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M. Tsokos (ed), Forensic pathology reviews, vol 2

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This is the second volume of a series of forensic pathology reviews. Both the first and this second volume cover selected topics of practical relevance to the forensic pathologist. In a preface, the editor defines forensic pathology as a transverse, multiorgan approach that includes autopsy, histology, immunohistochemistry, bacteriology, DNA techniques and toxicology to resolve obscure fatalities. The authors of the individual chapters in this second volume follow this definition by providing detailed and practical surveys of their respective topics. Volume 2 contains 13 different chapters:

1. Death as a result of starvation: diagnostic criteria
2. Skull injuries caused by blows with glass bottles
3. Primary cerebral neoplasms as a cause of sudden unexpected death
4. Obesity epidemic in the United States: a cause of morbidity and premature death
5. Infant and early childhood asphyxial deaths: diagnostic issues
6. Complex suicides
7. Occupation-related suicides
8. Sudden, unexpected death related to viral myocarditis: a survey of histological, immunohistochemical, and molecularpathological methods for the postmortem diagnosis
9. Human primitive behavior
10. Arthropods and corpses
11. Practical toxicology for the forensic pathologist
12. Long-term effects of anabolic-androgenic-steroid abuse: morphological findings associated with fatal outcome
13. Subendocardial hemorrhages

Similar to volume 1, most of the authors are internationally known researchers in their scientific fields. Most of the chapters, therefore, are up-to-date surveys which can also serve as a practical guide to daily forensic pathological and medicolegal routine. The high quality of most chapters makes this second volume a valuable source of recent information which will complement rather than replace classic textbooks in forensic pathology. In reviewing the first volume, this reviewer had expressed his hope that the following volumes of this series will maintain the high standard set up by the first volume. The second volume has definitely fulfilled this expectation.