Anna Garcia Case

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Period 5

Background

Anna Garcia, a 38-year-old Hispanic woman, was found dead in her home on a 92-Fahrenheit summer morning. Her dog had been barking nonstop for the past two hours two hours, and her neighbor called 911 concerned about her. The EMT arrived, they had to break down the door and found her dead and faced-down in her entry hall. Anna was last seen the day before by her neighbor at 6:30 AM when she was walking her dog in her sweater. There was no witnesses and suspects at the crime scene, her death turned into a mystery.

In the beginning of the investigation, the crime scene investigators found 4 unidentified pills near her pocket area on the floor which later on came out to be acetylsalicylic acid. Her clothes were not torn but there was blood found next to her between the overturned table. A small amount of vomit is present next to her and there was a piece of hair of the back of her shoulder.

Later on, there are four people that came to the person of interest. They all had major conflicts with Anna before she died. Alex Garcia (Anna's ex-husband), who quickly remarried a young woman after their divorce and desperately needs Anna's life insurance plan for his future child. Doug Greene (Anna's neighbor who called the police), was in a relationship with Anna recently but Anna ended the relationship abruptly. Erica Piedmont (new wife of Alex Garcia), she was seen parking and sitting in a car in front of Anna's house the day before she died. And Lucy Leffingwell (Anna's best friend), they are recently in an argument in whether or not they should expand their business.

Evidence

After examining the evidence that were collected from the crime scene. The blood might belong to Anna or Alex Garcia because they both have blood type B, but the result from the examination of DNA analysis using electrophoresis machine method shows that the DNA in the blood belongs to Anna Garcia. The blood spatter was fallen at the height about 6cm where the table is. Other clues found at the crime scene such as the fingerprint on the wine glass belongs to Alex Garcia. The hair that was found on Anna's short belongs to herself.

In Anna Garcia's autopsy report is was clear that her death was an accident. Her ankles were swollen, and her fingernails and toenails were blue/gray color which is a sign of oxygen deprivation. In Anna's blood, there was no evidence of alcohol or non-prescription or overdose of prescription drugs. But her blood glucose level was 280 mg/dL which is way higher than the normal range that's 70-125 mg/dL. High glucose level indicates that Anna Garcia has diabetes. And she had ketones in her urines due to her type 1 diabetes.

Anna Garcia was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 14 and has struggled with it ever since. Type 1 diabetes is when the pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone that enables the body to use glucose (sugar) found in foods for energy. And then glucose builds up in the blood as a result, cells don't get enough energy as they need. That explains why Anna Garcia always have trouble breathing.

Diabetes is not the only thing that she has to deal with. Anna Garcia has a history of sickle cell anemia, a blood disorder that causes red blood cell have a much harder time when moving through the blood vessels because of their shape and design. She inherited sickle cell

anemia from her father since birth, who also had sickle cell anemia and had a heart attack when he was only 41 years old. Anna has experienced so many pain crises due to her sickle cell anemia. She had trouble with several pain episodes and acute chest syndromes in her teenage period because they were blocking blood flow to her lungs and she had a lot of trouble breathing. At the age of 22, Anna's hip bone was rough and jagged because the sickle cells blocked the main artery that supplies the blood to the bone that has been blocked again and again.

Besides those, blockages of blood vessels are also caused by Anna's high cholesterol. Her high blood sugar levels (280 mg/dL) caused by diabetics slowly her ability of cells in her pancreas to make insulin, and they eventually cause the kidney to overwork and urinate protein. She had extremely high blood pressure (140/72 mm Hg)), as we found from cardiac testing due to her sick cell anemia and unhealthy diet.

From the most recent medical history on May 14th, Anna admits to a diet high in both calories and fat, plus she has not kept up with her exercises but does do yoga to relieve her stress. She had a drastic increase in blood pressure as well as a few premature ventricular contractions on EKG during the exam. Anna was only able to walk for 8 minutes before the test was concluded.

Concusion

The cause of death for Anna Garcia is most likely caused by the blood clots in her arteries that lead to her brain and potentially causing a heart attack or stroke. When Anna Garcia died, the color of her fingernails and toenails were blue/gray color. That means Anna Garcia had trouble breathing and she did not receive oxygen from the brain. In the autopsy report, there were traces of Advil in her body which she might have taken to help the blood travel through their body. Heart disease is one of the greatest cause of death in America and since Anna Garcia had so many signs and risk factors, it wouldn't be surprising if this is the reason why she had died. Anna Garcia has a history of sickle cell anemia, diabetes, and heart disease. They all put Anna Garcia at a high risk of heart attack/disease. Plus her lack of management of her diabetes resulted in her having higher blood glucose level at 280 mg/dL, which causes the blood vessels to thicken and make it harder for blood to travel through her body. On top of all the risk factors that could clog up her arteries and fail to send blood to the brain, her work and relationships with people around her constantly put her under a lot of stress. High levels of stress made other risk factors (such as high cholesterol or high blood pressure) worse because when she's under stress, her blood pressure goes up, she may overhear, and exercise less. All the things add up together caused her tragic death due to heart attack/stroke.