

Case report

CONTRADICTION HISTORY: ROLE OF FORENSIC EXPERT

Dr. HN Panshewdikar, Dr.AH Meshram,Dr.SDNanandkar

Authors

Dr. HN Panshewdikar,
Resident Doctor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Grant Government Medical College and
Sir J J Hospital, Mumbai 400008.India.(M) 9145947682, Email: pharsholhas@gmail.com

Dr. AH Meshram
Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Grant Government Medical College
and Sir J J Hospital, Mumbai 400008, India. (M) 09773194401
Email: dr_ashumeshram1978@yahoo.co.in

Dr. SD Nanandkar
Professor and Head, Department of Forensic Medicine, Grant Government Medical College
and Sir J J Hospital, Mumbai 400008.India.(M) 09869040955
Email: nsudin88@yahoo.com

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Corresponding Author : Dr.Ashutosh H Meshram
Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine
Grant Government Medical College and
Sir J J Hospital, Mumbai 400008 India
(M) 09773194401, E mail: meshramashutosh297@gmail.com

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Abstract

The role of Forensic expert is of paramount importance to give justice to the culprit and bring the culprit to book. In this case, the forensic experts could project the features of contradictory history with no obvious documentary evidences which was ruled out by standard autopsy which revealed the fact that the case was of head injury.

Keywords: Contradictory history, standard autopsy.

Introduction

Sudden death occurs due to natural pathology and unnatural causes. In unnatural cases, circumstances are enveloped in mystery, obscurity and unreliable statements and more recently concealed documentary evidences. The reason behind this action may be personal, occupational or social. The contradictory documentary evidence and history can be easily overcome by Forensic expert by complete standard autopsy.⁽¹⁻³⁾

Case Report

A dead body of 32 years male was brought for autopsy at Sir JJ Hospital Morgue. The documentary evidence did not show any external injury. The history revealed by authorities was of sudden unconsciousness with vomiting, and the deceased having died before admission at hospital. There was no past history of any disease. Deceased was moderately built. External examination of body revealed healed abrasion over left knee joint.

Internal examination of the body revealed:

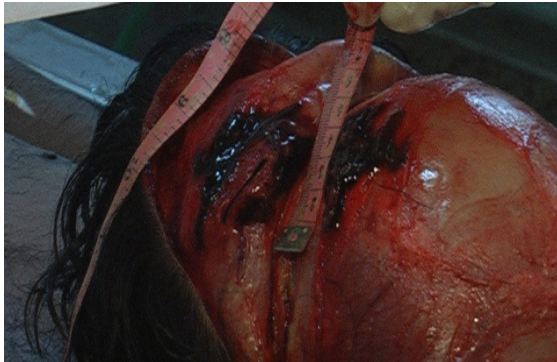
1. Under scalp contusion with haematoma over left frontal region.
2. Under scalp contusion with haematoma over left parieto-temporo-occipital region.
3. Subarachnoid haemorrhage over frontal lobe.

The injuries were ante mortem in nature and were sufficient to cause death in ordinary course of nature. Visera was preserved to rule out poisoning and tissues were preserved to rule out pathological disease. The provisional report was given as under scalp contusion with subarachnoid haemorrhage.

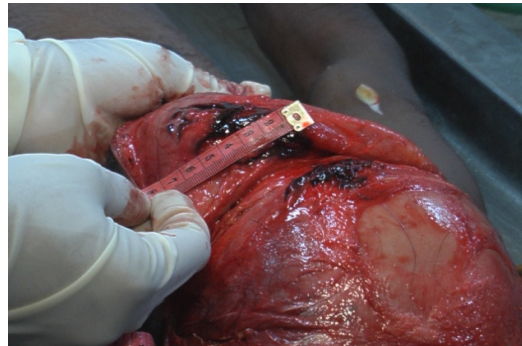
Discussion

Contusions to the head are mostly associated with the contre coup injuries to the brain and are in relation to the site of scalp injury.⁽¹⁾ The same findings were noted in this case. The accidental traumatic head injuries are relatively rare injuries. It is essential that they can be identified as consistent with an accidental mechanism so that an erroneous diagnosis of inflicted injury is not made.⁽²⁾ In our case although there was contradictory history, diagnosis of head injury was achieved by performing standard autopsy. Similarly Sharkery EJ, in his study had investigated the pathophysiological nature of head injuries caused by blunt force trauma, specifically in relation to the incidence and formation of a laceration. He experimented on a model devised to assess the force required to cause damage to the scalp and underlying skull of porcine specimens following a single front-parietal impact. The applied force used could be correlated with resultant injuries and as such aided pathological

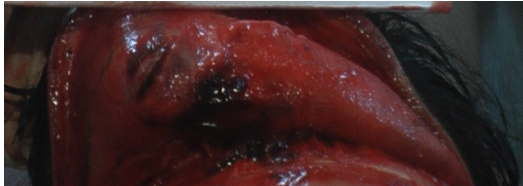
investigation in differentiation between falls and blows.⁽³⁾ The same theory was applied to solve the didactic nature of our case.



Photograph 1: Showing Under scalp contusion with haematoma.



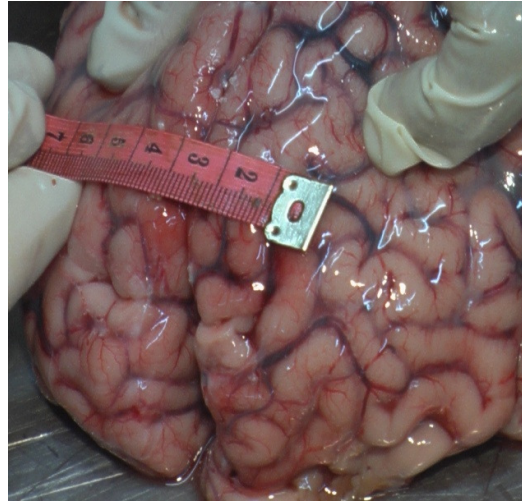
Photograph 2: Showing under scalp contusion with haematoma.



Photograph 3: Showing under scalp contusion with haematoma.



Photograph 5: Showing subarachnoid haemorrhage.



Photograph 4: Showing subarachnoid haemorrhage.

Conclusion

Forensic expert can help the judiciary in particular case of contradictory history by standard autopsy and brings the culprit to book.

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