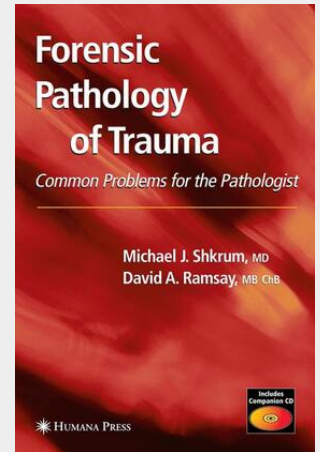


Forensic Pathology of Trauma

The practice of forensic pathology includes the collection and analysis of evidence in relation to a corpse in order to establish the cause of death. Knowledge of the cause of death contributes to the determination of the manner of death by medical examiners and coroners, who are occasionally assisted by law enforcement officers. In the process of establishing the cause and manner of death, representatives of various investigative bodies have several responsibilities, including explaining the death to family members, attempting to reduce the risk of similar deaths in the future, and, if applicable, apprehending the individuals who are responsible for the death. The most well-known and popular role of a forensic pathologist is in the investigation of cases of suspicious death; however, most medicolegal autopsies involve unexpected deaths that are above suspicion, many of which are caused by trauma (trauma being defined as any physical force or agent that causes bodily harm). The purpose of Forensic Pathology of Trauma: Common Problems for the Pathologist is to provide practical advice and information about the conduct of the forensic autopsy in cases of trauma, and to offer guidance about the analysis of the autopsy findings in these cases.

Forensic Pathology of Trauma provides practical advice to pathologists about the conduct and analysis of the forensic autopsy in a case of trauma. This volume reinforces the systematic manner in which the forensic pathologist must approach all medicolegal trauma death investigations in order to avoid common mistakes that may confuse accurate interpretation of a case or compromise a medicolegal investigation. The authors present a step-wise approach to the entire forensic investigation, from the collation of information about the death scene and the background of the deceased, to the external and internal examination of the body, concluding with tests on the evidentiary material collected postmortem. The introductory chapter covers risk management in the autopsy and is followed by a focused examination of postmortem changes, the "great pretenders" in forensic pathology, and the ways in which they can mimic or obscure trauma. Each of the subsequent eight chapters addresses common medicolegal "syndromes" or trauma patterns, providing comprehensive coverage of both common and uncommon causes of each of these patterns. Trauma patterns addressed include those associated with asphyxia, thermal injury, bodies recovered from water, penetrating trauma, blunt trauma, craniocerebral trauma, vertebrospinal trauma, and sudden neurological death.



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