

M.I.7. Gunshot wounds

Gross

- The given specimen shows the presence of entry wound of gunshot injury
- It has inverted margins along with blackening and tattooing

Entry wound:

- The entry wound shows a punched-out hole (clean cut) on the outer table and bevelled appearance on the inner table.
- Fissured fracture may radiate from the hole.
- The piece may be driven inside causing injury to the brain.
- Dura shows irregular tear.
- In contact wounds, shattering of skull wound may occur.

Exit wound:

- The exit wound on the inner table shows clean cut hole and bevelling on the outer table.
- The wound is larger than the entry wound due to the deformity and tumbling of the bullet on entering the skull.
- The bevelling helps to assess the angle of fire.

Puppe's Rule:

- This rule states that when two fracture lines intersect each other, the second fracture line never crosses the first one.
- It determines the sequence of shots when several bullets have struck the cranium and is also applicable to the multiple blunt force impact on the skull.

Bullet track

- The bullet track should be described in relation to the planes of the body:
- From front to back or from back to front, from left to right or from right to left, from above downwards or from below upwards.
- Angular estimates, i.e., vertical, horizontal and sagittal planes of the body.
- Frequently, the track of the bullet is unpredictable due to its deflection by bone and the bullet may be found in an unexpected situation.

Medicolegal Importance:

- Age of injury can be determined which helps to corroborate with alleged time of assault.
- Character and manner of injury may be known from its distribution.
- Position, number and direction of wounds may indicate manner of production i.e. suicide, accident or homicide.
- Section 320 IPC Grievous hurt.



