

DEAD RIGHT – WRITING YOUR AUTOPSY

MEDICAL/AUTOPSY TERMS

ANTERIOR – The front of the body

POSTERIOR – The back of the body

SUPERIOR – Towards the top (head) of the body

INFERIOR – Towards the bottom (feet) of the body

LATERAL – The side of the body

MEDIAL – The middle of the body

PROXIMAL – Towards the torso/the limb's beginning

DISTAL – Towards the limb's end

RIGHT – The body's right, not the viewer's

LEFT – The body's left, not the viewer's

POSTMORTEM – After death

ANTEMORTEM – Before death

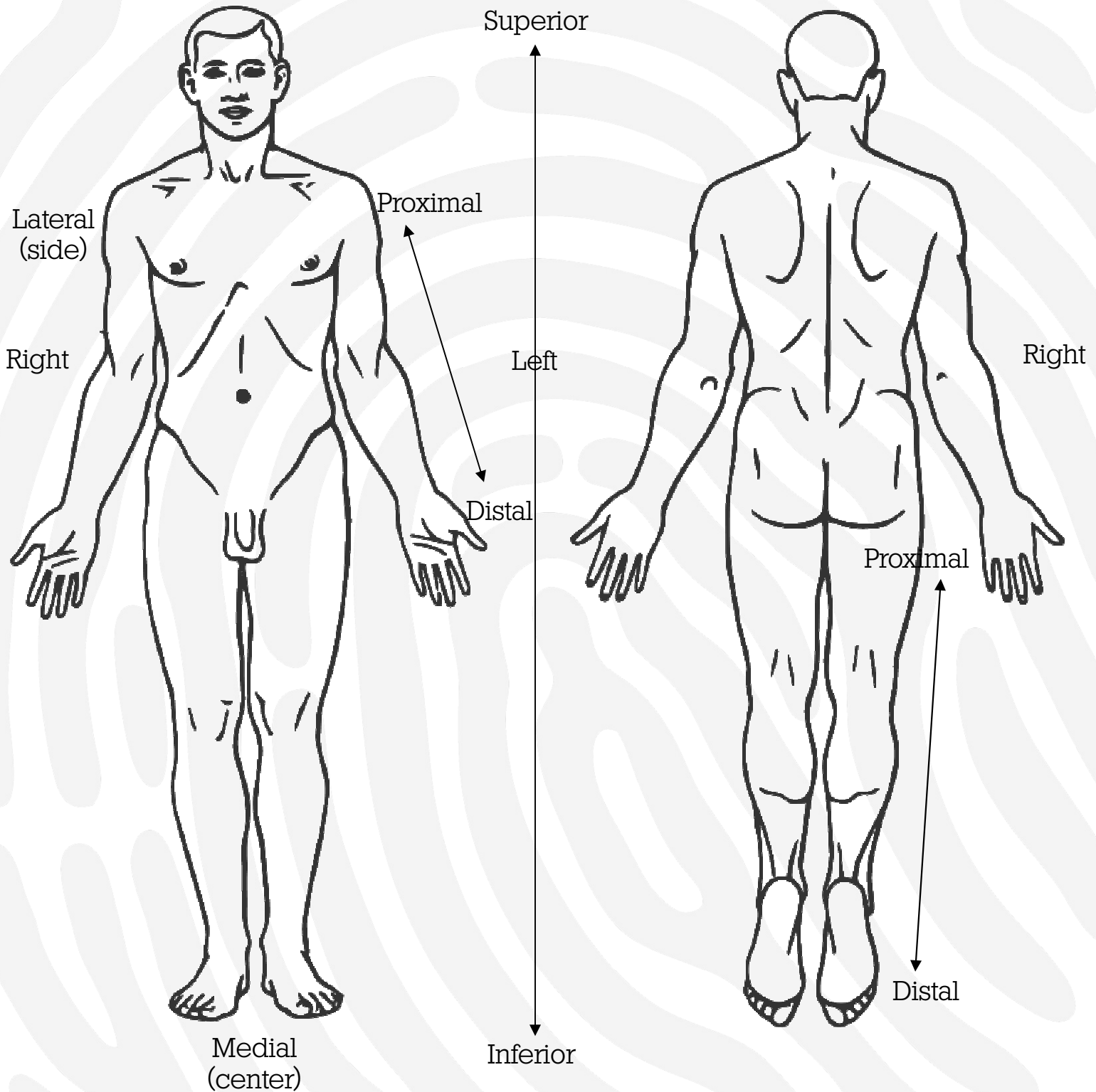
PERIMORTEM – At the time of death

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AUTOPSY CHART WITH TERMS

ANTERIOR

POSTERIOR



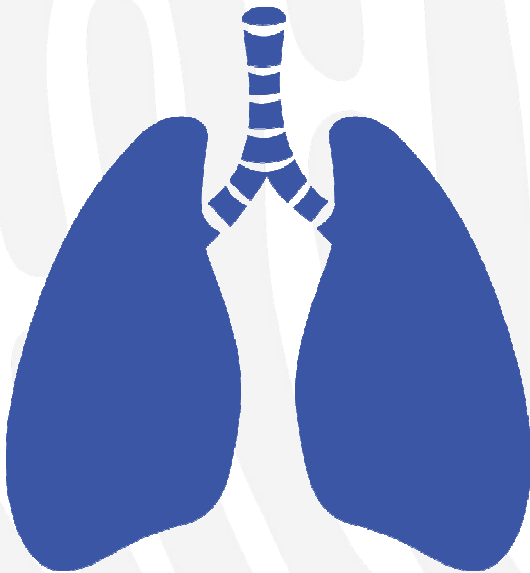
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AUTOPSY – ORGAN STATS



BRAIN

- 3 lbs (1½ kg)
- About the size of a Cornish hen
- The brain has 3 regions
 - Brainstem
 - Cerebellum
 - Cerebrum
- The cerebrum has 4 lobes
 - Frontal
 - Parietal
 - Temporal
 - Occipital
- “Encephalo-” “Cerebral”



LUNGS

- 3 lbs (1½ kg) - Together
 - Right lung is a bit heavier than the left lung
- Right lung is bigger than the left
 - Has 3 lobes
- Left lung is smaller than the right
 - Has to make room for the heart
 - Has 2 lobes
- “Pulmin-”

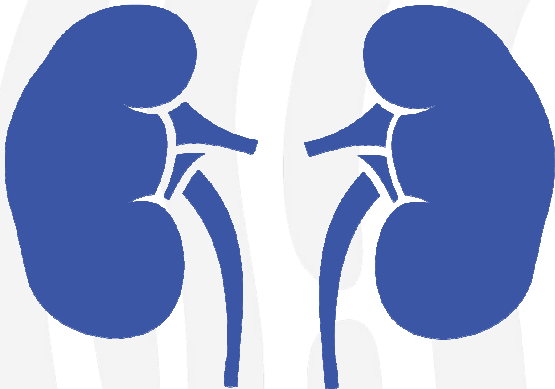
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AUTOPSY – ORGAN STATS



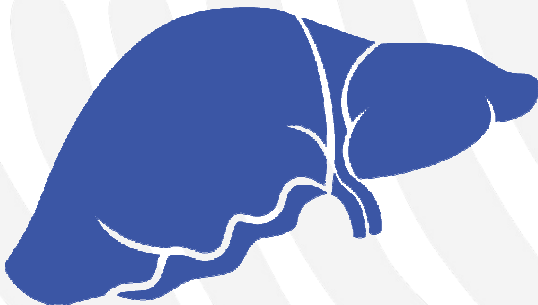
HEART

- 10 oz (280 g)
- Approximately the size of a fist
- Surrounded by the lungs
- “Cardi-”



KIDNEYS

- 5 oz (140 g) – each
- Roughly the size of a bar of soap
- Humans can live off of just one
- “Renal”

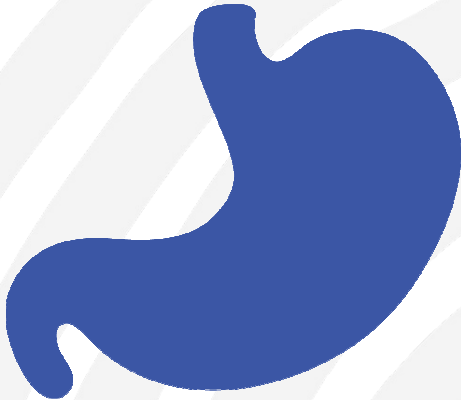


LIVER

- 3 lbs (1½ kg)
- Comprised of two lobes
- The only human organ that can regenerate
- “Hepa-”

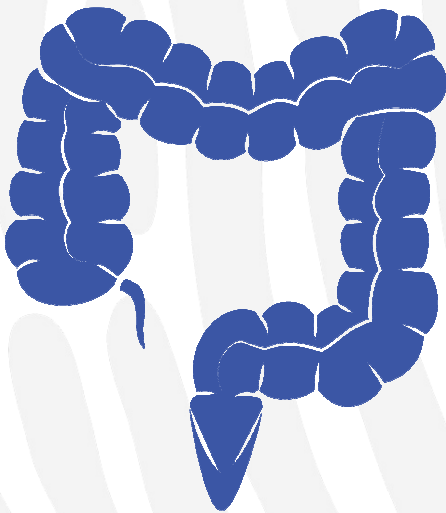
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AUTOPSY – ORGAN STATS



STOMACH

- 1½ lbs (690g) – Varies
- Can hold up to a gallon (4L)
- Food takes 6 – 8 hours to process through the stomach and small intestines
- “Gastro-“



INTESTINES

- Small Intestines
 - 20 feet long (6m)
 - ≈As wide as a finger
 - 3 sections
 - Duodenum
 - Jejunum
 - Ileum
- Large Intestines
 - 5 feet long (1½m)
 - ≈As wide as 3 fingers
 - 4 sections
 - Cecum
 - Colon
 - Rectum
 - Anal Canal
- Appendix is connected to the cecum
- “Entero-“ “Bowels” “Intestin-“

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TIME OF DEATH ESTIMATES

NOT ACCURATE – NEVER TO THE MINUTE

METHOD	TIME WINDOW	NOTES
Rigor Mortis – Stiffening of muscles	24 – 36 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≈8 hrs to set• ≈8 hrs in place• ≈8 hrs to release	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be broken• Can indicate body was moved after death
Livor Mortis – Staining of skin by blood	≈8 hours for all blood to stain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gravity dependent• Can indicate body was moved after death
Algor Mortis – Cooling of the body	Body cools ≈1 – 1½ F per hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many variables can change this rate<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Extreme dry/wet conditions○ Pre-death physical activity○ Changes in environmental temperatures
Entomology – Insect Activity	Blowflies can lay eggs immediately after death <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≈24 hrs for maggots to hatch• ≈7½ days to form hard cocoon (pupa)• ≈5 days to emerge as blowfly• ≈13½ days total	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timelines also exist for other insects<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Beetles feed on maggots so arrive after they hatch○ Larger insects feed on beetles so arrive later still
Potassium deposit rate into the vitreous humor	36 – 120 hour estimate (1½ - 5 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eye liquid• Many variables
Stomach Contents	6 – 8 hours to digest a meal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many variables• Requires deceased to have eaten a meal
Witness Account	Only accurate method <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be to the minute or narrow the timeline to specific hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person can have seen or heard death, or give last known time deceased was alive• Video can give exact time• Documents such as receipts can give last known time deceased was alive