

Autopsy Questions – Answers

1. An autopsy is a routine postmortem examination performed by a pathologist on a patient who has died.
2. A Coroner
3. An autopsy may be requested by the deceased's doctor or surviving family.
4. The body is wrapped in a sheet or shroud and transported to the morgue, where it is held in a refrigeration unit until the autopsy is conducted.
5. A private autopsy currently runs about six to eight thousand dollars.
6. The coroner orders it the state pays for it, if the family orders it then the family pays for it.
7. The diener is a morgue attendant who is responsible for moving and cleaning the body and, in some cases, assisting in the autopsy.
8. The prosecutor a person, esp. a public official, who institutes legal proceedings against someone
9. Physician's Assistant
10. Autopsy attendants wear fairly simple protective equipment, including scrubs, gowns, two pairs of gloves, shoe covers, and a plastic face shield.
11. The autopsy table is a waist-high aluminum slab plumbed for running water with faucets and spigots to facilitate draining blood and other bodily fluids. This table is simply a slanted tray with raised edges
12. This rubber or plastic block causes the chest to protrude upward while the arms and neck fall downward. This position best arranges the body cavity for dissection.
13. So that the front of the rib cage and the front of the neck are exposed.
14. An electric saw or bone cutter is used to open the rib cage. One cut is made up each side of the front of the rib cage, so that the chest plate is no longer attached to the rest of the skeleton.
15. The "Rokitansky method" requires the removal of all the organs of the trunk at once.
16. All organs in the body undergo the same basic procedure. They are separated from the other organs and weighed. They are then examined for abnormalities. Initially the organ is inspected as a whole. It is then sliced and examined in small cross sections.
17. Using a scalpel, a deep cut is made from behind one ear, over the crown of the head, to the other ear. The skin and soft tissues are then divided into a front flap and a rear flap. The front flap is pulled forward over the patient's face exposing the top and front of the skull.

18. An electric saw

19. The Spinal Cord

20. The brain is hung up by string in a jar of formaldehyde for a couple weeks. The formaldehyde fixes the tissue, preserving it from decay and firming it for ease of handling. After fixation the brain is removed and rinsed.

21. A long (12" - 18"), sharp knife, called a "bread knife" or a pair of scissors.

22. A small representative piece is saved for subsequent biological and chemical analysis.

23. The Gut When the stomach, intestines, and bowels are removed, they must be inspected for contents as well as abnormalities.

24. Mediastinum, Body Cavities, lungs, Heart, Aorta and Vena Cava, Spleen, Adrenals, Kidneys, Liver, Pancreas, Bladder, Genitalia, Gallbladder, G.I. Tract

25. 30 Years

26. First, the skull cap is placed back on the skull and the scalp is pulled back into place. Using a baseball stitch, the scalp is sewed back together.

27. Although the brain is not replaced, many institutions replace the sliced organs by pouring them back into the body cavity. Others have the organs incinerated. In either case, the chest plate is placed back in the chest, and the skin sewn with baseball stitches. The wound once again resembles a "Y." The body is then cleaned and covered until picked up by the mortician

28. "overall"

29. 4-6 weeks

30. There is no time table.

31. The brain stem is separated from the rest of the brain with a scalpel. Each part is then sliced and laid out in cross sections for examination. Sections of each are collected and sent to the lab for microscopic and chemical analysis.