

Negative  
Negative

from the upper torso and neck with handling. A watery red purge drained from the mouth and nose. The palms and soles were wrinkled. The only evidence of injury, external and internal, was a faint 0.50-inches by 0.25-inches abrasion over the bridge of the nose.

#### **Autopsy**

Upon opening the body, a large rush of malodorous gas escaped from the abdominal cavity. There was no significant natural disease. The lungs were: heavy and fluid filled. The stomach contained approximately 250 milliliters of tan fluid. Microscopically, the organs were autolyzed, although well enough preserved to rule out acute infection. About 60 milliliters of cloudy urine were present in the bladder. There was hemorrhage in both mastoid cavities.

Blood was still available in the heart and major vessels. The blood was analyzed for ethanol and common drugs of abuse using a general screen for acid and basic drugs. The results of the postmortem toxicology are as follows:

Blood: Ethyl alcohol:

General drug screen:

04 percent

Negative

Urine: Ethyl alcohol:

Vitreous: Ethyl alcohol:

#### **Study Questions**

Based on the description of the body, is the stage of postmortem decomposition mild, moderate, or severe?

How would you interpret the ethyl alcohol levels in the blood?

How much alcohol did he drink prior to death?

3. What additional toxicological studies should be ordered, if any?
4. What are the mechanism, cause and manner of death?
5. What should the police look for at the scene?