

Abstracts Barend Cohen lezing woensdag 10 januari 2018

1. Peggy van den Biggelaar
2. Annemarie Almekinders
3. Atta van Westeren
4. Eveline Thoonen
5. Wilma Duijst

1. Peggy van den Biggelaar

Title: Medicolegal examination of the hyoid-larynx complex

The impact of external force on the neck can be enormous and even lethal. Because important structures of the neck, such as the hyoid bone and larynx, are involved in vital functioning of the body, it is essential that the neck region must be carefully examined.

In forensic medicine, autopsy (macroscopic and microscopic examination) and radiology techniques can be used for investigation of the neck after blunt or compressive force. Although forensic autopsy is still the 'gold standard' in post-mortem assessment, the interest for imaging methods is increasing.

In this study we focused on post-mortem investigation of the neck after fatal trauma. To identify how accurate the used methods are in forensic medicine and to investigate the added value of conventional radiology, diagnoses of the hyoid-larynx complex of the pathologist and radiologist were compared and ranked. These diagnoses were retrospectively obtained from autopsy and radiology reports.

It was shown that conventional radiology has advantages in diagnosing the hyoid bone, but diagnosing the larynx was more difficult compared to autopsy. Therefore, radiology can be beneficial to diagnose intact or fractured hyoid bones and autopsy in diagnosing the larynx. Investigation in other radiologic techniques (CT, total body CT) could be useful in a more detailed examination of the hyoid-larynx complex.

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2. Annemarie Almekinders

Title: Non-accidental burns in children with burns attending the emergency department: a systematic review to identify the risk factors for non-accidental injury.

Aim: To conduct a systematic review to identify risk factors for abuse and neglect, and to find incidence of abuse and mortality of children with NAB.

Methods: We performed a literature search of 3 databases of studies published until December 2016. 825 Studies were reviewed by two independent reviewers. 31 Studies were included. Quality of evidence was assessed by two independent reviewers using a self-developed tool, with study design, selection of control group, certainty of abuse and external validity as key factors. We included primary studies of NAB in children of prospective, cross-sectional or retrospective design, case-control studies and case series. We excluded literature reviews and unpublished data. We extracted data such as demographics, burn characteristics, CPS referral information and parent characteristics.

Results: Incidence of abuse varies between 0.9% to 28.6%. Significant risk factors for abuse include: younger age, African American descent, higher TBSA%, deeper burns, immersion and bilateral patterns, burns to buttock(s) and genital(s), burns to lower extremities, tap water scalds, additional injuries such as bruises and fractures, historical inconsistency or no narrative, delay in seeking care, young parental age, single parent family, low socioeconomic status as demonstrated by unemployment, low family income and welfare dependency. Significant risk factors for neglect include: deeper burns, burns to groin/buttock(s), delay in seeking care, topical applied as means of first aid, foster parent or minor as provider during injury, parental drug abuse. Outcomes for children with NAB were significantly worse: longer duration of stay in the hospital, more intensive-care unit (ICU) admittance required, more surgeries performed, more complications, higher mortality, and less compliance during rehabilitation.

Conclusion: The incidence of child abuse in children with burns varies widely. Several risk factors were identified, however quality of evidence is usually low or very low. Our aim is to develop a screening tool for clinical decision making at the ER, using the found factors. Withal, preferably more prospective research is required.

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3. Atta van Westeren

Title: On the processing of sexual assault evidence kits: predicting kit submission, positive tests (and judicial outcomes).

Background: The lifetime risk of females for sexual assault and rape is known to be estimated as high as one in ten in the Western world. Of the victims that undergo a forensic examination, not all administered sexual assault evidence kits (SAEKs) are sent for forensic analysis. No research has been done to date in the Netherlands to determine which SAEKs are sent for analysis, nor what results from this analysis. This study aims to correct this knowledge gap.

Methods: The international literature was searched and used to construe a structural equations model of the processing of SAEKs. This model was run on a two year time frame of forensic medical examinations from Rotterdam, Amsterdam and the Hague, from 1-2-15 to 1-2-17, including all victims 16 and over having survived the attack.

Results: A heuristic model performed as well as the full model, wherein the following variables were most important: how the victim knows the suspect, whether charges were filed by the victim and founded by the police.

Discussion: Some cases had to be excluded as they were unavailable to come by. In some cases other crimes than just rape had occurred. We feel however these have no bearing on the processing of the rape kit.

Conclusion: Contrary to international literature, we see the processing of SAEKs follows legal value tightly. In cases wherein consent is the issue i.e. the victim and suspect knew each other beforehand, SAEKs are very rarely submitted as they're hardly relevant. In cases wherein having sex is disputed, the SAEK will be submitted. This seems an optimal outcome from a legal perspective.

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4. Eveline Thoonen

Title: Death in state custody

Welke verplichtingen hebben overheden die zijn gebonden aan het Europees Verdrag voor de Rechten van de Mens om overlijden van gedetineerden te voorkomen? Wat dienen overheden op grond van dit verdrag te doen om effectief onderzoek te verrichten wanneer een gedetineerde overlijdt? Deze vragen heeft Eveline Thoonen onderzocht in haar proefschrift. Daarnaast onderzocht zij of het Nederlandse juridische kader waarborgen bevat om aan voornoemde verdragsverplichtingen te voldoen. Specifieke onderwerpen die aan de orde komen zijn zorg in detentie en conflicterende belangen rondom end of life decisions van gedetineerden zoals de weigering van medische behandeling, honger- en dorststaking, suicide en euthanasie. Een van de conclusies van Eveline Thoonen is dat het Nederlandse juridische kader met betrekking tot het onderzoek naar overlijdensgevallen in detentie niet op alle vlakken voldoende waarborgen bevat om aan de verdragsverplichtingen te voldoen. Dat geldt onder meer onder meer voor de te onderzoeken vragen, het borgen van de onafhankelijkheid van alle betrokken partijen in het onderzoek en het betrekken van nabestaanden in het onderzoek.

5. Wilma Duijst

Title: Forensische geneeskunde, een vak in voetangels en klemmen.

De forensische geneeskunde is al jaren 'in beweging'. Persberichten over de kwaliteit van de lijkschouw en gemiste moorden gevolgd door kamervragen overstromen het vak en de vakgenoten. Richtlijnen en rapporten over capaciteit, splitsing van taken en mogelijkheden tot verbetering komen van de regering. Een nieuwe opleiding is in de maak, maar de tegengeluiden worden gehoord. Het wachten is op regeringsbeleid, maar willen we wel echt iets veranderen? Of vinden we het allemaal maar gedoe en ging het zo slecht nog niet de afgelopen 170 jaar?

De klant van de forensisch arts heeft ondertussen de gang naar de pers gevonden. Peter R. lost de moorden op. SBS komt met programma's met de pakkende titels: 'Dader gezocht' en 'Moord of zelfmoord'. De tuchtrechter doet uitspraken in zaken tegen forensisch artsen en over lijkschouw, die af en toe de wenkbrauwen doen fronsen. Ook het Openbaar ministerie laat zich niet onbetuigd en haalt een forensisch arts voor de strafrechter. Het tuchtrecht en strafrecht, bedoeld als instituten om kwaliteit te waarborgen en de norm te stellen, lijken daarmee hun doel voorbij te schieten. De kwaliteit van de artsen neemt niet toe, maar het defensieve gedrag wel.

Het is de vraag of de beweging in de forensische geneeskunde een beweging vooruit is of veel eerder een beweging in rondjes. Bij het draaien van de rondjes geldt dan een duidelijk regel: Indien u langs start komt controleren wij de voetangels en klemmen om er zeker van te zijn dat u niet stiekem iets verandert. De voetangels en klemmen zijn al lang niet meer de knikkers (het geld), maar veel eerder 'principiële standpunten'. Die principiële standpunten hebben weinig met principes te maken, maar veel eerder met het vertrouwde en veilige gevoel dat uitgaat van dat wat we kennen.