

Management of Medico Legal cases in a Hospital



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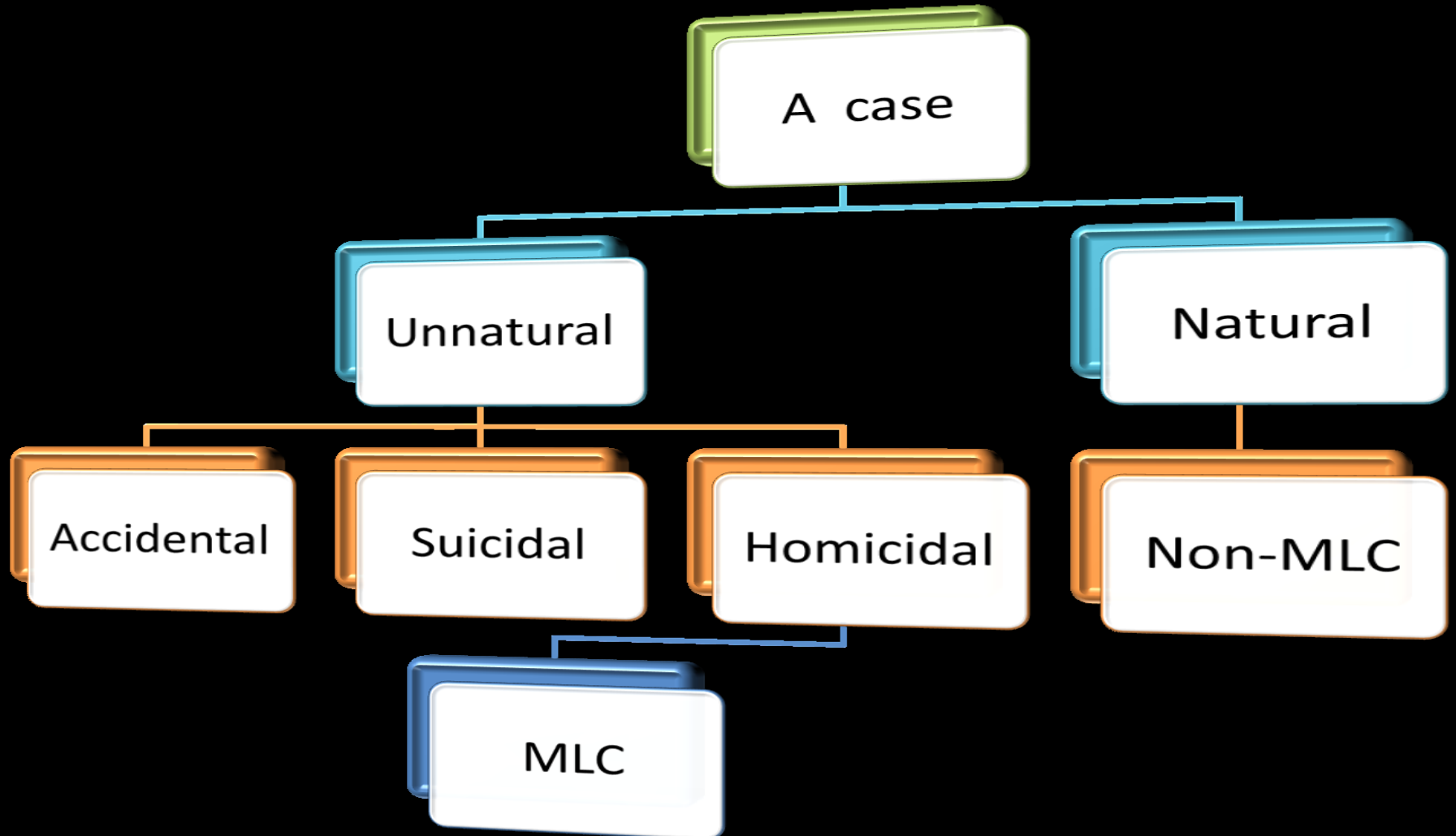
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- Medico-legal case (MLC) represents an integral part of medical practice in the emergency departments and causalities.
- Therefore, the physicians should have the sufficient knowledge of their roles and responsibilities while handling these cases to aid legal justice.

Mokhtar, M., Azab, S., Hassan, S. and Ez-Elarab, H. (2018). Study of handling of medico-legal cases in governmental hospitals in Cairo. Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, 60, pp. 15-24.



Some MLC situations...



- Alleged cases of assault
- Cases of burns
- Cases of alcoholic intoxication
- Victim to animal ferocity
- Snake and insect bite/stinging cases
- Sudden unexpected death
- Unconscious/ Comatose patients
- Alleged criminal abortion
- Drug overdose/anaphylaxis reactions
- Dead on arrival to hospital
Brought dead to hospital
- Cases of Surgical death & Anaesthetic death



Don't refuse to examine a MLC

- Prepare a MLC
- Always obtain informed consent
- Note at least 2 identification marks from exposed parts of the body



Points to be remembered in Handling Medicolegal Cases

- Don't make un-necessary delay in issuing ML Reports.
- In case of discharge or death of a MLC in the hospital; inform the police and in case of death don't issue Death certificate .
- If a MLC is discharged against medical advice,inform police.



Wound Report

- The original Wound Report / Certificate is to be detached and issued to the Police Officer, the carbon copy will remain in the register and serve as a permanent record for the Medical Officer

Referring a MLC to a second hospital

- Doctor who examined first should give necessary first aid
- Copy of accident/wound certificate should invariably accompany the patient to next institution along with discharge certificate.
- This when produced before the MO in the second hospital , can allow him to continue treatment for the injures



Death certificate

- If cause of death is known beyond all doubts – issue a Death certificate.
- Don't certify death in the following conditions:
 - Person brought death/dead on arrival to casualty
 - Persons dying after admission and before making a diagnosis



Don't certify death in the following conditions:

- In all alleged cases of unnatural death (accident/suicide/homicide)
- Anaesthetic deaths
- Snakebites





THANK YOU