

# FORENSIC AUTOPSY REPORT

**CASE NUMBER: 13**

**Name of the Decedent:** Identity withheld

**Age:** 27

**Sex:** Female

**Date and Time of Autopsy:** 5:00 PM, 27th September 2025

**Time of Discovery:** 6:00 AM, 27th September 2025

**Performed By:** R. Amisa, Medical Trainee under Supervision, Moncton Medical Center

**Location of Autopsy:** Forensic Pathologist Lab, University Medical Teaching Hospital

**Authority Requesting Autopsy:** Office of Medical Examiner

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## Summary of Case:

The victim was found posed in a seated position inside the museum storage room. ID badge missing. Unusually cold temperature due to a faulty thermostat. A single black feather on the floor beside her shoe.

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## Evidence / Observations from Scene:

- A single feather (black, 12 cm) on the floor beside her shoe — does not match any birds in the museum's taxidermy collection.
  - The victim posed in a seated position with her hands clasped as if praying.
  - Security cameras show her entering the room alone at 11:32 PM.
  - An ancient dye sample from a rare plant belonging to genus *aconitum* (kept locked) is missing from its cabinet. That dye is known historically to contain a toxic alkaloid when improperly handled.
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## Condition of Body upon Arrival:

- Skin pale with bluish lips.

- Eyes open, pupils pinprick-sized.
- No present defensive or overt wounds.
- No sign of decomposition or insect activity.

### **External Examination:**

**Apparent Sex:** Female

**Height:** 5'5" ft / 165 cm

**Weight:** 130 lbs/ 59 kg

**Build:** Well-nourished and well-developed adult female

**Ethnicity:** East Asian descent

### **Head and Face:**

- **Hair:** Black, shoulder-length hair.
- **Eyes:** Brown, open. No obvious xanthopsia or corneal opacification present.
- **Skin:** Pale skin
- **Nails:** Short; tiny crystalline residue under fingernails (unknown substance).
- **Dentition:** Intact, no recent dental work
- **Ears:** Small puncture wound behind the right ear, no blood pooling.

### **Clothing:**

- **Outer garment:** Light blue knee-length museum lab coat (poly-cotton blend), front snap closures. Left sleeve cuff with faint brownish smear (collected for trace analysis). Name badge clip attached but badge itself missing.
- **Inner garments:** Dark grey fitted T-shirt (cotton), no visible defects or stains. Black skinny jeans (denim) with small abrasion on the right knee (non-recent wear). Black leather belt with silver buckle.
- **Hand Protection:** Nitrile disposable gloves (light purple) on both hands
- **Undergarments:** Black cotton undergarments; no defects.
- **Feet:** Black low-top canvas sneakers with white rubber soles; laces tied; small dust and textile fibers on soles consistent with museum storage area.

- **Accessories:** Small silver stud earrings; simple silver band ring on right middle finger. No watch. No necklace.

## NECK

- No ligature mark or abrasions
- No palpable hyoid fracture
- No defensive scratches or bruises
- No petechiae on remaining conjunctiva or facial skin

## Limbs:

- Light crystalline residue on the right thumb and index finger.
- Small healed scar on left knee (~2 cm)

## Injuries:

- **Puncture wound:** 0.3 cm in diameter located 1.2 cm posterior to the right ear at the mastoid region. Surrounding faint erythema.
- **Subcutaneous bruising:** Slight, faint, 2.0 × 1.0 cm area of discoloration on anterior neck, not full circumferential.

## Postmortem changes:

- Rigor mortis present in extremities
- Mild livor mortis present posteriorly
- No insect activity noted.

### Summary:

- No overt evidence of struggle or disturbance.
  - Small puncture wound behind the right ear, no blood pooling.
  - Tiny crystalline residue under fingernails (unknown substance).
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## Internal Examination:

- **Head:** No scalp hemorrhage except mild around the puncture area. Others are unremarkable.
- **Brain:** Mild congestion; no edema or herniation noted.

- **Neck:** Soft tissues of the neck reveal minimal subcutaneous hemorrhage near the puncture site. No fractures of hyoid bone or thyroid cartilage
- **Cardiovascular System:** Normal size and configuration. Coronary arteries patent. Ribs intact. No fluid or hemorrhage.
- **Lungs:** Presence of mild pulmonary edema; cut surfaces exclude small amounts of frothy fluid.
- **Stomach:** 50 mL semi-clear fluid with faint plant-like odor; no gross solids
- **Genitourinary System:** Unremarkable.
- **Liver:** Normal size; reddish-brown, congested; no gross lesions.
- **Spleen:** Dark red, soft, congested.
- **Kidneys:** Capsule striped easily.

Organ/ System	Weight	Notes
Brain	1,270 g	Mild congestion
Heart	290 g	Unremarkable
Right Lung	470 g	Mild pulmonary edema
Left Lung	430 g	Mild pulmonary edema
Liver	1,350 g	Congested
Spleen	120 g	Dark red and congested
Right Kidney	130 g	Capsule easily striped; cortex well-demarcated
Left Kidney	125 g	Same as right
Stomach	50 ml	Semi-clear fluid with faint plant-like odor
Pancreas	90 g	Pale pink, lobulated, unremarkable.
Adrenal glands	9 g each	Unremarkable
Uterus	60 g	Normal, non-gravid
Ovaries	4 g each	Normal

Thyroid	20 g	Grossly normal
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### **Toxicology Report Summary:**

- **Blood (Femoral):** High levels of aconitine detected. No other substance was detected.
- **Urine:** Trace aconitine.
- **Stomach:** Low amount of aconitine. No presence of pills/ capsules noted.
- **Liver tissue:** Detectable aconitine.
- **Kidney tissue:** Detectable aconitine.

**Interpretation:** The chemical, aconitine, was in her bloodstream before death in a dose high enough to cause fatal effects. No other poison, drug, or ethanol was found.

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### **Discussion:**

The deceased was found in a seated position with her hands clasped together. The injection wound behind her right ear and mild subcutaneous bruising indicate that the offender had medical knowledge. Toxicology report reveals high dose of aconitine. The contributing factor can be a small amount of ethanol—likely not causative.

Taken together, the most probable cause of death is aconitine poisoning. The manner of death is best classified as homicide, with no strong forensic support for suicide or natural.

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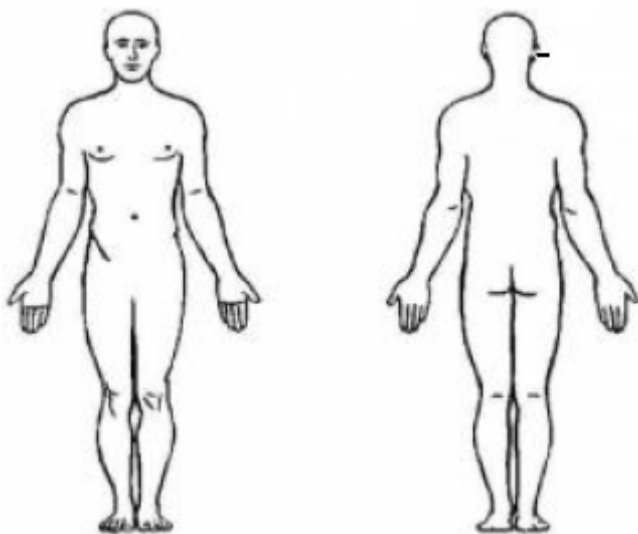
**Cause of Death:** Acute aconitine poisoning.

**Mechanism of Death:** Channel activation→ Persistent depolarization→ neurological effects→ ventricular tachycardia→ Cardiac arrest

**Manner of Death:** Homicide

### **Evidence Supporting Homicide:**

- The body's praying position indicates that the body was moved postmortem by the offender, possibly an attempt for ritualistic behavior.
- The black feather of a bird (12 cm ; doesn't match any bird in the museum's taxidermy collection. ) supports the symbolic intention of the offender.
- The missing ancient dye sample of a plant from genus aconitum was likely used by the offender to kill the victim.
- The use of a fine needle in injecting the poison behind the victim's ears indicates that the offender has enough medical knowledge to avoid blood pooling and evidence of disturbance. They also likely worked in that museum, proved by no sign of forced entry and lack of disturbance in their presence.



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**Signature**

*Ruhi A.*

*Medical Trainee under Supervision*

*27th September 2025*