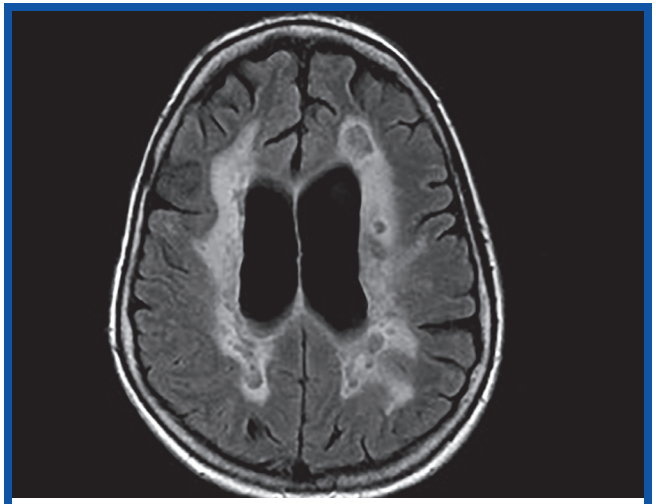
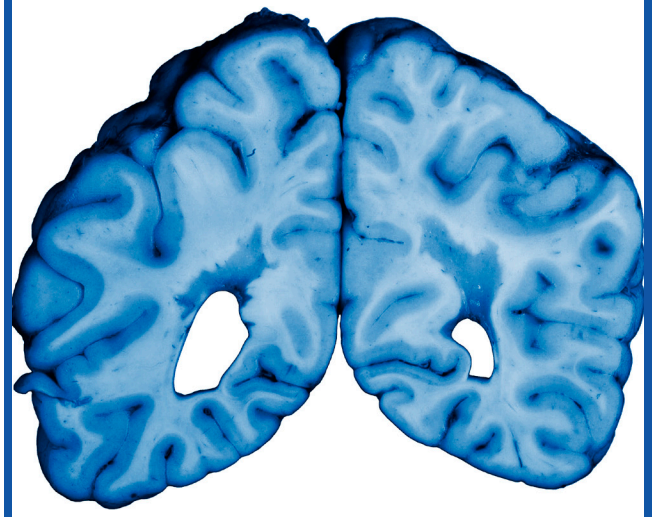
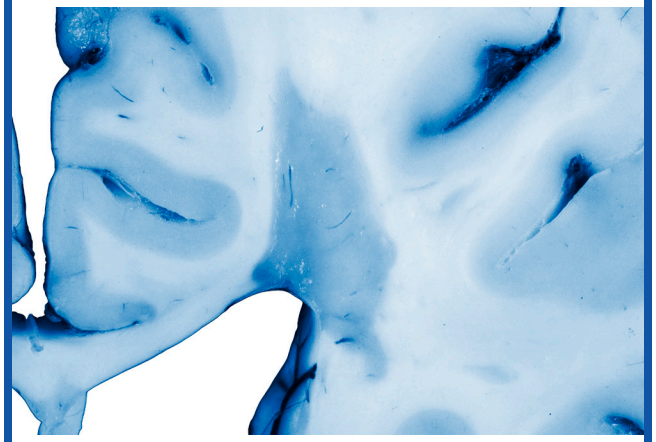
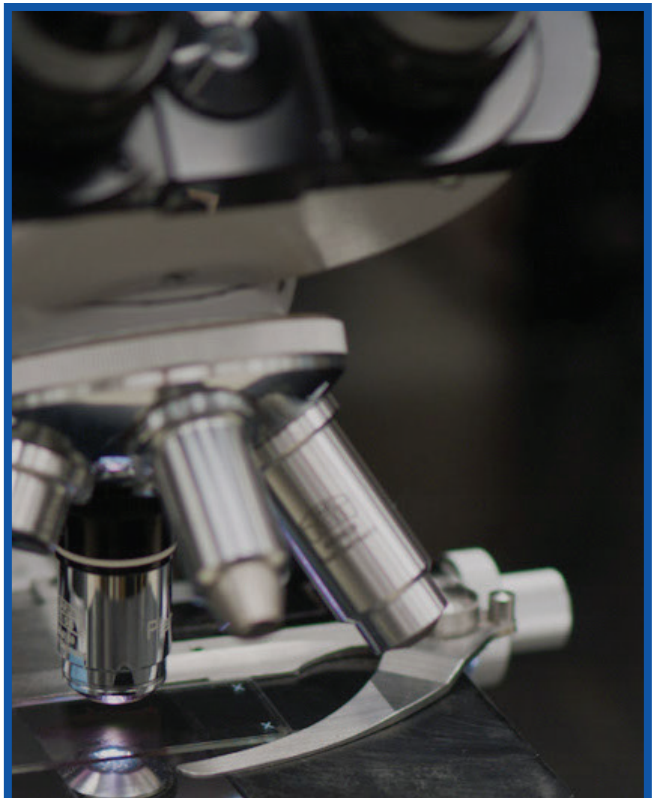






Periventricular demyelination



Thank you for considering a brain autopsy.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please call:
8 AM - 4 PM weekdays: 403-944-4745
After hours: 403-944-1689

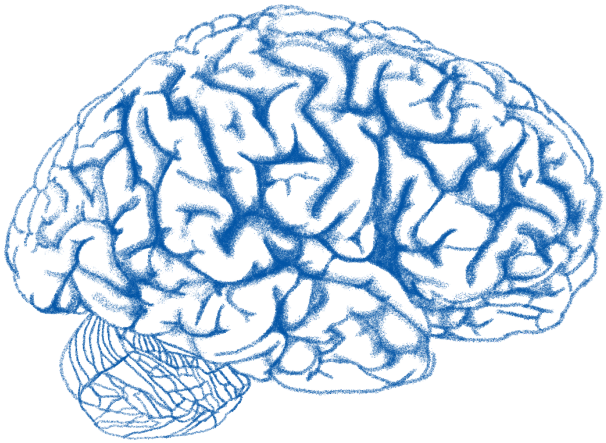
For other questions, please contact the Multiple Sclerosis Clinic:

Foothills Medical Centre
Special Services Building - Main Floor
1403 29 Street NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 2T9
403-944-4253

South Health Campus
5th floor
4448 Front Street SE, Calgary, Alberta T3M 1M4
403-956-3429

Alberta Health Services

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



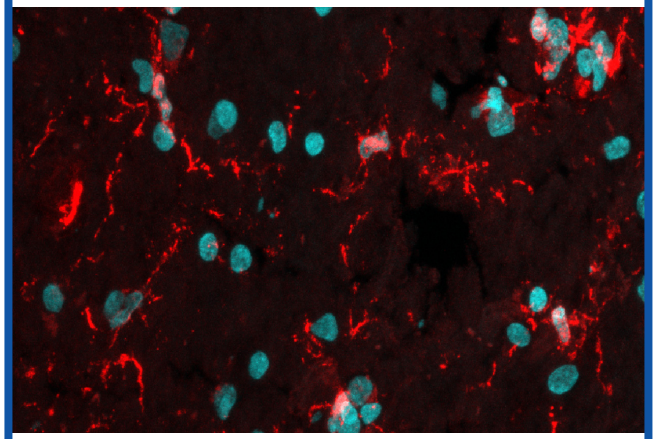
How We Learn From

The Brain

Multiple Sclerosis Clinic

What is an autopsy?

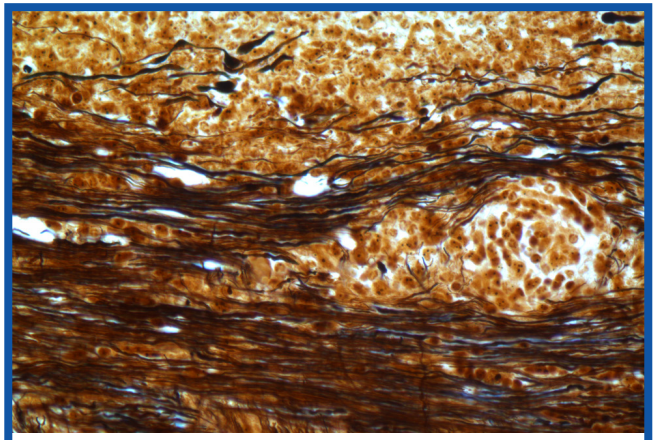
An autopsy is an examination of the body after death. It is done as soon as possible after a patient expires and takes from one (brain only) to four hours (full autopsy). A neuropathologist, who is a medical doctor with special training, inspects the brain, takes appropriate samples, examines them under a microscope, orders appropriate tests, and prepares a written report that includes the diagnosis. The body is returned to the funeral home the next day. The report can take several months.



Detection of a type of brain cell, microglia

Can an autopsy be used for research?

Yes. Should you consent to an autopsy, please consider allowing some tissue to be used for research and teaching. A check-box on the autopsy consent form will indicate your wishes.



Disruption and degeneration of axons (nerve fibers) in an area of inflammation in the spinal cord

How do you consent to an autopsy?

The patient's next of kin must give permission for an autopsy. Alberta Health Services requires family and a physician to complete a special consent form. This form *must be signed* after a patient passes away.

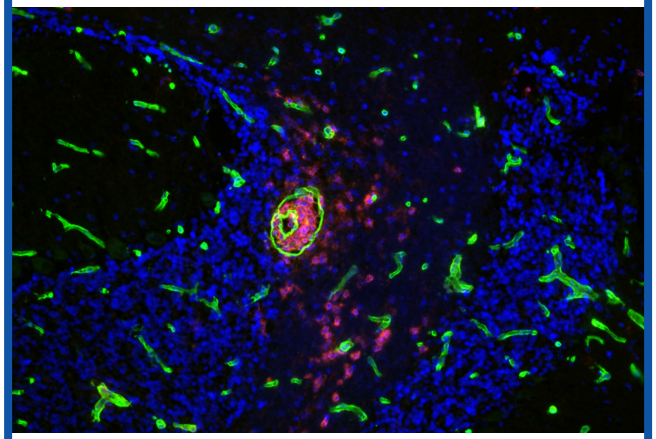
Alberta Health Services does not charge for an autopsy on a patient who is an Alberta resident or is covered by Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan. All autopsies in the Calgary Zone are performed at the Foothills Medical Centre. If you request an autopsy, your funeral home will contact Foothills Medical Centre to make all arrangements.

The findings from the autopsy are provided to the patient's physicians and will be shared with you.

How can an autopsy help multiple sclerosis (MS) research?

Allowing for tissue to be used for research enables scientists to examine MS lesions in the brain and spinal cord, as well as adjacent tissues. Autopsies on MS patients are important.

- They can help scientists studying the biology of lesions understand why some areas of the brain are affected and why other areas are not.
- They can help show the extent of the disease and the effectiveness of therapies.
- Autopsies may even help researchers identify the cause of MS and how to better treat the disease.



The formation of an inflammatory perivascular cuff (an area of the blood vessel where immune cells gather before entering the brain)