

Death From Hanging ; A Case Report

Said Muzani, Adriansyah Lubis, Dessy Darmayani Harianja

Zali.doctor46@gmail.com

Forensic and Medicolegal Study Program Faculty of Medicine Universitas Sumatera Utara, dr Mansyur Street No. 5 Medan 20155, Indonesia

Abstract

The cause of death in cases of hanging is often due to pressure on the neck blood vessels, causing a lack of blood that carries oxygen to the brain. Because asphyxia is a process, overall in the body there will usually be general signs that are almost the same for all cases / causes. Asphyxia is a term often used to describe the cessation of effective respiration or absence of pulsation which is also used in all cases of hanging. By definition Asphyxia is reduced oxygen saturation in the blood and tissues causing death. A case was reported to the Department of Forensic Medicine and Medicolegal Science FK USU from East Medan. A known corpse has been examined, male sex, circumcised, medium stature, body length 176 cm, tan skin color, straight hair, black mixed with gray hair. From the results of external and internal examinations, theory and the discussion above, it can be concluded that the cause of death of the victim was suffocation due to pressure on the neck due to the victim's body weight which prevented air from entering the respiratory tract due to hanging. Review The medicolegal aspect of this case is due to one's own actions (suicide).

Keywords: Asphyxia; Death; Hanging

1. Introduction

The cause of death in cases of hanging is often due to pressure on the neck blood vessels, causing a lack of blood that carries oxygen to the brain. Because asphyxia is a process, overall in the body there will usually be general signs that are almost the same for all cases/causes. Asphyxia is a term often used to describe the cessation of effective respiration or absence of pulsation which is also used in all cases of hanging. By definition Asphyxia is reduced oxygen saturation in the blood and tissues causing death. Another definition says asphyxia is the failure of air to enter the alveoli of the lungs or other causes that result in the supply of oxygen in the tissues or blood or both being reduced to a certain level where life is impossible to continue. The definition of hanging is a process in which there is a constriction of the neck by the snares caused by body weight in whole or in part. This means that the trap is passive, while the body weight is active so that the neck is constricted. Hanging is often caused by pressure on the neck veins, causing a lack of blood that carries oxygen to the brain. Pressure on the respiratory tract can also occur on the trachea, while the trap which is located above the larynx causes the tongue to fall backwards so that the uvula closes the respiratory tract. Almost all cases (hanging) are often used as suicide rather than eating poison and jumping from high places. And in most cases the type of node used is a live node.

2. Case Report

A known corpse has been examined, male sex, circumcised, medium stature, body length 176 cm, tan skin color, straight hair, black mixed with gray hair. From forensic examination we found in the figure below :



Fig. 1 . A bleeding spot was found in the left eye



Fig. 2. A lesion was found on the neck in the shape of the letter "V"



Fig. 3. A clear viscous liquid was found



Fig. 4. Both fingertips bluish

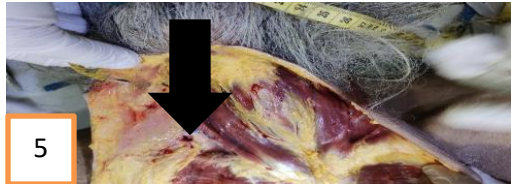


Fig. 5. A blood infiltration in the Inner neck skin

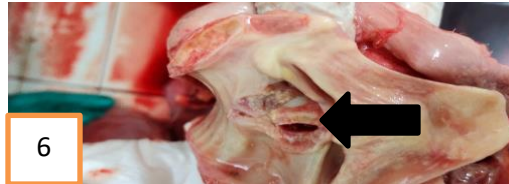


Fig. 6. A fracture of the throat cartilage (thyroid cartilage)

3. Discussion

There was a lesion on the neck in the shape of the letter "V" passing through the midline of the body, above the Adam's apple, the base of the lesion is brownish red, to the touch hard like parchment paper, with a length of thirty-two centimeters, a width of one point eight centimeters, with a laceration about a knot broken on the right neck. Based on the theory above, this shows that the victim was suspected of hanging to death. Bleeding spots were found on the lining of the left eyeball, lips, both ends of the upper limbs were bluish in color and the tips of the lower limbs were pale in color, bleeding spots were found in the lungs, based on the theory above this shows that the victim was experiencing hypoxia which could damages the capillary endothelium which consists of a single layer of cells, whereas the more easily ruptured capillaries are those in loose connective tissue because of the pressure on the upper airway. Based on the theory above, it is found that a clear, viscous discharge appears on the genitals, this occurs due to relaxation of the sphincter which causes the release of sperm fluid. Found blood infiltration in the skin of the inner neck, large blood vessels of the right and left neck, upper gastrointestinal tract, upper respiratory tract, fractures of the throat cartilage (thyroid cartilage) based on the above theory indicate that the victim was totally hanging (complete/high hanging) and there is an emphasis due to body weight (the victim's body weight of 15 kg can already cause fractures), the location of the trap is when the trap is on the thyroid cartilage causing direct pressure or compression on the tongue bone. And the victim hangs before death (antemortem).

4. Conclusion

A known corpse has been examined, male sex, circumcised, medium stature, body length 176 cm, tan skin color, straight hair, black mixed with gray hair. From the results of external and internal examinations, theory and the discussion above, it can be concluded that the cause of death of the victim was suffocation due to pressure on the neck due to the victim's body weight which prevented air from entering the respiratory tract due to hanging. Review The medicolegal aspect of this case is due to one's own actions (suicide).

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