

Histopathological features of Eliza Jane Scovill's and Destiny Jacobo's lungs with analysis of the causes of death in both cases

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Abstract

James K. Ribe is a supervising pathologist for the LA County Coroner who oversaw the investigations in Eliza Jane Scovill's and Destiny Jacobo's cases. Eliza Jane suffered from cardiac arrest and died following the administration of four doses of amoxicillin (400 mg twice a day). She died in Los Angeles, California on May 16, 2005 at the age of 3.5 years. Destiny Jacobo, a 21-month-old female toddler died suddenly in December of 1995 in Los Angeles. Ribe concluded that Eliza Jane suffered from *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia and died of AIDS. He listed the cause of death in Destiny's case as shaken baby syndrome with associated head trauma. Ribe also alleged that there was forcible rectal insertion causing a retrorectal contusion.

My review of the medical evidence in Eliza Jane's case clearly indicates that Eliza Jane died as a result of allergic reaction to amoxicillin and she did not die of AIDS. The histological features of her lungs show no evidence of inflammation and fibrosis. Ribe's allegation that Eliza Jane suffered from *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia is not supported by the clinical data and medical facts. Furthermore, my review of the medical evidence in Destiny's case revealed that she suffered from severe acute hemorrhagic pneumonia and septicemia. The bleeding in her case was caused by septicemia and vitamin K deficiency. It also shows that James Ribe's allegations of shaken baby syndrome and sexual abuse made in Destiny's case are not supported by medical facts.

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