

Homeless amputee beaten to death with own crutch

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SAN DIEGO – A homeless amputee was beaten to death with his own crutch Monday night on a downtown sidewalk.

Several witnesses reported that the 41-year-old victim had gotten into an argument with another man on F Street near Eighth Avenue in the Core-Columbia neighborhood just before midnight, homicide Lt. Kevin Rooney said.

During the fight the man picked up the victim's crutch and hit him with it, said Rooney.

Paramedics tried to revive him but he died about a hour later at a trauma center.

The attacker was described as Latino and in his 30s, about 5 feet 10 inches tall and 170 pounds with a mustache and a sparse beard, Rooney said.

He was last seen near Seventh Avenue and G Street.

Police said they don't know why the men were arguing, if they knew each other or the motive for the attack.

The dead man's name has not yet been released. Rooney said he had an amputated leg and used a wheelchair but also was able to stand. He was standing when he was hit with the crutch, he said.

The man was known to stay in an alcove in front of the building where the fight took place.

Anyone with information is asked to call homicide detectives at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.