



S14. CARBON MONOXIDE INTOXICATION AND ITS POSTMORTEM MARKERS

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Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating gas, because of these properties causing thousands deaths a year according to unofficial reports, that serious public health problem for our country. CO, usually occurs result of incomplete burning of substances that has unsaturated carbon. CO, is a by-product of the incomplete combustion of various substances with content of unsaturated carbon. CO is extremely toxic gas that is known to be used in the execution of a crime in ancient Greek and Roman. The affinity of hemoglobin for CO is more than affinity 200-300 times to oxygen. It is causes tissue hypoxia and eventually chemical asphyxial death occurs. These deaths are usually accidents. Suicide and homicide deaths rarely can be seen. In both cases, livings and death the most important diagnostic method is think about CO poisoning. Although difficult to diagnose in clinical cases, at autopsy, if autopsy technician sees cherry pink colours when 30% COHb (carboxyhaemoglobin) and pink colors on internal organs and soft tissues, autopsy technician knows the cause of death. Because of autopsy findings are nonspecific, definitive diagnostic method is measuring the amount of COHb in blood and various tissues. COHb is quite stable and can detect even a long time after the death. Blood gas analysis is sufficient to make the diagnosis in most cases. Gas chromatography, which measure CO amount in internal organs, muscle and even bone tissues, should be used in severely burned bodies that could not taken blood.