

UNDERSEA & HYPERBARIC MEDICAL SOCIETY



# ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

# PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS



**HOTEL BONAVENTURE  
MONTREAL, CANADA**

**JUNE 18-20, 2015**



# D 60

ORAL PRESENTATION TIME:

POSTER PRESENTATION TIME: 1530 - 1600

RESIDENT COMPETITION:

## Evaluation of the Autopsy Findings in Fatal Diving Accidents in Turkey

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**Objective:** In this study it was aimed to reach the documents regarding fatal diving accidents at archives of the forensic medicine units of Turkish Ministry of Justice and Turkish Underwater Sports Federation, to evaluate the cases in terms of age, sex, reason of death, preexisting medical problem, types of diving, aim of diving, distribution according to years and months, and the techniques of autopsy.

**Material and Methods:** The records of fatal diving accidents were reached in the archives of last 7 years, by screening drowning cases at the forensic medicine units in Turkey, to review in accordance with aim of the study.

**Results:** A total of 52 autopsy reports regarding diving fatalities were reached. Out of the dives resulted with accidents, 28 dives were breath-holding, 20 dives were SCUBA and 2 dives were surface supplied. Most of the accidents were recorded between May and October. Majority of the cases (94%) were male and the average age was 38,6. The most frequent reported cause of death was drowning. The special autopsy techniques that should be performed in diving fatalities were done in 17% of the cases. Coronary arteriosclerosis detected in 38% of the cases and different alcohol levels in the bloods were found in 19% of the cases.

**Conclusion:** The documents we reached were not sufficient enough to be able evaluate the fatal diving accidents. The forensic physician who performs autopsy when there is a diving fatality, should be informed about the details of eventful diving, investigation of diving gears and diving accident scene. Establishing a standard archiving system and database about fatal diving accidents will enable to perform such studies in an easy way. The results of the evaluation of 52 cases were in accordance with previous studies.