



Pathology & Biology Section – 2004

G2 Suicide by Hanging in Children

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After attending this presentation, attendees will consider cases of hanging in children and the consequences of suicide in children.

Death from hanging is common in suicide youth. There's no large series dealing with such a death but numbers communicated even though small are significant.

Aim: we aimed to examine the epidemiology and pathology findings of 16 cases of suicide from hanging in children and suggest prevention.

Material and Methods: we considered cases of suicidal death from hanging in children referred to the department of forensic medicine of the university hospital Fattouma Bourguiba of Monastir from 1991 to 2002.

Sixteen cases of children committed suicide by hanging were reported. These cases were preceded by age, gender, manner of death, past history, surrounding circumstances and pathology findings.

Results: the 16 children were found dead. The age range was 11 to

17. The greatest share of suicide was found in the age of 17. The majority was males (15 /16). Rope for ligature was more common, string was used in 2 cases. A previous suicide attempt was reported in 1 case. Two cases were with a borderline personality and one case was with a medical history of juvenile diabetes. In 14 cases, hanging occurred within the decedent's home. We couldn't provide a statistic valid seasonal risk. However afternoon seems to be the most chosen time for hanging (10/16). Complete suspension was seen in all cases. Most of children were from rural areas.

The autopsy showed usual external injuries of asphyxial death. No injuries of the larynx or trachea were reported. Contusion hemorrhage of neck muscles was found. Petechial hemorrhage was not seen.

Conclusion: death from hanging in children is rare. Our report is a contribution to several series dealing with such a death. Prevention is possible in some cases by parental supervision and by providing education and mental health care to adolescent. It's important to carry out prospective studies in order to determine the specific character of such occurrence, so we can provide a specific prevention measures.

Suicide, Death From Hanging, Children