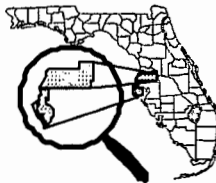


MEDICAL EXAMINER

District Six

Pasco & Pinellas Counties



10900 Ulmerton Road

Largo, FL 33778

727-582-6800

(Fax 727-582-6820)

www.pinellascounty.org/forensics

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

Name: SUAREZ-CASSAGNE, MARIA Case # 5150002 Age: 48 yrs Race: White Sex: Female
Investigating Agency: Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Agency Case #: 14-546002
Date of Death: December 31, 2014 Date of Autopsy: January 1, 2015 at: 11:03 a.m.

AUTOPSY FINDINGS

1. Decapitation of head with fracture of right anterior cranial fossa, mandible, thyroid cartilage and hyoid bone.
2. Right frontal subgaleal contusion and contusion of larynx.

Cause of Death: Multiple Blunt and Sharp Force Injuries.

Manner of Death: Homicide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Wilson', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Wilson, M.D.
Associate Medical Examiner

Date: 1/1/15



Accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

Name: SUAREZ-CASSAGNE, MARIA Case No. 5150002

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EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is that of a decapitated 69 inch, 212-pound white female who appears to be the reported age of 48 years. The scalp has brown colored hair. The irides appear brown. The conjunctivae have no petechiae or hemorrhages. The external ears and nose appear normal. The teeth appear natural. The neck is straight and has no masses. The chest is symmetric. The upper extremities are symmetric and normal with focal scars. The abdomen is distended and has no scars. The external genitalia are normal. The lower extremities are symmetric and normal with focal scars. The back is straight and symmetric.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

DECAPITATION OF HEAD AND PROXIMAL NECK:

The head and proximal neck from the 1st cervical vertebra is completely separated from the lower neck and body. The severed cutaneous edge consists of ragged, irregular edges of skin with abraded and contused edges. The severed wound consists of hemorrhagic skeletal muscle and adipose tissue as well as the severed ends of the blood vessels of the head and neck to include the right and left internal and external carotid arteries and the right and left internal and external jugular veins. The mandible is palpably fractured.

An 8.0 x 2.5 cm gaping sharp force injury involves the mid portion of the left ear. The edges of this wound are irregular and abraded. A 3.0 cm linear red abrasion extends from the anterior edge of this injury. The right inferior jaw has a pair of sharp force injuries which measure 5.0 x 0.5 cm and 5.0 x 1.0 cm. The edges of these wounds are somewhat straight and abraded.

The right aspect of the face including the right cheek and right jaw has a 13.0 x 9.0 cm area of irregular red abrasions. The right ear has diffuse red abrasions and purple contusions. The right upper eyelid has a purple discoloration. The right frontal scalp has a 1.0 x 1.0 cm red abrasion.

The right frontal subgaleal tissues have a 12.0 x 6.0 cm area of hemorrhage. The calvarium is free of fractures. The cerebral and cerebellar hemispheres have diffuse subarachnoid hemorrhage. The right anterior cranial fossa has a linear fracture.

ATTACHED STUMP OF NECK:

The attached stump of the neck consists of the 2nd through 7th cervical vertebrae which is attached to the remaining vertebral column. The cutaneous edges are irregular and focally abraded and contused. The severed wound consists of hemorrhagic skeletal muscle and adipose tissue as well as the severed ends of the blood vessels of the head and neck to include the right and left internal and external carotid arteries and the right and left internal and external jugular veins, the fractured hyoid bone and a fractured thyroid cartilage. The skeletal muscles of the right aspect of the neck are diffusely hemorrhagic. The mucosa of the larynx and trachea has diffuse areas of purple contusions. No petechiae are observed.

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

Name: SUAREZ-CASSAGNE, MARIA Case No. 5150002

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OTHER INJURIES:

The right upper arm near the axilla has a 5.0 x 0.5 cm yellow brown abrasion. The left upper arm near the axilla has a 2.0 x 0.5 cm yellow brown abrasion.

The upper back near the midline has multiple curvilinear red abrasions which measure 7.0 x 1.0 cm, 8.5 x 1.0 cm, 10.5 x 1.0 cm and 11.0 x 1.0 cm.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The internal examination is exclusive of injuries.

The dura is grey-white and normal. The 1250-gram brain is surrounded by bloody cerebrospinal fluid. The leptomeninges are thin and translucent. The mammillary bodies are not shrunken or discolored, and the dorsal cerebellar vermis is not atrophic. The symmetrical hippocampi are not shrunken, scarred or ecchymotic. The blood vessels at the base of the brain are patent and normal. The cranial nerves are normal. The cerebral and cerebellar hemispheres are symmetric and have a normal gyral pattern. The cerebrum, cerebellum and brainstem have no intraparenchymal ecchymoses, cysts, abscesses, masses or areas of discoloration. Coronal examination of the cerebrum, cerebellum, midbrain, pons and medulla is normal. The atlanto-occipital ligaments and cervical spine are intact.

The tongue has no contusions, bite marks, lacerations or petechiae. The muscles of the anterior neck are dark red and well hydrated. The thyroid gland is red, fleshy and not enlarged.

A smooth and glistening pericardial sac surrounds the 410-gram heart. The pericardial sac contains less than five cubic centimeters of pale yellow serous fluid. The epicardial surface is smooth, glistening and has a normal quantity of adipose tissue. The patent coronary arteries arise from the root of the aorta in a normal anatomic distribution with right dominance. The ostia of the left main and right coronary arteries are patent. No thrombotic occlusions are in any of the coronary arteries. The non-fibrotic myocardium has no yellow pallor, erythema or areas of accentuated softening or induration. The valve leaflets and cusps are thin and pliable. The four cardiac chambers do not contain mural thrombi or thromboemboli. The fossa ovalis is fused. The aorta and main systemic vessels are pliable and elastic.

The chest cavities do not have any unusual fluid collections or odors. The 410-gram right lung and the 430-gram left lung have smooth, glistening, purple pleural surfaces. Granulomata and masses are not visible or palpable in either lung. The parenchyma is diffusely congested. The intraparenchymatous branches of the pulmonary blood vessels and bronchial tree have no thrombi or foreign bodies respectively. The clavicles, ribs and sternum have no fractures.

The 650-gram liver has a smooth, glistening, intact capsule. The parenchyma is mahogany brown and of normal consistency. The gallbladder contains dark green non-viscous bile and no stones. The pale, tan lobulated pancreas has no ecchymoses, cysts, masses or chalky yellow deposits. The lymph nodes in the region of the celiac axis and porta hepatis are not enlarged.

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

Name: SUAREZ-CASSAGNE, MARIA Case No. 5150002

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The 90-gram spleen has a smooth, glistening, intact slate-grey capsule. The parenchyma is dark red and granular.

The cortices of the adrenal glands are bright yellow and have no masses. The medullae are red and soft.

The 140-gram right kidney and the 190-gram left kidney have smooth, glistening, red-brown cortical surfaces. The cortex to medullary ratio is normal. The calyces, pelves and ureters are thin walled and not dilated. The normal urinary bladder is empty. The uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries are normal for age.

The serosa of the esophagus, stomach and intestines is normal. The stomach contains an estimated 600 cubic centimeters of partially digested food which includes carrots and vegetables. The appendix is normal. The peritoneal cavity does not contain free fluid, blood or exudate.

CW

Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory

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Results of Laboratory Analysis Toxicology Section

Laboratory Number	15-000009	Date of Report	January 21, 2015
Submitting Agency	District Six Medical Examiner		
Case Agency	District Six Medical Examiner		
Agency Number	5150002		
Subject	Suarez-Cassagne, Maria		

Description of Items Submitted

- Item 1A Large plastic tube (sodium fluoride preservative) containing approximately 27 ml of blood (heart).
- Item 1B Plastic collection tube (sodium fluoride preservative) containing approximately 9.5 ml of blood (heart).
- Item 1C Plastic collection tube (sodium fluoride preservative) containing approximately 9 ml of blood (heart).
- Item 2A Small plastic collection tube (no additives) containing approximately 4.5 ml of blood (heart).
- Item 2B Small plastic collection tube (no additives) containing approximately 3 ml of blood (heart).
- Item 2C Small plastic collection tube (no additives) containing approximately <1 ml of serum (post mortem).
- Item 3 Small plastic collection tube (no additives) containing approximately 6 ml of vitreous fluid.
- Item 4 Large plastic tube (no additives) containing approximately 50 ml of gastric contents.
- Item 5 Large plastic tube (no additives) containing liver tissue.

Results and Interpretations

Item 1A - Blood (Heart)

Analyses Performed

Volatiles Quantitation by GC-FID (ethanol, acetone, methanol, isopropanol)

Quantitation Results

Substance	Level	Report Limit	Units
Ethanol	Negative	0.010	g/dL
Methanol	Negative	0.010	g/dL
Isopropanol	Negative	0.010	g/dL
Acetone	Negative	0.010	g/dL

Item 2C - Serum (Post mortem)

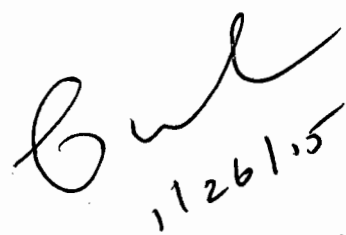
Analyses Performed

ME5-Immunoassay Drug Screen (amphetamines, benzodiazepines, carisoprodol, cocaine metabolites, fentanyl metabolites, methamphetamine/MDMA, methadone metabolites, opiates, tramadol, tricyclics, zolpidem)

The following were indicated by immunoassay:



 Jenna Chin
 Forensic Toxicologist


 1/26/15

DMR

Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory

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Results of Laboratory Analysis
Toxicology Section

Laboratory Number 15-000009 **Date of Report** January 21, 2015
Submitting Agency District Six Medical Examiner
Case Agency District Six Medical Examiner
Agency Number 5150002
Subject Suarez-Cassagne, Maria

Continued.

Negative

Item 3 - Vitreous Fluid

Analyses Performed

Volatiles Quantitation by GC-FID (ethanol, acetone, methanol, isopropanol)

Quantitation Results

Substance	Level	Report Limit	Units
Ethanol	Negative	0.010	g/dL
Methanol	Negative	0.010	g/dL
Isopropanol	Negative	0.010	g/dL
Acetone	Negative	0.010	g/dL

Note(s):

1) Unless other arrangements are made, specimens will be discarded after a minimum two year retention.

****END OF REPORT****



Jehna Chin
Forensic Toxicologist

DMT