

2D BODY IS EXHUMED

IN CURARE INQUIRY

NYTimes JAN 23 1976

The second of five bodies that were ordered exhumed as part of a new investigation of suspicious deaths at Riverdale Hospital in Oradell, N.J. was re-autopsied yesterday.

Dr. Michael M. Baden, a forensic pathologist who is coordinating this part of the new investigation for the Bergen County Prosecutor, Joseph C. Woodcock Jr., said that "further studies" needed to be done before the re-autopsy results on the body could be disclosed. Dr. Baden said the body, that of 26-year old Margaret Henderson, yielded "good" tissue for studying whether curare was present in the body.

Mrs. Henderson's death was one of 13 that figured in an original, inconclusive investigation in 1966. That investigation centered on whether a surgeon at Riverdell, recently referred to as Dr. X, used curare to kill patients at the hospital. Curare is a potentially lethal respiratory depressant.

The first re-autopsy by Dr. Baden, on the body of 4-year old Nancy Savino, failed to establish any natural cause of death. The chemical tests for curare are expected to take several weeks. No results have been reported yet.

Mrs. Henderson entered Riverdell on April 22, 1966, complaining of acute abdominal pain. An exploratory incision found no abnormalities. A day later the woman was found dead in her hospital bed. An autopsy report concluded that she had died of hepatitis but a pathologist who examined her organs under a microscope said there was "no clear indication" of a cause of death.