Structured Notes According to

FMT

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POST MORTEM TECHNIQUES

Postmortem Techniques

- 1. History
- 2. Autopsy Types
- 3. Postmortem Techniques

Must Know

- 4. Types of Incisions
- 5. Body Cavity to be Opened First
- 6. Organs to be Dissected

Good to Know

7. Exhumation

Good to Know

8. Definitions

1

POSTMORTEM TECHNIQUES



- Postmortem is also known as:
 - o Autopsy is known as:
 - → Post mortem examination
 - → Necropsy (study of a dead body)
 - → Thanatopsy (procedures involved in thanatology; thanatology → study of death)
- Necropsy: Study of a dead body
- Thanatology: Study of death
- Thanatopsy: Procedures involved in thanatology

History

- The 1st autopsy was conducted in 1302, by Varignana in Italy.
- The 1st medico-legal autopsy in India was conducted by Buckley on the body of Mr. Wheeler in Chennai (a case of arsenic poisoning)

Types of autopsy:

Important Information

In Court of Law or Legal Procedures we have 2 types, Police & Magistrate inquest.

A. Medicolegal Autopsy

- It is on the inquest of either police/magistrate.
- 174 CrPC: police inquest.
- 176 CrPC: magistrate inquest.
- · Chosen for unnatural deaths.
- Relative consent is not required.
- · For law purposes.
- Done for the whole body.
- Done to know the cause of death, time since death, and manner of death.
- Most common type in India due to the higher number of unnatural deaths.
- The dead body is returned to the investigating officer
- Done by a Forensic expert, RMP (Registered Medical Practitioner).

B. Pathological/Clinical Autopsy

- Relative consent is mandatory.
- Mostly done in natural deaths.
- Done for a specific organ/body cavity. Eg:
 Death due to MI examination of the heart is done.
- The dead body is returned to the relative.
- For academic purposes or to improve knowledge.
- Done by RMP

C. Psychological Autopsy

- If a person has committed suicide, Psychological autopsy is done first.
- It is not a PME; it is an interview with family members of the dead person.
- Performed to know the mental status of the person before suicide.
- The interview is done with family members, friends, relatives, and social media.

D. Virtual Autopsy

- Visual imaging technique performed in developed countries.
- CT scan and MRI is performed for knowing the cause of death.
- · Also known as virtopsy.

E. Negative Autopsy

- Performed if there is no identification of the cause of death, after performing PME, lab investigations, and histopathological & toxicological studies.
- Prevalence of negative autopsies is 2-5%.
- It may sometimes occur due to lack of experience or skill.
- In cases like vagal inhibition, laryngospasm, and epilepsy there is a chance of a negative autopsy.
- Negative autopsy is a completely negative finding.

F. Obscure Autopsy

- · Minimal or inconclusive findings are obtained, -> insufficient to give a conclusion
- Additional investigations like lab investigations, histopathological & toxicological studies are used to conclude the cause of death.
- Obscure autopsy is a minimal gross finding.

Postmortem Techniques

00:14:18

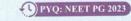


- Most common method.
- One-by-one organ removal.
- Fast and easy method.
- Targeted block (C/T/A/P) is taken out.
- Cervical, thoracic, abdominal, pelvic blocks are taken out based on the requirement.

Block Method

Inter-organ relations are intact.

Large masses (C+T+A+P) are taken out.



- Lettule's/en-Masses/ Evisceration
- Complete viscera is taken out (Evisceration).
- Blood vessels and vascular supply are intact.
- · For minor bleeding.

It is an inside dissection. It is done in infectious diseases (HIV, Hepatitis, COVID-19).

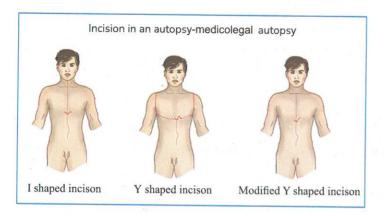
PYQ: NEET PG 2023

It is used in highly transmissible diseases.

In-situ Method It is used in infants <1 year.

Q1. If a person died due to COVID-19, which postmortem technique is required?

Ans: If there is a hospital report, there is no requirement of conducting PME, because it is a transmissible disease. If it is a medicolegal case, the Rokitansky/in-situ method is performed.



 A. I-shaped Incision Most common type. Starts from the chin to pubic symphysis. 	 B. Y-shaped Incision Done in females Purpose is cosmetic, to preserve the mamillary line. Starts from the acromion process preserving the mamillary line reaches the breast, then to the xiphi-sternum and to pubic symphysis.
 C. Modified Y-Shaped Incision Done in asphyxial deaths (hanging, drowning). Starts from MP (mastoid process) to SSN (suprasternal notch) then to pubic symphysis. 	 D. X-incision Generally not done. Two incisions are made from the shoulders to opposite iliac crests. Makes an X-mark on the body. Done for deep injuries/ custodial deaths.

E. Inverted Y-Shaped Incision

- Generally not done.
- Starts from the chin and just above the umbilicus it divides into two incisions.
- Done in infants.

F. T-Shaped Incision

• Starts from shoulder to shoulder, an incision is done in the middle.

Important Information

- Most common: is I-Shaped.
- In females: it is Y-Shaped for cosmetic purposes.
- In asphyxial cases: it is a Modified Y-Shaped Incision
- X-incision: Two incisions are made from the shoulders to opposite iliac crests, in custodial deaths.
- Inverted Y-Shaped Incision: It starts from the chin and just above the umbilicus it divides into two incisions, in infants.
- T-Shaped Incision: It starts from shoulder to shoulder, an incision is done in the middle, not generally used nowadays.

Body Cavity to be Opened First

00:28:21

Generally, in PME, the thoracic cavity is opened first.

In specific cases like:

A. Newborn

- Abdomen is to be opened first.
- Because the position of the diaphragm is seen.
- If the position of the diaphragm is lower, it is a
- If the position of the diaphragm is higher, it is a dead born.
- We can estimate that the respiration has taken place or not.

B. Poisoning

- In suspected cases of poisoning, the first cavity to be opened is the cranium.
- Because the best smell of the poison can be perceived by the brain.

C. Asphyxial Deaths

- Cranium-Thoracic-Abdomen-Neck (C-T-A-N) are opened in order. (to have neck as a bloodless field)
- Eg: Throttling case → multiple bruises around the neck → blood from other cavities enter the neck → wrong finding → hence, neck is opened at last

D. Traumatic Head Injury

- Head is the first cavity to be opened.
- Some books may have head as the last cavity to be opened, but follow as first.

E. Air-Embolism/Pneumothorax

- Pneumothorax: air in the pleural cavity.
- Case of pneumothorax → thorax (chest cavity) opened first → skin flap taken out → filled with water
 → pleura is punctured → bubble comes out → water test +ve (pleura has air)
- · Case of air embolism:
 - Technique 1: Pericardium is opened → filled with water → ventricle is punctured → bubble comes out → water test (+ve)
 - o Technique 2 (pyrogallol test): Blood is aspirated from a syringe with pyrogallol → color of the pyrogallol solution turns brown → air present in the ventricle

Organs to be Dissected

00:36:18

A. Brain

- Most sensitive organ.
- Can be dissected with/ without fixation.
- Fixation is done with 10% formalin in a bucket with a string (fixed in the basilar artery) for 1 week if brain study is important.
- A 1 cm interval is made in the coronal section of the brain.

B. Heart

- Inflow-outflow technique is used
- Right atrium-Right ventricle, then to pulmonary artery we dissect up to the Lungs.
- Left atrium-Left ventricle, then dissect up to the Aorta.

C. Spinal cord

- Can be opened anteriorly and posteriorly.
- Posterior opening is considered a better technique.
- Opened in spinal cord poison cases like strychnine and traumatic spinal injuries.

E. Stomach



- Done by the Double Ligature Method, in both cardiac and pyloric ends.
- Preserves the contents of the stomach.
- Opened in the greater curvature.
- Because, in cases like acid or corrosive poisoning, the maximum damage is on the lesser curvature (Magenstrasse)
- To examine the lesser curvature, it is opened from greater curvature by the double ligature method.

F. Intestine

- Small intestine is dissected from the mesenteric border.
- Large intestine is dissected from the Anterior teniae.

G. Liver

• Dissected by Parallel dissection technique.

Exhumation

00:42:21

• Exhumation is digging out of the dead body in presence of a magistrate.

PYQ: AHMS 2019

- Done in the presence of a magistrate, police, doctor.
- Defined under 176 (3) CrPC
- After digging out of the body, a secondary autopsy is done if needed.
- Identify the site with the help of relatives or the accused.
- Done early in the morning because the whole daylight is required.
- There is no limit for exhumation, it might continue for a few days too.
- Soil sample (500gm) from where the body has been digged out and control sample is also taken to make comparisons.
- Bones and tissues are taken for chemical or toxicological analysis.
- Arsenic present in the soil can go into the dead body, → known as postmortem imbibition.

Definitions

Antemortem thrombus: It is a firm, dark red, striae of Zahn (fine white line of fibrin), coralline platelet thrombus (alternate layers of platelets and fibrin).

Postmortem Clot

- Red current jelly: Blood clots rapidly.
- Chicken fat clot: The clotting process is slow.

Sudden Death

- Death is said to be sudden when a person not known to have been suffering from any dangerous disease, injury, or poisoning is found dead or dies within 24 hours after the onset of terminal illness.
- Left Anterior Descending artery (LAD) within 2 cm of its origin is the mostly affected.
- LAD is also known as Widow artery.





IPC SECTIONS

IPC Sections

- 1. IPC (Important)
- 2. Criminal Responsibility/Liability
- 3. Consent

Must Know

4. Legal and Court Proceeding

Good to Know

- 5. Negligence Causing Transmission of Disease (Fatal disease)
- 6. Drug And Food Safety Punishment
- 7. Negligence Leading Poisoning
- 8. Homicide
- 9. 303 309 IPC

10. Criminal Abortion

Good to Know

- 11. IPC and Important Law
- 12. Hurt

13. Grievous Hurt

Good to Know

- 14. 321 and 322 IPC
- 15. Dangerous Weapon
- 16. Vitriolage
- 17. Assault
- 18. IPC-Kidnapping and Abduction
- 19. Rape and Unnatural Sexual Offences

2 IPC SECTIONS



00:00:02

IPC (Important)

- IPC Indian Penal Code.
- Implemented in 1860.
- Includes definitions and punishments of crimes
- Total number of IPCs: 511

Criminal Responsibility/Liability

04	IDO
84	IPC

- A child below 7 years of age is not punishable
 or liable for any crime.
- Minimum age of criminal responsibility = 7
 years (Gets the advantage of juvenile act, where
 juveniles are <18 years).
- But according to the Railway Act, the Minimum age of criminal responsibility is 5 years.
- Minimum age of FULL criminal responsibility
 Above 18 years.

83 IPC

- A child between 7-12 years can be punishable or liable for any crime but depends on the mental maturity.
- Mental maturity is determined by court of law

84 IPC

- The insane are not responsible or liable for the crime.
- According to 84 IPC, the insane have an unsound mind.

85 IPC

 In involuntary intoxication, if someone commits the crime they are not responsible or liable for the crime.

86 IPC

- In case of voluntary intoxication Voluntarily Drunkenness.
- The person under voluntary intoxication commits the crime they are responsible or liable for the crime.

Consent

It is a part of the Indian Contract Act.





87 IPC

- Age-Above 18 years of age.
- Act not intended and not known to be likely to cause death or grievous hurt, done by consent.
- The consent can be:
 - o Expressed consent.
 - o Implied consent.

88 IPC

- Act not intended to cause death, done by consent in good faith for a person's benefit.
- No age requirements.
- Example: A doctor performs surgery on X, it is done by consent in good faith for a person's benefit and not intended to cause death.

Examples:

- Two people are playing with a sword with each other's consent, they're not producing any cause of death or grievous hurt.
- · Paragliding on your consent.
- After or at 18 years, consent for surgery can be

90 IPC

- · Consent is not valid in:
 - o Child < 12 years
 - o Insane
 - o Intoxicated
 - o Under the influence of threat/fear

89 IPC

• Act done in good faith for the benefit of a child or insane person, done by consent of the guardian (lawful charge).

92 IPC

- Consent-Life-threatening or emergency situations.
- Example:
 - o RTA (Road Traffic Accident), in case of severe bleeding, multiple fractures and multiple haemorrhages all over the body. Then the doctor can start the treatment without any consent (Exception - Consent is not needed).

Legal and Court Proceeding

00:12:09



- Rule of 4
- 174 IPC Punishment for not attending the summon.
- 178 IPC Punishment for not taking or refusing the oath.
- 193 IPC Punishment (7 years) for false/fabrication of evidence.
- 197 IPC Punishment for the issue False certificate.
- 201 IPC Punishment for the disappearance of the evidence.

Important Information

191 IPC and 192 IPC define the crime and the 193 IPC is the punishment for that crime.

- 191 IPC Producing false evidence (Perjury).
- 192 IPC Fabrication of evidence.
- 203 IPC False information. (furnishing any false information)
- 202 IPC Omission of information.
 - o Intentionally omitting the information even if the person is legally bound to inform.
- 197 IPC Punishment for the issue-false certificate.
- 198 IPC Using a false certificate.
- 201 IPC Punishment for the disappearance of evidence.
 - o Examples
 - → Removing blood stains from the crime scene.
 - → Not sending viscera for toxicological analysis.
 - → Embalming before the postpartum.

Negligence Causing Transmission of Disease (Fatal disease)

- 269 IPC Negligence
 - By negligence, transmitting any sexually transmitted diseases (HIV), that is transmission of any fatal disease by negligence.
- 270 IPC Malignant
 - o Intentionally transmitting fatal disease.

Important Information

228(A) IPC

- Disclosing the identity of the raped victim, punishable under 228(A) IPC.
- Punishment Up to 2 years.

Drug And Food Safety - Punishment



- 272 IPC Adulteration of food. liable for punishment
- 273 IPC Selling noxious food intentionally. liable for punishment.
- 274 IPC Adulteration of drugs intentionally.
- 275 IPC Selling adulterated drugs.

Negligence Leading Poisoning

- 284 IPC
 - o Negligence leading to poisoning → punishable under the IPC section 284.
 - o Example
 - → Kerosene instead of milk in milk bottle → Baby consumes it → poisoning (negligence)
 - → Someone consumes nitric acid in an unlabelled bottle → poisoning (negligence)

Homicide

00:21:10

- · Killing any human.
- 299 IPC
 - o Culpable homicide is defined under 299 IPC.
 - o Culpable homicide can be of two types.
 - → Amounting to murder: Defined under 300 IPC
 - → Not amounting to murder: Defined under 304 IPC

Culpable Homicide Amounting to Murder

- · Act is done with intention/knowledge
- With the intention of causing death.
 - o Example: A is firing on B and B is killed.
- With the intention of causing bodily injuries, likely to cause death.
- With the intention of causing bodily injuries, sufficient to cause death in the ordinary course of nature (e.g. stabbing)
- Is committed with the knowledge that the act is imminently dangerous to life.
- Punishment for murder (Culpable homicide) under 302 IPC - Life imprisonment or death sentence.

Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder

- ACT is done causing death in.
 - Provocation (e.g. B abused A → A fired B → B was killed
 - o No motive
 - o Self-defence
 - Judicial hanging (not punishable → decided by court)
- Punishment comes under **304 IPC** From 10 years to Life imprisonment.
- Every murder is a culpable homicide, but every culpable homicide is not a murder.

Reason:

There are few culpable homicides which are not amounting to murder (no motive, no intention, no planning but on provocation or self-defence).

303-309 IPC

303 IPC: Punishment for murder by life convict.

S 304 A IPC -

- Any rash or negligent acts causing death.
- Medical negligence: Punishment 2 years + Fine.

S 304B IPC -

- · Dowry death.
- Punishment 7 years to life imprisonment.

• Abetment of suicide of child or insane person

S 306 IPC

· Abetment of suicide for adults.

Attempt

Attempt: The person survives after an effort to murder that person

307 IPC: Attempt to murder (punishable)

308 IPC: Attempt to culpable homicide (punishable)

309 IPC: Attempt to suicide (not punishable)

Criminal Abortion

- PYQ: NEET PG 2023 • 312 IPC - With the consent of the mother.
- 313 IPC Without the consent of the mother.
- 314 IPC If mother dies because of complications.
- 315 IPC Killing child or fetus Above 28 weeks of gestation.
- 316 IPC The intention is to kill the mother, but the fetus gets killed.
- 317 IPC Abandoning the child below 12 years of age.
- 318 IPC Concealment of birth.

Important Information

312, 313, and 314 are related to criminal abortion or infanticide.

IPC and Important Law

00:34:53

- I-Injury
 - o Defined under 44 IPC.
 - o Injury is any illegal harm to three components.
 - → B-Body injury (known as hurt)
 - → M-Mind (Mental Injury)
 - → R-Reputation (property)
- Life: Defined under 45 IPC
- Death: Defined under 46 IPC

Hurt

- Defined under 319 IPC.
- Whoever causes bodily pain, disease, or infirmity (kind of disability) to any person is said to cause hurt.

PYQ: AHMS 2019

A type of body injury.

Grievous Hurt

- Defined under 320 IPC.
- · Any kind of severe hurt

a. Emasculation loss

- · Loss of masculine power.
- Loss of penis erection.
- Due to
 - o Cutting penis or genitalia,
 - o Castration,
 - o Spinal injury leading to loss of masculine power.

b. Permanent privation of the sight of either eye: Visual impairment

c. Permanent privation of hearing of either ear: Hearing impairment due to ossicular displacement or destruction

Important Information

- After permanent privation of sight and hearing, if the surgery is performed and the vision and hearing got normalised.
- · Even after getting the hearing and vision back, it is a grievous hurt.
- Reason It is artificial recovery but not natural recovery.

d. Privation of any member or joint

- Privation means lost, that is loss of any member or joint.
- Example: Joint amputation (By someone).
- Member Any part of the body with independent function (finger, nose, toe, ears)
- Joints (wrist, shoulder, elbow)
- Nail-Avulsion
 - o It is a form of hurt (not grievous hurt)
 - o Reason Doesn't have any individual function

e. Destruction or permanent impairing of powers of any member or joint

f. Permanent disfiguration of the head or face

- If they have any scar on the face and head after disfiguration Grievous hurt.
- Simply Vitriolage Acid throwing on the head, and face.

g. Fracture or dislocation of a bone or tooth (hairline fractures come under grievous hurt)

h. Any hurt

- Which endangers life Dangerous injury
 - o Causes imminent danger to life.

- O Danger injury is a part of grievous hurt.
- o Reason: It affects the vital parts of the human body (neck, trachea, blood vessels)
- o Example Heavy stone on the head, stabbing, cutting, firearm.

Important Information

- Every dangerous injury is a grievous hurt, but every grievous hurt is not a dangerous injury.
- Which causes the victim to be in severe bodily pain.
 - o For 20 days or more.
- Or unable to follow his ordinary pursuits (Routine work Eating, sleeping, walking, working, etc.) for a period of 20 days or more.

Hospitalisation for 21 days - Hurt.

Reason:

- Hospitalisation doesn't mean body pain or loss of routine activities.
- That indicates it is not a dangerous injury.
- Thus, if you didn't mention any of the above circumstances, then the hospitalisation is considered as hurt.

321 and 322 IPC

- 321 IPC Voluntarily producing hurt.
- 322 IPC Voluntarily producing grievous hurt.

Dangerous Weapon

- Cutting
- Stabbing
- Shooting
- Firing
- Explosion (Bomb Explosion)
- Poison
- Weapon-Causing (Any weapon)

Important Information

Animals are also weapons (dog, snakes etc)

Punishment for Voluntary Causing

Hurt - 323 IPC.

- Punishment 1 year or ₹1000 fine.
- Example: A is slapped by B.

Hurt by dangerous weapon - 324 IPC

- Punishment 3 years.
- Example: A fired on B (Scratch).

Grievous hurt - 325 IPC

- Punishment 7 years.
- Example: A punched on B (Fracture of tooth or bone)

Grievous hurt by dangerous weapon - 326 IPC.

- Punishment 10 years.
- Example: A stabbed B. It is a grievous hurt with dangerous injury.

- 328 IPC Hurt by poison.
- Defined under 330 IPC.
- 331 IPC Hurt.
- 332 IPC Grievous Hurt.

Vitriolage

- · Acid throwing.
- Acid attack 326A IPC.
 - o Minimum punishment 10 years to life imprisonment.
- · Acid attempt 326B IPC.
 - o Minimum punishment 5-7 years.

01. On Provocation

- Hurt 334 IPC.
- Grievous hurt 335 IPC.
- 319-328 IPC (voluntary grievous hurt)
- 334-335 IPC (grievous hurt provocation)
- 336-338 IPC (negligence)

02. By Rash or Negligence Act

- 336 IPC Endangering life on negligence.
- 337 IPC By negligence, if hurt is produced.
- 338 IPC By negligence, if grievous hurt is produced.

Assault

- Defined under section 351 IPC
- It is the criminal force by which you produce fear in the opposite party by,
 - o Gesture (Raising voice, staring), or any,
 - o Preparation (Bullet in the weapon, knife),
 - o Word (Threatening).
- Examination of a patient by a doctor without consent 351 IPC (Fear).

01. Indecent Assault: Punishment

- · Only for females.
- Indecent behavior towards females
- 354 IPC Outraging the modesty of females.
- All indecent offences are cognizable (Arrest without a warrant).
 - o 1st time Bailable.
 - o 2nd time non-Bailable.
- The 354 IPC is divided into.
 - o S354AIPC Sexual harassment.
 - → Punishment is imprisonment of 1 year to 5 years with or without fine.
 - → Examples:
 - Boss shows indecent behavior towards the secretary (maybe by word or gesture)
 - Touching the buttocks.
- S354B IPC Public disrobing.
 - o Removal of the clothes of females.
 - o Punishment is imprisonment of 3 years to 7 years and fine.

00:52:36

Trick 14: There is B in Disrobing.

- S354C IPC Voyeurism.
 - Punishment is imprisonment of 1 year may extend to 3 years and fine, for repeat offence imprisonment of 3 to 7 years.
- Example: Watching nude or naked females
- S354D IPC Stalking.
 - o Following a girl by any means either physical, telephone or mobile.
 - o Punishment is imprisonment up to 3.

Kidnapping and Abduction IPC

01:02:15

- Defined under 359 IPC.
- Kidnapping from India 360 IPC.
- Kidnapping from lawful guardianship 361 IPC.
 - o Male Below 16 years.
 - o Female Below 18 years.
- Abduction is defined under 362 IPC.
 - o No age limitation or above 18 years.
 - Example: On gunpoint taking one person from one place to another or confining someone in a place.
 - o Abduction can lead to murder 364 IPC.
 - o It is punishable according to the intention.
 - → Want to kill someone 364 IPC.
 - → Want to marry someone 366 IPC.
 - → Producing grievous hurt.
- Punishment 363 IPC. (7 years of punishment.)

Important factors

- Age
 - o Boy-Below 16 years.
 - o Female Below 18 years.
- Lawful guardianship: Matters in kidnapping, not in abduction. Forced, compulsion and deceitful means: Seen in abduction, not in kidnapping. Consent and intention: Immaterial in kidnapping, but very important in abduction

Rape and Unnatural Sexual Offences

- Defined under 375 IPC.
- Punishment under 376 IPC.
- 377 IPC Unnatural sexual offence.
- 498(A) IPC Cruelty by husband or in-laws' family.
 - o It can be physical or mental cruelty.
- 509 IPC Insulting the modesty of women.
 - o Like-Staring, Whistling.
- 510 IPC Misconduct or nuisance after drinking alcohol.





TORTURE AND ITS TYPES

Torture

1. IPCs to Remember for Torture

2. Types of Torture

Good to Know