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Post-mortem Lividity on Soles: A Case of Partial Hanging

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Case Report

(Picture 1)



(Picture 2)



It is common knowledge that post-mortem lividity appears on the most dependent parts of the body. Post-mortem lividity on the soles is not usually described in forensic literature. Here we present a case of partial hanging, where well-marked p.m. lividity is seen on the soles. Pictures 3 and 4 show the ligature, which is rather tightly wound round the neck. Pictures 1 and 2 show well-marked post-mortem lividity on the arches of the feet and also in the folded parts of the toes (portion between the bulb and base of toes; this portion is not in contact with the ground even when the person is standing). Areas of contact flattening are well demarcated.

Forensic pathologists would do well to look for post-mortem staining in these unusual areas too, as it can very easily give away the position of the body after death.

(N.B. Click all pictures to enlarge!)

Note by the editor: General readers may want to know more about post-mortem lividity by clicking here.

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