

The analysis of dyadic deaths

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SUMMARY

In the work we analyze three cases of unusual dyadic deaths when the perpetrator of homicide committed suicide shortly after the murder. In the first case a man stabbed his girlfriend with a knife and subsequently committed a car crash suicide. In the second case an apparent simultaneous hanging of a married couple turned out to be homicide-suicide act. In the last case a man shot his ex-wife while she was on a walk with their dog and in a short time turned the gun against himself.

Keywords: dyadic death – homicide – suicide

Analýza diadických úmrtí

SOUHRN

V práci analyzujeme tri nezvyčajné prípady spoločných úmrtí, pri ktorých nie vždy od začiatku bola jasná spojitost'. V daných prípadoch páchatel' vraždy spáchal samovraždu v krátkom časovom úseku po násilnom čine, a to v jednom prípade odlišným a v dvoch prípadoch rovnakým spôsobom, akým spôsobil smrť svojej obeti. Vo všetkých prípadoch bola vykonaná pitva s kompletným makroskopickým, mikroskopickým a toxikologickým vyšetrením a fotodokumentáciou. V prvom prípade išlo o napadnutie ostrým predmetom, keď muž spôsobil svojej priateľke spolu 18 bodných a rezných rán, po čom nasadol do auta a o niekoľko obcí ďalej účelovo, bez akéhokoľvek brzdenia, priamo vrazil do betónového oplotenia rodinného domu, pričom utrpel poranenia nezlučiteľné so životom. V druhom prípade bol bulharský manželský pár nájdený obesený vo svojej garáži. Zdanlivo klasické simultánne obesenie so zanechanými listami na rozlúčku sa po dôkladnej vonkajšej a vnútornej obhliadke pri pitve, ktorá odhalila najmä rozdielne štádium posmrtných zmien a obranné poranenia u ženy, ukázalo byť vraždou s následnou samovraždou. V treťom prípade muž zastrelil svoju bývalú manželku, ktorá bola na prechádzke so psom, a v krátkom časovom úseku v inej časti mesta otočil zbraň proti sebe. Dané kazuistiky boli vybrané v snahe poukázať na násilie, ktoré je páchané na blízkych osobách a ktorému je v mnohých prípadoch možné zabrániť zo strany kompetentných orgánov.

Kľúčové slová: spoločné úmrtia – vražda – samovražda

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The evidence which harmonizes with other evidence can sometimes confuse law enforcement authorities, as well as forensic experts in many ways. Isolated evidence not always points to the same thing as when presented in the context of other evidence (1,2). Forensic medicine plays a substantial role in detecting such links. The work of forensic pathologists is inherently linked to the process of inquiry and providing proofs (3,4). Cooperation of law enforcement authorities and forensic pathologists is necessary to fulfill the purpose of evidence proceedings – to reveal facts that are beyond reasonable doubt. To meet this objective, interdisciplinary approach is often required (5).

The responsibility of forensic pathologist in connection with death is not only to determine, and often certify the medical "cause of death" and category of death, but for legal and statistical purposes further classification is necessary. We talk about the manner of death; whether the death was the result of homicide, suicide, accident or due to natural causes. In many jurisdictions,

legal officials rely heavily on the statement of forensic pathologists, especially if autopsy is performed. Autopsy provides evidence which helps to make a decision about the manner of death, especially if eye-witness or other circumstantial evidence is lacking (6-8). Therefore, law enforcement authorities, especially in the cases where the available evidence is not strong enough, highly appreciate the work of forensic pathologists, which helps them to come to a definite decision (9).

In daily work of forensic pathologists, we sometimes see cases of dyadic deaths or deaths that are somehow linked together. In this work we present three cases of dyadic deaths, when the perpetrator of homicide committed suicide shortly after the malefaction. These cases are special not because of category or cause of death, but due to unusual circumstances that showed that these deaths are somehow related, even though in some cases it was not obvious at first sight.

The first case focuses on a man who stabbed his girlfriend, who then died due to hypovolemic shock. Altogether, she had 18 knife wounds of chin, neck, thorax, dorsum, and upper extremities. After her death, the perpetrator committed suicide by crashing his car against a concrete wall. In the second case a married couple was found hanged in their garage. The circumstances at first suggested that it was a typical simultaneous suicide; however, detailed external and internal examination of the corpses showed that the woman was murdered by her husband, who then finished the violent crime by his own death. The

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