

DEGODING DEATH WIRTUALLY IN INDIA

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Ever heard of Virtual Autopsy?

Virtual autopsy is a non-invasive method that uses imaging technologies to examine a body for cause of death and injuries, eliminating the need for traditional invasive autopsies.





Unlike traditional autopsies, which require incisions and tissue sampling, virtual autopsies are non-invasive and do not require physical alteration of the body.





Virtual Autopsy focuses on specific body areas, like the thoracic region, to identify the cause of death without major incisions.





History of Virtual Autopsy:

Dr. Michael Thali introduced virtual autopsies in 1999, creating 3D body models for second opinions. Now common in Swiss forensics and gaining global popularity, it preserves 3D information without altering anatomy, outweighing costs.





India Adoption

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan showed interest in AIIMS and ICMR's initiative to establish a virtual autopsy lab. The Indian Council of Medical Research provided Rs 5 crore to AIIMS for this purpose.





Initially exclusive to AIIMS, the virtual autopsy facility will extend to other medical institutions nationwide with AIIMS providing training. Institutions like AIIMS Bibinagar, AIIMS Nagpur, Government Medical College Kashmir, PGIMS Rohtak, and others are also setting up virtual autopsy centers. Discussions are happening globally with the Dubai police and Kazakhstan government.





Virtual autopsies have proven highly effective, with the UK leading the way, conducting around 13,000 cases annually in post-mortem imaging and virtual autopsies





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