

## Forensic Presentation of Malignant Lymphoma in a Teenager Who had Resorted to Abortion

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Received: August 02, 2017; Published: September 19, 2017

### Abstract

Pathological investigation in Police cases may yield surprises. Thus, cancer may be the surprise finding. Therefore, this paper presents the picture of malignant lymphoma being responsible when abortion had been carried out.

**Keywords:** Forensic; Pathology; Death; Abortion; Teenager; Lymphoma; Igbo

### Introduction

A good example of the world practice comes from Finland where forensic autopsy may reveal underlying malignancy [1]. Therefore, the present case is deemed noteworthy not only because abortion was attempted but also because malignant lymphoma was detected. Moreover, this comes from Eastern Nigeria whose Western part contributed an interesting paper in which 2 deaths occurred as those of criminal abortions among 400 consecutive medico-legal autopsies [2].

### Case Report

EP a 16-year-old girl became ill with the complaint of swelling of the abdomen. Five weeks after the swelling started, she missed her period. She was given some tablets to take by a quack with the fear that she was pregnant. About 2 months after the illness started, she died. The matter was referred to the Police who suspected death from abortion. The junior author (IEC) was the Police Doctor, whose autopsy findings revealed massive bilateral swellings of both ovaries with tumor tissue. The liver, intestines and heart were all riddled with secondary deposits.

On microscopy, the senior author (WIBO) found diffuse growth of the small round celled type. Invasion was clearly apparent in the pleura, myocardium and intestine. Some tissues were so replaced as to be unrecognizable. Disseminated lymphoma was therefore diagnosed.

### Discussion

Obscure illness in a teenage female may be attributed to abortion which is rather prevalent all over the world [3-5]. Therefore, it is well that the forensic system of carrying out autopsies is such a standard practice that it was useful in cases of fatal embolism related to sexual activities [6,7]. It is of interest that lymphoma was reported from Australia in terms of associated pulmonary aspergillosis [8] with reference to a persistent fever case.

From Nigeria, there were local cases involving immunohistochemical characterization of lymphoma [9]. Also, orofacial manifestations were documented [10]. In this context, both reports accord well with the present forensic parameter.

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**Volume 5 Issue 5 September 2017**

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