

Analysis of causes that led to Evyn Vaughn's respiratory arrest, intracranial and retinal bleeding, and death

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Abstract

Evyn, a 14-month-old male, suffered from respiratory arrest on April 21, 2007, and was taken to the Northwest Texas Hospital. He was treated with several medications but he did not show an improvement. He was pronounced brain dead on April 22. Evyn was given heparin (3600 units IV) and his major organs were harvested for donations. At autopsy, the medical examiner (ME) observed intracranial bleeding, brain edema, widening of the sagittal suture, and optic nerve sheath hemorrhage. He alleged that Evyn's bleeding, injuries, and death were caused by blunt trauma.

Evyn's caretaker was accused of killing him. My investigation reveals that Evyn suffered from respiratory arrest as a result of bacterial infections (*Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae*), pneumonia, and septicemia. Bacterial infections are confirmed by bacterial blood culture, chest CT scan exam, and blood and urine analyses.

The likely causes of Evyn's bleeding were infections and septicemias, liver damage, vitamin K deficiency, and heparin. Hypoxia, medications, bleeding, and increased intracranial pressure (ICP) caused his brain edema and the widening of the sagittal suture. The 27 vaccines given to Evyn and treatment with corticosteroids caused significant health problems and immune depression that led to his infections.

The ME's allegation that Evyn's death was caused by blunt trauma is not supported by medical facts. He did not exam Evyn's lungs, heart, liver, and other infected tissues grossly and/or microscopically. In addition, he did not consider infections, septicemia, heparin, vaccines, and medications in causing Evyn's health problems and death.

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Keywords: Anemia; axonal injury; brain edema; blunt trauma; corticosteroids; *Haemophilus influenzae*; heart problem; heparin; hyperglycemia; intracranial pressure; intracranial bleeding; kidney problem; liver problem; PT; PTT; pneumonia; serum enzyme; *Streptococcus pneumoniae*; and vaccines.
