

# Tests Suggest Woman Died of Selenium Overdose

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A toxicologist at a lab in Kentucky says that Adanalian, who was otherwise healthy, died of an acute ingestion of selenium, a common over the counter nutrient that is toxic in high enough doses. But, it is important to note that the coroner's office here in Fresno has not come to that same conclusion. Linda Adanalian had just left an ice show at Selland Arena with her kids. She made it to the steps of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, her church, and collapsed. She died at the hospital. The coroner's office could not determine a cause of death. Now, this report from a toxicologist in Kentucky suggests she was exposed to a large amount of Selenium on the day she died. Dr. Venu Gopal is with the Fresno county coroner's office says, "We are looking into it, and based on that we may be doing some testing as well." Dr. Gopal would not comment on the validity of the new report, but the attorney for Linda's husband Mark, is skeptical. "In the state of California, toxicologists can't give the cause of death. Coroner's do, doctors do, not toxicologists." Paboojian points to a report on samples taken just after her death that show normal levels of selenium. He says the Kentucky pathologist was unaware of that. He adds the suggestion of poisoning is troubling to his client. "This concern is that he's got four young children," says Paboojian. "They're going to hear that their mother was poisoned by selenium, by somebody." And even with the report, and the headlines, her death is still a mystery.

"One thing is clear at this point," says Dr. Gopal. "Cause of death is still not established." The new tests by the coroner's office to check for selenium poisoning could be completed in the next few days or weeks.