

M.I.3. Lacerated wound of scalp

Gross:

- A lacerated wound of size 9*1*0.5cm is present over the right side of parietal region (scalp)

- Margins are irregular, ragged & uneven.

Characteristics of lacerated wound:

- Margins are irregular, ragged and uneven
- Tearing at the ends of lacerations, at angles diverging from the main laceration itself, so-called **swallow tails**, are frequently noted.
- Bruising is seen either in the skin or the subcutaneous tissues around the wound.
- Hair bulbs are crushed.
- Haemorrhage is less because the arteries are crushed
- Foreign matter may be found in the wound.

Dating of Laceration:

- Fresh - Bleeding or fresh clot is attached; margins are red, swollen and tender.
- 12-24 h - Margins swollen, red and covered by dried blood clots and lymph.
- 3-5 days - Margins strongly adherent with each other and covered by dried crust.
- 6-7 days - Crust/scab falls off or can easily be taken off with soft reddish tender scar.
- Few weeks - Scar is whitish, firm and painless.

Medicolegal Importance:

- The type of laceration may indicate the cause of the injury and the shape of the blunt weapon.
- Foreign bodies found in the wound may indicate the circumstances in which the crime has been committed.
- The age of the injury can be determined.

