

## Signs of External Injury

### Head and Neck

1. A blue bruise measuring 1 x 1.5 cm just above the medial right eyebrow.
2. A slightly irregular stab wound just anterior to and below the angle of the jaw on the left side of the neck measuring 1.3 x 0.4 cm. It was orientated in the 2 'til 8 o'clock position.

The stab wound track was straight backwards and horizontal into the skin and was 4 cm deep, into the soft tissues of the neck. There was no injury to the large vessels of the neck.

3. A horizontal superficial incised wound on the left side of the mid-neck measuring 0.8 cm long and 0.1 cm wide.
4. On the lower left side of the neck, a stab wound measuring 0.2 x 0.5 cm, with anterior superficial tail measuring 2 cm long and 0.2 cm wide. The shape of the ends of the wound was difficult to discern.

The stab wound track was straight backwards into the soft tissues of the neck to a depth of 3 cm.

5. Just underneath the tip of the chin, just to the right of the mid-line was a superficial incised wound measuring 1.4 x 0.1 cm. It was almost horizontal, slightly concave inferiorly.

### Left Upper Limb

6. On the front of the left shoulder was a stab wound. It was 16.5 cm to the left of the midline and 132 cm from the heel. It was orientated in the 2 til 8 o'clock position. The stab wound measured 0.5 cm long with tail extending medially and inferiorly measuring 3 x 0.6 cm.

The stab wound track extended straight back into the subcutaneous tissues to a depth of 2.5 cm.

7. On the medial aspect of the left mid forearm, was a curvilinear superficial horizontal incised wound measuring 3 x 0.1 cm.
8. On the antero-lateral aspect of the distal third of the left forearm was a group of three horizontal incised wounds. The proximal measured 4 x 1 cm, the central 3 x 1.5 cm and the distal 2 x 1 cm. The underlying muscle and tendons were exposed, although they were not incised.
9. On the medial aspect of the left wrist was a horizontal incised wound measuring 2 x 0.5 cm with a medial tail measuring 1.0 cm. The subcutaneous fat was exposed.
10. Just lateral and proximal to the left elbow was a linear superficial incised wound measuring 1.5 cm x 0.1 cm.
11. On the dorsal aspect of the left mid forearm was a horizontal gaping incised wound measuring 4 x 2 cm that exposed the underlying muscle. Dark fibres were recovered from the floor of this injury (exhibit PL25).
12. On the distal dorsal left forearm was a horizontal incised wound measuring 1.9 x 0.5 cm, exposing the subcutaneous tissues.

#### **Left hand**

13. Close to the central left palm was a superficial vertical linear incised wound measuring 1 cm.
14. Close to the wrist, in the proximal hypothenar eminence was a deep irregular incised wound measuring 1.5 x 1.5 cm.
15. In the web of skin in between the left thumb and index finger was a gaping incised ~~wound measuring 5 cm long~~ and up to 1 cm deep.

16. At the proximal end of injury 15 on the palm of the left hand was a further superficial incised wound measuring 0.7 cm long
17. On the lateral aspect of the left index finger was an incised wound measuring 2.5 cm long and 0.5 cm wide. A superficial flap of skin had been raised and was hinged at the distal end of this injury.
18. In the pulp of the left index finger tip was a superficial horizontal incised wound measuring 1 cm long and 0.2 cm wide.
19. In the pulp of the left middle finger were two superficial horizontal incised wounds measuring 1 cm long each and 0.1 cm wide.
20. In the pulp of the left ring finger was a horizontal superficial incised wound measuring 1.5 cm long and 0.1 cm wide.
21. On the medial aspect of the proximal phalanx of the left ring finger was a horizontal superficial incised wound measuring 0.4 cm long.
22. On the palmar aspect of the proximal phalanx of the left little finger was a horizontal incised wound measuring 0.4 cm long.
23. On the dorsal aspect of the central left hand was an oblique gaping incised wound measuring 4 x 1 cm. Close to the lateral edge of the main injury was a pair of 0.5 cm long incised wounds. Medially, close to the metacarpophalangeal joints of the little and ring fingers was a further pair of superficial incised wounds measuring 2 x 0.1 cm and 0.4 cm.

#### **Front of Chest**

24. A sutured stab wound on the upper left chest. It was centred 6 cm to the left of the midline and 12.5 cm above the heel. The wound was 7 cm long on the skin. It

Just separate from the main stab wound, on its lateral aspect, close to the mid-point of the main wound was a further separate stab wound. This measured 1.2 x 0.4 cm and communicated with the main wound stab wound track.

The stab wound track penetrated the chest cavity through a gaping wound in between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ribs just deep to the external injury. This measured 10 x 2 cm, and incised right through the costal cartilage of the 3<sup>rd</sup> left rib.

Within the left chest cavity remained 250 ml of fresh blood, although during the course of the examination, copious quantities of blood leaked from this wound when the back of the deceased was examined. A chest drain was also in situ.

The left lung had collapsed. Extending from the lingula towards the left lung hilum was a gaping incision measuring up to 7 cm long. It had incised at least one primary branch of the main left pulmonary artery. In association with this, the left border of the pericardium contained an incised wound 3 cm long, although there was no cardiac injury, and there was mild staining of the pericardial fluid with blood only.

The stab wound track was perpendicular to the skin and straight backwards. It measured approximately 14 cm in depth.

25. On the upper right chest was a horizontal stab wound. It was 12.5 cm from the heel and 8 cm to the right of the mid line. The stab wound measured 1.5 cm long, and its lateral end was pointed and its medial end was squared. The track was 3.5 cm deep and directed straight back into the subcutaneous tissues.
26. Below injury 25 was a superficial horizontal incised wound measuring 0.6 x 0.1 cm.

### Right Upper Limb

27. On the medial aspect of the distal right forearm was a horizontal incised wound measuring 3 x 1 cm exposing the underlying tendons and muscle. A superficial incised "tail" was present measuring 2 x 0.1 cm, extending from the medial edge of the main wound in an inferolateral direction. Just below this injury was a further separate superficial incised wound measuring 1 cm long.

### Right hand

28. A gaping incised wound was present in the web of skin in between the right index finger and thumb measuring 4 x 3 cm. This exposed the underlying bone and muscle.
29. Over the thenar eminence was an interrupted incised wound measuring 2.5 cm long x 0.1 cm.
30. Over the hypothenar eminence was an incised wound measuring 1 x 0.5 cm.
31. At the base of the right little finger on the palmar aspect was a gaping horizontal incised wound measuring 1.5 cm x 0.4 cm.
32. On the palmar aspect of the middle phalanx of the right little finger was an oblique gaping incised wound measuring 1.5 x 0.4 cm.
33. On the palmar aspect of the first phalanx of the right ring finger was a gaping horizontal incised wound measuring 1.2 x 0.3 cm.
34. Covering the palmar aspect of the distal and middle phalanges of the right ring finger was an oblique gaping incised wound measuring 2.5 x 0.5 cm.
35. At the base of the right ring finger was an incised wound measuring 1.0 x 0.2 cm.
36. On the palmar aspect of the middle phalanx of right middle finger was a gaping horizontal incised wound measuring 1.2 x 0.4 cm.

37. In the pulp of the right index finger was a horizontal incised wound measuring 1 x 0.1 cm.
38. On the palmar aspect of the middle phalanx of the right index finger was an incised wound measuring 1.4 x 0.1 cm.
39. On the palmar aspect of the proximal phalanx of the right index finger was an incised wound measuring 0.6 x 0.2 cm.
40. Over the dorsal aspect of the middle phalanx of the right little finger was a gaping oblique incised wound measuring 1.6 x 0.2 cm.
41. Over the dorsal aspect of the distal phalanx of the right ring finger was a vertical incised wound measuring 0.4 cm long.
42. Over the dorsal aspect of the middle phalanx of the right middle finger was a gaping oblique incised wound measuring 2 x 0.3 cm.

#### Abdomen

43. A stab wound was present in the right upper abdomen. It was 100 cm from the heel and 2 cm to the right of the mid-line. The wound measured 4.2 cm when closed and its lateral end was pointed and the medial end was squared.

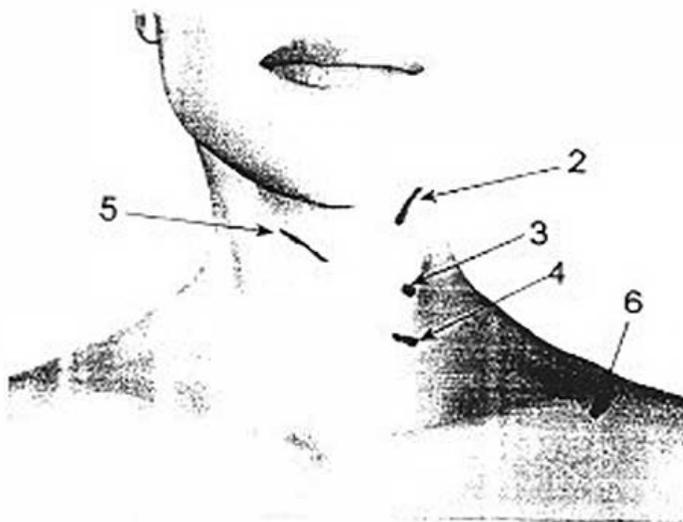
The stab wound entered the abdominal cavity through the musculature via a wound measuring 7 x 3 cm. The track penetrated the base of the small bowel mesentery, close to the duodenum. The duodenum was incised, in this region, with a gaping defect. The peritoneal cavity contained at least 500 ml of blood. The track passed just inferior to the right renal hilum. There was a large quantity of surrounding haemorrhage. Within the lateral wall of the inferior vena cava was an incised wound measuring 1 cm. The stab wound track continued through the psoas muscle, incising it through.

Overall the stab wound track was straight back into the tissues, and measured approximately 19 cm deep

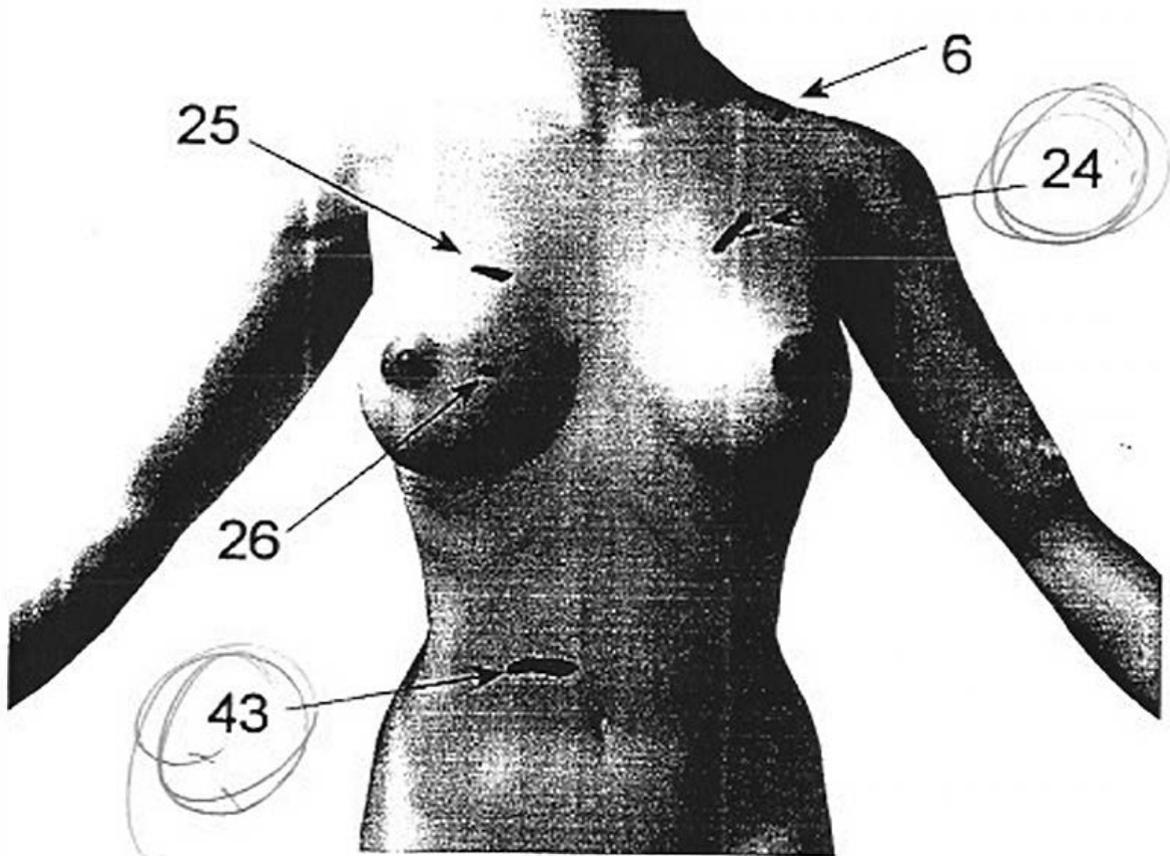
44. In the deep scalp, just to the left of the vertex was a deep bruise measuring 3 x 1 cm.

## BODY DIAGRAMS

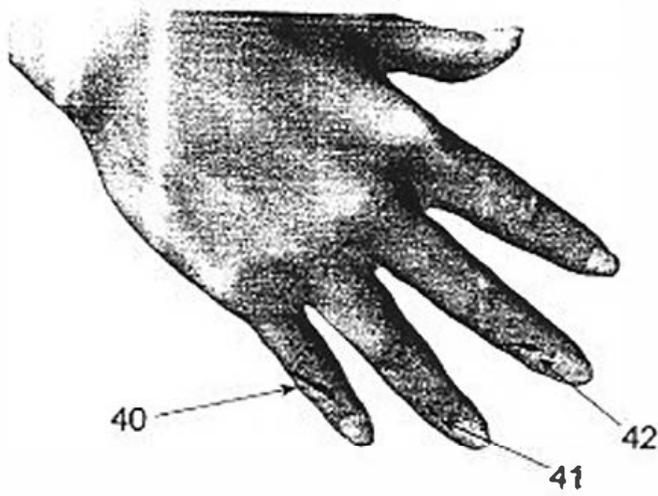
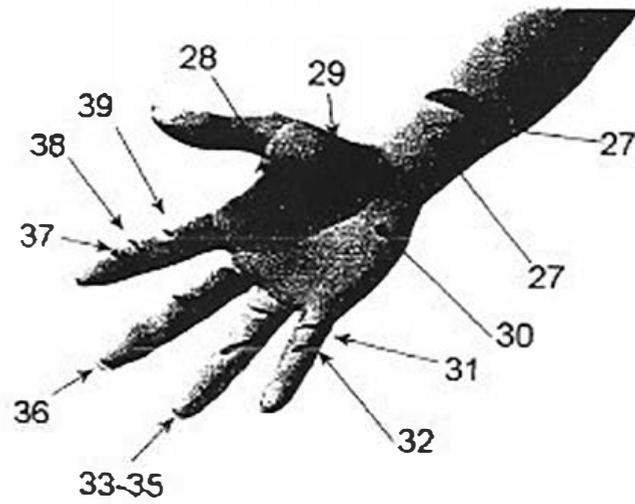
### Head and neck



Torso



Right upper limb



Left upper limb

