Analysis of causes that led to bleeding, cardiac arrest, and death in the case of Baby Nadine

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Abstract

Ezbjörn Hahne was accused and convicted of killing his 40 day old daughter, Nadine, by shaking force (Shaking Baby Syndrome). Nadine suffered from cardiac arrest and died on September 16, 2004. The examination of her body and organs at autopsy and bone x-ray revealed no evidence of injuries caused by trauma. Ezbjörn was accused and convicted of killing Nadine based on the finding of old and new intracranial bleeding during autopsy.

My investigation of this case clearly indicates that Nadine died as a result of health problems and vitamin K deficiency that led to intracranial bleeding, edema of the brain, neurological problems, and cardiac arrest. Nadine was treated with three courses of antibiotics during her short life and had other predisposing factors for vitamin K deficiency. The evidence indicates that the intracranial bleeding occurred probably during the four weeks prior to Nadine's death.

Nadine was born at 33 weeks of gestation by caesarian section. Her mother suffered from pregnancy complications that led to the premature rupture of the fetal membranes. She also had a urinary tract infection that was treated with antibiotics for 10 days following delivery. Nadine suffered from infection, hemolytic jaundice, neurological problems, and retardation of growth. She gained only 625 g during her 40 days of life (15.6 g/day), which is about 58% below of the weight gain expected for an infant her age.

Keywords: antibiotic, bleeding, edema, gliosis of the brain, hemolytic anemia, jaundice, retardation of growth, premature labor, subdural beeding, shaken baby syndrome, vitamin K deficiency