

An Autopsy Case of Heatstroke under the Influence of Anticholinergic Drugs

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Abstract

A case of fatal heatstroke involving atropine, chlorpheniramine and pseudoephedrine is presented. Autopsy revealed congestion of lung and histological findings of hypercontracted fibers in skeletal muscle. Quantitative toxicological analysis revealed concentrations of atropine and chlorpheniramine in femoral blood sample to be 0.02 µg/mL and 0.30 µg/mL, respectively, and both were below fatal levels. Pseudoephedrine was also identified, but not quantified. From the autopsy findings, results of toxicological examination and investigation by the authorities, we concluded that the cause of death was heatstroke under the influence of atropine and chlorpheniramine.

Keywords: atropine, chlorpheniramine, pseudoephedrine, heatstroke