

### ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner

1413 Research Blvd., Bldg. 102 Rockville, MD 20850 301-319-0000



#### FINAL AUTOPSY EXAMINATION REPORT

Name: Jabar, Walid Tawfiq

SSAN (b)(6)

Date of Birth: (b)(6) 1983 Date of Death (b)(6) 2008

Date and time of Autopsy: 27 FEB 2008 0900

Date of Report: 01 MAY 2008

Autopsy No.: (b)(6) AFIP No.:(b)(6)

Rank: CIV

Place of Death: Iraq

Place of Autopsy: Port Mortuary

Dover AFB, Dover DE

Circumstances of Death: 25 year old male civilian detainee reportedly collapsed during interview

Authorization for Autopsy: Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, IAW 10 USC 1471

Identification: Presumptive

CAUSE OF DEATH: Severe metabolic derangement due to acute adrenocortical insufficiency

MANNER OF DEATH: Natural

AUTOPSY REPORT (b)(6)

JABAR, Walid Tawfiq

#### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished male that weighs 137 pounds, is 68 inches in length and appears compatible with the reported age of 25 years. The body is cold after refrigeration. Rigor is passing in all extremities. Lividity is present and fixed on the posterior surfaces of the body, except in areas exposed to pressure. The head is normocephalic, and the scalp hair is black. Facial hair consists of a black beard and mustache. The irides are dark. The corneae are cloudy. The conjunctivae are unremarkable with no evidence of petechial hemorrhages. The sclerae are white. The external auditory canals, external nares and oral cavity are free of foreign material and abnormal secretions. The nasal skeleton and maxilla are palpably intact. The upper and lower lips are dry and chapped. The teeth are natural and in good condition. Examination of the neck reveals no evidence of injury. The chest is unremarkable. No evidence of injury of the ribs or the sternum is evident externally. The abdomen is flat. The external genitalia are those of a normal adult male. The posterior torso and anus are without note. The extremities show no evidence of injury. The fingernails are intact.

#### CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

- · Pair of black sandals, soiled
- · Black long-sleeved shirt with the emblem "Down Nour", soiled.
- Tan and orange striped long-sleeved shirt
- · Pair of blue sweat pants
- · Pair of tan sweat pants

#### MEDICAL INTERVENTION

- Endotracheal tube
- Nasogastric tube
- Intravascular catheters in both antecubital fossac, the right wrist and right inguinal region
- · Foley catheter with attached collection system

#### EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There is a ¼ inch contusion present on the right lower lip.

#### RADIOGRAPHS

A complete set of postmortem radiographs is obtained. There is no evidence of skeletal injury or metallic foreign material.

#### INTERNAL EXAMINATION

#### BODY CAVITIES:

The body is opened by the usual thoraco-abdominal incision and the chest plate is removed. The ribs, sternum, and vertebral bodies are visibly and palpably intact. No adhesions are present in any

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of the body cavities. Approximately 100 ml of amber fluid is present in the left thoracic cavity and 50 ml in the right thoracic cavity. All body organs are present in normal anatomical position. The subcutaneous fat layer of the abdominal wall is 1/4 inch thick.

#### HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

The scalp is reflected. The galeal and subgaleal soft tissues of the scalp are free of injury. There are no skull fractures. The calvarium of the skull is removed. The dura mater and falx cerebri are intact. There is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage present. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and blood vessels are intact. Clear cerebrospinal fluid surrounds the 1440 gram brain, which has unremarkable gyri and sulci. After fixation, coronal sections through the cerebral hemispheres reveal no lesions. Transverse sections through the brain stem and cerebellum are unremarkable. The atlanto-occipital joint is stable. The upper spinal cord is unremarkable.

#### NECK:

The anterior strap muscles of the neck are homogenous and red-brown, without hemorrhage by layer-wise dissection. The thyroid cartilage and hyoid bone are intact. The larynx is lined by intact white mucosa. The tongue is free of bite marks, hemorrhage, or other injuries.

#### CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

The 250 gram heart is contained in an intact pericardial sac. The epicardial surface is smooth, with minimal fat investment. The coronary arteries are present in a normal distribution, with a right-dominant pattern. Cross sections of the vessels show widely patent lumina. The myocardium is homogenous, red-brown, and firm. The valve leaflets are thin and mobile. The endocardium is smooth and glistening. The aorta gives rise to three intact and patent arch vessels. The renal and mesenteric vessels are unremarkable.

#### RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

The upper airway is clear of debris and foreign material; the mucosal surfaces are smooth, yellowtan and unremarkable. The pleural surfaces are smooth, glistening and unremarkable bilaterally. The pulmonary parenchyma is diffusely congested, exuding moderate amounts of blood and frothy fluid; no focal lesions are noted. The pulmonary arteries are normally developed, patent and without thrombus or embolus. The right lung weighs 520 grams; the left 650 grams.

#### HEPATOBILIARY SYSTEM:

The 1420 gram liver has an intact smooth capsule covering dark red-brown, moderately congested tan-brown parenchyma with no focal lesions noted. The gallbladder contains 8 ml of green-brown, mucoid bile; the mucosa is velvety and unremarkable. The extrahepatic biliary tree is patent, without evidence of calculi.

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#### GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:

The esophagus is lined by gray-white, smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa is arranged in the usual rugal folds and the lumen is empty. The small and large bowel are unremarkable. Formed stool is present in the rectal vault. The pancreas has a normal pink-tan lobulated appearance and the ducts are clear. The appendix is present.

#### GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:

The right and left kidneys each weigh 130 grams. The renal capsules are smooth, semi-transparent and strip with ease from the underlying smooth, red-brown cortical surface. The cortices are sharply delineated from the medullary pyramids, which are red-purple to tan and unremarkable. The calyces, pelves and ureters are unremarkable. White bladder mucosa overlies an intact bladder wall. The bladder is empty. Approximately 20 ml of urine is present in the collection bag. The testes, prostate gland and seminal vesicles are without note.

#### LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM:

The 160 gram spleen has a smooth, intact capsule covering red-purple, moderately firm parenchyma; the lymphoid follicles are unremarkable. Lymph nodes in the hilar, periaortic and iliac regions are unremarkable. Gastric (greater curvature) lymph nodes appear mildly enlarged.

#### ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

The thyroid gland is symmetric and red-brown, without cystic or nodular change. The adrenal glands are poorly discernible from the adjacent adipose tissue.

#### MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:

No abnormalities of the muscles, bones or joints are identified. Longitudinal incisions of the posterior surfaces of the torso, upper and lower extremities show no evidence of injury.

#### ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

- Documentary photographs are taken by the OAFME photographer.
- 2. Personal effects are released to the appropriate mortuary operations representatives.
- Specimens retained for toxicology testing and/or DNA identification are: vitreous fluid, blood, urine, spleen, liver, lung, kidney, bile, adipose tissue and psoas muscle.
- The brain and heart are retained for further examination. The remaining dissected organs are forwarded with body.

#### MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

- Heart (slides 1-4): No significant microscopic abnormality
- Lungs (slides 5, 11-13): Acute bronchoalveolar pneumonia, right lower lobe; bilateral pulmonary alveolar congestion with patchy pulmonary edema

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- 3. Liver (slide 6): No significant microscopic abnormality
- 4. Spleen (slide 6): No significant microscopic abnormality
- 5. Kidneys (slide 7): Tubular autolysis
- 6. Lymph nodes, peri-gastric (slide 10): Follicular hyperplasia
- 7. Brain (slides 16,17): No significant microscopic abnormality
- Tissue from region of adrenal glands (right slides 8,14; left slides 9,15): Scattered fragments of adrenal medullary tissue without evidence of adrenal cortical tissue (9,14,15); portions of lymph nodes and peripheral neural tissue, no adrenal tissue seen (8).

#### FINAL AUTOPSY DIAGNOSES

- Adrenocortical atrophy
  - A. Metabolic imbalance (per protocol)
    - 1. Hyponatremia, hyperkalemia, hypoglycemia and metabolic acidosis
    - 2. ECG finding of prolonged QT interval (per protocol)
- Acute bronchoalveolar pneumonia (right lower lobe)
  - A. Bilateral pulmonary congestion with patchy pulmonary edema
  - B. Bilateral pleural effusions (right 50 ml, left 100 ml)
- 111. Toxicology: Acetone is present in the blood and urine; atropine is present in the urine

#### OPINION

According to reports, this 25 year old male civilian detainee collapsed while being interviewed. Resuscitative efforts were started at the scene and he was transported to the medical facility where he was found to be hypotensive, hypothermic and have a GCS of 3. Initial laboratory testing showed significant metabolic derangement (hyponatremia, hypokalemia, metabolic acidosis and hypoglycemia). Although the decedent was initially stabilized, his condition continued to worsen until his demise on the following day. Review of the available medical records revealed a history of a "hunger strike" for approximately 7-10 days prior to death and unspecified "kidney" problems for which the decedent was taking daily hydrocortisone.

Autopsy examination showed no evidence of trauma. Microscopic examination showed acute bronchopneumonia of the left lung and bilateral adrenal cortical atrophy. Toxicological examination showed the presence of atropine in the urine and acetone (trace) in the blood and urine.

Acute adrenocortical insufficiency may present as a "crisis" in patients with chronic adrenocortical insufficiency precipitated by any form of stress or from too rapid withdrawal of exogenous steroids in those whose adrenal glands have been suppressed by long term administration. Findings include hyponatremia, hyperkalemia, hypoglycemia, metabolic acidosis and prolongation of the QT interval on EKG. Untreated patients have a poor prognosis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cotran, R. Kumar, V., et.al., Robbins Pathologic Basis of Disease, W.B. Saunders Co. 1994, 5th Ed., pg 1157

Kirkland, L., Adrenal Crisis, Dec 18, 2007, http://www.emedicine.com/med/topic65.htm

<sup>3</sup> Klauer, K., Adrenal Insufficiency and Adrenal Crisis, Jan 30, 2007, http://www.emedicine.com/emerg/topic16.htm

In the current case the etiology of the adrenal atrophy is uncertain. Contributing stressors included pneumonia and elective food deprivation. Postmortem toxicology showed the presence of the therapeutic substance atropine and trace amounts of acetone. Acetone is a by-product of fat metabolism and can be seen as a result of food deprivation.

In summary, this decedent most likely had long standing (chronic) adrenocortical insufficiency which progressed to acute insufficiency ("crisis") in the face of infectious (pneumonia) and food deprivation stressors (b)(6) succumbed to severe metabolic derangement due to acute adrenocortical insufficiency. The manner of death is natural.

This case is reviewed in consultation with the Departments of Endocrine and Renal Pathology. The latter is pending. Upon completion an addendum report will issued if contributory.

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