

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

We practice what we teach

Department of Radiology
MRI/CT
Campus Box A-034
4200 East Ninth Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80262

March 21, 1996

J.D. Sabow, M.D.
909 St. Joes
Suite 555
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Dr. Sabow:

I have reviewed the copy of the x-ray that was forwarded to me. I have also shown the x-ray to several Neuroradiologists and one Neurosurgeon. The x-ray is a frontal film covering from the clavicles to the top of the head with the face turned in one direction. The film contains no side markers to designate the right and left side of the body and the copy I received the only identification I can read is the name Sabow.

The film demonstrates numerous metallic fragments scattered over the region of the head, posterior face, and upper neck. These are consistent with a shotgun wound. The skull demonstrates several linear fractures as well as a depressed skull fracture involving the occipital bone on one side. I cannot determine the side without side markers on the film. The linear skull fractures may be the result of the energy from the shotgun injury. The depressed skull fracture however is not likely to have resulted from the shotgun blast. What caused the depressed fracture is open to speculation. It is unlikely to have occurred if the patient fell backwards and struck the ground. Striking something like the edge of a table would be more likely to cause a depressed fracture. That the fracture was caused before the shotgun blast certainly cannot be excluded on the basis of the x-ray. A pathologist who was asked stated that a badly fractured skull could be deformed with handling of the body. The appearance of the soft tissues over the depressed skull fracture should be included in the autopsy report, and should give the best clues as to the cause of the depressed fracture.

Dr. Sabow
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Additionally, the film demonstrates fractures of the mandible and probably of facial bones but these bones are not clearly demonstrated on the single film provided.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Rubinstein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Rubinstein, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Radiology

DR:dr