

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT NINE
1401 Lucerne Terrace
Orlando, Florida 32806-2014

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

DECEDENT: ROWAN [REDACTED] CASE NUMBER: ME 2005-000546

AGE: 21-22 Week Gestational Age SEX: Male

DATE OF DELIVERY: April 2, 2005

DATE OF AUTOPSY: April 27, 2005

PERFORMED BY:

Jan C. Garavaglia MD
Jan C. Garavaglia, MD, Chief Medical Examiner

CAUSE OF DEATH: Extreme prematurity from induced labor

AUTOPSY FINDINGS

- I. 21-22 weeks gestational age male
 - A. Fetal weight: 480 grams
 - B. Foot length: 42 mm each
 - C. Crown/rump length: 22 cm
 - D. Crown/heel length: 32 cm
 - E. No congenital abnormalities or trauma

- II. No evidence forensically of being born alive
 - A. No air or excessive fluid in lungs
 - 1. Lungs sink in water
 - B. No air in stomach
 - C. No fluid in stomach

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The autopsy of the body of Rowan [REDACTED] is performed pursuant to Florida Statute 406.11 by Jan C. Garavaglia, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, District Nine at the Orange County Medical Examiner Facility, Orlando, Florida on April 27, 2005.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

Examination of the fetus reveals slightly reddened skin with no significant skin hair, although there is a fine early head hair. The head circumference is 19.2 cm. There is just minimal over-riding of the skull bones. The eyes are fused and the facial features appear without congenital abnormalities.

The neck is symmetrical and appears without external trauma.

The chest reveals no evidence of congenital abnormalities. There is a small area of mold growth on the left nipple region. The skin of the chest, as is the rest of the body, is reddened and slightly wrinkled.

The abdomen has an attached 7.5 cm umbilical cord with three vessels evident. There is slight green to blackening discoloration to the lower aspect of the abdomen.

The external genitalia is that of a male.

The upper extremities are without congenital abnormalities. The joints are lax. There appears to be very early fingernails.

The lower extremities also show the overall reddened skin, the lax joints, and no congenital abnormalities. No toenails are present.

The back is symmetrical and is remarkable for a small area of mold over the right hip region, but there are no congenital abnormalities. The anus is patent.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The usual Y-shaped incision is made. There are no congenital abnormalities evident, with the organs present in their normal location and orientation.

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HEART: The 3.9 gram heart is without congenital abnormalities.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The right and left lungs weigh 6.9 and 5.7 grams respectively. The left lung has the normal two lobes and the right lung the normal three lobes. The lungs are tied-off at the hilum and both lungs sink in a container of water. Sectioning of the lungs reveals pink-maroon tissue with no excessive fluid.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM: The liver weighs 18.5 grams, is moderately soft and has an intact capsule. Sectioning the liver reveals no focal abnormalities.

RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM: The 2.5 gram spleen is present in the normal location with an intact capsule. The parenchyma is autolytic.

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT: The esophagus is opened in situ to the stomach and revealed no fluid. The bowels appear unremarkable, although there is a greening discoloration. There is meconium throughout the bowels.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys together weigh 5.1 grams. There is mild fetal lobulation. The kidneys are present in their normal location and orientation. Sectioning of the kidneys reveals no abnormalities. The ureters follow a normal course to the bladder.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The adrenal glands weigh 2.6 grams together and sectioning reveals no focal abnormalities or hemorrhage. The pancreas is autolytic but unremarkable.

NECK: The anterior musculature of the neck is unremarkable. There are no congenital abnormalities to the larynx or trachea.

HEAD: Reflection of the scalp reveals no scalp contusions. There is some slight edema to the vertex of the head in the subcutaneous tissue of the scalp. There is minimal over-riding of the skull bones. Opening the skull reveals a soft brain with no gyral pattern, consistent with the gestational age of the infant.

The brain weighed 79 grams and was without hemorrhage or focal abnormalities.

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An X-ray of the body revealed no air in the lungs and no air in the stomach.

CONCLUSION: This is a 21-22 week gestational age fetus who's mother had an induced termination of her pregnancy. It is reported that the fetus was delivered in the toilet and the question is whether the fetus was born alive or not. The fetus showed no evidence of congenital abnormalities or trauma, and was consistent with a 21-22 week old gestational age. Forensically, there was no evidence that the fetus was born alive. There was no air or excessive fluid found in the lungs and there was no air or fluid found in the stomach.

JCG/lmc

