

Sudden Death and Chronic Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC): Two Case Reports

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Abstract : Background: Sudden death is regarded as a suspicious demise necessitating autopsy, as stipulated by legal authorities. Chronic disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) is an acquired clinical and biological syndrome characterized by a severe and fatal prognosis, stemming from systemic, uncontrolled, diffuse coagulation activation. Irrespective of their origins, DIC is associated with a diverse spectrum of manifestations, encompassing minor biological coagulation alterations to profoundly severe conditions wherein hemorrhagic complications may take precedence. Simultaneously, microthrombi contribute to the development of multi-organ failures. Objective This study seeks to evaluate the role of autopsy in determining the causes of death. Materials and Methods: We present two instances of sudden death involving females who underwent autopsy at the Forensic Medicine Department of the University Hospital of Annaba, Algeria. These autopsies were performed at the request of the prosecutor, aiming to determine the causes of death and illuminate the exact circumstances surrounding it. Methods Utilized: Analysis of the initial information report; Findings from postmortem examinations; Histological assessments and toxicological analyses. Results: The presence of DIC was noted, affecting nearly all veins with distinct etiologies. Conclusion: For the establishment of a meaningful diagnosis: • Thorough understanding of the subject matter is imperative; • Precise alignment with medicolegal data is essential.

Keywords : chronic disseminated intravascular coagulation, sudden death, autopsy, causes of death

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