9	9.00
>60	7	7.00
Total	100	100.00

Table 2: Sex Wise Distribution

Sex	Number of cases	Percentages
Male	78	78.00
Female	22	22.00
Total	100	100.00

Table 3: Religion Wise Distribution

Religion	Number of cases	Percentages
Hindu	91	91.00
Muslims	7	7.00
unknown	2	2.00
Total	100	100.00

Discussion

During the study period a total of 100 medico legal autopsies were performed. In our study, maximum number of autopsy cases (32.00%) were in the age group of 21-30 years, followed by in 41-50 years i.e., 20 cases (20.00%). These findings are in consistency

with findings of Agrawal R et al,⁴ ME Bansude⁵ and G.G. Dayanand et al⁶.

The present study majority of victims were male 78 (78.00%) as compared to female 22(22.00%). Similar findings were seen in studies done by G.G. Dayanand et al.⁶ Murthy et al,⁷ K. Sundaram et al,⁸ and Sharma B.R. et al.⁹ The reason being that as males are bread earners and females usually doing household work, which makes the males more vulnerable to accidents, violence and stress & also males predisposed for risk taking behavior. In our study 91.00% were Hindus, and 7.4% were Muslims. Similar findings are observed in studies by Junaidi K. A. et al.¹⁰

Conclusion

It is observed that majority of cases were in 3rd decade of life and Preponderance of male sex is seen over female sex.

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