

## **Positive prostate-specific antigen (PSA) reaction in rectal samples from deceased males.**

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Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) membrane test (Seratec®) is a sensitive screening method for detection of seminal liquid in rape cases. Unfortunately, small amounts of PSA have been found in many different liquids and tissues including normal anal glands of males. The study material consists of 28 medico legal autopsy cases, 19 with advanced putrefaction changes and 9 with no visible signs of decomposition. In addition, rectal samples from 5 female decomposed cadavers served as controls. The swabs were dried, extracted in 1 ml distilled water and the test was performed according to the manufacturer's protocol (Seratec® Diagnostica, Göttingen, Germany). We find false positive PSA reactions in 14 rectal swabs (74%) taken from decomposed male cadavers and in 4 swabs (44%) taken from recently deceased males with no signs of decomposition. The anal samples from females were all negative. Our finding underlines the need to interpret cautiously the results of the PSA test from post-mortal male rectal swabs.