

Glossary

Abrasion:	The most superficial of blunt force injuries, a scrape of the top layer of the skin.
Adhesions:	Fibrous bands of scar tissue that form between internal organs and tissues, joining them together abnormally.
Arrhythmia:	Abnormal rhythm (beating) of the heart which can be fatal.
Asphyxia:	A lack of oxygen to the body.
Autolysis:	When tissues break down and dies after death.
Bacteriology:	Samples can be taken from the body to look for bacteria and see if this is related to death.
Conjunctiva:	Thin membrane that lines the eye above and below the sclera (the white part of the eye).
Haemorrhage:	Bleeding.
Histology:	Small tissue samples that are taken, processed and put onto slides for assessment under a microscope.
Hypostasis:	Blood pooling under the skin by gravity after death.
Ischaemia:	The result of a lack of oxygenated blood getting to an organ/ tissue.
Laceration:	The most severe blunt force injury whereby there is tearing of the skin and also possibly the underlying tissues and organs.
Microbiology:	The diagnosis of infection caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses; identification of the best treatment options for infection; and the monitoring of antibiotic resistance. It also includes testing for how well a patient is responding to treatment of infection. Bacteriology is the same thing.
Neuropathology:	The branch of cellular pathology that is concerned with the diagnosis of diseases of the brain, spinal cord, skeletal muscle and nerves by the examination of biopsy specimens and through post mortem examinations.
Oedema:	Swelling due to excess fluid in body tissues.
Petechia:	Small spots on the skin or membranes that can be caused by asphyxia.

Sclera: The white of the eyes

Subcutaneous: Just under the skin surface.

Subgaleal haemorrhage:

Bleeding in the tissues that underlie the skin of the scalp, the tissues between the scalp and skull.

Toxicology: The branch of pathology concerned with the study of drugs and poisons and its effects on the body.

Virology: The study of viruses and the diseases caused by them.