

# **STAB WOUNDS**

**A stab wound produced by thrusting  
of any pointed (sharp or blunt)  
object into the body so that the  
depth is the greatest dimension of  
the wound**

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# **WEAPONS CAUSING STAB WOUND**

- **Knife**
- **Dagger**
- **Needle**
- **Spear**
- **Arrow**
- **Scissor**
- **Ice pick**
- **Screw driver**

- **Punctured:**
- **Perforating :**
- **Penetrating :**

**Concealed punctured wounds**

# EXAMINATION OF STAB WOUND

- **Number of wounds**
- **Position of each wound**
- **Shape**
- **Length**
- **Depth of penetration**
- **Direction of thrust**
- **Depth of the thrust**
- **Force required to inflict the injuries**
- **movement of the knife in the wound**

# Entry wound

- **Wedge shaped**
  - **Elliptical**
  - **Rounded**
  - **Cruciate**
  - **Irregular**

## **SHAPE:**

**stab wound which runs parallel to the cleavage lines**

– remain slit shaped and narrow

• **A cut which is inflicted across the natural lines of tension**

– tend to gape

• **If the knife is inserted in an oblique plane**

– the skin defect is wider

wound depends upon

- Dimensions of the weapon
- Type of weapon
- Taper of the blade



- Knife with one sharp edge
- Knife with two cutting edge

- Chisel and screwdrivers
  - produce rectangular entry hole
- Cross head screwdrivers
  - leave stellate shape holes with abraded margins
- Bayonet with ridges, grooves or multiple sharp edges produce distinctive pattern

**'fishtail'.**

# INJURIES FROM SCISSORS

- **whether the scissors were used open or closed.**
  - If open and one blade is stabbed into the victim
  - indistinguishable from a knife wound.
- **Two-part blade with steel cutting edge may produce a**
  - stepped wound

- flat 'Z' or the usual sign for a flash of lightning.
- small lateral splits in the wound Centre from a projecting hinge screw.

# Movement of the knife in the wound

- Scrimmage enlargement

# Margins:

## Length:

- **The length of a stab entry slit can be measured only**
- **when its margins have been properly apposed.**

## **For permanent recording**

- **the best method is to fasten the margins in place with transparent -sticky tape**

# DEPTH

**depth (length of track) is greater than the width  
and length of the external injury**

- (not safe to find out the depth by introducing a probe)**



# Measurement of depth in living

- Impossible to measure depth in living
- The depth should be determined in the operation theatre when the wound is repaired

# MEASUREMENT OF DEPTH AT AUTOPSY

- instrument and supplemented by careful dissection.
- gentle insertion of a narrow wooden tongue-depressor with its rounded tip
- Radio opaque material or dyes can be injected into the stab wound to demonstrate the wound track by x-Rays.
- Layer by layer dissection
- MRI

## **DIRECTION**

- **When the knife penetrates at an angle, the wound will have a beveled margin on one side with undermining (undercut) on the other.**

# Force required to inflict stab wound

- **The force required to inflict stab wound is subjective & can only be stated in comparative terms like**
  - **Slight pressure**
  - **Moderate force**
  - **Considerable force**
  - **Violent penetration**

# COMPLICATIONS OF STAB WOUNDS

# Examination of injuries

- Situation
- Size
- Appearance
- Orientation
- Direction of infliction

- Investigations

- Swab

- Radiology