G44 Use of CT as an Aid in the Recovery of Metallic Foreign Bodies at Autopsy

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn the practical application of a well-established technology to aid in the recovery of evidence.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating the possible introduction of an existing radiology method into the forensic autopsy.

The recovery of metallic projectiles at autopsy can be difficult if the fragments are small, deeply embedded, very few in number or if the entrance wound or wound tract is obscured by burns or tissue loss. The recovery of projectiles is essential for evidentiary purposes. Plain radiographs frequently prove difficult to interpret, and recovery of metallic foreign objects often requires multiple views. The use of CT at autopsy to locate metallic objects is not a new concept, but is impractical when there are large numbers of foreign bodies to be recovered. Software algorithms now provide a means for the subtraction of tissue densities, allowing for: the determination of size, shape, density, and location of metallic foreign bodies in relation to anatomical structures. CT was utilized at the time of autopsy to identify and recover metallic foreign bodies as evidence.

CT, Radiology, Metallic

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