

pages 247-248 and 272-276). I disagree that the lack of "appropriate" structural changes in the brain, liver and kidneys automatically excludes the diagnosis of NMS, particularly when other clinical and laboratory findings are present. I also disagree with Professor Crane when he implies (at page 273 of the transcript) that NMS can not develop in an individual who has been receiving chlorpromazine for a week; such a delay is not uncommon⁽³⁾, and, furthermore, once started, NMS can develop very quickly⁽³⁾.

Consequently, if it is accepted that NMS is the immediate cause for this man's death, then it would, in my opinion, explain his fairly rapid deterioration to death; in fact, I can think of no realistic alternative explanation.

I note that there is no reference in the transcript of Professor Crane's evidence to the considerably elevated serum CK concentration in a blood specimen taken on the day of the deceased's death. To be fair on Professor Crane, I am aware that the report of this result was not issued by the biochemistry laboratory until 09.05.97 (NSU notes, page 5), and it is therefore likely that he was not aware of it at the time he performed the autopsy. It would, however, have been available at the time of the trial, but it does not appear to have been mentioned, and I therefore wonder whether Professor Crane (or, indeed, anyone else) knew about it. I believe that it is a very important laboratory finding, as it provides an extremely strong pointer towards NMS.

3) CAUSATION

In my opinion, there is an unequivocal and incontrovertible, direct cause and effect relationship between the assault on 27.04.97 and the deceased's death on 08.05.97.

I believe that the sequence of events can be summarised as follows:-

- Assault, causing significant and permanent traumatic diffuse axonal injury and temporary unconsciousness; this necessitated
- Admission to Hospital, where treatment included
- Administration of Chlorpromazine. Although I am not a clinician, the prescribing of chlorpromazine in this case seems to be perfectly reasonable, given the agitation, the restlessness and the apparent lack of co-operation documented in the notes. This caused