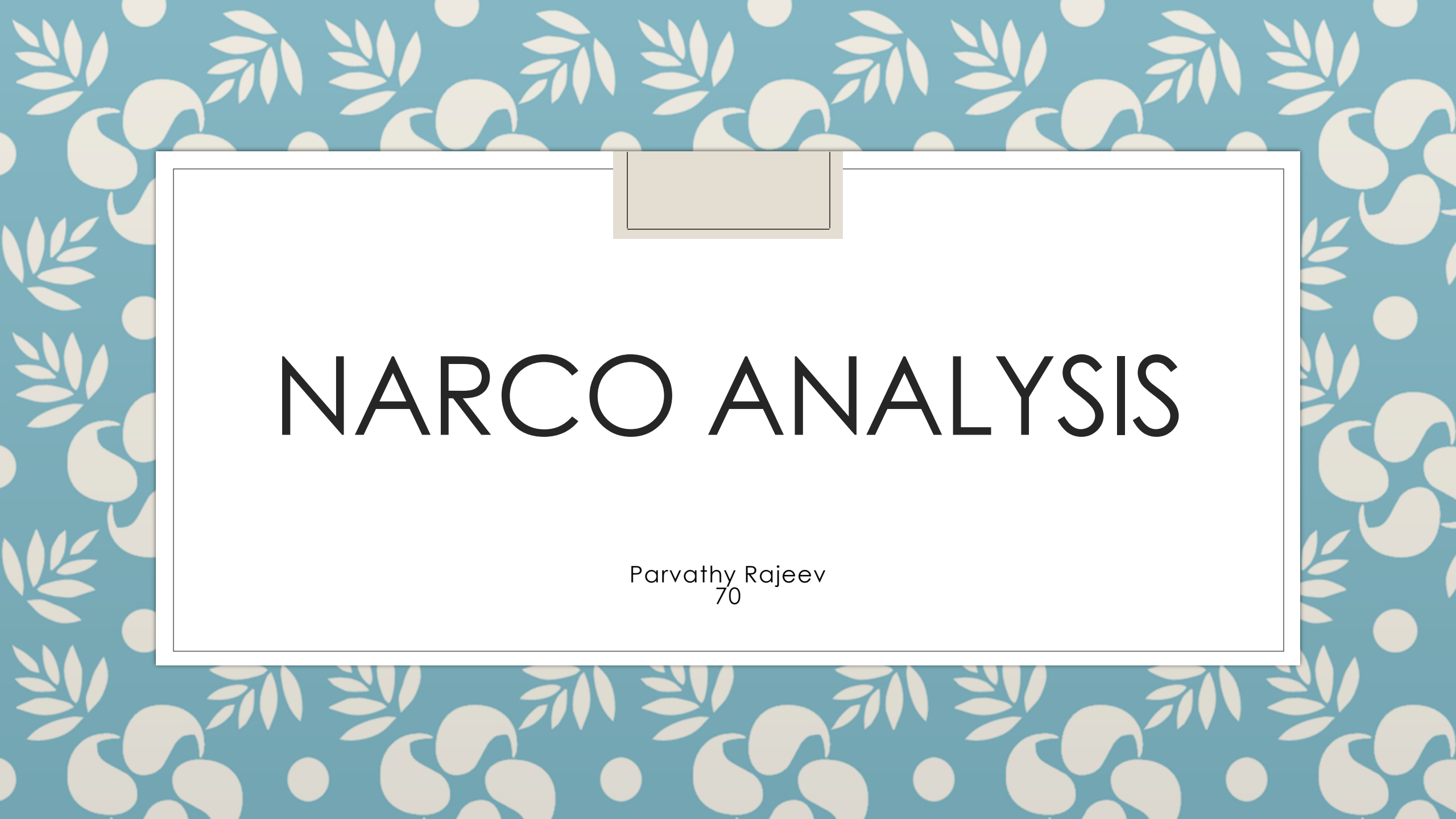




NARCO ANALYSIS

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Narcoanalysis Test or Narco Test refers to the practice of administering barbiturates or certain other chemicals substances, most often pentothal sodium (thiopentone sodium) to lower a subject's inhibitions, in the hope that the subject will more freely share information and feelings.

History

The term "Narcoanalysis" was coined by Horseley. Narcoanalysis first reached the mainstream in 1922, when Robert House, a Texas obstetrician, used scopolamine on two prisoners. Since then narco testing has become largely discredited in most democratic states, including the United States and Britain. There is a vast body of literature calling into question its ability to yield legal truth. Additionally, narcoanalysis has serious legal and ethical implications.

Technique

- Experts inject the suspect with barbiturates like pentothal sodium (thiopentone sodium) or sodium amytal (amylobarbitone) under controlled circumstances of the laboratory
- The dose is dependent on the person's sex, age, health and physical condition.
- The subject who is put in a state of hypnotism is not in a position to speak up on his own, but can answer simple questions, after giving some suggestions.

Reliability

- In most Western countries, narcoanalysis is not admissible in court as evidence.
- Studies have shown that it is possible to lie under narcoanalysis, while conversely, an innocent person may inadvertently implicate himself in a crime.
- Unfortunately, India still continues to use narcoanalysis, though the result of such a test can-not be used as evidence in the court of law, since it violates the fundamental right against self-incrimination (Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India).

However on May 5, 2010, the Supreme Court in the case 'Smt Selvi vs State of Karnataka' held that narcoanalysis, polygraph and brain mapping tests can be allowed after obtaining consent of the accused. When they are conducted with consent, the material so obtained is regarded as evidence during trial of cases according to Section 27 of the Evidence Act.

Reference

- VV PILLAI Textbook of forensic medicine and toxicology

Thank you