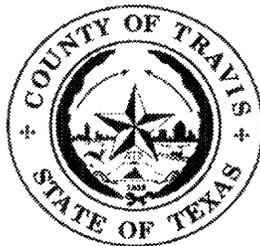


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ROBERTO J. BAYARDO, M.D.
Diplomate of American Board
of Pathology
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

ELIZABETH PEACOCK, M.D.
Diplomate of American Board
of Pathology
DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

**JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER OF TRAVIS COUNTY
FORENSIC CENTER**

1213 Sabine Street P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767 Tel: (512)473-9599 Fax: (512)473-9044

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MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



ISSUE 44

AUSTIN, TEXAS



The post-mortem examination was performed by Elizabeth Peacock, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, at the request and authorization of Roberto J. Bayardo, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, on 2-14-00, at the Travis County Forensic Center, Austin, Texas.

BRIEF INVESTIGATIONAL STATEMENT

The infant became wedged between the mattress and bumper pad of his crib.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

No clothing or jewelry accompanies the body. The body is that of a normally developed, well nourished Hispanic male infant whose appearance is compatible with the recorded age of 4 months. Unclothed, the body weighs 5950 grams (13 pounds 0 ounces) and is 32 ½ inches in overall length.

The hairline is normal. The scalp hair is black, fine and maximum 2 ½ inches long. The eyes are closed and the irides are brown. The facies appear normal with normal configuration. The mouth is edentulous. The neck and chest are symmetrical. The abdomen is slightly protuberant and unremarkable. The limbs are equal and symmetrically developed with adequate subcutaneous fat. The external genitalia are those of an infant male with descended testes. The back and buttocks are unremarkable.

IDENTIFYING MARKS AND SURFACE FEATURES

There are no surgical incision scars, moles or birthmarks identified at autopsy.

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL ATTENTION

None.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

None.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

ORGAN WEIGHTS

Brain	825	g	Liver	225	g
Heart	40	g	Spleen	25	g
Thymus	75	g	Kidneys	40	g
Lungs	125	g			

HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

The scalp, skull and dura are unremarkable. The cerebral hemispheres and ventricles are symmetrical with normal gyri and sulci. The meninges are thin, transparent and glistening. The cranial nerves and intracranial vessels are symmetrical. The vessels are free of significant atherosclerosis or pathologic process. Sectioning of the cerebellum, cerebral cortex and brain stem demonstrates no pathologic or traumatic lesion.

NECK

The bony, cartilaginous and soft tissues of the neck are intact and without pathologic or traumatic abnormality. The upper airway is unobstructed.

BODY CAVITIES

The trunk is opened through the standard Y-shaped incision. The organs are in their anatomic positions. No abnormal collections of fluid are present.

CARDIOVASCULAR

The heart is of normal size and configuration. The coronary arteries are normally distributed, right dominant and are patent without significant atherosclerosis. The epicardial surface is smooth, glistening, and light brown, with an appropriate amount of adipose tissue. Sectioning of the myocardium reveals normal thickness of ventricles, and firm, tan-red cardiac muscle. The foramen ovale is closed and the septae are intact. The aortic, pulmonary, mitral and tricuspid valves are thin, delicate and flexible. The aorta is intact, with no atherosclerosis of the intimal surface.

RESPIRATORY

The lungs are appropriately lobulated, and the thorax contains no abnormal collections of fluids or air. The trachea and bronchi are unobstructed, and the respiratory mucosa has no petechiae. The visceral and parietal pleurae are smooth and glistening. Sectioning of the lung displays spongy, slightly congested subcrepitant parenchyma without focal pathologic or traumatic lesion. The pulmonary arteries are free of thromboembolism or hypertensive changes.

HEPATOBIILIARY

The liver is appropriately formed and lobated, and covered with a smooth, glistening capsule. Sectioning of the liver shows homogeneous brown-red parenchyma without abnormality of color or texture. The intrahepatic biliary system is unobstructed and undilated. The gallbladder is thin, flexible, and contains ml of green bile without stones.

GASTROINTESTINAL

The esophagus is unobstructed and lined by gray, smooth, intact mucosa and is unobstructed. The stomach is empty. The small intestine and colon are lined by glistening intact serosa of normal color, and their vascular supply are unremarkable to inspection. The appendix is present. The pancreas is of normal configuration and appears normal with sectioning.

LYMPHORETICULAR

The spleen is normally formed covered with a smooth capsule. Sectioning reveals boggy deep red parenchyma without focal lesion. Lymph nodes throughout the abdomen, thorax and neck are not prominent. The thymus is present and unremarkable.

GENITOURINARY

The kidneys are appropriately placed and formed. Each is covered by an intact capsule which strips easily to reveal a smooth, slightly lobulated renal surface. Longitudinal sectioning reveals a normal cortex, medulla and collecting system. The ureters are of normal, consistent caliber throughout their lengths. The intact urinary bladder contains no urine and has an unremarkable gray-white urothelial lining. The prostate gland and seminal vesicles are normal for the decedent's age.

ENDOCRINE

Examination of the external surface and cut surface of the adrenal glands and the thyroid gland is unremarkable.

MUSCULOSKELETAL

No abnormalities are identified of the axial and appendicular skeletal systems. The examined skeletal muscles are unremarkable.

FINDINGS

1. History of decedent being found wedged in bed clothing (crib bumper).
2. No anatomic injury or disease process found at autopsy.

CONCLUSION

Based on the anatomic findings at autopsy, and investigation information available at this time, it is my conclusion that [REDACTED] a 4 month-old Hispanic male died as a result of an accidental suffocation event.

CAUSE OF DEATH

Asphyxia by suffocation

MANNER OF DEATH

Accident


ELIZABETH PEACOCK, M.D.
Deputy Medical Examiner


ROBERTO J. BAYARDO, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

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