



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2006

I12 Psychological Reconstruction and Crime Scene Analysis in Cases of Equivocal Manner of Death

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how forensic psychiatric consultation with the medical examiner's office on cases in which the manner of death is equivocal can provide needed assistance with the determination of the manner of death – suicide versus accident or homicide, for example.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by fostering a collaborative multidisciplinary approach between areas of forensic medicine and diminishing uncertainty on manner of death determinations in difficult cases.

Psychological reconstruction ("psychological autopsy") and crime scene analysis involve the study of the risk factors and psychiatric underpinnings of suicide along with study of crime scene indicators, historical information of the decedent, and review of collateral source information to determine whether the cause of death was self-inflicted and intentional. Risk factors for suicide, methods of suicide will be reviewed. The general principles of crime scene analysis: information gathering, decision making about victim and perpetrator intent/motive, and sequential reconstruction of events will be discussed. Representative cases will be presented to elucidate relevant issues and to identify how further collaboration between forensic psychiatry and other areas of forensic science can be mutually beneficial.

Psychological Reconstruction, Death Scene Analysis, Psychological Autopsy