

Legal Medicine and Toxicology Module:

Tutorial 06: PAST PAPER (Unit 4, 2014)

Question 1

A 36 year old woman was admitted to a surgical ward of Teaching Hospital Ragama following an assault by the husband. She alleged that he kicked on her abdomen which resulted in severe pain.

1.1. List four (4) medico-legal duties of the house officer towards this patient (10 marks)

On admission her GCS was 15/15. She was very anxious and looked fearful. Examination revealed tenderness in the left side of the abdomen and several contusions in the upper and lower limbs. X ray of the chest revealed fracture of the 10th rib in the left side. US scan reported a small encapsulated hematoma of the splenic hylum. The surgeon decided to manage the patient conservatively.

1.2. State the category of hurt in this patient with reasons. (30 marks)

On further questioning she revealed that this was her 3rd hospitalization following assault by her husband and now she is afraid of her life.

1.3. State how the house officer would ensure the protection of the woman from further abuse. (20 marks)

While she was in the hospital her husband was admitted to the hospital with signs and symptoms of organo-phosphate poisoning in critical condition.

1.4. List the medico-legal duties of the house officer towards this patient (10 marks)

Despite the treatment the he died within 4 hours of admission. A postmortem examination was requested after an inquest.

1.5. Discuss the positive and negative findings which would help the Medical Officer-Medico Legal to ascertain the cause of death as organo-phosphate poisoning at autopsy (30 marks)

Question 2

2. A 70 year old man was found dead on the road closer to a pedestrian crossing with a laceration on the scalp in the middle of the night. (The rest of the body was not examined for injuries at the scene.) He had a broken quarter bottle of arrack in this trouser pocket. Almost at the same time, police arrested a driver of a car for speeding, a few hundred meters away from the crossing. He was unsteady on his feet, looked drowsy and slurred in his speech.

- 2.1. List two (2) most likely circumstances of death in this case. (10 marks)
- 2.2. Discuss the typical external and internal injuries you may find and their causation, in each of the circumstances mentioned above. (50 marks)
- 2.3. Internal examination of the deceased revealed a shrunken and hard liver with multiple nodules at autopsy. List three (3) external and three (3) internal features excluding the liver changes associated with this condition (10 marks)
- 2.4. Explain briefly how the examination of the car, in addition to the autopsy, would help the Medical Officer (Medico-Legal) to confirm or deny its involvement in this death. (10 marks)
- 2.5. Outline the medical officer (medico-legal)'s approach to the examination of the driver if he is produced for medico-legal examination. (20 marks)