



### G14 Bones Evidence in Dismemberment: A Patricide Case and a Review of the Literature

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to describe the impact of the forensic science in cases of dismemberment.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating the contribution of forensic science in solving cases in which the body is dismembered to answer questions about the weapon used and the cause and manner of death. In particular, the importance of the analysis of macroscopic bony margins with radiological and histopathological study regarding the vitality or otherwise of the injuries is stressed.

**Introduction:** This research explores the dismemberment that in reality is a relatively rare method of body disposal. After killing the victim, the murderer uses a very sharp cutting weapon (a saw, axe, etc.) to sever the limbs and cut the body into small pieces.<sup>1</sup> The term “dismemberment” describes the perpetrator’s fragmenting the corpse or severing a part of a body in an act that is performed in bad faith.<sup>2</sup> The dismemberment of a body should not be confused with the signs of antemortem trauma. In many forensic dismemberment cases, it is difficult to discern the mode of death. Also, parricides are rare crimes, estimated to make up 1%-4% of all homicides and 20%-30% of homicides committed by psychotically ill individuals.<sup>3-5</sup>

**Case Report:** A case of patricide with dismemberment of the body by the daughter who suffered from schizophrenia is discussed. An elderly man had been missing for about one month. The police searched his apartment and found a number of boxes. Inside the boxes were many body segments, still covered by clothing with laces and ribbons, surrounded by lime and covered with cellophane. In this environment, there was no blood or insect larvae. When the victim’s daughter was interviewed, she confessed only to the dismemberment, claiming to have found the body of her father already divided into two parts. The problems for investigators were to determine the vitality of the injuries inflicted on the body of the man, the time of death, and the manner in which the murder occurred. A judicial inspection was carried out and the postmortem computed tomography examination and autopsy with histopathological survey were performed. The soft tissues of the dismembered body segments were removed through maceration techniques and chemical treatment.

**Conclusions:** The analysis of bony evidence revealed the presence of a “T”-shaped incision from a non-serrated cutting-edge instrument. The analysis of the bony margins determined the manner in which the victim was hit.

#### References:

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#### Forensic Science, Dismemberment, Patricide