

under no obligation by means of any contract to do this work. I do it as well as, and on top of, my work for the NHS.

- Regarding the technical aspects of reporting a case, each case must go through a number of stages.
- The brain is retained and suspended in a chemical called formalin in order that it hardens and can be examined more accurately. This takes at least one month and sometimes longer. At a time convenient to the Forensic Pathologist and the Neuropathologist (as both should be present) the brain is dissected. A description is made of the abnormalities visible to the naked eye. Small pieces of brain tissue are then taken and examined under the microscope. It may take several days or weeks to prepare these samples. These are reviewed by the Neuropathologist. Depending on what they show, more investigations are performed on the tissues. This is what happened in the case of Robert Hamill.
- The small pieces of tissue began processing in my laboratory on 25/7/97 and were initially available for me on 6/8/97. Further work was requested on these pieces of tissue. While all of this work is going on there may be clinical discussions about a case. In the case of Robert Hamill, the issues that needed to be resolved clinically and pathologically were some of the most complex of any case in which I have been involved in 16 years as a Neuropathologist. These complexities are reflected in the discussions of other experts instructed in this case. One of the issues was the possibility of Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome being a potential diagnosis and the other was the significance of diffuse axonal damage-these are discussed later.
- When asked as an expert for a report, the expert must be allowed to access the relevant medical literature; otherwise the report may be deficient.
- At the time of reporting this case there was a dearth of literature on Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome and a burgeoning literature on diffuse axonal injury. It must be also noted that in 1997 there was not the availability of the internet to obtain medical papers. The papers often

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