“Hands Off – They’re Dead!!” Challenges to Post-Mortem Examination in Death Investigations
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In many modern legal jurisdictions there exist procedures for state initiated death investigations. The application of such procedures is dictated by societal and cultural norms to a greater or lesser extent. In Hong Kong, the Coroners Ordinance spells out twenty circumstances of death whereby death reporting for investigation is mandated. Despite the presence of such a death investigation system from the late 1800’s as part of Hong Kong’s British legacy, this aspect of the death and dying procedure is still a difficult and emotional one. This paper will present the factual data but will also discuss the emotional and the intellectual conflicts for the forensic doctor when managing the next-of-kin.