



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINER  
DISTRICT 15 – STATE OF FLORIDA  
PALM BEACH COUNTY  
3126 GUN CLUB ROAD  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33406-3005  
(561) 688-4575  
(561) 688-4592 FAX**

**NAME:** KONWISER, STACEY

**CASE NUMBER:** 2016-0610  
(Cross Reference Case: 2016-0765)

**DATE OF DEATH:** April 15, 2016

**AGE:** 37

**SEX:** F

**RACE:** W

**DATE OF AUTOPSY:** April 16, 2016 / 1035 hours

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**AUTOPSY FINDINGS:**


1. Penetrating puncture wounds, abrasions, contusions and crush injuries of neck, consistent with transfixing of spine due to tiger canines (lethal).
2. Multiple abrasions, contusions and puncture wounds, consistent with claw injuries (not lethal).
3. Left forehead and left periorbital area with irregular abrasions and contusions.
4. Contusions of knees.

**CAUSE OF DEATH:** NECK INJURIES.

**DUE TO:** MAULING.

**MANNER OF DEATH:** ACCIDENT.

**HOW INJURY OCCURRED:** ZOOKEEPER ATTACKED BY MALAYAN TIGER.

  
Reinhard Motte, M.D.  
Associate Medical Examiner

Date Signed: July 19, 2016

**NAME:** KONWISER, STACEY

**CASE NUMBER:** 16-0610

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

Crime Scene Investigator Lipinski of the West Palm Beach Police Department is present during the autopsy.

The body is that of a 5 foot 2 inch, 111 pound, normally-developed, lean, white female who appears the reported age of 37. The body mass index is 20.3.

She is in a good state of preservation, without evidence of decomposition. The refrigerated body is cold. Rigor mortis is mild in the extremities. Livor mortis is unfixated.

Muscular development in the extremities is average.

The scalp is covered by brown, wavy, above-shoulder-length hair. The external ears are normally developed. The irides are blue, pupils equal, and the conjunctivae are free of hemorrhages and petechiae. No facial, nasal or mandibular fractures are palpated. The nasal septum is intact. No froth or fluid emanate from the nose or mouth. The teeth are natural and in average condition. The gums and frenulum have no acute trauma.

The neck, thorax, breasts and abdomen appear normally developed.

The external genitalia and anus have no trauma.

The upper and lower extremities have no needle track marks or hesitation marks. The fingernails and toenails are short and well manicured. The ankles have no edema.

The back and buttock are normally developed.

The skin shows no rashes.

**IDENTIFICATION:**

She was identified at the hospital and by her husband, Jeremy Konwiser. The right naris is pierced and has a white metal nose stud. A tattoo of a skull wearing a crown is on the distal inside right leg. A green, vine-like plant tattoo encircles the distal right leg. Tiger paw prints are tattooed on the dorsal surface of the left foot. A pair of tiger paws is tattooed on the lower back. On the upper back is a large tattoo of a plant. Please see images of tattoos for details.

**MEDICAL INTERVENTION:**

A Thomas endotracheal tube holder is over the mouth. The endotracheal tube enters the mouth, and its distal end is in the left mainstem bronchus. An appropriately placed orogastric tube enters the mouth. Encircling the neck is a stiff cervical collar. In the right upper chest is an appropriately placed right subclavian vein line. Four EKG pads are on the abdomen. An intraosseous needle is in the right anterior leg. An intravenous line is in the right forearm. A hospital identification band encircles the right wrist and is inscribed "Golf, Trauma D". The

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medical record number is 001132920. The account number is 064556814. She has bilateral groin femoral saphenous vein cutdowns. She has bilateral chest tube incisions. She has CPR-related soft tissue contusions, CPR-related pericardial contusions and CPR-related fractures of right ribs 1 through 5 anteriorly, without associated extravasated blood. The blood is dilute and watery.

**PENETRATING PUNCTURE WOUNDS, ABRASIONS, CONTUSIONS AND CRUSH INJURIES OF NECK, CONSISTENT WITH TRANSFIXING OF SPINE DUE TO TIGER CANINEs (LETHAL):**

On the left posterior neck are a 5 centimeter deep and a 2.5 centimeter deep puncture wound with a 2.2 centimeter separation. The wounds are 1.8 and 2 centimeters long on the skin surface, respectively. These wounds have a surrounding 5 x 5 centimeter, purple-blue-red contusion. On the posterior neck is an irregular, 4 x 1.3 centimeter area of abrasion, mostly on the left side. On the right posterior neck is an obliquely situated, 2 x 0.9 centimeter abrasion. On the right side of the neck are two puncture wounds, each 2 centimeters long on the surface, with 3 centimeter spacing. The puncture wounds on the right side of the neck have a surrounding 15 x 9 centimeter area of abrasions and contusions. These paired puncture wounds are 3 centimeters deep and 2 centimeters, respectively. The four puncture wounds over the nape of the neck are in pairs. The underlying soft tissues have abundant extravasated blood. Associated with these puncture wounds are C1 fracture with associated spinal cord transection, atlanto-occipital separation, C6 and C7 fractures with associated epidural hemorrhage, bloody cerebrospinal fluid, collapsed large blood vessels, lacerated vertebral arteries, lacerated right jugular vein and peri-midbrain hemorrhage.

**MULTIPLE ABRASIONS, CONTUSIONS AND PUNCTURE WOUNDS, CONSISTENT WITH CLAW INJURIES (NOT LETHAL):**

Over the anterior chest is a 20 x 15 centimeter area of linear abrasions, puncture wounds and purple-red-blue contusions. Two puncture wounds are on the left breast are 2 centimeters deep. These injuries range from superficial, involving the skin only to deeper into the underlying soft tissues. Over the right knee is a purple-blue-red contusion covering a 5 x 4 centimeter area. On the left shoulder is a 2 centimeter long abrasion and purple-blue contusion, consistent with claw injury. Four abrasions ranging from 2 to 20 millimeters long and associated contusions are on the posterior left forearm. A 2.4 centimeter, vertical abrasion with a rectangular-shaped, 9 x 7 millimeter abrasion inferior is on the left hip area. A 9 x 4.5 centimeter area of purple-blue-red contusions is below and medial to the left knee. An 8 millimeter abrasion is on the posterior left hand.

On the back is a 25 x 20 centimeter area of linear abrasions, puncture wounds and purple-red-blue contusions involving skin and subcutaneous tissues only. The linear abrasions are from 2 millimeters to 13 centimeters long. Some are paired, and others are more haphazard.

The fingernail beds are bloody. A 4 millimeter, 6 millimeter and 11 millimeter claw abrasions run obliquely along the posterior right hand.

On the right side of the neck is a 10 x 9 centimeter area of contusions with paired abrasions, consistent with claw injuries.

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Small abrasions are on the bridge of the nose, below the right eye and on the lower lip. On the left posterior scalp is a horizontal, 3.3 centimeter laceration, covered by scalp hair, approximately 4 centimeters deep, consistent with claw injury. A 3.5 centimeter laceration that is 1 centimeter deep is on the top of the scalp, just left of midline, consistent with a claw injury. A 5 centimeter, linear abrasion, consistent with claw injury, is on the left side of the scalp, covered by hair.

On the left forehead and left periorbital area is an 8 x 7 centimeter, red contusion surrounding an irregular, 8 x 4 centimeter abrasion on the left forehead area. Just left and lateral, on the left forehead, is a 2.5 x 0.7 centimeter, rectangular laceration.

**INTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

Note: The internal examination describes the organ systems in their native state, without reference to trauma described above.

**BODY CAVITIES:**

The sternum is not fractured. The chest and abdominal cavities have a smooth mesothelial lining, without excess fluids or unusual odors. The blood is dilute and watery, status post resuscitation.

**HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:**

The skull has no fractures. The 1162 gram brain has symmetric hemispheres with thin leptomeninges. The cortical ribbons and subcortical white matter have no focal lesions. The lateral ventricles are symmetric and filled with clear, watery fluid. The basal ganglia have no infarcts. The mammillary bodies are pea-sized and symmetric. The substantia nigra is normally pigmented. The cerebellum, pons and medulla oblongata have no focal lesions. The anterior, middle and posterior cranial fossae are intact.

**NECK:**

The neck was described above. The strap muscles are symmetric. The epiglottis is pliable. The hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage are not crushed.

**CARDIOVASCULAR:**

The 205 gram heart has uniform, red-brown myocardium. The coronary arteries are thin walled, elastic and patent. The endocardium is smooth. The valve leaflets are thin, pliable and free of vegetations or fenestrations. The chordae tendineae and papillary muscles are intact. The aorta has a normal course and caliber with focal yellow streaks.

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**RESPIRATORY:**

The 236 gram right lung and 214 gram left lung have smooth pleural surfaces without anthracosis. The parenchyma is pink and fairly well aerated. No tumors, thromboemboli, infectious infiltrates or mucous plugs are seen. The hilar lymph nodes are normal, without anthracosis. The tracheobronchial tree is patent.

**HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:**

The 1152 gram liver has an intact thin capsule and uniform red-brown parenchyma without fatty change or fibrosis. The gallbladder has a velvety mucosa and is filled with thick, green, viscous bile.

**HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM:**

The 76 gram spleen has an intact, slate gray capsule and dark red splenic pulp without prominent follicles.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:**

The thyroid gland has symmetric, red-tan lobes without nodules or cysts. The adrenal glands have a pale cortex and well-demarcated, darker medulla. The pancreas has uniform, lobulated, fatty, tan parenchyma without fatty infiltrate, calcifications, cysts or hemorrhage.

**GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:**

The esophagus, stomach and intestines have no adhesions. The stomach contains 7 cubic centimeters of brown fluid and rice. There are no unusual odors. Pill residue is not seen. The gastric mucosa has normal rugal folds. The esophagus has a smooth, tan lining and well-demarcated gastroesophageal junction.

**UROGENITAL SYSTEM:**

The 108 gram right kidney and 116 gram left kidney have smooth cortical surfaces and well-demarcated corticomedullary junctions. The pyramids are normal, without papillary necrosis. The calyces and pelves have a smooth, tan lining without stones or tumors. The urinary bladder has a smooth mucosa and contains a few cubic centimeters of watery, yellow, clear urine. The uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries are normal for age. She is not pregnant.



**Wuesthoff Reference Laboratory**

6800 Spyglass Court  
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Julie Bell, M.D., Laboratory Director

**Patient:** KONWISER, STACEY  
**Client Patient ID:** 15-16-0610  
**Physician:** MOTTE, REINHARD

**Age:** 37 **Sex:** F  
**Account#:** VX80469  
**Client:** DIST 15 MEDICAL EXAMINER

**TOXICOLOGY**

Specimen Collected :04/16/2016

Lab Order No: 641801309

Reg Date: 04/18/16

Test Name	Result	Units	Cutoff/Reporting Limits
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VOLATILE PANEL - VOLP

SPECIMEN TYPE

**HEART BLOOD**

ETHANOL	NONE DETECTED	g/dL	0.010
ACETONE	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	7.5
METHANOL	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0
ISOPROPANOL	NONE DETECTED	mg/dL	15.0

**Analysis by Gas Chromatography (GC) Headspace Injection**

BLOOD DRUG SCREEN - BDSME

SPECIMEN TYPE

**HEART BLOOD**

GC/MS

**TOPIRAMATE, CAFFEINE**

LC/MS/MS

**CAFFEINE, CAFFEINE METABOLITE**

BLOOD IMMUNOASSAY SCREEN

AMPHETAMINES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
BARBITURATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
BENZODIAZEPINES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050
BUPRENORPHINE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.001
CANNABINOIDS	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050
COCAINE METABOLITE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
FENTANYL	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.001
OPIATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050
SALICYLATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	50.0

TOPIRAMATE - TONMS

SPECIMEN TYPE

**HEART BLOOD**



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**Age:** 37 **Sex:** F  
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**Client:** DIST 15 MEDICAL EXAMINER

**TOXICOLOGY**

Specimen Collected :04/16/2016 Lab Order No: 641801309 Reg Date: 04/18/16

Test Name	Result	Units	Cutoff/Reporting Limits
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TOPIRAMATE	2700	ng/mL	200
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The majority of epileptic patients taking 200 to 400 mg topiramate daily had mean trough serum topiramate concentrations between 2400 and 8000 ng/mL.

The blood to plasma ratio of topiramate varies depending on the concentration, but is typically greater than 2.

Testing performed by NMS Labs, 3701 Welsh Rd, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2910

URINE DRUG SCREEN COMPREHENSIVE - UDSME

SPECIMEN TYPE

URINE

URINE IMMUNOASSAY SCREEN

AMPHETAMINES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.500
BARBITURATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.200
BENZODIAZEPINES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.200
COCAINE METABOLITE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.150
MDMA/MDA	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.300
METHADONE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.300
METHAQUALONE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.300
OPIATES	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.300
OXYCODONE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.100
PHENCYCLIDINE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.025
PROPOXYPHENE	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.300
CANNABINOIDS	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.050
TRICYCLICS	NEGATIVE	mg/L	0.300

Specimens were intact upon receipt. Chain of custody, specimen security and integrity has been maintained. Testing has been performed as requested

Reviewed by: Jo S. Bell Date: 6/1/16

**FINAL REPORT - THIS COMPLETES REPORTING ON THIS CASE**

TOXICOLOGY\_REPORT

KONWISER, STACEY



# District 15 • Palm Beach County Medical Examiners Office

3126 Gun Club Road • West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
TEL: (561) 688-4575 • www.pbcgov.com/medicalexaminer

✓ 160610 *AL*  
Konwiser, Stacey  
White Female 37 Y  
Dr. R M  
Apr/16/2016

CASE #: <b>16-0610</b>	DATE: APR 16 2016	TIME: 1035 hrs
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NATURAL   
  ACCIDENT   
  SUICIDE   
  HOMICIDE   
  PENDING

NAME: Konwiser Stacey AGE: 37  
LAST FIRST M.I.

WHITE   
 BLACK   
 OTHER   
 CLOTHED   
 NAKED   
 HOSPITAL SPECIMEN

APPROX. HEIGHT: 5'2"  
 APPROX. WEIGHT: 111 lbs.

**PRESERVATION**  
 Good  
 Early Decomposition  
 Advanced Decomposition  
 Embalmed     Skeletalized

**TEMPERATURE**  
 Warm     Cool  
 Cold     Frozen

**RIGOR**  
 Absent     Mild  
 Moderate     Marked

**LIVOR**  
 Absent     Non-Fixed  
 Pink     Fixed  
 Ventral     Dorsal

**NUTRITION**  
 Adequate     Obese  
 Cachectic     Edema  
 Jaundice     Ascites  
 Cyanosis

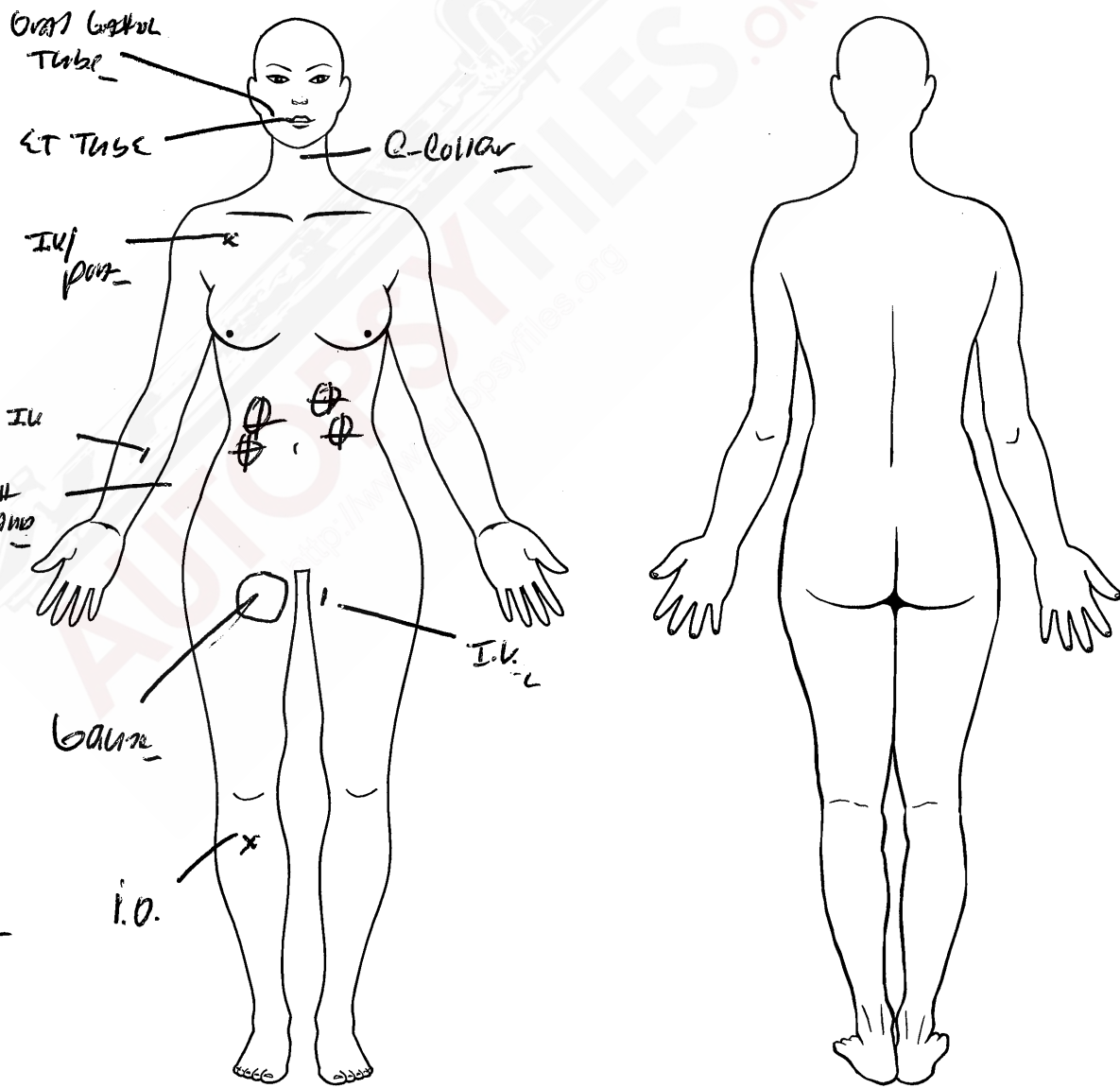
**EYES**  
 Brown     Blue  
 Gray     Hazel  
 Green

**HAIR**  
 Brown     Black  
 Blonde     Gray  
 Red     White  
 Bald     Dyed

Upper Teeth  
 Lower Teeth

Heart \_\_\_\_\_  
 R Lung \_\_\_\_\_  
 L Lung \_\_\_\_\_  
 Liver \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spleen \_\_\_\_\_  
 R Kidney \_\_\_\_\_  
 L Kidney \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brain \_\_\_\_\_  
 Uterus \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stomach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Urine \_\_\_\_\_

CS2 Lipinski, WPBAD



PROBABLE CAUSE OF DEATH: Neck injuries, mauling  
 PATHOLOGIST: Note zoo keeper attacked by Himalayan tiger



Contusions,

Multiple abrasions and Puncture

wounds consistent with Claw Injuries

(not lethal)

Case: 16-0610

Konwiser, Stacey

Date Exam: 4/16/2016

Doctor: Motte, Reinhard

anterior chest.  
20x15cm  
area linear  
abrasions,  
puncture  
wounds  
and Purple  
Red blue  
contusions  
Two puncture  
wounds  
① Breast  
2cm  
deep,  
superficial  
skin only

Over Right knee  
Purple blue Red  
contusions  
5x4cm area

left shoulder 2cm  
long abrasion  
and purple  
Blue contusion  
consistent with  
claw injury

four  
2-20mm  
abs +  
contusion

4mm abs

2.4cm hip  
vertebra  
abs with  
9x7mm  
shaped abs  
inferior

9x4.5cm area  
purple blue  
red contusion  
Below and medial  
to left knee

Back 25x20cm  
area abrasions  
puncture  
wounds,  
purple red  
Blue contusions  
skin and  
subcutaneous  
tissue only  
2mm-13cm  
long, linear  
abs, some  
paired others  
more hap  
hazard

Bloody nails  
4mm, 6mm, 11mm  
claw abs  
oblique along  
posterior Right  
hand

post. ①  
hand  
8mm  
abs.

some injuries paired/parallel puncture/abs  
others more haphazard

note: These injuries involve  
skin and subcutaneous  
tissues only

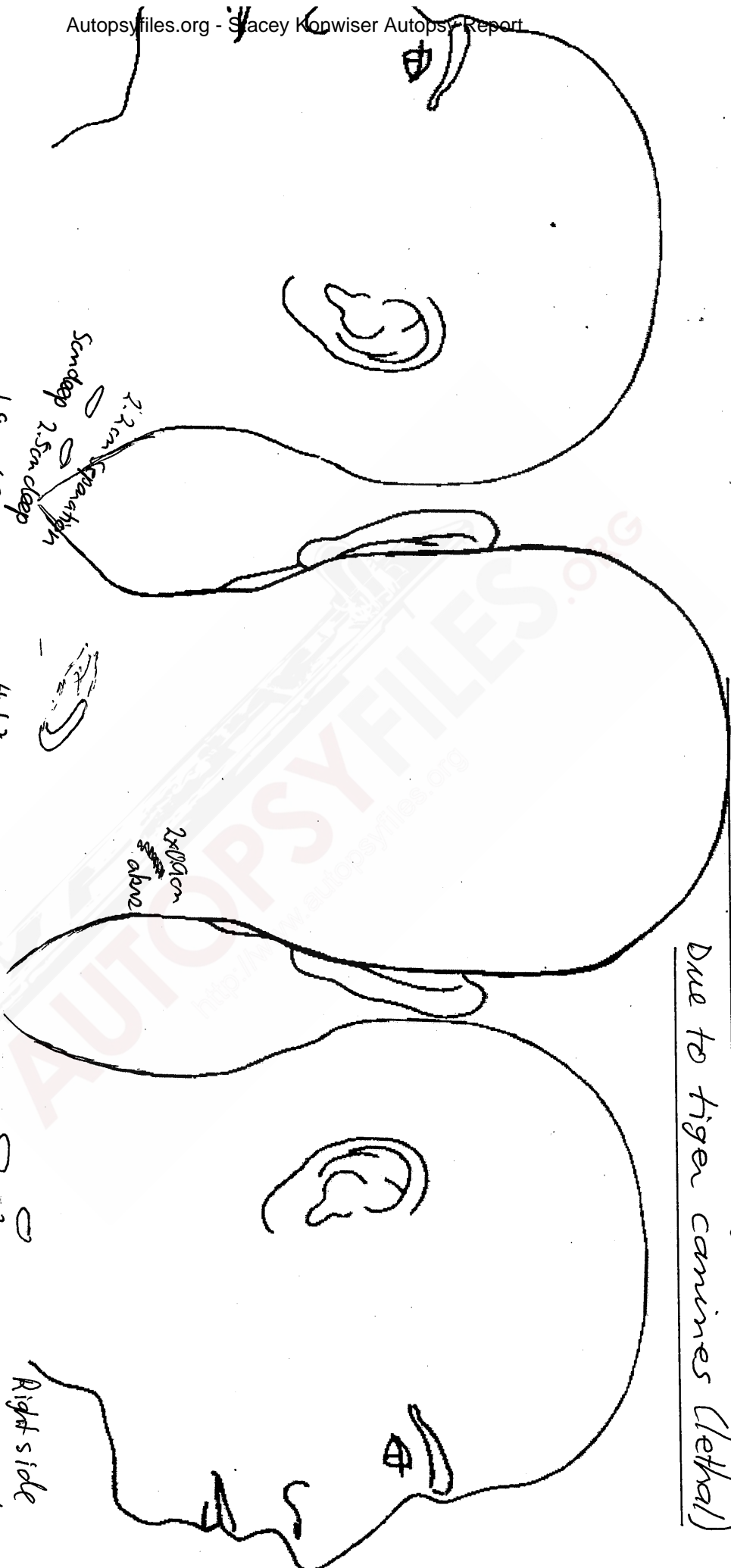
2016-0610

Kopwiser, Stacey

Penetrating puncture wounds, abrasions, contusions and crush injuries of neck

consistent with transfixing of spine

Due to tiger canines (lethal)



Soft tissue hemorrhage C1 fracture with cord transection, atlanto occipital separation, C6 & 7 fx, C6 and 7 fracture, epidural hemorrhage, bloody CSF eblapsed large blood vessels, lacerated vertebral arteries & right jugular vein

1.8cm x 2cm long puncture wounds  
 5x5cm surround purple blue red contusion

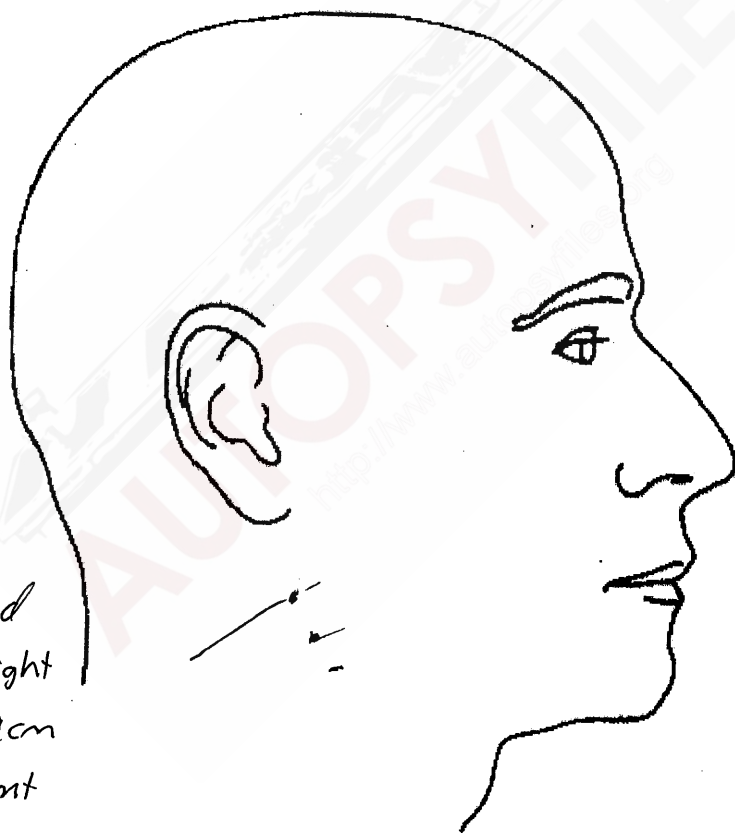
4x1.3cm abrasion neck

3cm deep  
 2cm deep

Right side  
 Two puncture wounds each 2cm long, on surface  
 3cm spacing, 1.5x0.9cm surrounding abrasions and contusions

2016-0610

Konwiser, Stacey



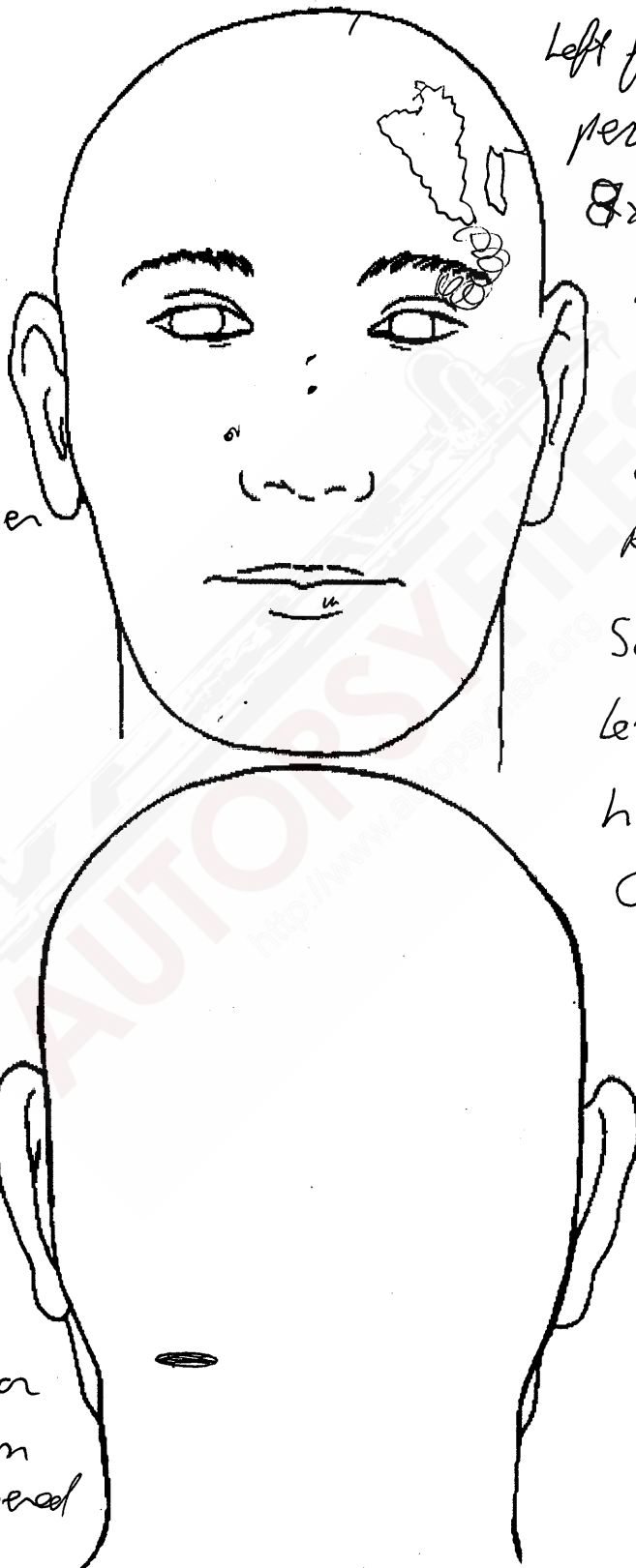
pained  
abrasions and  
contusions Right  
side neck 10x9cm  
area consistent  
with claw  
injuries

2016-0610

Konwiser,  
Stacey

3.5cm Lac, 1cm deep top of scalp @ of midline  
(claw)

small abrasions  
on bridge of  
nose, below @  
eye and on lower  
lip



Left forehead and left  
periorbital area

8x7cm Red contusion  
surrounds 8x4cm  
area irregular  
abrasion and  
a 2.5x0.7cm  
Rectangular laceration

5cm linear abrasion  
left scalp covered by  
hair consistent with  
claw injury

3.3cm @ posterior  
scalp laceration  
horizontal covered  
by scalp hair  
4cm deep, claw injury