



Overview of Forensic Pathology

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Description

Pathology that focuses on finding the cause of death by analyzing a corpse is known as forensic pathology. In some jurisdictions, a medical examiner or forensic pathologist conducts a post mortem examination as part of the investigation of criminal and civil matters. The identity of remains is frequently confirmed by coroners and medical examiners.

Responsibilities

Medical jurisprudence is used to forensic pathology. A forensic pathologist is a physician who has finished anatomical pathology training and then specialized in forensic pathology. From country to country, the qualifications for becoming a “fully qualified” forensic pathologist differ. The following sections go over some of the various requirements. The purpose of autopsies/post-mortem exams performed by forensic pathologists is to determine the cause of death as well as the likely mode of death. The conclusions reached in the autopsy report are as follows:

A bullet wound to the head, exsanguination caused by a stab wound, manual or ligature strangulation, or myocardial infarction due to coronary artery disease are examples of pathological processes, injuries, or diseases that directly result in or initiate a series of events that lead to a person’s death.

The manner of death, or the circumstances surrounding the cause of death might include homicide accident, natural death, suicide, or undetermined in most countries.

Other difficulties posed by the death, such as the collecting of trace evidence or determining the identity of the deceased, can be handled during the autopsy. When a death occurs, when an unexpected death occurs, when someone dies while not under the care of a physician, to

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 25-Feb-2022, Manuscript No. JMOLPAT-22-61412;
Editor assigned: 28-Feb-2022, PreQC No: JMOLPAT-22-61412 (PQ);
Reviewed: 15-Mar-2022, QC No: JMOLPAT-22-61412;
Revised: 21-Mar-2022, Manuscript No: JMOLPAT-22-61412 (R);
Published: 28-Mar-2022

settle criminal cases, when a mass tragedy occurs and the victims must be identified, and when the deceased’s family or loved ones want it, autopsies are performed.

At autopsy the scene of a crime, and occasionally in a clinical environment, such as rape investigations or deaths in prison, the forensic pathologist analyses and documents wounds and injuries, as well as the likely cause of such injuries.

To determine the presence or absence of natural disease and other microscopic findings such as asbestos bodies in the lungs or gunpowder particles surrounding a gunshot wound, forensic pathologists collect and study tissue specimens under the microscope.

To determine the chemical cause of accidental overdoses or deliberate poisonings, they collect and analyses toxicological specimens of bodily tissues and fluids.

In mass disaster situations, forensic pathologists will collaborate with forensic odontologists, forensic anthropologists, and other forensic disciplines to identify disaster victims. The recovery of the victims, the collecting of antemortem data, the initial examination, as well as the acquisition of any postmortem evidence, and eventually the comparison of the antemortem and post-mortem data acquired in order to identify those victims are all part of the identification process.

Forensic physicians, often known as “forensic medical examiners” or “police surgeons” are medical specialists who specialize in the evaluation and treatment of surviving victims of assault, particularly sexual assault, as well as people who are in police custody. By researching the deceased, forensic pathologists make significant contributions to public health and preventative medicine. They can use their results from autopsies to avoid the death of another individual.