

Case 2

Submitted by: Dr. John J. Kepes, University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas City, Kansas 66103

and

Dr. L. William Halling, Hays Pathology Laboratories, Hays, Kansas 67601

This patient was a 34 year old man who was found dead in his apartment, face down on a waterbed. It was believed that he had been dead for about twentyfour hours. It was known that the deceased had received mysoline and phenobarbital during his lifetime for convulsive seizures. There was no evidence suggesting suicide or foul play, but the local coroner ordered an autopsy because he wanted to rule out possible drug overdose. Post mortem chemical examination of the blood revealed only therapeutic levels of phenobarbital. The body was arterially embalmed at the local funeral home and subsequently an autopsy was performed. The only significant gross findings were those of bilateral pulmonary edema and a swollen-appearing brain weighing 1,780 grams, with narrowing of the ventricles on cut surfaces but no other gross changes.

The pathologist performing the autopsy examined the brain microscopically and expressed his concern about the presence of large numbers of amorphous basophilic bodies in the white matter and wondered if they may represent some metabolic storage phenomenon, possibly accounting for the history of seizures, or drug deposits relating to prior therapy or other circumstances. Your section is from cerebellar white matter near the dentate nucleus with arrow indicating an area where several of the bodies in question may be found. The slides are stained with hematoxylin-eosin.

Points for discussion: 1. Diagnosis

2. Correlation of histologic findings with the known facts about this case.