



# Introduction to Forensic Medicine

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# Forensic medicine

► Definition :-


- Forensic medicine is a branch of medicine where the principal and knowledge of medicine is used for purposes of the law, (both civil and criminal) and justice.

# Forensic medicine

- ▶ in brief Clinical Forensic Medicine deals with the cases involving both legal and medical aspects of patient care. It is the interaction of clinical medicine and law. Pattern injury recognition, interpretation of injuries and documentation of injuries are the vital components which are evaluated.

# Forensic medicine

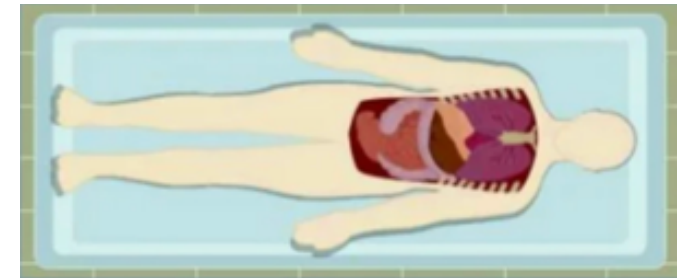
- ▶ The primary tool of forensic medicine has always been the autopsy, frequently used for identification of the dead, autopsies may also be conducted to determine the cause of death. In cases of death caused by a weapon, for example, the forensic pathologist—by examining the wound—can often provide detailed information about the type of weapon used as well as important contextual information. (In a death by gunshot, for example, he can determine with reasonable accuracy the range and angle of fire).

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- ▶ Forensic medicine is a major factor in the identification of victims of disaster, such as landslide or plane crash. In cause-of-death determinations, forensic pathologists can also significantly affect the outcome of trials dealing with insurance and inheritance.

# Branches of forensic medicine

## ► Forensic pathology

- The knowledge of medicine is used to find out the cause of death by performing autopsies/postmortem examinations :-
  - (a) In traumatic deaths.
  - (b) In sudden unexpected deaths.
  - (c) Interpreting the mechanism of injuries & giving medico legal opinions (e.g., amount of force; position of victim)



# Branches of forensic medicine

- ▶ Clinical Forensic Medicine
  - (a) Medicolegal examination of sexual offenses (eg.rape cases)
  - (b) Determination of age for medicolegal purposes.
  - (c) Medicolegal examination of Injuries in Physical Assaults/  
Battered baby.
  - (D) Medicolegal examination of drunkenness.
  - (e) Assessment of degree of permanent disabilities, following a  
factory accident of a workman for compensation.

# Branches of forensic medicine

## ▶ Forensic Toxicology

- Deals with the sources, characters, properties of poisons, the symptoms they produce, their fatal effects & fatal doses POISON& the remedial measures that should be taken to combat their actions or effects.



## ▶ Forensic Thanatology

- Investigates the mechanisms and forensic aspects of death , such as
  - ❖ bodily changes that accompany death.
  - ❖ the post-mortem period changes.



# Branches of forensic medicine

- ▶ Medical Ethics
  - Deals with the moral principles which should guide members of the medical profession in their dealings with each other, their patients and the State.
- Medical etiquette
  - Deals with the conventional laws of courtesy observed between members of the medical profession.

# Branches of forensic medicine

- ▶ Medical jurisprudence
  - Deals with legal responsibilities of the physician with particular reference to those arising from physician-patient relationship, such as:
    - ✓ Medical negligence cases
    - ✓ Consent
    - ✓ Rights and duties of doctors
    - ✓ Serious professional misconduct
    - ✓ Medical ethics etc.

# Branches of forensic medicine

- ▶ Forensic Odontology/Forensic dentistry
  - Deals with the proper handling, examination & evaluation of dental evidences, for the interest of justices .
  - Forensic Odontologists are responsible for:-
    - ❑ Identify human remains that cannot be identified using fingerprints or other means.
    - ❑ Identify bodies in mass disasters (eg. plane crashes).
    - ❑ Determine the source of bite mark injuries, in cases of assault or suspected abuse.
    - ❑ Estimate the age of skeletal remains.



# Branches of forensic medicine

## ▶ Forensic Psychiatry

- Psychiatric assessment of a person for:-
  - ❑ insanity in a case of murder.
  - ❑ competency as a witness.
  - ❑ testamentary capacity in executing a will.
  - ❑ validity of consent

# Branches of forensic medicine

- ▶ Forensic Anthropology
  - Assists in the identification of deceased individual's whose remains are decomposed, burned, mutilated or otherwise unrecognizable.

# Branches of forensic medicine

- ▶ Forensic Entomology
  - Covers evidence gathered through insect studies at the scenes of murder, suicide, rape, physical abuse and contraband trafficking.
  - helpful in determining the post mortem interval & location of a death in question.

# Branches of forensic medicine

- ▶ Forensic Serology
  - detection, classification and study of various bodily fluids (blood, sweat, semen, fecal matter) & their relationship to a crime scene.

The end

▶ Thank you