

Injuries Caused By Blunt Trauma ; A Case Report

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Abstract

Forensic and Medicolegal medicine is a specialized branch of medical science that utilizes medical science to assist law enforcement and legal issues, one of which is criminal law, and plays a role in helping the police to uphold justice.¹ Traumatology is a science that studies all aspects related to violence against living human body tissues, also studies injuries and injuries and their relationship with various violence, while what is meant by injury is a state of discontinuity of body tissues due to violence.² Blunt Force Trauma is a force inflicted by a blunt object on the surface of the body and resulting in injury. A case was reported to the Department of Forensic Medicine and Medicolegal FK. USU from one of the hospitals in Medan, has examined a woman, age 34 years, based on the theory, results of the examination and discussion above, it can be concluded that the victim suffered blunt trauma to the lips, gums, and chin.

Keywords: Blunt Trauma; Crimes; Forensic

1. Introduction

In the medicolegal sense, trauma is knowledge of tools or objects that can cause health problems to a person. Mechanical trauma occurs due to tools or weapons in various forms, natural or man-made, blunt trauma itself is caused by objects that have a blunt surface such as stones, wood, hammers, fists and so on, which include falling from high places, traffic accidents, gunshot wounds (with rubber bullets / not live bullets) and others.⁸ Some injuries resulting from blunt force:

- Bruises (bruise, contusion)
- Abrasion
- Laceration
- Fracture shift joint (fracture, dislocation)

Table 1. The difference between blunt trauma and sharp trauma

BLUNT THINGS	SHARPS
The shape of the wound borderline is irregular and the edges of the wound are uneven	The boundary line of the wound is firm
When linked, it can't be a meeting (because part of the network is destroyed)	When linked form a straight line
The cliff is uneven and there is a network bridge	Flat wound cliffs, no network bridges
Around the border line of the wound were found bruises	Can not be bruised
The location of the injury is easier to occur in areas near the bone (eg the head, face and extremity area)	The shape of the wound depends on the way the sharp object hits the target

Criminal law policy in determining the severity of injuries, based on its effects on physical health, spiritual health, survival of the fetus in the womb, physical aesthetics and occupation of positions or livelihood jobs. Where the qualifications of the wound are:

1. Minor injuries (injuries that do not cause disease, or obstruction to carry out office work or livelihood work)
 Example: In this seventeen-year-old man, there were abrasions and bruises caused by blunt objects. These injuries do not result in illness or hindrance to performing the position or work.
 The formulation of the law on minor persecution as stipulated in article 352 (1) of the Criminal Code states that "persecution that does not cause disease or hindrance to carrying out office work or pursuits, is threatened, as light persecution". So if the wound on a victim is expected to heal completely and not cause disease or complications, then the wound is included in this category.⁵
2. Moderate injuries (injuries that cause illness or hindrance in carrying out office or livelihood for a while)
 Example: In a man about twenty-one years old, bruises and open wounds were obtained due to blunt force objects. These injuries result in illness or obstruction of performing positions or work for two weeks.
 The legal formulation of (moderate) persecution as stipulated in article 351 (1) of the Criminal Code does not state any disease. So if we examine a victim and find a "disease" due to the violence, then the victim is put into this category.⁵
3. Serious injury (serious injury, or life-threatening)

Example: In women who are about twenty-five years old, there are abrasions, bruises and tears in the spleen tissue. These wounds, in addition to bringing death danger, also cannot be expected to heal completely. (Idries, 2002).

The legal formulation of maltreatment that causes serious injury is regulated in article 351 (2) of the Criminal Code which states that if the act results in serious injury, the guilty person is threatened with imprisonment for a maximum of five years". The serious injury itself has been regulated in article 90 of the Criminal Code in a limited manner. So if we examine a victim and find one of the injuries as stated in article 90 of the Criminal Code, then the victim is included in this category.

Serious injuries according to article 90 of the Criminal Code are:

- Falling ill or receiving injuries that give no hope of healing at all, or that pose a mortal danger;
- Inability to continuously perform the duties of the position or search work;
- Loss of one of the senses;
- Gets severely disabled;
- Suffering from paralytic pain;
- Impaired thinking power for more than four weeks;
- The fall or death of a woman's womb.⁵

2. Case Report

Examined by a woman, initial NM, age 34 years, based on the theory, results of the examination and discussion above, it can be concluded that the victim suffered blunt trauma to the lips, gums, and chin. Here are the results of the forensic examination:



Fig. 1. Abrasions were found on the upper lip



Fig. 2. Abrasions were found on the front gum on the upper right jaw



Fig. 3. A bleeding wound was found on the chin with a long size

3. Discussion

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In this case, a woman, aged 34, experienced:

- a. Abrasions were found on the upper lip, measuring 0.5 cm long by 0.5 cm and about the midline of the body. By wound features: irregular shape, uneven wound surface.
- b. There were abrasions on the front gums on the upper right jaw, measuring 0.5 cm long by 0.5 cm by 0.5 cm about the midline of the body. By wound features: irregular shape, uneven wound surface.
- c. There was a bleeding wound on the chin measuring 0.5 cm long, 0.5 cm wide, about the midline of the body. By wound features: irregular shape, uneven wound surface.

Based on the results of the examination and the theory above, this shows that the victim suffered red abrasions and peeling of the skin epithelium above the wound, and the surface of the skin was damaged. This is caused by scratching / scratching with pointed objects. From the red abrasions, based on the theory, it is estimated that the time of abrasions on the victim's upper right arm is about 2-3 hours because the characteristics show that the wound is still fresh, red in color and blood and serum are found, scabies is not there. The injury is the result of blunt trauma, namely: a forced blow caused by a blunt object on the surface of the body and resulting in injury.

The qualification of injuries suffered by os is minor injuries, which are injuries that do not cause disease or hindrance in carrying out their daily work as a farmer. Criminal law policy in determining the severity of injuries, based on its effects on physical health, spiritual health, survival of the fetus in the womb, physical aesthetics and occupation of positions or livelihood jobs. Where the qualifications of the injury are: Minor injuries (injuries that do not cause disease, or obstruction to carry out office work or livelihood work) The formulation of the law on minor persecution as stipulated in article 352 (1) of the Criminal Code states that "persecution that does not cause disease or hindrance to carry out office work or search, is threatened, as minor persecution". So if the wound on a victim is expected to heal completely and not cause disease or complications, then the wound is included in this category.⁵

4. Conclusion

Examined by a woman, age 34 years, based on the theory, results of the examination and discussion above, it can be concluded that the victim suffered blunt trauma to the lips, gums, and chin. The wound is considered a minor injury because it does not cause hindrance in carrying out his daily work as a farmer in accordance with Article 352 of the Criminal Code.

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