



## **AUTOPSY EXAMINATION DERONTAE MARTIN**

Date of birth: September 6, 2001  
Date of death: April 25, 2021  
Date of examination: May 11, 2021

### **Preliminary information**

Mr. Martin's remains have been previously examined by autopsy. He reportedly had been attending a party in Madison County, Missouri when he sustained a gunshot wound of the head. The family requests a second autopsy.

### **External examination**

The body is clothed in a hospital gown. The appearance of age is approximately as stated. The body weight is increased for height. The body length is approximately 6'2". The body has been previously autopsied and subsequently embalmed. Rigor mortis is fully developed. Livor mortis is fixed and found on the posterior body surfaces. There is some skin slippage present. The chest and back are symmetrical and have normal conformation. The scalp hair is worn short and is brown-black. There is a gunshot wound of the left temple as will be described below. Facial hair is present in the form of a beard and mustache. There is postmortem clouding of the eye features. The sclerae are normal in color. The orbital and periorbital tissues are unremarkable. The conjunctival surfaces are not remarkable. The teeth are in good condition. The gums are normal in appearance. There are no injuries to the lips or tongue. The oral cavity is unremarkable. The nose is symmetrical and the air passages are open. The external ears are normal in appearance. The upper and lower extremities are symmetrical and unremarkable. The fingernails of both index fingers were previously trimmed. The remaining fingernails are trimmed during this second examination and the collected specimens retained.

**Injuries**

There is a gunshot entrance wound of the left temple. The wound is located 9.5 cm left of the midline and 5.2 cm above the left external auditory meatus. The wound has been closed with glue during the embalming process. Upon removal of the glue, the hole has a stellate configuration and measures 1 cm x 2.2 cm. There is no soot or stippling present. There is no corresponding gunshot exit wound of the head. The left temporal bone shows internal beveling from the bullet entrance into the cranial cavity. Associated with the gunshot wound are linear fractures of the anterior cranial fossa and of the calvarium. There is acute hemorrhage of the subgalea over a 10.5 cm area associated with the gunshot wound.

The dorsum of the right hand has 2-3 small, dry abrasions (2-4 mm). The tip of the right fifth finger has a 5 mm area of red ecchymosis.

**Internal examination**

Body cavities: The body is opened with the Y-shaped thoracoabdominal and bitemporal scalp incisions created from the previous autopsy procedure. The right and left pleural cavities are unremarkable. The peritoneal cavity is unremarkable.

Neck organs: The soft tissue of the neck is free of hemorrhage. The hyoid bone is intact. The laryngeal and tracheal airways are widely patent. The larynx is normal. The thyroid gland is normal. The parathyroids are not identified.

Heart: The remaining sections of heart weigh 342 grams. The surface of the heart is smooth, glistening and transparent. The size and contours of the heart are normal. The left ventricular wall thickness is 1.5 cm and the right ventricular wall thickness is 0.3 cm. The endocardium, cardiac valves, and chambers are not remarkable. The coronary arteries are thin-walled and of normal diameter throughout. The cut surface of the myocardium is the normal brownish color.

Vascular system: The aorta and arterial system are not remarkable. The systemic veins are normal.

Lungs: The remaining sections of lungs together weigh 819 grams. The lung tissue throughout is soft and crepitant. The lungs are pink and tan. The air passages are normal throughout and are lined by smooth, pink mucosa. The pulmonary arteries and veins are free of emboli, thrombi, and other gross abnormalities.

Liver: The remaining sections of liver weigh 1,250 grams. The sections are red-brown and of normal consistency. The cut surfaces of the liver are normal.

Pancreas: The pancreas is of normal consistency and appearance.

Gastrointestinal tract: The entire gastrointestinal tract is examined and is found normal.

Spleen: The remaining sections of spleen weigh 186 grams. The cut surface of the spleen is mahogany red and unremarkable.

Bone marrow: The bone marrow is normal in appearance.

Adrenals: The adrenals are not identified following the first autopsy procedure.

Kidneys: The kidneys are grossly of normal configuration; the remaining sections of kidney together weigh 262 grams. The cortices are normal in thickness. The renal capsules strip with ease to reveal a normally smooth cortical surface. The kidneys are of the usual reddish-brown color. There are no abnormalities of the cut surfaces of the kidneys. The papillae, renal pelves and ureters are not remarkable.

Bladder: The urinary bladder wall is entirely normal.

Male genital system: Unremarkable.

Cranial cavity: The reflected scalp shows acute hemorrhage corresponding to the gunshot wound of the head described above. The skull fractures from the gunshot injury are described above. The weight of the remaining sections of brain is 869 grams. The gyri are of normal distribution and development. Cut sections of brain substance show postmortem changes. A distinct bullet track is not identifiable. The cerebrovasculature is not observable following the first autopsy.

Spinal cord: The upper spinal cord as viewed from the cranial cavity is not remarkable.

### **Microscopic examination**

Sections of the gunshot entrance wound are biopsied for microscopic examination. There is mild, focal change of heat effect in the form of "taffy pull" appearance of the squamous epithelium and sparse deposition of black material on the epithelial surface. There are two microscopic foci of black material embedded in the dermal layer. Some artifact is present related to the embalming process.

### **Postmortem toxicology testing**

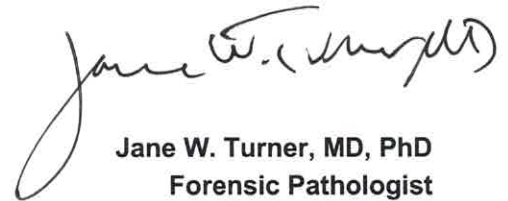
A section of liver is submitted for toxicology testing. Testing reveals the presence of amphetamine and methamphetamine.

**Other materials pending review upon receipt**

- Scene investigation reports and photographs
- First autopsy report, photographs, and radiographs
- Toxicology testing from first autopsy

**Summary and discussion**

The cause of Mr. Martin's death is gunshot wound of head. This examination finds no evidence of contact, close, or intermediate gunshot entrance wound of the head. Pending review of additional investigative information—including materials from the first autopsy examination—the manner of death is undetermined.



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