



Pathology Biology Section - 2012

G41 Reconstruction of Homicide by Stabbing Through Clothing Position

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand basic principles of recording clothing position in homicide cases involving stabbing. A case example will be discussed.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing information on the importance of analysis of clothing position in homicide cases involving stabbing.

Stabbing is the most common method of homicide and it represents several investigative challenges. Its reconstruction is a complex process where factors such as stabbing site, body position and dynamics, type of clothes, knife type, blood distribution, crime scene condition, pathology, and psychology are important information parameters to be considered. Major questions required to be answered in stabbing cases are differentiating between homicide and suicide, the victim and perpetrator positions, and the sequence of stabbing.

There is little attention directed towards clothing position analyses. This factor can be lost or affected during or after moving the body in the crime scene or the morgue which could produce changes in the clothing position profile.

Clothing position can be divided into three stages which are before stabbing, during stabbing, and after stabbing positions. This research will attempt to reveal clothing position during the stabbing process. It will be achieved mainly through matching stabbing sites in clothes and body tissues. The stab sites will be assessed individually and in relation to each other. This will help to determine the movement and the interaction of the victim with the perpetrator during the stabbing process and help to determine the sequence of wounding. In addition, other evidence such as blood distribution on the victim and the perpetrator's clothing can help to indicate clothing position during stabbing.

A case of a son with a history of psychological disorder, who killed his father by stabbing is presented.

Examining the victim's t-shirt showed seven stab sites. In correspondence there are six stab sites in the left chest and left back areas of the body. The clothing position analysis demonstrated differences in the t-shirt alignment after matching stab sites in the clothing and the body. This can be explained by different pulling forces applied vertically and horizontally on the t-shirt during the stabbing process. The son confessed that he held his father after stabbing to prevent his movement which could produce the pulling force that is supported by the blood distribution evidence.

Understanding clothing position and blood distribution on the victim and the perpetrator helped to elucidate some of the events during the stabbing. Clothing position and blood distribution should be recorded and analyzed in the crime scene first then at the mortuary and in the laboratory. There is a need of more research in this vital area of stabbing reconstruction.

Reconstruction, Stabbing, Clothing Position