

遺體變化

所有遺體會存放於低溫儲存格內。即使在低溫環境中，遺體亦會出現變化，存放時間愈長，變化愈大。家屬應盡早安排葬儀，減少遺體的變化，常見的身體變化如下：

1. **體液滲出皮膚脫落** -- 體液、排泄物和血液可能會從口鼻、肛門、尿道、皮膚或傷口滲出，水腫的病人更有機會因皮下體液滲出而導致皮膚脫落

2. **身體脫水** - 脫水現象會導致皮膚乾涸皺摺，失去圓潤

3. **肌肉僵硬或分解鬆弛** - 死後肌肉會隨時間出現不同程度的變化，令關節繃緊或鬆弛。當影響控制眼瞼和口腔的肌肉時，雙眼和口腔或會呈半張開狀態

4. **皮膚變色** -- 體內的血液會在低處留滯，身體便呈紫紅色形成瘀斑

5. **細菌感染** -- 一些生前受感染的遺體，細菌會滋生，影響膚色，也或會令遺體略為腫脹。當遺體存放時間超過兩個月時，皮膚表面或會滋生霉菌。

Body Change after death

All bodies are kept in the refrigerator with low temperature. Even so, body changes are inevitable after death. The longer the storage, the more severe will be the changes. Relatives are reminded to collect the body as soon as possible to minimize these changes.

A. Leakage of body fluid and skin peeling

Gastric fluid or lung fluid may come out from the mouth and nostrils, and the faeces and urine may also pass out. In sutured surgical wound blood and body fluid may leak. The skin of oedematous body is fragile and easily peels off. The mortuary staff will try to tidy up the face as far as possible.

B. Body dehydration

Body may be dehydrated after storage in mortuary. The skin may become wrinkled with loss of fullness.

C. Muscle stiffening and softening due to decomposition

The body muscles will shorten, stiffen or soften after days of storage, affecting the joint movement. If the controlling muscles of the eyelids or mouth are involved, the eyes and mouth may be opened.

D. Body color change

Purple-red coloration may occur in the dependent portion of the body, due to setting of blood under gravity. Petechiae may be found secondary to the rupture of degenerating vessels.

E. Infection.

If the body was infected before death, there may be bacterial overgrowth causing skin color change, especially in the lower abdomen manifested as green discoloration. Bacterial overgrowth may also cause swelling of the body. If the body has been stored for over 2 months, the body surface may be infected by fungal overgrowth.