A Complex Suicide by Ingestion of Sulfuric Acid and Thorax Self-Inflicted Stab Wounds

on the 7th hospital day the decision was made to withdraw care. At autopsy, in addition to findings consistent with diffuse anoxic encephalopathy and acute bronchopneumonia, histologic sections of the cardiac conduction system revealed severe eccentric fibromuscular dysplasia of the AV nodal artery, which was ruled to be the cause of the decedent's initial cardiac arrest. Although FMD is a disease most commonly associated with young to middle-aged individuals, it can affect those of any age group. This case emphasizes the importance of having a high degree of suspicion of cardiac conduction system abnormalities in individuals who die suddenly and unexpectedly, particularly infants and children.

P22 Myocardial Injury: More Than Just Trocar Effect

J. P. Tovar, R. Djabourian
Los Angeles County Department of Coroner, Los Angeles, CA

Postmortem forensic evaluation is fraught with many artifacts that can mimic pathologic processes. Embalming trocar artifact is frequent in the forensic setting and causes disruption to organs and soft tissues. Differentiation between true pathology and trocar artifact is key to a sound diagnosis. We present a case of myocardial rupture due to myocarditis in an embalmed 62-year old woman. She expired shortly after screening colonoscopy. A trocar injection site was identified on the abdomen with involvement of the heart and abdominal viscera. Lesions consisted of focal disruption of the tissue suggesting acute perforation which was concerning in a patient with this clinical history. There was no associated hemorrhage seen in the defects of the colon or abdominal viscera. Multiple trocar paths penetrated the pericardium. Minimal blood was seen in the pericardial sac and pleural space. This is was due to a step of embalming which evacuates the fluid in the body cavities and hollow organs. The embalming process preserved the state of the tissue at the time of death. Examination showed myocardial disruption and hemorrhage in the apex of the heart beneath a trocar path in the pericardium. Histologically, transmural myocardial injury was seen with hemorrhage into the interstitium and epicardial fat. Associated acute inflammatory cell infiltrate was identified. The finding of hemorrhage and inflammation is consistent with premortem injury to the heart. Areas away from the site of injury showed mononuclear interstitial inflammation consistent with myocarditis. Myocardial rupture is a severe consequence of many pathological processes including infarction, blunt and penetrating injury, infection, infiltrative disease and iatrogenic causes. No other pathologic process was identified and toxicology was negative. Cause of death was due to consequences of acute myocarditis. Causes of myocardial rupture, myocarditis and trocar use are discussed.

P23 A Complex Suicide-by-Ingestion of Sulfuric Acid and Thorax Self-Inflicted Stab Wound

B. Solarino[1], L. Tattoli[2], R. Gagliano-Candela[2], G. Di Vella[2]
[1]Institute of Legal Medicine - University of Bari, Bari, Italy; [2]Institute of Legal Medicine, Bari, Italy

Sulfuric acid is a colorless, odorless liquid, which causes typical injury patterns such as cutaneous and ocular burns, respiratory complications from inhalation, and ingestion injuries (coagulative necrosis of mucosa, gastric and intestinal perforations) with significant dermal and mucosal injury because of its corrosive action. Most injuries due to sulfuric acid ingestion are accidental, especially reported in pediatric population because it is a component in household products like drain cleaner, easily available. It is also widely used in electrical industry, chemical laboratories, jewelry, and agriculture. However, intentional ingestions have been rarely reported in adults as a method of suicide in people affected by major depressive disorder. The AA reported a case of a 44-year old woman who was found dead outside her house, with a retained fillet knife embedded in her left chest wall, and cutaneous chemical burns extending from her mouth down her chin and anterior torso. Her shirt and trousers were partially burnt on the anterior side. At crime scene investigation, a half-empty bottle of chemical drain cleaner containing concentrated sulfuric acid, was found next to the cadaver. On a nearby tree, there was a bag containing a sheath and a clean kitchen knife. The relatives stated the woman was probably depressed because of troubles at work. She left a farewell letter to her son. Body external examination revealed also three superficial stab wounds on the neck (left and anterior side). No defense injuries were observed. At autopsy, chemical burns of tongue, trachea, larynx, pharynx and esophagus were found, with blackish fluid in the peritoneal cavity. The stomach and the ileum were widely perforated and discolored. The left jugular vein was dissected by stabbing wounds and the left pulmonary superior lobe has been perforated by the knife. Histological analyses showed extensive corrosive changes in the gastrointestinal tract, with loss of the superficial mucosa of the lips, oral cavity, esophagus, stomach, ileum, and coagulative necrosis. The lung parenchyma was edematous and hyperemic. Toxicological screen on blood and urine samples was negative; gastric content contained a high quantity of concentrated (96%) sulfuric acid with a pH value < 1. The pathogenic mechanisms of this unusual complex suicide will be debated.

P24 WITHDRAWN

P25 The Cuyahoga County Statistical Report Project

T. Gilson
Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner Office, Cleveland, OH

The Cuyahoga County Statistical Report (CCSR) is an annual presentation of data summarizing the work of a large county death investigation system (metropolitan Cleveland). The scope of the presentation has expanded over the decades that the CCSRs have been published but, at their core, the reports are tabulations of information regarding natural and unnatural death including demographic data, manner of death analysis, trauma subtypes and the role of alcohol in unnatural deaths as well as other toxicology parameters. In general, existing data tables would be preserved and updated annually while new tables could be introduced and maintained in a similar fashion going forward. The CCSRs have been presented since the beginning of the tenure of Dr Samuel Gerber, Cuyahoga County's long-serving coroner. Shortly after his inauguration in 1937, Dr Gerber initiatated the CCSR and publication continued without interruption until 2007. A brief hiatus followed but these data from 2007-2010 are now available in summary form and and a full CCSR for 2011 has been published with anticipated publication of the 2012 edition this summer. The CCSR Project represents an undertaking on the part of the office to provide public access to the entire CCSR archive. More recent electronic reports are being converted to PDF format with an anticipated electronic search capacity of at least a decade. Older electronic reports and previous print reports will be scanned and available in a manually searchable form. All reports will be placed on the website of the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. When completed, the CCSR Project will offer public access to a nearly unparalleled collection of public health information spanning over 70 years. The current expected completion date is early 2014.

P26 Primary Extranodal Lymphoma of Dura Mater: A Rare Unexpected Cause of Death

E. L. Kiesel[1], J. E. Love[2], H. Greisman[3]
[1]Eric L. Kiesel, MD, PhD, Tacoma, WA; [2]Tacoma General Hospital, Tacoma, WA; [3]University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Primary extranodal lymphomas of the dura mater are extremely rare. They have not previously been reported in the forensic pathology literature as a