

GROSS AND HISTOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN GASTRIC AUTOPSIES

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ABSTRACT : This study aimed to highlight some of the gross and histopathological postmortem findings in the stomach. A total of 53 gastric autopsies were conducted by a forensic expert, any abnormal findings whether grossly or microscopically were documented. 28 cases showed petechial hemorrhage (52.8%), erosion 13 cases (24.5%), congestion and erosion 3 cases (5.7%), congestion 4 cases (7.5%), small mass only 1 case (1.9%), ulcer 4 cases (7.5%). Histological examination showed (54.7%) with focal chronic inflammation, (30.2%) show multifocal chronic inflammation, (20.8%) of cases showed mild atrophy, (5.7%) moderate atrophy, (24.5%) show sever atrophy, intestinal metaplasia was seen in 20.8% of cases *H. pylori* by giemsa stain was seen in 34% of cases Gastric incidental findings in autopsy may not be the cause of death but they give many details of information related to the epidemiology of gastritis in Iraq.

Key words : Gastric autopsy, stomach, *H. pylori*.

INTRODUCTION

The word “autopsy” is obtained from the Ancient Greek word *autopsia* which means “to see for oneself” (Sulegaon R, 2015). Many histopathological findings unrelated to the cause of death are observed in the usual histopathological examination of medicolegal autopsies. When a person is alive, many infrequent asymptomatic lesions in different body systems may be unnoticed. The medicolegal autopsy gives a chance for studying not only the medically diagnosed and treated lesions, but also the natural evolution of untreated lesion (Eriksson C, 1988). Histopathological examination is considered to be one of the most important diagnostic tools for clinical assessment (Selvam *et al*, 2011). Different histopathological incidental findings were discovered which have shown to be an appreciable learning tool for both the forensic expert and the pathologist, in addition to the role of histopathological examination in mortality statistic assessment which are vital for public health and health service arrangement (Gannur, 2013).

Clinical autopsy, also termed pathological autopsy, is usually done by the pathologist while medico-legal autopsy is done by the forensic expert. Despite proving the cause of death in many times, pathological autopsy is done to study the process of the disease and thus increasing the medical knowledge and highlighting miscellaneous rare or incidental histopathological diagnosis (Pathak and Mangal, 2010).

Many authors studied post mortem histopathological incidental findings in one organ such as liver (Seema, 2008; Mallappa, 2018), lung (Khare *et al*, 2017) and kidney (Thakur, 2018), on the other hand, some authors studied those findings systematically and one of them (Patel S, 2016) suggested to study individual system lesion separately for better results.

Since there is scarcity in the studies about postmortem gastric findings (Levij and Fuente, 1963; Aghera *et al*, 2015), this study aims to highlight incidental gross and histopathological findings in the stomach autopsies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted between October 2017 and April 2018 in the medico-legal directorate in Baghdad and pathology and forensic medicine department in AL-Nahrain medical college. All cases of autopsy received during this period above 30 years of age and irrespective to sex were included in this study; Ethical clearance was not taken because of medico legal nature of cases.

A total of 53 cases of gastric autopsy samples were included in this study. All the autopsies were performed by a forensic expert using the classical method of dissection through midline incision from chin to the symphysis pubis. The stomach, in continuity with lower esophagus and duodenum, is opened with large scissor parallel to the greater curvature once all of the surrounding organs have been removed, a multiple full thickness biopsies from any incidental gross findings in the stomach were taken and preserved in 10% buffered formalin and sent for pathology