

FORENSIC AUTOPSY REPORT

CASE NUMBER: 15

Name of the Decedent: Withheld pending family notifications

Age: 29 years

Sex: Male

Date and Time of Autopsy: 2025-10-27, 6:45 A.M.

Time of Discovery: 2025-10-27, 05:47 A.M.

PMI: 12-24 hours prior to discovery

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

Summary of Case:

The decedent was found lying supine near the rooftop ledge. Faint circular bruise around the neck, posterior aspect more pronounced. No visible sign of gunshot, fall, or stab wound present. Findings indicate struggle or surprise.

Evidence / Observations from Scene:

- Half empty energy drink tripped was located 1.5 meters away from the body.
 - A metal toolbox was tripped over beside him.
 - Surface slightly slick because of light drizzle from the night.
 - Security cameras of the building went offline at 1:03 A.M.
 - A twisted and broken silver chain around the neck.
 - No wallet or phone found on body.
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External Examination:

Apparent Sex: Male

Height: 6-feet/ 183 cm

Weight: 180 lbs/ 81 kg

Build: Well-nurished and medium muscular build.

Ethnicity: South Asian

General Appearance:

- **Hair:** Dark brown and medium-lengthed, slightly disheveled, minor dust on scalp
- **Eyes:** Closed, dark brown irises.
- **Skin:** Pale skin with slight cyanosis on extremities. Warm undertone.
- **Nails:** Short; slight subungual debris. Traces of rust-colored residue.
- **Dentition:** Intact, no recent dental work.

Important findings:

- **Face:** No evidence of blunt trauma. Bluish lips. Conjunctiva slightly hemorrhagic. Slight petechiae around right eye, left eye unremarkable.
- **Scalp:** Minor abrasions consistent with scraping or slipping against rough surface.
- **Neck:** Faint, circular bruise on posterior aspect, approximately 2.5 cm diameter.
- **Back:** Minor dust streaks, consistent with sliding on rough surface.
- **Right Wrist:** Faint petechia on dorsal aspect.
- **Hands:** Minor abrasions on knuckles.
- **Extremities:** Mild bruising on lateral thighs and knees from minor impact or scraping during struggle.

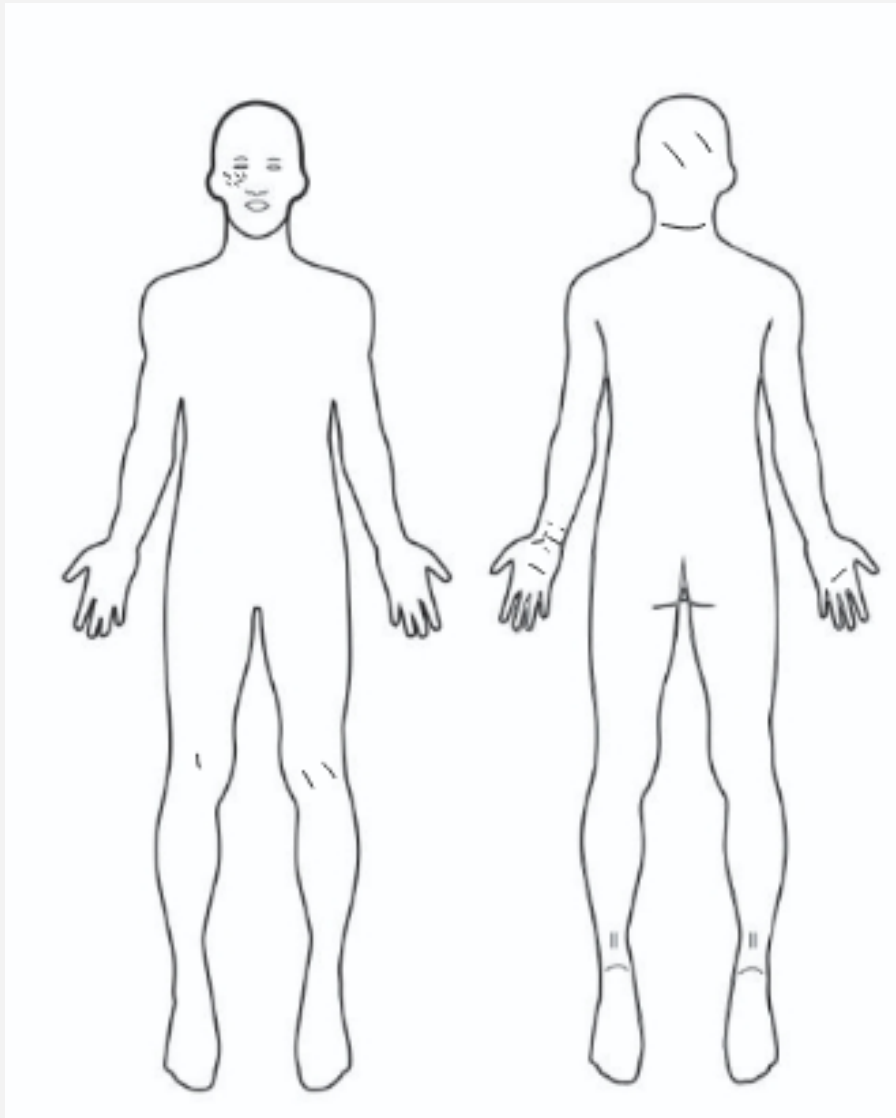
Clothing:

- **Outergarments:** Construction overalls (company tag: "NotThisBuilding.Inc"), partially unbuttoned shirt.
- **Undergarments:** Present
- **Feet:** Boots intact, mud stained

- **Accessories:** Broken and twisted silver chain around neck

Other External Findings:

- No gunshot or stab wound.
- No major laceration or signs of blunt force trauma.



Postmortem changes:

- Rigor mortis fully developed, suggests the estimated time of death is 12-24 hours prior to discovery)
- Livor mortis is fully fixed on the posterior aspect.
- Algor mortis: Approx. 31°C (outside ambient ~10°C, early morning).

Summary:

The death is likely related with neck compression or chemical influence.

Internal Examination:

- **Head and Neck:**
 - **Scalp/ Skull:** Minor abrasions consistent with scraping on rough surface. No fractures noted.
 - **Brain:** Mild congestion in sulci. No intracranial hemorrhage.
 - **Neck Structures:** Sternocleidomastoid muscles reveals superficial hemorrhage (Likely from neck compression). Trachea contains mild frothy fluid. Small subcutaneous hemorrhage is consistent with external neck bruise. No fractures of hyoid bone or thyroid cartilage. No foreign bodies found.
- **Thorax:**
 - **Heart:** Coronary arteries show minimall fatty streaks. Left ventricle 1.5 cm, right 0.5 cm. No traumatic injury.
 - **Lungs:** Mild pulmonary edema and congestion. No contusions or necrosis.
 - **Pleura:**
 - **Ribs/ Thoracic cage:** Minor soft tissue contusions on anterior chest consistent with contact during struggle.
- **Abdomen:**

- **Liver:** Smooth, normal color, soft. Mild congestion.
 - **Spleen:** Unremarkable.
 - **Pancreas:** No abnormalities.
 - **Kidneys:** Normal.
 - **Stomach:** No foreign bodies.
 - **Intestine:** No trauma. Unremarkable.
- **Genitourinary System:** No sign of trauma.
 - **Musculoskeletal System:**
 - **Forearms:** Minor intervascular hemorrhage in forearm muscles consistent with gripping during struggle. Fingernails show debris and microscopic subungual hemorrhage.
 - **Skin:**
 - **Neck:** Circular superficial hemorrhage, 2.5 cm posteriorly.
 - **Right wrist:** Petechiae on dorsal aspect.
 - **Note:** No defensive or blunt force injuries visible externally.

Table 1.

Organ	Weight
Brain	1,420 g
Heart	360 g
Right lung	640 g
Left lung	600 g
Liver	1,550 g
Spleen	160 g
Right kidney	150 g

Left kidney	155 g
Stomach	300 mL (partially digested food; last meal estimated 2-3 hours prior to death.)
Bladder	80 mL of clear urine

Toxicology Report:

Specimen Received: Femoral blood, vitreous humour, urine, and liver tissue were submitted.

Analytical Findings:

- **Alcohol:** 0.02 g/dl ; Very low, consistent with social drinking; unlikely to contribute to death.
- **Common Drugs of Abuse:** Negative for cannabinoids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, cocaine.
- **Caffeine:** 18 mg/L; within normal range for a heavy energy drink consumer.
- **Nicotine/ Cotinine:** 25 ng/mL and 200 ng/mL; Chronic smoker, not acutely toxic.
- **Diphenhydramine:** 0.8 mg/L; within or slightly above therapeutic level, consistent with recent oral ingestion prior to death.
- **Acetaminophen:** 15 mg/L; within therapeutic level; not contributing to death.

Interpretation: Toxicology doesn't not appear to the primary cause of death. The primary mechanism remains manual neck compression (Asphyxia).

Discussion: The decedent, a 29-year old male, was found on the rooftop of a construction site not incorporated by his employer. Evidence from the crime scene indicates struggle and no witnesses were present during the incident.

External examinations revealed minor abrasions on knees, back, forearms, scalp, and knuckles, consistent with defensive movements during struggle. A circular bruise was noted on posterior neck, indicative of neck compression. Internal examination revealed hemorrhage within the sternocleidomastoid muscles and mild pulmonary edema. Intact hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage. No internal trauma sufficient to independently cause death was found.

Toxicology revealed low-level ethanol, amphetamine, caffeine, nicotine, and diphenhydramine were found within therapeutic range. Diphenhydramine may have contributed to mild sedation, potentially reducing resistance during struggle. No substance was independent lethal.

The combination of hemorrhage of internal muscle, petechiae, neck bruising, and evidence of struggle firmly supports asphyxia due to manual neck compression as cause of death. Absence of fractures of hyoid and laryngeal cartilages doesn't exclude fatal neck compression. While toxicology findings may have mildly influenced physiological resistance, they are not causative of death.

Based on the external, internal, toxicological, and scene findings, death is most consistent with asphyxia due to manual neck compression.

Cause of death: Asphyxia

Mechanism of Death: Rapid loss of consciousness → Central nervous system failure → Cardiorespiratory collapse → Cardiac arrest

Manner of Death: Homicide

Evidence Supporting Homicide:

- The offender likely lured the victim in as this construction site wasn't affiliated with his employer and aware of his schedule, and thus picked a time where there would be no witnesses.

- The security cameras of the building went offline just around the time of murder. Most modern setups alert security before going offline so it strongly supports that these were manipulated by the killer. And the lack of personal belongings like phone and wallet, is consistent with the intention to hide evidence of homicide.
 - Scene findings (The half energy drink and fallen metal toolbox) support that the struggle was a moment of surprise for the victim. Not an accident as the external findings clearly reveal the internal muscle hemorrhage which would not likely happen in a case of accidental death at such a location.
 - Both physical (Abrasions on the body, circular bruising on neck, petechiae, internal muscle hemorrhage) and scene findings (The broken silver chain) strongly supports neck compression by the offender.
 - The offender possibly has access to the buildings cameras and property proved by the cameras going offline.
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Signature

Medical Trainee under Supervision

27th October 2025.

*Author's Note: This mock autopsy report is based on a **fictional case scenario** generated using AI, as I do not have access to real forensic cases. The analysis, biological reasoning, and report structure were developed independently. This piece reflects my interest in forensic pathology and my effort to understand mechanisms of death through structured, scientific writing.*