



Pathology/Biology Section - 2014

G27 Human Fatalities Due to Blunt or Penetrating Animal Injuries

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After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand the pattern of animal-related injuries in human victims.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing evidence in human casualties due to animal attacks in Turkey.

Animal-related injuries in Turkey are not well documented in the world scientific community. People engaged in animal husbandry or agriculture in rural areas are at increased risk for fatal and non-fatal injuries. This study uses the following six cases to aid the scientific community of Turkey in establishing epidemiological data for these types of injuries.

Case 1: An 85-year-old male with penetrating injuries to the lumber area was injured by the horn of a runaway cow which escaped from being slaughtered. The man died in the hospital on the same day. After the necropsy, the cause of death was determined to be internal bleeding caused by internal organ injury with sternum and multiple rib fractures.

Case 2: A 6-year-old male was attacked by a dog, causing diffuse wounds over the entire body. Some of the bites penetrated the abdomen and caused omental bleeding. A large vessel was also ruptured in the right thigh. The cause of death was reported as internal and external bleeding caused by large vessel and internal organ injury, as well as shock from pain caused by the dog bite.

Case 3: A 65-year-old male was found dead near a street after a cattle attack. The external examination revealed widespread abrasion and ecchymosis on the body. The internal examination revealed sternum and rib fractures plus mesenteric bleeding in the abdomen. The cause of death was established as internal bleeding due to visceral organ injury and respiratory insufficiency due to pneumothorax caused by blunt chest and abdominal trauma with sternum and multiple rib fractures.

Case 4: An 83-year-old female was kicked by cattle and died in the hospital the same day as the injury. The external examination revealed diffuse superficial scratches on the body. The internal examination revealed fractures of the skull and symphysis pubis, subarachnoid hemorrhage, and cerebral contusions. The cause of death was reported as cerebral hemorrhage and cerebral destruction caused by general body trauma with skull and symphysis pubis fractures.

Case 5: A 76-year-old male died after being run over by cattle. Rib fractures and seventh cervical vertebral corpus fracture was observed in the autopsy. The cause of death was complications caused by spine and multiple rib fractures.

Case 6: A 74-year-old male with diffuse lesions over the entire body due to dog bites sustained in a dog attack. The internal examination revealed bone fractures and internal organ and large vessel injuries. The cause of death was reported as internal and external bleeding with bone fractures caused by large vessel and internal organ injury because of the dog bites.

A limited number of epidemiological studies about deaths due to animal-related injuries exist in Turkey. This study hopes to motivate the scientific community to look into human casualties as a result of animal attacks in Turkey.

Animal Attack, Blunt and Penetrating Injury, Autopsy