



H166 Filicide-Feticide-Suicide: An Unusual Variant of Triadic Death

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to evaluate the triadic death, which may be a distinct type of homicide-suicide-feticide of the killing of children by a parent (filicide-suicide) and the killing of the fetus inside womb of mother (feticide). The terms “maternal filicide” or “paternal filicide” are used respectively when the perpetrator is the mother or the father of the victim. A rare case of maternal filicide-feticide is reported, in which the mother poisoned her son and then herself consumed the same poison, causing the live fetus to die because of the poisoning of the mother.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by creating awareness of another rare form of filicide-feticide-suicide, presenting a case highlighting the fact that such a manner is rarely been seen.

Murder-suicide, homicide-suicide, and dyadic death all refer to an incident in which a homicide is committed, followed by the perpetrator’s suicide almost immediately or soon after the homicide. Homicide of a child by its parents is called filicide. Homicide-suicides are relatively uncommon and vary from region to region. However, on review of literature, there is no mention of a case in which there is a killing of a child by the mother by giving poisonous material in milk and similarly consuming the same poison for self-killing.

In the present case, there was stress caused by repeated domestic quarrels to the pregnant mother having one child. In a fit of rage, the mother mixed insecticide granules in the milk of her son and made him drink it. Then the mother drank the remaining portion of the milk. The son became ill in a few minutes and laid unconscious with his mother, who also fell unconscious after some time. The mother knew that consuming the poison herself could harm her fetus too, but still committed the act, leading to the death of the fetus inside her womb. Thus, there was an unusual variant of filicide- feticide-suicide that caused a triad of death that can aptly be termed as triadic death.

This study presents a case of triadic death in which the method of killing and suicide was poisoning, and the unborn fetus died due to the consequences of self-poisoning by the young woman. This presentation will also discuss the importance of having knowledge of such a manner of death while dealing with medicolegal cases.

Filicide-Feticide, Suicide, Triadic Death