

How does this affect final memorial arrangements?

After the pathologist agrees to perform a postmortem examination and an authorization is signed by the next of kin, the medical school will transport the body of the deceased from the site where death is pronounced to the examination facility. After completion of the exam, the school will transport the body to any licensed funeral home or crematory designated by the family within 50 miles of Wright State's campus. Transportation beyond a 50-mile radius must be arranged by the family.

May I discuss the report with the pathologist?

Appointments to discuss postmortem findings may be made through the department by calling 937.775.2625 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



What is the cost for this service?

Complete examination (chest, abdomen, brain)	\$ 2,700
Chest and abdomen only	\$ 2,100
Brain only	\$ 1,800
Abdomen only	\$ 1,800
Chest only	\$ 1,800
Brain removed for transport to another facility	\$ 900

The fee must be paid in full before the examination can be performed. The fee may be paid by check (payable to Wright State Physicians) or credit card—Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. There is no provision for installment payments or billing of third-party payors for these professional services.

Contact Information

Questions and Exam Requests:

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
937.775.2625

Evenings & Weekends:

937.775.2304

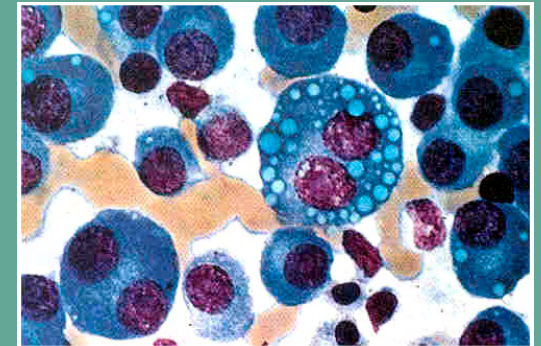
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In cooperation with:

Anatomical Gift Program
Wright State University



Department of Pathology Boonshoft School of Medicine Regional Postmortem Examination Service



"Figure 15-18, *Pathologic Basis of Disease, Sixth Edition*; Cotran, Kumar, Collins editors; W.B. Saunders Co., 1999."



Boonshoft
School of Medicine
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Who benefits from a postmortem examination?

Family members of the deceased are the primary beneficiaries of a postmortem examination, commonly called an autopsy. Physicians who cared for the patient and medical students who observe the examination are educated by the findings. Society benefits as postmortem data is used for statistical and research purposes.

Why is a postmortem examination beneficial?

For family members:

- Answers questions about underlying cause(s) of death
- Assesses the effects and extent of disease
- Identifies diseases which are likely to be inherited
- Assists in genetic counseling for surviving family members
- Provides accurate information for insurance and death benefits
- Preserves option of donating tissues which are not routinely examined by pathologist (such as bone, skin, eyes)

For medical research and education:

- Confirms, modifies, and extends premortem clinical diagnoses
- Provides feedback to physicians who cared for the deceased
- Educates medical students about features of disease
- Improves accuracy of death statistics
- Investigates causes and variable manifestations of disease
- Identifies and characterizes new diseases
- Assesses impact of new diagnostic and therapeutic methods
- Monitors public health issues

Who is eligible for Wright State's postmortem service?

This service examines persons who die of apparently natural causes outside a hospital or in hospital emergency rooms. It does not provide a medical-legal investigation of death, which can only be performed by coroner's offices, as mandated by Ohio law. The service does not substitute for postmortem examinations performed by hospital-based pathologists, who normally examine patients who die in a hospital. Questions about the appropriateness of this service may be directed to your personal physician or the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine postmortem service information line.

Who does the examination?

All examinations at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine are performed by a board-certified anatomic pathologist.

Who else is present?

The pathologist is assisted by a trained technician employed by the Anatomical Gift Program. Medical students may observe the examination for educational purposes but are not permitted to do the actual work of examination. All persons present are bound ethically and legally to strict confidentiality. Postmortem findings are discussed only with the family member giving consent for the examination and physicians directly involved in caring for the deceased.

Will the appearance of the deceased be altered?

No. The examination requires a Y-shaped incision over the chest and abdomen, similar to that performed for exploratory surgery. Closure of this incision after the procedure ensures the appearance of the deceased will not be altered for viewing in an open casket. If the brain is examined, an additional incision is performed which does not alter the face in any way.

When is the examination performed?

After receipt of a signed permit authorizing the examination, the procedures are performed every weekday except holidays between 2:00–5:00 p.m. Postmortem examinations authorized between 3:00 p.m. Friday and Monday morning will be performed on Monday afternoon.

How will I know the results of this examination?

Findings are summarized and released within 24 hours of the examination in a report entitled "Provisional Anatomic Diagnoses." A final report is generated after microscopic examination of the tissues, normally available within six to twelve weeks of the postmortem examination.

Who has access to the reports?

Only the family member who signs the authorization permit, and the treating physician(s) designated by that family member, will receive the preliminary and final reports. Report documents remain the property of Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, and can be released only with written permission of the authorizing family member. However, aggregate data obtained by this postmortem service may be used for medical research purposes, with the assurance that personal identity of the deceased is not revealed.