

Course Overview

Forensic Medicine

Course code :	AMT 706
Course title:	Forensic Medicine
Level/semester:	Seventh Semester
Preceding Courses & Main Subjects	- Human Anatomy & Physiology- Toxicology- Medical examinations
Credit hours: 3	Theoretical: 2
	Practical: 1

Course contents

FORENSIC MEDICINE (FORENSIC PATHOLOGY)

1. Definition of Forensic Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence .
2. Courts in India and their powers: Supreme Court, High Court, Sessions Court, Additional Sessions Court, Magistrate's Courts .
3. Court procedures: Summons, conduct money, oath, affirmation, perjury, types of witnesses, recording of evidence, conduct of doctor in witness box .
4. Medical certification and medico-legal reports including dying declaration .
5. Death :
 - a) Definition, types; somatic, cellular and brain-death .
 - b) Sudden natural and unnatural deaths .
 - c) Suspended animation .
6. Changes after death :
 - a) Immediate changes, cooling of body, lividity, rigor mortis, cadaveric spasm & cold stiffening and heat stiffening .
 - b) Putrefaction, mummification, adipocere and maceration .
 - c) Postmortem artifacts .
7. Inquest: Inquest by police, magistrate .
8. Identification :
 - a) Definition
 - b) Identification of unknown person, dead bodies and remains of a person by age, sex, stature, dental examination, scars, moles, tattoos & dactylography, DNA typing and personal belonging including photographs .
9. Exhumation .
10. Medico-legal autopsies :
 - a) Definitions of medico-legal and clinical/pathological autopsies .
 - b) Objectives, procedures, formalities of medico-legal autopsies .
 - c) Preservation of articles of importance, during autopsy .
 - d) Preservation of body fluids & viscera in suspected poisoning .
11. Mechanical injuries or wounds :
 - a) Definition, classification of mechanical injuries; description of blunt force & sharp force and firearm injuries .
 - b) Medico-legal aspects of injuries, differences between antemortem and post-mortem injuries, estimation of age of different types of injuries &

defence injuries, hesitation cuts; fabricated injuries; simple and grievous hurt, suicidal/accidental/homicidal injuries; causes of death by mechanical injuries. Identification of injuries by torture .

12. Regional injuries: Injuries to Head, Neck, Thorax, Abdomen, Pelvis, Genitalia & Vertebral column and Bones .

13. Injuries due to physical agents and their medico-legal importance; cold, heat & electricity and lightning, explosions and radioactive substances .

14. Asphyxial deaths: Definition, causes, types, post-mortem appearances and medico-legal significance of hanging, strangulation, suffocation and drowning .

15. Deaths due to starvation .

16. Sexual Offences: Virginity, rape, unnatural sexual offences; sexual perversions .

17. Criminal abortion, Medical Termination of Pregnancy, 1971 .

18. Infant and childhood deaths: Viability, determination of age of foetus, live birth, still birth and dead born child, sudden infant death syndrome, child abuse, medico-legal aspects of precipitate labour .

19. Biological fluids :

a) Blood-Preservation, dispatch of samples, importance of blood group in disputed paternity, hazards of blood transfusion .

b) Seminal stains-Preservation and dispatch of samples .

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

1. Definition and brief overview of common mental illnesses .

2. True and feigned mental illness .

3. Civil and criminal responsibilities of a mentally ill person .

4. Indian Mental Health Act, 1987 with special reference to admission, care and discharge of a mentally ill person .

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE

1. Indian Medical Council and State Medical Councils; their functions and disciplinary control .

2. Rights and privileges and duties of a registered medical practitioner & Disciplinary proceedings and penal erasure .

3. .Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics in medical practice .

4. .Professional secrecy, privileged communication .

5. .Medical Negligence: Civil and criminal negligence, contributory negligence & vicarious liability, res ipsa loquitur, prevention of medical negligence and defences in medical negligence suits .

6. Consent: Types, informed consent, age in relation to consent, consent in relation to mental illness and alcohol intoxication , emergency and consent .

7.The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (Prohibition of sex selection)

8 . Human Organ Transplant Act, 1994 .

9 . Consumer Protection Act, 1994 .

10. Certification of births, deaths, illness and fitness

11 .Euthanasia

Suggested topics for e-learning:

1. Examination of an injured patient and report writing.

2. Examination of victim of sexual assault and report writing.

Suggested topics for integrated teaching

1. Death and dying

2. Organ transplant

3. Poisoning

4. Ethical & Medico legal issues in clinical practices

5. Child abuse

6. HIV/AIDS

7. Alcoholism