

The virtopsy approach : 3D optical and radiological scanning and reconstruction in forensic medicine

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Abstrak

A virtopsy (virtual autopsy) is a minimally invasive alternative that can produce an efficient autopsy. The range of technologies employed in virtopsies include computer tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy, and 3D photogrammetry and surface scanning.

Charred, badly decomposed, or mummified corpses, as well as those restrictions forced upon coroners by certain religious sects, often make autopsies impossible to perform. In addition, lack of manpower among the personnel charged with performing autopsies frequently creates a backlog of cases in the coroner's office. This delay increases the likelihood that causes of death will go undetermined and criminal perpetrators will go unpunished. The solution can be found in what has come to be known as the virtopsy®, a minimally invasive and efficient way to perform an autopsy.