Performing an Autopsy
What Warrants an Autopsy

- Questionable Death - as determined by the coroner
- Homicide
- Drowning
- Auto Accidents
- Death of a child
Used to Collect Vitreous
Benefits of Autopsy

Discover cause of death for:

- Criminal cases
- Family peace of mind
- Genetic disease or deformity
- Insurance claims
- Medical advancement
X-Ray
External Examination

- Trace Evidence
- Sign of injury or mistreatment
- Sign of illness, disease, or abnormalities
Body Block
Trunk Dissection

- Y-shaped incision
- From the shoulders to the pelvic bone
- This incision is deep
Opening the Chest

- Skin & muscle, are pulled from the chest wall
- Chest Plate is extracted
- Heart is extracted
Removal and Dissection of the Organs

- One organ at a time
- All body organs at once - ”Rokitansky Method”
- Upon removal each organ is:
  - Weighed & measured
  - Examined
  - Sliced in cross sections
  - Sampled for microscopic & chemical analysis
“Running the Gut”

The contents of the stomach, intestines, and bowels must be inspected as well.
Removing the Brain

The Scalp is cut ear to ear across the crown of the head
Exposing the Skull

Next the scalp is pulled forward and back to expose the skull
Exposing the Brain

Two methods of cutting the skull cap
Removal of the Brain

- Spinal Cord is cut
- The soft brain is removed
- Brain is so soft it must be placed in formaldehyde for about a week before an in depth examination
Close Up

- Skull cap is replaced
- Skin pulled back in place
- Body Organs may or may not be replaced
- Incisions are sown up with the use of a baseball stitch