

Discrepancies between clinical and autopsy diagnosis in traumatic death cases in Siriraj Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Background: Hospital autopsy has been questioned regarding its utility, effectiveness, and validity. However, some discrepancies between clinical and autopsy diagnosis has been shown in previous study. While forensic autopsy, which is mostly done in traumatic death, has not been evaluated for its usefulness, the authors would like to determine its value to give the alternative diagnosis.

Methods: Medical records and autopsy reports of the deceased at Siriraj hospital during 2012-2014 were reviewed and analyzed. The discrepancies between clinical and autopsy diagnosis are classified into 6 classes, including major discrepancies (class I and II), minor discrepancies (class III and IV), non-discrepancy (class V), and non-classifiable (class VI).

Results: 84 patients were included in this study. Major discrepancies were found in 14 cases, with 6 cases in class I (7.1%), and 8 cases in class II (9.5%), while minor discrepancies were found in 29 cases (class III = 18 cases (21.4%), class IV = 11 cases (13.1%)). Class I discrepancies were found in diagnosis as followed; chest injury (3 cases), natural disease (2 cases), and abdominal injury (1 case).

Conclusion: The discrepancies between clinical and autopsy diagnosis in this study demonstrate the significance of the autopsy as an important investigation tool in traumatic cases. Forensic autopsy should be engaged in tertiary care center for both legal procedure and quality improvement.

Keywords: Autopsy, Forensic, discrepancies