### G48    Prevention of Accidental Strangulation of Children in Their Sleeping Bags: Development of a New Sleeping Bag

*Kathrin Gerlach, MD\*, Department of Legal Medicine, Pestalozzistrasse 22, Basel, 4056, Switzerland; Beat Horisberger, MD, Department of Legal Medicine, Rue du Bugnon 2, CH-1005 Lausanne, Switzerland, Walter Bar, MD, Department of Legal Medicine, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8091 Zürich, Switzerland; and Volker Dittmann, MD, and Daniel Wyler, MD, Department of Legal Medicine, Pestalozzistrasse 22, CH4056 Basel, Switzerland*

The goal of this presentation is to draw your attention to the dangers of accidental strangulation of children in their sleeping bags. Dr. Gerlach will also introduce a newly developed model of a sleeping bag, which prevents fatal incidents of that kind.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by aiming to sensitize the audience to the problem, to critically discuss the prototype as well as to show how to avoid such fatalities, which should also be accomplished by marketing the new sleeping bag.

In the last few years, researchers analysed several fatalities of children who had strangled themselves at the neckline of their sleeping bag due to their own movements while sleeping. Those sleeping bags can be purchased on the market and should be suitable to fix children.

Types of sleeping bags currently available on the market with their safety advantages and disadvantages are presented.

After this analysis, these fatal incidents appear to be avoidable, and it is possible to adopt measures to prevent these deaths. A simple means to resolve the problem would be a revision of the cut patterns in the current sleeping bags, which fixes the main hazard of these sleeping bags.

A prototype was developed with a cut to prevent these fatal incidents. This prototype sleeping bag is being tested for its functionality and handling and is registered for marketing. This prototype will be presented to an audience of experts.

**Sleeping Bag, Strangulation, Prevention**