

Artefacts in chest after cardiopulmonary resuscitation; Review of 231 autopsies

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Abstract

Objectives: Resuscitatory injuries (Artefacts) can mimic or mask sinister trauma, so it has more importance to the forensic pathologist. Effective of aggressive resuscitation and differentiation between resuscitation injury than non-resuscitatory injury is a more difficult task of pathologist at legal autopsy.

Methods: This study was down on 231 non- traumatic death (natural death) that undergone cardiopulmonary resuscitation at TEHRAN LEGAL MEDICINE ORGANIZATION on August 2004. The data collected by complete post mortem examination in all cases.

Results: There were 89 female and 142 male corpses. 70% were in age of 30-60 years. Resuscitatory artifacts found in 98 cases (42.3%) and of this, Chest wall injuries were the most common artifacts that found in 55.1% of them. Heart injury were found in 14.1% and lung damage in 7% . Abdominal visceral injury was seen in 5.3%.

Conclusion: This study showed that, soft tissues and skeletal injury are the commonest artifacts after cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Concomitant fracture of sternum and ribs were the most common injuries in the chest. All chest wall damages were prominently more common in men rather than women, which maybe due to the more fat resources in the anterior surface of the chest in women compared to men.

Key words: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Artefact, chest, Autopsy