

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Mail Code 7750 7703 Floyd Curl Drive San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Department of Pathology

(210) 567-4000

NEUROPATHOLOGY CONSULTATION

FOR THE BEXAR COUNTY FORENSIC SCIENCES CENTER

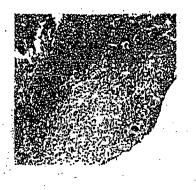
DATE CUT 7/1/02 PRO

PROSECTOR Dr E Rouse

ACCESSION # 02-CX-235

HISTORY: J.G. was a 2-and-a-half- year-old hispanic female toddler who sustained head trauma initially blamed on a "fall from the cab of a 18-wheeler". Her step-mother called the EMS and at the health care facility where she was seen, a lumbar puncture showed subarachnoid hemorrhage, and no skull fractures. She died at 11 AM the next day. Subsequently it became apparent that the child has been physically abused. At autopsy there was subgaleal bruising and subdural hematoma, as well as pattern injuries to the skin.

GROSS OBSERVATIONS: There is mild to moderate cerebral edema, and a accompanying portion of dura showed a thin subdural hematoma. There is patchy subarachnoid hemorrhage. Coronal sections show fairly normal ventricular size , no intraventricular blood, and no hemiation hemorrhages, including no brainstem (Durêt) hemorrhages. No gross abnormalities of the cortical ribbon or deep white matter are noted.-no midline (deep grey nuclear, callosal) petechiae, tears but small areas of white matter softening and greyish discoloration (no xanthochromia) are seen. Sections through lower brainstem and cerebellum are unremarkable.



MICROSCOPIC FINDINGS & COMMENTS:

Sections of dura show mostly recent hemorrhage trapped among the arachnoid granulations. The 'oldest' areas in these dural sections show a thin membrane (upper photo), histolog-ically consistent with a few weeks' duration. Sections of cerebral deep white matter (centrum semiovale) show, interestingly, prominent myelin fearing, foamy macrophages between the groups of disrupted white matter tracts (top photo, next page, arrows, luxol fast blue/H&E stain). An ubiquitin stain of this particular section show prominent axonal swellings (inset, arrows) which could even be found on routine sections on other slides of similar areas. A few areas show contusioninfarcts in a stage of early organization (sheets of foamy macrophages consistent with at least a weeks' duration. Older, gliotic or cystic lesions are not identified. Focally

severe acute neuronal hypoxic changes are also seen.

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Myelin tearing and axonal bodies are easily found in these sections but as you know the presence of <u>abundant</u> axonal bodies cannot be reliably used to either precisely "date" an injury or provide evidence of more than one episode of head trauma.

NEUROPATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS:

Child's brain, representative sections: history of head trauma)

Cerebral edema, mild to moderate Hemorrhagic necrosis of cerebellar tonsillar tips (Right) subdural hematoma, mostly recent, min-

imal organization (approximately 10 days' duration)

Cerebral white matter: Organized contusion infarcts (7+ days' duration), myelin tearing and axonal bodies

Kattleen K UL KATHLEEN S KAGAN-HALLET MD DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY (PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY/ NEUROPATHOLOGY)

DATE 09/17/02