

M.I.9.1. Ligature mark – pressure abrasion

Gross: the given specimen shows crushed layers of neck with brownish coloured ligature mark.

Mechanism:

- They are caused by crushing of the superficial layers of the epidermis and are associated with a bruise of the surrounding area.
- If the movement of instrument is around 90° to the skin, a pressure type of abrasion occurs.
- In this type, the movement is slight and largely directed inwards.
- The ligature mark in cases of hanging and strangulation and the teeth bite marks are the examples.



Description of ligature mark:

- The description of the ligature mark should include its direction, continuous or interrupted, colour, depth and width, ligature pattern if any, the areas of the neck involved, and its relation to local landmarks.
- The ligature produces a furrow or a groove in the tissue which is pale in colour, but it later becomes yellow-brown or dark-brown and hard like parchment, due to the drying of the slightly abraded skin.

Preservation of ligature material:

- Removal of the noose from the neck is done by cutting the noose away from the knot and tying the cut ends with string or wire.