2. HOW TO EXAMINE THE LUNGS AT AUTOPSY

This is a continuation of #1, the Heart Examination

You have the block of tongue, larynx, trachea, main bronchi and lungs – once the heart has been removed.

1. Open the oesophagus with scissors
2. Open the larynx and trachea with scissors, down into the main bronchi
3. Dissect off the left lung with scissors, cutting downwards
4. Dissect off the right lung with scissors, cutting upwards
5. Inspect the carinal node, and sample if abnormal
6. Weigh the lungs
7. Take each lung, place on a sponge with latero-posterior surface upwards
8. Cut into the central groove and identify the pulmonary artery
9. With scissors explore the left & right PAs and all 5 lobar pulmonary arteries for thrombi
10. Open the main bronchi and inspect for cancer as appropriate for the case
11. Slicing the lungs, depends on what you are looking for:
12. If there are focal lesions expected, or known from imaging, cut the lungs horizontally to match CT images pre-mortem
13. If there are no focal lesions, cut into each of the five lobes vertically from lateral pleura toward the hilum
14. Review the larynx and trachea for any focal lesions
15. Review the parietal pleura for any lesions

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