



### G95 When Sadistic Fantasies Are Turned Into Reality

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the extreme variability of the psychological drives of perpetrators of heinous sexual crimes.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by connecting the relationship between sexuality and aggressiveness.

A case of murder of an 89-year-old woman, found dead in her home, is reported. The woman's body was prone and partially naked (from the lower half of the trunk down), with legs apart, pelvis and groin resting on the edge of the bed and a nightdress wound around her neck as a noose.

Examination of the body allowed many bruised areas of various shapes and sizes located in different parts, as well as protrusion of the tongue to be identified. Examination of the vulva highlighted the presence of a small, oval tear in the vicinity of the frenulum of the labia majora and along the median line. The hymen was infiltrated with blood and on the skin around the anal sphincter there were other bleeding tears.

In addition to infiltrated deep bleeding at some of the ecchymotic areas above described, the autopsy revealed the presence of blood infiltrates of the internal structures of the neck (sternocleidomastoid, root of the tongue, pharynx, and larynx, right jugular vein, and left carotid artery), fracture of the greater horn of the right hyoid bone with hemorrhagic infiltration of the carotid artery intima, that was fissured. These signs are all compatible with compression of the neck and death by asphyxia. Confirming this hypothesis, there was blood within the vascular tree, congestion of the viscera, emphysema, and pulmonary edema, as well as rare, small ecchymoses of serous membranes. The cause of death was therefore defined as asphyxia due to violent mechanical acute strangulation.

On the body of the victim, there were also numerous injuries, some of which were correlated to generic trauma and others to sexual assault. As regards the former, they suggested a prior altercation with her assailant, whereas the injuries orienting toward a sexual assault were clear signs of both vaginal and anal penetration, as well as bruises and abrasions present on the lower limbs. This hypothesis was supported by the finding of sperm inside the rectum. The evidence concluded that the elderly woman was the victim of a violent anal assault while she was forcibly held prone, probably in the same position as she was later found dead.

Considering that the anal lesions were made while the woman was alive, it could be assumed that the strangulation had occurred after the coitus; moreover, the particular position of the knot and of the ends of the noose (at the victim's nape) suggested that the assailant was behind the victim. As no sperm was found in the vagina, the presence of a bleeding hymen and a small laceration of the labia majora led us to the supposition that there had been vaginal penetration only in the early stages of the rape, which was then ended in the rectum.

Thanks to the finding of shoe prints on the wall of the victim's home, the subsequent investigations quickly led to the arrest of a 22-year-old who admitted responsibility but was unable to provide any plausible motivation for the criminal conduct and violent assault.

Through a dynamic reconstruction of the crime and clinical analysis of the aggressor's personality, the role of sexuality when conceiving the crime was reconsidered. Despite appearances, it became clear that the sexual violence was the expression of aggressiveness. This aggressive behavior aimed against the elderly woman was performed in the form of destructive violence and sexual desecration. These considerations became the foundation of a close psychiatric and forensic evaluation from which it emerged that, in this case, there were no detectable elements linked to a mental disease, even temporary, but only expressions of a disturbed personality in which an altered affectivity played a significant role.

**Sadistic Fantasies, Homicide, Forensic Evaluation**