

Proceedings and Abstracts



College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka

14th Annual Academic Sessions

Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall

Buddhaloka Mawatha

Colombo 07

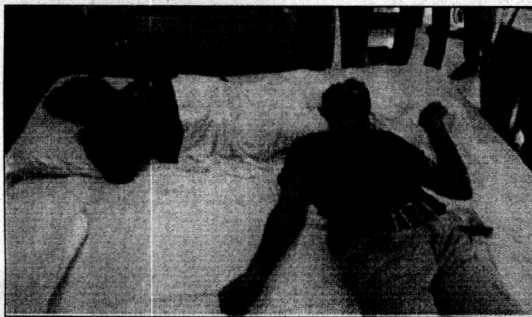
4th & 5th of March 2016

Is it a suicidal pact or dyadic death? A case reportSanjeeva H K R¹ Hulathduwa S R²^{1,2} Dept. of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepure**Introduction**

A suicide pact is an agreed plan between two or more individuals to commit suicide, which may be to die together or separately but closely timed. Suicidal pacts have occurred throughout the history in real life as well as in fiction. It usually comprises of a small number of people such as romantic partners, family members or friends. A suicide pact negotiated over the internet too is heard of in this era of communication. A homicide followed by the perpetrator's suicide almost immediately or soon after the homicide is termed dyadic suicide, murder-suicide or homicide-suicide. Shooting is the commonest method employed in this purpose.

Case report

A South Indian couple was found dead inside a closed A/C hotel room at Wellawatte who came to Sri Lanka one week before for vacation. As they have never come out of the room, the management, after failing to contact them, has informed the police who later found two dead bodies in the room.



The woman was 28 years and the man was 32. The female body showed moderate putrefactive changes while the male body was almost devoid of putrefaction. Bitter almond odour was noticed during the post mortem examination. Hypostasis was bright pink in colour in both bodies. Bright pinkish colour was noticed on Mucosa of stomach and other organs. There were no external or internal injuries. Whitish crystalline material was found in the travelling bag. There

were two glasses of Coca cola. The crystalline material was identified by the Govt. Analyst as a cyanide salt.

**Conclusion**

The bodies showed remarkably different post mortem changes. There were no features of struggle or violence. Whether they died at two different times after consuming a suicidal agent upon common agreement or whether one has introduced the other the poison via the cola drink and then committed suicide is not clear.