H47 A Unique Pattern of Tusk Injuries by Wild Boar: A Ten-Year Autopsy Analysis

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to identify the uniqueness of injuries caused by the tusk of wild boar, which may be of a distinct type.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by creating awareness of another unique form of injury that may be of medicolegal significance if such a case is found in deserted places with no witness to the incident. This presentation highlights these type of injuries, which are rarely mentioned in the available literature.

Wild boar is a common name for various species of the pig of the genus *Sus*, part of the biological family *Suidae*. It is one of the most common and widespread large mammals in the world.[1] The body of the wild boar is compact, with a large head and relatively short legs. The fur consists of stiff bristles and usually additional finer fur.[2] The average weight and length of a wild boar are 50 to 90kg and 120 to 180cm, respectively. After two years of age, male wild boars grow tusks from both the upper and lower canines that curve upward. The lower tusks are extremely sharp and usually measure 6cm in length. These tusks serve as weapons during fighting. Wild boars are primarily nocturnal animals and are naturally timid; therefore, confrontations between wild boars and humans are typically very rare.[3]

Recently, however, extinction of natural wild boar enemies (e.g., tigers, wolves, bears, louboutins, leopards, and lynxes) coupled with their high reproduction rates and their ability to adapt to a variety of environments have led to an increase in the wild boar population.[4] They are potentially dangerous animals due to their razor-sharp tusks and may cause serious injuries if confrontations do occur. Wild boars are known to be more aggressive during the mating season and when cornered.[5] It is suspected that wild boar attacks are underreported, and forensic pathologists may be unfamiliar with the pattern of the wild boar tusk injuries as the features are rarely described in the literature.[5-8]

The present study characterizes the mechanism of injuries caused by wild boar attacks. This presentation also describes the specific pattern of injuries over the body which seem to be unique to wild boar attacks. The size and shape of injuries caused by wild boar are very specific and identifiable, even in the absence of a witness, making it important in medicolegal autopsy cases with limited or inadequate history. This presentation will also review the importance of having such knowledge in order to accurately certify such deaths in medicolegal cases.

Reference(s):

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Wild Boar, Tusk Injuries, Injury Pattern