

AUTOPSY PLANNING

Planning ahead

- Neurodegenerative disorders are progressive diseases that attack the brain and often result in impaired memory, thinking, and behavior.
- Although technology has progressed leading to a more accurate diagnosis, oftentimes there are no clinical tests to identify neurodegenerative disorders.
- It is important to plan ahead to request a brain autopsy. Ideally, individuals with neurodegenerative disorders will have made their wishes about autopsy known.
- Planning ahead allows a family peace of mind during the grieving period and ensures the autopsy will be properly performed.

The information gained from brain autopsy gives families comfort and a better opportunity to monitor their future healthcare needs.

*For more information
on autopsy planning
please contact....*



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*You can help us
unravel the mysteries
of neurodegenerative
disorders...*



*... providing a
lasting gift for the
generations to come.*

Autopsy Planning

WHY CONSIDER AUTOPSY?

- **Confirmation of diagnosis**
A confirmed diagnosis provides families with vital medical information and may be valuable to future generations.
- **Information on aging**
We don't know everything about how our brain changes as we age. We need to compare brain tissue from people who have had a neurodegenerative disorder (such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease) with those who do not.



- **Research advancement**
Brain donation provides valuable information for researchers to advance the search for a cure.
- **Accurate reporting**
The incidence of a particular neurodegenerative disorder may be underestimated.



CONCERNS ABOUT AUTOPSY

Can we still have an open casket?

There should be no apparent marks to the body as the result of a brain autopsy. The autopsy should not interfere with the family's request for an open casket.

Can we still use our family funeral director?

Yes, you can. After autopsy the deceased is sent to the funeral home of your choice.

Will the funeral arrangements be delayed?

When arranged prior to the individual's death, brain autopsy generally does not delay funeral arrangements.

How long will it be before the reports are available?

Families will receive a written report approximately six – twelve months after the autopsy has been performed. However, in some areas it may take longer.

Can I have a brain autopsy and still do organ donation?

In some states you can do both. To be sure, check with your state organ donation agency as they may have a separate consent for organ donation.

What if I change my mind?

The decision to have or to not have an autopsy is up to you and your family. You can change your mind at any time.

Who will pay for the costs associated with the brain autopsy?

Generally, if individuals are involved in research projects, the costs of the brain only autopsy are covered in the research protocol. In addition, other costs associated with brain autopsy, such as transportation costs, are also paid by the research study. The cost of brain autopsy varies in different areas depending on the resources available.

