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Clinical Forensic Assessment of Victim with Sharp Force Injury (A Case Report)

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ABSTRACT

Background: Violence or trauma committed against living victims can take many different forms, including blunt force, sharp force, or other types of injury. Because sharp weapons are simple to get, violent criminal acts frequently involve them. Homicide, suicide, and accidents can all result in deaths from sharp items.
Objective: This study aims to dtermine the diagnosis wound qualification on the examination on patient in the emergency room of the Bhayangkara H.S. Samsoeri Mertojoso Hospital.
Methods: The method of diagnosis uses a clinical assessment and based on Criminal Code's Criteria.
Results: A 61-year-old male victim with the initials JA who claimed to have experienced sharp force injury was reported. Upon inspection of the victim, an open wound of approximately 3 cm in length, 1 cm in width, and approximately 2 cm in depth was discovered on the outside left upper arm. The patient got wound hecting and medicine to reduce the pain. After that the patient release from hospital.
Conclusion: Wounds on the patient's body are criminally caused injuries that fall under the category of minor abuse, meaning they don't make the victim sick or make it difficult for them to accomplish their jobs.

Introduction

Indonesia is a country based on the law of the rule of law as written in the 1945 Constitution 4th Amendment Article 1 paragraph (3) which reads: "Indonesia is a state of law." This has legal consequences that in the Indonesian state, the implementation of state power in a broad sense must always be based on law. This gives legitimacy and limits the state's authority in regulating and providing societal safety and happiness.

Acts of persecution can endanger the safety of the lives of the public, so this

action is subject to a criminal act based on Article 351 of the Criminal Code;
(1)Persecution is punishable by a maximum imprisonment of two years and eight months or a maximum fine of four thousand five hundred rupiahs; (2) If the act results in serious injury, the guilty person is threatened with a maximum imprisonment of five years; (3) If it results in death, it is punishable by a maximum imprisonment of seven years; (4) Persecution is equated with deliberately damaging health; (5) Attempting to commit this crime is a criminal offense.

During the persecution, the perpetrator's actions can cause harm to the victim. *Wounds* can be defined as tissue discontinuities due to trauma. Injuries can be caused by gunshots, electric currents, contact with sharp objects, contact with blunt objects, chemicals, etc.

In upholding justice for victims of persecution, Visum et Repertum must be made as evidence to be brought to court. Visum et Repertum is a certificate made based on experts' observations and findings, whose results will be addressed to the requesting party for Visum et Repertum.

This article will present cases of abuse against living victims who experienced upper-arm abuse (Pramesti, 2015; Margono, 2016).

Methods

This study was based on examining emergency room patients at Bhayangkara H.S.Samsoeri Mertojoso Hospital Surabaya. The diagnosis uses a clinical assessment based on Criminal Code's Criteria

Case

On August 26, 2022, at 21.30 Local Time (GMT +7), a man came to the IGD Bhayangkara H.S. Samsoeri Mertojoso Surabaya, delivered by the police, was conscious of a wound on his left upper arm that was bleeding. To the police statement, the resident found the victim on the street in a state that was already injured for about an hour and a half. Then coming to the hospital and immediately reported it to the police. The police immediately took the victim to the ER Bhayangkara H.S Samsoeri Mertojoso Hospital Surabaya for an examination.

Result and Discussion

On examination of the wound, an open wound was found on the outer left upper arm, eight centimeters below the top of the shoulder. The shape of the wound is a slit, with a length of 3 cm and a width of approximately 1 cm, and a depth of about 2 cm with blood. The wound has clear boundaries and flat edges, both sharp angles, in the area around the clean wound.

On physical examination, all other body areas were within normal limits. Next, the victim's wound is cleaned, stitched to stop the bleeding, and given treatment.

Injuries from sharp objects are bodily abnormalities caused by contact with sharp-edged and pointed objects or tools so that tissue continuity is damaged/lost. Sharp-edged means it can slice, and pointed-tip means it can stab or tear, such as kitchen knives, broken glass, razor blades, swords, kris, sickles, flaps, daggers, bayonets, and others. To determine the degree of injury is done through a medical assessment by a doctor; in writing the conclusion, visum et repertum generally refers to the language of the articles in the law.

Injuries that do not require treatment or medical intervention and do not interfere with function are classified as first-degree injuries. Bruises and abrasions are generally classified as first-degree injuries. The interpretation of third-degree injuries is based on Article 90 of the Criminal Code regarding serious injuries. Getting an injury that does not give any hope of healing or poses a danger of death, causes loss of one of the five senses, gets severe disability, suffers from paralysis, or impaired thinking power for four years. More weeks, and causes the loss or death of a woman's womb. Meanwhile, for injuries that do not meet the criteria for grades three and one, they are classified as grade 2, namely injuries that cause illness or obstacles to carrying out work or searching for a while." (Safitry, 2013).

Injuries caused by sharp objects have the following characteristics, the edges of the wound are flat, the angle of the wound is sharp, the hair is cut, there are no tissue bridges, and there are no bruises or abrasions around it.

In conducting the examination, recording, and reporting of injuries, it is necessary to photograph the condition of the wound first, then calculate the number of wounds and see where the wound is located. Next, measure the wound for the length; it is done by first closing the two edges of the wound. The depth of the wound is described by mentioning the damage to the organs through which the wound passes. For example, a wound on the abdominal wall, abdominal muscles, and liver tissue as far as 5 cm (not penetrating). Thus we get an idea of the depth of the wound. Next, describe the characteristics of the existing wound; the edges of the wound, the angle of the wound, whether there are any tissue bridges, bruises, or abrasions, whether there are any hairs cut, or if anything is coming out of the hole. The next step is to see if there is a foreign object in the wound and if it is possible to find a foreign object. For example, broken glass, a complete knife, and some of the tips of the knife are severe and left behind, then determine the

intravital of the wound and whether it is lethal (Apuranto, 2003). H., 2012).

Sharp violence can cause several types of injuries, including:

Sliced Wound (Incised Wound)

An *incised wound* is caused by a sharp-edged object or tool that occurs with light pressure and scratches on the body surface. It can be caused by knives, broken glass, razor blades, swords, and cutting zinc. The shape of the iris wound is caused if it is parallel to the direction of the elastic fibers or if the wound muscle is in the form of a slit. If it is perpendicular to the direction of the elastic/muscle, the wound is gaping; if it is tilted to the elastic fiber/muscle, the wound is asymmetrical. The characteristics of an iris wound include the edges and surface of the wound being flat, the angle of the wound being sharp, there being no tissue bridge, and the hair being cut (Apuranto, H., 2012).

Slash Wound (Chop Wound)

A *slash wound* is caused by a heavy object or tool with sharp or somewhat blunt eyes with a swing accompanied by a rather large force. Tools that can cause stab wounds include swords, sickles, axes, and ship propellers. The characteristics of stab wounds are usually prominent in size, and the edges of the wound depend on the weapon's blade, sharp or less sharp (Delabarde, *et. al.,* 2017). The sharper the eye of the weapon used, the flatter the edges of the wound, the angle of the wound depends on the eye of the weapon used and almost always causes damage to the bone, sometimes the body part that is stabbed is cut off, bruises or abrasions can be found around the wound (Apuranto, 2003). H., 2012).

Stab Wound

A *stab wound* is caused by an object/tool with a sharp tip and sharp or blunt edge that occurs with a pressure perpendicular to or oblique to the body surface. These injuries can be caused by daggers, bayonets, swords, kris, sickles, broken glass, and pointed objects with a round/square/triangular cross-section—for example, a file, buffalo horn, and others. The shape of the wound caused depends on the location of the wound and the shape of the tool's cross-section causing the wound. In parenchyma and bone organs, the shape of the stab wound is according to the cross-section of the causative device. On the skin or muscle, if caused by a knife parallel to the elastic/muscle fiber: the wound is like a slit; if the direction is perpendicular to the elastic/muscle fiber, it will form a gaping wound. The wound will be asymmetrical if tilted towards the elastic/muscle fiber. If the wound is caused by a tool in the form of a hook/javelin, the shape of the wound will be

like a slit. If the wound is in the area where the elastic/muscle fibers meet, then the shape of the wound is round (according to the tool's cross-section). If the tool that caused the wound has a triangular or rectangular cross-section, the shape of the wound will resemble a three- or four-legged star.

The characteristics of a stab wound depend on the sharp-edged tool or not. If the tool has a pointed tip and sharp edge, the edges of the wound are flat, and the angle of the wound is sharp; on the blunt side of the tool, the angle of the wound is not sharp; on the sharp side of the tool, the hair is also cut, if the puncture is carried out to the base of the knife, sometimes bruises are found. Around the wound, the size of the wound is greater than the length of the wound.

If the stab wound is caused by suicide; in that case, the characteristics include the location of the wound in an area where vital organs are located and can be reached by the victim's hands. Such as the chest or abdomen; the number of fatal wounds is usually one. Experimental stab wounds were found around the primary wound, clustered and with different depths; no blockage was found; if in an area where there are clothes, the clothes will be removed first; sometimes, the hand holding the weapon experiences a cadaveric spasm.

If a murderer causes the wound, the location of the wound will be in any place; also, in areas that are impossible to reach with one's own hands. There must be a sign of resistance or defense wounds or signs of restraint from the victim that caused a blockage wound; no attempted stab wounds were found (tentative stability) (De-Giorgio, et. al., 2015). In most cases, the stab wound in homicide is only one and deep (Burke, *et. al.*, 2018). Murder can resemble a suicide attempt. The target is an unprotected area of the body, and the chest is often a target because it is close to the attacker and knows the many vital organs in the chest area. Most perpetrators use their right hand (not left-handed) so that the wound is often found on the victim's left side, and most attack from the front (Asser, et. al., 2019).

In this case, the wound was on the outer left upper extremity. Injuries to the upper extremities can occur when the victim tries to defend or protect himself from the attacker (Syarifah & Yudianto, 2017). The location and size of the wound on the person can be interpreted as a form of slash commonly found in parry wounds when someone is trying to protect themselves. The presence of bleeding indicates a wound that affects the blood vessels, so it is necessary to suture the wound.

If the stab wound occurs in the head area, it is almost always a homicide; death is often caused by bleeding and damage to vital organs, namely brain tissue. The shape

of the head wound can help determine the weapon's identity. If the stab wound is in the neck, death can be caused by severing the carotid artery, jugular vein, pharynx, and trachea. Cutting the carotid artery can cause profuse bleeding or can cause a thrombus that can block the cerebral artery. Cutting the jugular vein can cause air embolism that can block the pulmonary artery. A trachea cut can cause the aspiration of blood into the lungs. If the stab wound is in the chest area, it can cause damage to the heart, lungs, prominent veins, or arteries, leading to death. If the location of the stab wound is in the abdomen, it can cause damage to the liver, spleen, stomach, pancreas, kidneys, urinary bladder, and intestines, so it can cause quite a lot of bleeding. If the stab wound is in the extremity area, there are often parry wounds; if the number is large, it can cause death due to bleeding (Apuranto, H., 2012).

Conclusion

In this case, the victim came accompanied by an investigator with an SPVR because of the injuries suspected to be the result of a criminal act. The location of the wound on the upper left arm does not affect vital organs or large blood vessels. It is not the dominant hand for carrying out activities, so the wound is a wound that does not cause disease or obstacles in carrying out work, position, or livelihood. Furthermore, the VeR made by the doctor can be used as evidence in the trial.

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