



Murders masqueraded as RTAs

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ABSTRACT

Road traffic accidents are day to day occurrence. In fact it has become a routine to have RTA Postmortems everyday. The major cause of death in RTAs is head injury. When a RTA case comes, We send any duty doctor to conduct postmortem. Hereafter it is not going to be so easy. Because nowadays the criminals are super intelligent. They commit the offence and create a scene, as though it is a RTA. So here is a study of cases, to treat the eyes of a Forensic Expert as well as a golden opportunity given to them to aid in the administration of justice. The moral is always keep your eyes and mind both open and alert. Remember the criminals are far more intelligent than you. They can easily deceive you.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION

Any body lying dead on the road, with a vehicle by its side is considered as 'hit and run' case. If the deceased has been struck by a vehicle, there should be some red coloured abrasions or lacerated injuries anywhere over the body. Moreover there would be soiling of the injuries by the sand particles seen at the site of accident or broken vehicle window glass particles or by the vehicle paint shreds.

When there is no such injuries anywhere on the body surface, then it should arouse suspicion. There comes the play of Forensic Expert.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

All road traffic accident cases from the year 2006 to 2015 in Govt. Theni Medical College were taken into study. Among the 1135 road traffic accident cases the suspicious RTA cases were analysed and scrutinized and the following facts were derived.

ANALYSIS

Total number of road traffic accident cases taken into study were 1135. Among them the suspicious cases were twelve in number. Among the twelve, three turned out to be confirmed murder cases. Out of three murder cases one was female of age twenty seven years, and the other two were males aged twenty five years and thirty eight years respectively.

The twenty seven years female was a house wife. In a petty quarrel between her husband and herself, she was stabbed to death by her husband. The incidence occurred at her residence itself at one 'o' clock early in the morning. The husband disposed her body on the National Highways road with his M80 bike lying down, on her side. He also laid down on her side, as though he was unconscious. The whole scene was created just like a road traffic accident. But the case was brought as road traffic accident and on postmortem, there was a single stab injury on left fifth intercostal space which penetrated upto the heart and ended fatal.

The deceased, a man of thirty eight years was brought as a case of road traffic accident. He was found lying down dead early morning, on the Theni to Periyakulam National Highways road. His two wheeler Hero Honda was seen lying tilted down by his side. The deceased left the hospital where he was treating his child at 10.00AM. on the previous day of occurrence. On postmortem, bilateral sub-conjunctival haemorrhages, antemortem fracture of thyroid cartilage and multiple dark red contusions of larynx were seen suggesting manual throttling as the cause of death.

The twenty five years old male deceased was found dead on the Madurai to Dindugul National Highways road, early morning with fatal cut and stab injuries over the chest and abdomen. Again the case was brought for postmortem as a road traffic accident.

OUTCOME

The inference of the study is all murder cases masqueraded as road traffic accident cases, the body of the deceased were found in National Highways road early morning. In two incidents, bike was seen lying down by the side of the body to create a scene of road traffic accident. Among the three cases two were males and one was female. Though all the three bodies were found uniformly over the National Highways road to mimic road traffic accident, the place of occurrence (crime scene) was different.

The cause of death was various (stab injury of heart, cut injury and stab injury of abdomen and manual strangulation).

The motives for the murders were also different (viz... family quarrel, property dispute and professional envy)

Figure -1 Petechial Haemorrhages inside larynx



Figure -2 Dark red coloured contusion on anterior aspect of larynx

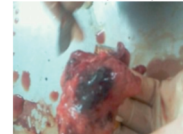


Figure -3 Vertical fracture over right lamina of thyroid cartilage



DISCUSSION

Motives for the murder and modum operandi were different.

But the timing, creation of scene (tilted two wheeler was laid by the side) and the location (National Highways) are the same.

Table -1

No.	Age (yrs)	Sex	Time of occurrence	Place of occurrence	Modus operandi	Place of created scene	Vehicle laid by the side
1	27	Female	Early morning (01.00am)	Home	Stab injury with kitchen knife)	National Highways road	Yes (M80)
2	38	Male	Not known	Not known	Manual strangulation	National Highways road	Yes (Hero Honda)
3	25	Male	Not known	Not known	Cut and stab injuries	National Highways road	No

Figure-1 Sex ratio

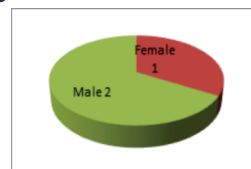


Fig.-2 RTA versus Murder

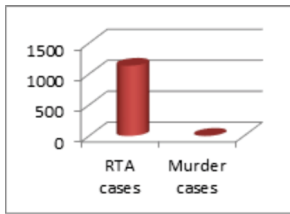
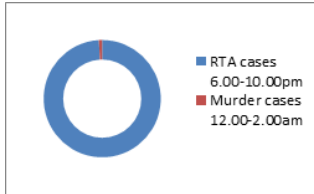


Fig.-3 Time of occurrence



Out of 1135 road traffic accident cases, three were murder cases, that is 0.3%.

Out of 1135 road traffic accident cases, 881 were males, in which two males were murdered, that is 0.4%.

Out of 1135 road traffic accident cases, 254 were females, in which one female was murdered, that is 0.4%

CONCLUSION

We must neither look for findings in a body, during postmortem, with a prefixed idea nor perform a post mortem with a previous diagnosis, as given by the Investigating Officer. We must always have an open mind as if we are reading a new story book, which we have never read. We must dissect the body with the enthusiasm to find and read real existing findings.

We must never be satisfied with the history given. Always we should proceed with our routine systematic examination.

As usual, we must continue to keep our mind and eyes open, for certain we know that the dead body never lies.

And always we should give our opinion based on nothing else but only on our findings.

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