

Official Report



Division of Forensic Sciences
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
State of Georgia

Headquarters
DOFS Case #: 2021-1000972
Report Date: 03/16/2021

Cleveland Miles
Deputy Director

ANAB Accredited ISO/IEC 17025
Testing Laboratory



Requested Service: Toxicology - Postmortem

Agency: Dalton Police Department
Agency Ref#: 21000174
Requested by: T. Ensley

Case Individuals:

Victim: Alexander John Coppola

Evidence:

On 01/13/2021, the laboratory received the following evidence from the GBI-Medical Examiner-HQ DOFS via Lockbox.

2021-1000972-002	Sealed plastic bag(s) containing the following items identified as collected from Alexander John Coppola.
2021-1000972-002A	Four tubes containing heart blood
2021-1000972-002B	Two tube(s) containing urine
2021-1000972-002C	Jar containing liver
2021-1000972-002D	One tube(s) containing iliac blood
2021-1000972-002E	One tube(s) containing vitreous fluid

Results and Conclusions:

Drug Screen Results by: Immunoassay

Subm#:	Drug Screen Classification	Result
002D	Not Applicable	Negative

Drug Confirmation Results

Submission 002D

- 1) Positive, sertraline, 0.23 mg/L (+/- 0.07 mg/L) {LC/MS/MS, LC-HRMS/MS}
- 2) Negative for: {LC-HRMS/MS}
Certain amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabinoids (marijuana), common opioids, and cocaine/cocaine metabolites.
- 3) Positive, mirtazapine {LC/MS/MS, LC-HRMS/MS}
Lower than the lowest calibrator of 0.125 mg/L.
- 4) Positive, mitragynine {LC/MS/MS, LC-HRMS/MS}
- 5) Positive, lorazepam {LC/MS/MS, LC-HRMS/MS}
Lower than the lowest calibrator of 25 µg/L.
- 6) Positive, zopiclone {LC/MS/MS, LC-HRMS/MS}
Lower than the lowest calibrator of 50 µg/L.

Abbreviations:

GC/MS = Gas chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
LC/MS/MS = Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry/Mass Spectrometry
LC-HRMS/MS = Liquid Chromatography - High Resolution Mass Spectrometry/Mass Spectrometry

Measurement Uncertainty:

Estimations of measurement uncertainty for all toxicology quantitations are reported at a coverage probability of 95.45%.

Only those items discussed in the results above were analyzed for this report. The above represents the interpretations/opinions of the undersigned analyst. Unless noted above, evidence analyzed in this report will be returned to the submitting agency. Biological evidence (body fluids and tissues) and proof determination evidence will be destroyed after one year. This report may not be reproduced except in full without written permission of the laboratory.

Technical notes and data supporting the conclusions and findings in this report are maintained within the laboratory case records.

This case may contain evidence that must be preserved in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 17-5-56.



Aristides Passas
Forensic Toxicologist
404-270-8225
Aristides.Passas@gbi.ga.gov

Related Agencies:

Conasauga Judicial Circuit
GBI-Medical Examiner-HQ DOFS
Whitfield Co. Coroner
Whitfield Co. District Attorney

ACN: DR.LEHMAN

End of Official Report

Official Report



Division of Forensic Sciences
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
State of Georgia

Headquarters

DOFS Case #: 2021-1000972

Report Date: 07/20/2021

Cleveland Miles
Deputy Director

* NAME Accredited *



Requested Service: Autopsy

Agency: Whitfield Co. Coroner
Agency Ref#:
Requested by: C. McDaniel

Case Individuals:

Victim: Alexander John Coppola

Evidence:

On 01/12/2021, the laboratory received the following evidence from the Whitfield Co. Coroner.
2021-1000972-001 DECEDENT

Results and Conclusions:

Evidence Submission: 001

REASON FOR EXAMINATION:

Alexander Coppola was a 31-year-old man who, according to reports, was found deceased at his residence. He has a history of depression and narcolepsy. Additional information is in the investigative report filed in this office.

EXAMINATION TIME AND PLACE:

Under the provisions of the Georgia Death Investigation Act, an autopsy is performed at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in Decatur, Georgia, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENTATION OF BODY AND ASSOCIATED ITEMS:

The body is received supine in a body bag. Received with the body are identification tags inscribed with the decedent's name. A tag attached to the decedent's right foot is inscribed with his name.

Clothing and personal effects worn on the body consist of eyeglasses, multicolored button up-style jacket, long corduroy pants with a brown leather-type belt in the beltloops of the pants, underwear, and a wristwatch (around the left wrist). Also received with the body is one brown sandal.

EVIDENCE OF RECENT MEDICAL INTERVENTION:

None

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is that of an unembalmed White male, consistent in appearance with the listed age of 31 years. He has a body length of 76 inches and a weight of 182 pounds.

The scalp hair is brown and short. The top of the scalp exhibits partial balding. Brown beard

stubble is present. The skin and soft tissue of the face appear intact, and the facial bones are intact to palpation. The sclerae appear anicteric, the corneas are mildly clouded, and the conjunctivae are without identified petechiae or other hemorrhage. The nose is fairly symmetrical and intact to palpation. Intraoral examination reveals natural-appearing teeth in good condition and no identified intraoral injuries or oral mucosal petechiae. A tattoo inscription on the oral mucosa adjacent to the bilateral lower lip reads "BOSS". Examination of the ears and mastoid regions reveals no significant abnormalities. Examination of the neck reveals a small scar on the right upper neck laterally at the undersurface of the jaw.

The chest is symmetrical. A small contusion on the right lower chest is present. The abdomen is without distension. The penis has been circumcised, and the testicles are descended without palpable enlargement or masses.

The extremities are well developed and symmetrical. All digits are present. The fingernails are short to medium length, have smooth edges, are clean, and are intact. What appears to be a tattoo depicting a stylized design is on the inner aspect of the right upper arm. Several curvilinear scars are present on the posterior medial right forearm up to approximately 2 inches in length. A circular scar approximately 1 inch in diameter is on the anterior mid left forearm. A small area of scarring, also on the anterior mid medial left forearm, may represent patterned scarring and is suggestive of a brand. Patchy mild scarring involves the anterior shins. Two small abrasions involve the top of the right foot. A multicolored tattoo depicting a stylized design is on the right thigh laterally.

Rigor mortis is moderate to well formed. The body is cool to cold to the touch. Livor mortis is predominantly posterior with additional involvement of the face and anterior neck and is fixed. Early marbling involves the face and more well-developed marbling involves the neck and upper chest. Green discoloration involves the lower portion of the abdomen.

Frequent small scars are present on the posterior neck and bilateral upper back. The buttocks and posterior aspects of the legs appear unremarkable.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

Torso:

The torso is opened in the usual fashion. Neither unusual fluid collections nor prominent fibrous adhesions involve the chest or abdominal cavities. The organs appear in normal locations.

Cardiovascular System:

The heart weighs 330 grams. The epicardium is unremarkable. The coronary arteries have normal origins and distributions and are widely patent. The right and left ventricles are prominently dilated, consistent at least in part with changes of early postmortem decomposition. The left ventricle is concentric and without wall thickening. The myocardium is homogeneous and brown. The cardiac valves are grossly unremarkable. The aorta is intact.

Respiratory System:

The right and left lungs weigh 870 and 720 grams, respectively. The surfaces of the lungs are smooth and intact. The tracheobronchial tree is not obstructed. The pulmonary arterial tree is without identified thromboemboli or atherosclerosis. The pulmonary parenchyma is congested and edematous and without consolidation or tumor.

Digestive System:

The esophagus is grossly unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 75 ml of thin, cloudy green fluid. Examination of the small and large intestines including multifocal opening

reveals unremarkable luminal contents and no identified significant abnormality. The appendix has a normal appearance.

The liver weighs 1640 grams. The capsule of the liver is intact, and the parenchyma is homogeneous, soft, and brown. The gallbladder and pancreas have normal appearances.

Reticuloendothelial System:

The spleen weighs 110 grams. The capsule of the spleen is intact, and the parenchyma is grossly unremarkable. No lymphadenopathy is seen.

Urogenital System:

The right and left kidneys weigh 130 and 120 grams, respectively. The surfaces of the kidneys are smooth, and sectioning the kidneys reveals no identified abnormalities. The urinary bladder is distended with urine and otherwise unremarkable. The prostate gland and testicles are grossly unremarkable.

Endocrine System:

The adrenal, thyroid, and pituitary glands are grossly unremarkable.

Head:

Reflection of the scalp reveals no evidence of scalp injury. Examination of the skull after stripping the dura reveals no identified fractures. The brain weighs 1680 grams. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate. Examination of the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brainstem including serial sectioning reveals no evidence of significant edema, surface hemorrhage, parenchymal hemorrhage, or infarction.

Neck:

The bony and cartilaginous structures of the neck appear intact. No hemorrhage is seen within the strap muscles or perilaryngeal soft tissue. The tracheolaryngeal airway contains white frothy fluid.

OTHER PROCEDURES:

1. Documentary photographs are taken.
2. Iliac blood, central blood, vitreous fluid, urine, and liver are submitted for toxicological testing.
3. Vitreous fluid is held frozen in the Medical Examiner's Office.
4. Blood is dried on a card and held at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.
5. Small sections of internal organs are retained in formalin in the Medical Examiner's Office.
6. All other portions of internal organs are released with the body.
7. The personal effects are released with the body.
8. Carbon monoxide testing of blood via the Avoximeter 4000 reveals a carboxyhemoglobin level of 0.0%.

FINDINGS AND DIAGNOSES:

- I. Reports of toxicological testing
 - A. Testing of iliac blood:
 1. Alcohol (ethanol) 0.249 grams per 100 ml (~equivalent to 0.249 on the breathalyzer scale)
 2. Mitragnine 0.29 mg/L (quantitation performed by NMS Labs)
 3. Sertraline 0.23 mg/L

4. Mirtazapine <0.125 mg/L
 5. Zopiclone <0.05 mg/L
 6. Lorazepam <0.025 mg/L
 7. Carbon monoxide 0.0% (Avoximeter 4000)
- B. Testing of vitreous fluid: Alcohol (ethanol) 0.307 grams per 100 ml (~equivalent to 0.307 on the breathalyzer scale)

II. Minor traumatic injuries

III. Early postmortem decomposition

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Acute toxicity of mitragynine and alcohol

MANNER OF DEATH:

Accident

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Keith Lehman
Associate Medical Examiner
404-270-8186
keith.lehman@gbi.ga.gov

Related Agencies:

Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Dalton Police Department
GBI-Medical Examiner-HQ DOFS
Whitfield Co. District Attorney

ACN: 21000174
ACN: DR.LEHMAN

End of Official Report