

## AUTOPSY

(Necropsy / Necroscopy / PM Examination)

Definition – It is the type of external and internal examination of the dead body to find out the actual cause of death.

Types -

- (A) Clinical/ Academic/ Pathological/ Scientific
- (B) Forensic/ Medicolegal

Objectives –

- To know the cause of death.
- To know the time since death.
- To establish the identity of the unknown body.
- To know place & circumstances of death.
- To know viability, live birth, still born, dead born in case of newly born infant.

Rules –

- Pre-requisites –
  - Requisition letter of Authorized person (Magistrate / Investigating PO)
  - Dead body *chalan* / 16 *kalami*
  - Inquest letter / *Panchanama*
- Mortuary – By RMP in Govt. services
- Daylight
- Body identification – PO & one Relative
- No unauthorized person allowed & No discussion
- Careful, Thorough & Complete examination
- Observation – On the spot & Step by step noting
- Viscera collection
- Video recording – Custodial death (NHRC)
- Three Copies

Examination –

- External
- Internal (Evisceration) – Incision.
  - I – standard midline – Most common method
  - Y – V shape - Inframammary
  - Extended/ Modified Y – Subclavicular
  - T – shaped or Bucket Handle

- Evisceration methods –
  - En masse (Letulle) - Removal of most of internal organs in swop
  - Removal of individual organs (Virchow's method)
  - En bloc removal (Ghon) – Comprised of above two
  - In situ dissection (Rokitansky) – Dissection of organ at its place
- Sequence of examination of body cavity –
  - Head injury           => Skull – Thorax – Abdomen
  - Asphyxia               => Skull – Abdomen – Neck – Thorax
  - All other cases       => Thorax – Abdomen – Skull

Viscera Collection –

- Ideal Preservative – Rectified spirit (Costly & Volatile)
- Commonly used – Saturated solution of common salt
- Should never be used – Formalin & Denatured spirit

Viscera	Quantity
Whole stomach & content	300 ml & if less – whole
Small intestine	Adults - 1 meter, Children - 1.5 meter, Infants – Whole. Contents – 100 ml
Liver with gall bladder & common bile duct	Adults – 400 to 500 grams, Children & Infants - whole.
Spleen	Adults – half, Children & Infants - whole.
Kidneys	Adults – half of each side, Children & Infants - whole & both.

- Blood Samples - 10 to 20 ml.

Preservative	Quantity	Action
K Oxalate	30 mg	Anticoagulant
Na Fluoride	10 ml	Enzyme inhibitor

EXHUMATION - Digging out a body from a grave which has already been buried.

PM ARTEFACTS - The changes caused or features introduced in a body after death.