ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER
Volume - 13 | Issue - 01 | January - 2024 | PRINT ISSN No. 2277 - 8179 | DOI : 10.36106/ijsr
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF TWO-DAY OLD BABY – A CASE REPORT

Forensic Medicine

Dr. V. Nagaphani Kumar Second year Post Graduate, Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad, India.

Dr. P. Rajasekhar Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad, India.

ABSTRACT

A 2day old male baby was crushed to death due to accidental fall by another mother who was rushing to feed her infant in NICU, when the mother of victim infant put the baby on floor to change his diaper on 06-08-2023. The deceased infant body was brought to Mortuary, Osmania General Hospital at 12:15 PM on 06/08/2028 by the I.O and requested for postmortem examination under section 304 IPC.

KEYWORDS

Crushing of head, Falling on baby, hemorrhages, NICU.

1. INTRODUCTION:

a) Newborn infants are unique in their physiology and health problems that they experience. Neonatal period is characterized by transition to extra uterine life ad rapid growth and development[2].
b) Newborn health is the key to child health and survival[2].
c) The three major causes of neonatal deaths in NICU are preterm birth complications, infections, and intrapartum related complications; together, they contribute to nearly 90% of total neonatal deaths[2]
d) Falling on newborn and causing death by another person has very rarely been reported across India in NICU so far.
e) Thers is no distinction between the murder of newborn infant and that of any other individual[(1)].

2. Case:

A 2-days-old male baby, who was born in a community health centre on 04-08-22023 and he was preterm, referred to a higher centre for further management. He was admitted into NICU at higher centre on 04-08-2023. On 06-08-2023 mother fed her baby and laid the baby on a floor to change his diaper, another lady who was rushing into the NICU didn't notice the baby on the floor slipped and accidentally fell on the baby and baby sustained crush injury to the head and haemorrhages. Case was filed under section 304 IPC and body was brought to Osmania General Hospital Mortuary and requisition for autopsy was submitted by the Investigation officer on 06/08/2023 12:15 PM and autopsy was conducted on the same day.

Deceased 2day old male baby

4. Post Mortem Examination:

A 2-days-old male baby of height 43cms, with thin emaciated body. Conjunctivae were pale. Skull was deformed with brain matter partially extruded. Body was preserved in cold storage. Post-mortem Lividity present over back of the body and back of both lower limbs. Rigor Mortis present all through the body.

On examination, a split laceration of size 13x12cm x skull cavity deep is present on right side of the head obliquely extending from 6cm above the lateral end of right eyebrow to the mid occipital region, margins are irregular and contused. On reflection of scalp, contusion of size 15cm x 12cm over the internal surface of right parieto-occipital region with underlying sutural fracture of length 12cm present along the sagittal suture. Duramater is torn, bilateral cerebral hemisphere extruded out with diffuse subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage. Cerebellum was seen within the cranial cavity.

Note: The injuries are recent & red in colour.

Post mortem changes of the deceased baby.

5. DISCUSSION:

A preliminary recommendations for interventions to reduce newborn deaths, includes expanding the patient safety contract, monitoring mothers more closely, improving equipment safety[2]. Spreading information about newborn falls within the state and throughout the hospital system. For example, staff use the patient safety contract to improve awareness and prevention of falls. The mothers and significant family members are asked to review the safety information and sign the contract.

REFERENCES:

[1] The Essentials of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology.
[2] Baghel B, Sahu A, Vishwanadham K. Pattern of admission and outcome of neonates in a NICU of Tribal Region Bastar, India. Congen Anomal. 2016;2(6):147-50.
[3] Helsley L, McDonald JV, Stewart VT. Addressing in-hospital "falls" of newborn infants. The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety. 2010 Jul 1;36(7):327-AP3.