



ANALYSIS OF FORENSIC AUTOPSIES IN YEAR 2018 AT FORENSIC MEDICINE DEPARTMENT, FAISALABAD MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, FAISALABAD.

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ABSTRACT... Objectives: The study was aimed to audit autopsies in the year 2018 and promoting statistical approach in Forensic Medicine. Also to study the gender based distribution of cases and study shifting trends in weapon of offence. **Study Design:** Retrospective Study. **Setting:** Post Mortem Unit of the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Faisalabad Medical University, Faisalabad. **Period:** From 1st January, 2018 to 31st December, 2018. **Material & Methods:** Autopsy was performed on 248 cases reported to Post Mortem Unit. Study Material was collected from the Post Mortem Unit of Allied Hospital and DHQ Hospital Faisalabad which are referral tertiary care teaching hospitals affiliated with Faisalabad Medical University, Faisalabad. **Results:** Out of a total 248 autopsies conducted 178 (71.77%) were males and 70 (28.23%) were females. The male to female ratio was 2.54:1. Most used weapon of offence was Firearm. Followed by firearm the second major cause of death was road traffic accidents which were followed by Asphyxia (12.9% of total autopsies). **Conclusion:** Ban on illegal possession of Firearms - educational lectures to Public and steps to raise the literacy rate along with the improvement of socioeconomic status of the society. Preventive-strategy to create an awareness of safe traveling practices especially among the groups at high risk.

Key words: Asphyxia, Audit, Autopsy, Firearms, RTA.

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INTRODUCTION

Autopsy (post-mortem examination, necropsy) is a methodical, current medical procedure performed in a surgical manner, through which we systematically check tissues and organs of a human body after death, aiming at defining the cause of death and of mechanisms involved.¹

Autopsy has to be conducted by a well trained and experienced doctor in the field of Forensic Medicine / Forensic Pathology; in all cases of sudden, suspicious & unexpected deaths especially those resulting due to violence. While proceeding to the scene of crime, the investigating team should include Forensic Experts or the doctors having adequate knowledge of Forensic Medicine, so that important scene evidences may be collected, evaluated and preserved properly to fit the investigative puzzle. The autopsies eliminate suspicion, provide reassurance to families, substitute facts for conjecture, construct a better defense and improve the quality of care.

Though medical conventions and legal systems vary considerably from country to country, the autopsy can be divided into clinical or academic and forensic or medico legal autopsies.

There is a need of critical analysis of every medico legal procedure conducted in Forensic Medicine. The focal point of these procedures could only be identified when we have properly recorded and evaluated this data time and again.

Medico legal or forensic autopsy is performed on the instructions of legal authority compelled for investigations of impetuous, apprehensive, ambiguous, anomalous, belligerent or criminal deaths. In most systems the permission of relatives is not required as the objective of the legal investigation would be thwarted. Medico legal autopsy is effectual for the furtherance of justice in the courts by determining exact cause, manner & mechanism of death.²

“A surgical operation is attended with pain and is for the benefit of the Individual, an autopsy is free from pain; is for the benefit of humanity. Paul. H. Brussara”.

OBJECTIVES

To audit autopsies in Year 2018 and to encourage statistical approach in the subject of Forensic Medicine. The need to analyze the gender based distribution of cases. Scrutinize the most used weapon of offence.

MATERIAL & METHODS

It is a Retrospective study. The Study Material was collected from the Post Mortem Unit of Allied Hospital and DHQ Hospital Faisalabad which are referral tertiary care teaching hospitals affiliated with Faisalabad Medical University, Fsd. The study was conducted on victims of Firearm injuries, RTA, Asphyxia, Sharp-edged and blunt weapons, Electrocutation, Railway accidents, burning and drowning that were reported to this center for autopsy. The study was conducted from 1st Jan 2018 to 31st Dec 2018. The sample size was 248 autopsy cases upon which autopsy was performed.

For all study variables regarding mean percentages and frequencies was done using EXCEL software.

RESULTS

Out of a total 248 autopsies conducted in 2018 178 (71.77%) were males and 70 (28.23%) were females. The male to female ratio was 2.54:1 as shown in pie chart (Figure-1).

Firearm was on the top causing 31.05 % deaths in total. Out of total firearm victims male’s fraction was 81.82% and female’s fraction was 18.18%. (Figure-2 weapon of offence).

Followed by firearm were road traffic accidents which accounts for 19.76% deaths, which was followed by Asphyxia (12.9% of total autopsies).

Figure 1 Total Autopsies done

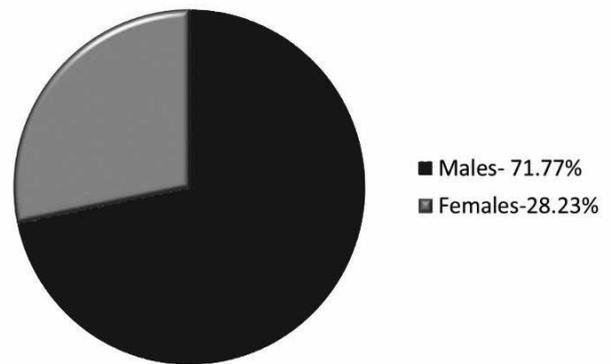


Figure-1. Total Autopsies done

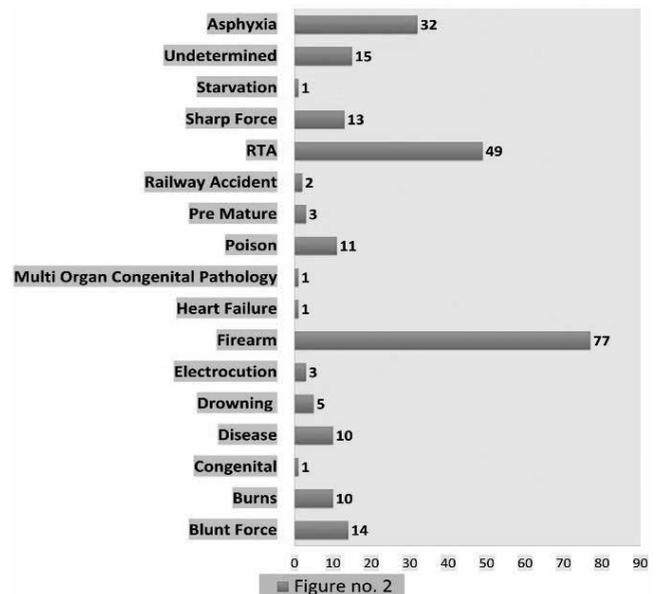


Figure-2.

DISCUSSION

Out of a total 248 autopsies conducted 178 (71.77%) were males and 70 (28.23%) were females. The male to female ratio was 2.54:1. This showed us that more autopsies were conducted on males than females. A similar trend was observed in the study of Pakistan³ and Nigeria.⁴ Males are more prone to life threatening conditions as compared to females and fall prey to criminal offences. Owing to the social norms and conventional trends males are mostly burdened with responsibility of earning livelihood for their families unlike females, majority of who are house wives in our society.^{5,6}

As far as the weapon of offence was concerned, our study revealed that firearm was on the top causing 31.05 % deaths in total.

This trend was similar to the studies conducted by Nadeem S⁷ and Qasim AP³. The approach to firearm weapons has been illuminated as “universal” perilous factor.⁸ The use of firearms as weapons of onslaught outside conflict or police settings advances to escalate. Firearms are comparatively accessible, whether in administration where their possession and appliance is conceded or not.⁹ Out of this 31.05%; males were 81.82% and females 18.18%. These findings are in line with other local studies conducted in different cities of Pakistan.^{10,11,12} In our multidisciplinary and interprofessional collaborative society, general family systems and community settings, majority of victims of aggressiveness among people, exposure to violence and easy availability of guns and firearms, were males.

Followed by firearm were road traffic accidents which accounted for 19.76 % deaths. About 1.25 million people die every year as a result of road traffic crashes.¹³ According to the report of 2009, 25.3 deaths per 100,000 occurred due to road traffic injuries in Pakistan being much higher than international proportions.¹⁴

This showed one of the most commonly acknowledged but most neglected anomaly of our society which requires urgent and immediate interventions which is lack of driving safety rules on behalf of both drivers and society as a whole and failure of government to implement the rules by modifying the old rancid system.

On third number weapon of offence was Asphyxia which accounted for 12.9% of total autopsies conducted.

CONCLUSION

The prevalence of firearm mortality is high. Collaboration is critical to bring about the meaningful changes to reduce the burden of firearm injuries and death on families, communities, and the society. Steps should be taken to minimize the use of firearm, the most lethal weapon by effective implementation of law and

ban on illegal possession. Educational lectures to public and steps to raise the literacy rate along with the improvement of socioeconomic status of the society.

This requires strict laws and regulations of sale, purchase and possession of firearms with heavy fine and imprisonment in case of violation. Fatalities due to road traffic can be reduced by adopting a comprehensive preventive strategy to create an awareness of safe traveling practices especially among the groups at high risk. Recurrent increasing fines on persons with “casual attitudes”, non-compliers of traffic rules & road safety measures, users of cell phones during driving.

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AUTHORSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION DECLARATION

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