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Tracheotomy risks

KEYWORDS: Tracheotomy; Forensic medicine

A sudden death induced by bleeding, as a result of tracheotomy complications, was described. An experienced nursing staff and doctors were upset by a sudden death, induced by an abundant bleeding, although it happened in hospital circumstances. The death occurred in the hospital of Pristina, during the morning doctors' visit. The affected patient had his canule hole and mouth bleeding. The doctors searched for the reason of death, but many forensic medicine questions were asked as well. One should have explained if the death was caused by a former wound or the sudden death resulted from an inadequate treatment. The doctors' fault was doubted. The death cause established at autopsy was bleeding from the fissure on the brachio-cephalic trunk, the cause of which was the long-term pressure on the blood vessel wall. The canule made a contact with the artery, due to a permanent pressure, necrosis of the trachea front wall developed and a communication of the trachea area and the middle pectoral one was achieved. Leaning of the canule against the brachiocephalic trunk induced a very rapid wounding of all layers of the blood vessel wall because of the artery pulsation and successive increasing of pressure at the place of contact. During the critical pulsation, the fissure developed, followed by an unrestrainable bleeding. The pathoanatomical findings have cleared up the cause of death and contained the facts on the basis of which one could find out for sure all concerning the dynamics and way of the trachea and artery fissure development. It is certain that a permanent pressure induced a damage to the trachea and brachiocephalic trunk. However, that does not mean the static and continuous pressure was the only reason of the damage appearance. It is about a dynamic process of a delicate mechanism which was induced by moving of the heart and big blood vessels coroneae cordis during systola cordis and simultaneous moving of the respiratory organs. Although tracheotomy saves many patients' lives and helps their recovery, because of complications, it can induce mortality in a small number of patients. Since these complications are not so numerous and they rarely develop, they are seldom suspected. Because of that, they are more dangerous and our case report provides important evidence on the need for a permanent cooperation of clinical doctors and autopsists.

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Validity of diatoms in the forensic medicine expertise of drowning

KEYWORDS: Drowning; Diatoms; Forensic expertise

The controversial opinions about the validity of the method for determining of drowning instead of possible drowning, have driven us on the idea to check the validity of the method for determining of diatoms present on the body of the drowned person. The method has been accepted diversely by different authors in regard to making the diagnosis of drowning, although its validity is higher when examinations are made on the material taken from the body of the corpse, i.e. the body taken out from the water as well as from the field, on the material taken out from the water in which the body was found. In that way, on the basis of the knowledge about the echo-system, it is possible to obtain additional data about the location the drowning took place, which have exceptional criminological and forensic importance. During the course of work 22 cases of bodies found in water were analyzed, one check case and several tests made on laboratory rats, for obtaining the data about the presence of diatoms micro flora in the air, water and food. The quantitative determination of diatoms in a gram analyzed tissue, enables establishing a final diagnosis. The finding of diatoms in certain organs is of exceptional interest. The validity of the results depends not only of the quantitative determination of diatoms in the organs, but also on the type of diatoms and their comparison to the findings from the field.