

OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
CITY OF NEW YORK

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

CASE NO. BX9902858

I hereby certify that I, Margaret Prial, M.D., City Medical Examiner - I, have performed an autopsy on the body of **Johana Vega** on the 19th day of August, 1999, commencing at 9:00 AM in the Bronx Mortuary of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York.

This autopsy was performed in the presence of Dr. Shapiro.

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

The body is of a well developed, well nourished, average framed, 5'-4", 160 lb, light tan skinned Hispanic woman whose appearance is consistent with the reported age of 29 years. The curly brown/~~blonde~~ scalp hair is 9". The <sup>cornea</sup> cornea are cloudy obscuring the color of the irides. There are petechiae in the left bulbar, <sup>left</sup> and palpebral conjunctivae and the <sup>and</sup> right palpebral conjunctivae. Petechiae and confluent hemorrhages of the right bulbar conjunctiva are noted. The oral cavity has natural teeth and is to be further described presently. The anterior and posterior torso and extremities are to be further <sup>described</sup> described presently. The genitalia are of a <sup>normal</sup> ~~female~~ adult female and are atraumatic. The anus is unremarkable. The extremities are without needle or track marks.

**POSTMORTEM CHANGES:**

Rigor mortis is absent. Livor mortis is fixed in a patchy distribution on the anterior aspects of the chest and abdomen with blanching in the middle of the abdomen, anterior aspect of the right leg, and anterior aspect of the left <sup>leg</sup> ~~lung~~ with blanching in the middle of the left thigh. Livor mortis is also fixed on the posterior aspects of the legs. The body is cool.

**CLOTHING:**

The body is received clad in a nightshirt and underpants. There is a drop of blood and feces on the underpants as well as some white crust. Brown paper bags are taped over the right and left hands.

**INJURIES:****HEAD AND NECK:**

There is an approximately 1 x 1" red abrasion overlying the right cheekbone. Multiple small red abrasions of the right and left nares are noted. There are multiple single and confluent red abrasions of the upper and lower lips. Two approximately 1/4" red abrasions are adjacent to the right side of the mouth and on the right side of the chin. There is an approximately 1/4" red abrasion overlying the <sup>right</sup> ~~red~~ side of the mandible. An approximately 1/8" linear red abrasion surrounded by red discoloration of the skin is noted on the left side of the chin. There is an approximately 1-1/2" x 1" area of red discoloration of the skin on

the inferior aspect of the middle of the chin. Underlying blue contusions of this area are also noted. There is a 1/16" linear red abrasion with surrounding red discoloration of the skin on the lower aspect of the left side of the neck. Two red punctate abrasions adjacent to the left corner of the mouth and the left cheek are noted.

There is a cluster of several small approximately 1/8" blue contusions on the right side of the forehead near the hairline. A small blue contusion of the right eyelid is noted.

There is a large amount of petechiae overlying the lower lateral aspect of the left cheek and upper aspect of the left side of the neck covering an area <sup>of</sup> approximately 2-1/2 x 2". Several petechiae of the right cheek are noted.

There are two small red abrasions of the upper gums just above the right central and right lateral incisors. Three small contusions and abrasions of the inner aspect of the upper lip at the right corner of the mouth are noted. There are two small contusions on the lateral aspect of the left side of the <sup>inner aspect of the</sup> upper lip. A large contusion on the <sup>right</sup> side of the inner lower lip and gums is noted. There is an approximately 1/4" fresh hemorrhage on the lateral aspect of the left side of the tongue. An approximately 1/4 x 1/8" fresh hemorrhage in the anterolateral aspect of the left side of the tongue is also noted.

There is a red abrasion of the posterior aspect of the left upper arm just above the elbow. A circular red abrasion of the posterior aspect of the right elbow is also noted. An approximately 1-1/2" blue contusion of the anterior aspect of the right thigh just above the knee is noted. There are four small ill defined blue contusions of the medial aspect of the right knee and an approximately 1/2" blue contusion on the lateral aspect of the right knee. Four approximately 1" blue contusions of the anteromedial aspect of the right lower leg are noted. There is an approximately 1" blue contusion on the lateral aspect of the left knee and an approximately 2" blue contusion of the anteromedial aspect of the left lower leg just below the knee. Two small red abrasions on the dorsum of the left foot are noted.

*These injuries, having been described, will not be repeated.*

#### **INTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

**HEAD:** The scalp has no contusion. The skull has no fracture. There is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage. The brain weighs 1210 gm, has normally distributed cranial nerves, and is fixed in formalin along with the spinal cord for further study.

**NECK:** The cervical vertebrae, hyoid bone, tracheal and laryngeal cartilages, and paratracheal soft tissues are without trauma. The upper airway is not obstructed.

**BODY CAVITIES:** The thoracic and abdominal organs are in the normal anatomic relations. There are no fibrous adhesions or abnormal fluid accumulations of the pericardial sac, pleural, or peritoneal cavities.

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** There are minimal fatty streaks of the aorta. The venae cavae and pulmonary arteries are without thrombus or embolus. The heart weighs 300 gm and has a normal distribution of right predominant coronary arteries without atherosclerotic stenoses of the epicardial vessels. The myocardium is uniformly dark red without pallor, hemorrhage, softening, or scars. The left ventricle wall is 1 cm thick. The endocardial surfaces and four cardiac valves are unremarkable. ✓

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** The right lung weighs 400 gm; the left lung weighs 360 gm. Each lung is congested and edematous. There is no hemorrhage, consolidation, or obstruction. The bronchial distribution and vasculature are unremarkable.

**LIVER, GALLBLADDER, PANCREAS:** The liver weighs 2830 gm, has an intact capsule, and uniform brown parenchyma without slippery or fibrous texture. The gallbladder contains approximately 2 ml of bile and is unremarkable. The pancreas has normal lobulation, color, and texture.

**HEMIC AND LYMPHATIC SYSTEMS:** The spleen weighs 120 gm, has a smooth intact capsule, and soft dark red parenchyma with normal white pulp. There are no lymph node enlargements.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The right kidney weighs 140 gm; the left <sup>kidney</sup> ~~lung~~ weighs 150 gm. Each kidney has a smooth subcapsular surface with <sup>few</sup> small scars. The architecture and vasculature are unremarkable. The ureters maintain uniform caliber and empty into an unremarkable bladder containing approximately 0.5 ml of urine. Each ovary contains a well formed hemorrhagic corpus luteum. The fallopian tubes and uterus are unremarkable. The endometrium is soft, tan, and edematous. The external cervical os is round. The vagina is atraumatic.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The pituitary, thyroid, and adrenal glands are each normal in size, color, and consistency.

**DIGESTIVE SYSTEM:** The esophagus and gastroesophageal junction are unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 50 ml of red fluid with few fragments of food. The small intestine, appendix, and large intestine are unremarkable.

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:** The vertebrae, clavicles, sternum, ribs, and pelvis are

BX9902858

JOHANA VEGA

Page 10

without fracture. The musculature is normally distributed and is unremarkable.

*Margaret Prial 9/15/99*  
Margaret Prial, M.D.

City Medical Examiner - I

MP:wwd  
8/24/99:jg