

## **STAB WOUND**

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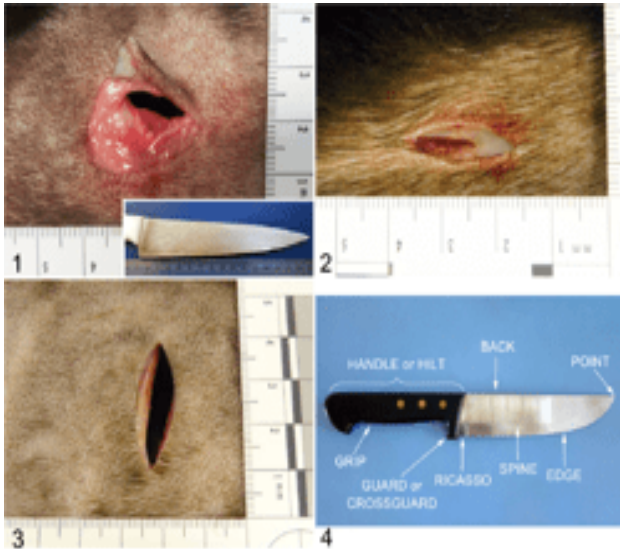
5th Stage of Vet. Medicine/ Forensic medicine



### **Stab Wounds**

- Stab wound is produced when force is delivered **along the long axis** of a narrow or pointed object such as knife, dagger, chisel, sword, sickle.
- **Depth is more** than the length and width.

## STAB



## WEAPONS CAUSING STAB



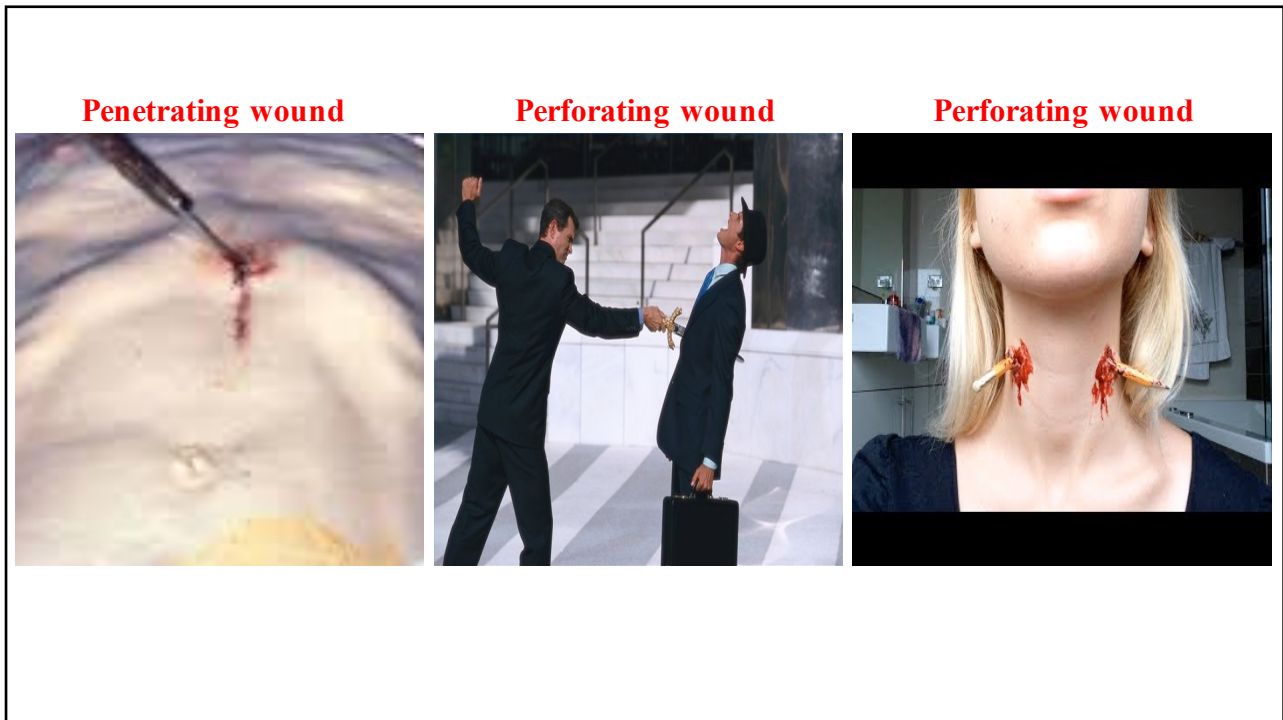
## Types

### 1. Penetrating wounds

- When they enter the **cavity** of body.

### 2. Perforating wounds

- When the weapon enters the body on one side and comes out from the other side.
- The **entry** wound is **larger** and with **inverted** edges.
- The **exit** wound is **smaller** and with **everted** edges.



## Characters

### 1. Margins

- Edges are clean and **inverted**.
- The margins can be **everted** if wound is produced on **fatty area** such as abdomen region.
- Usually there is no **abrasion or bruise** of the margins, but **in full penetration** abrasion and bruise may be found.

## 2. Length

Is slightly less than the width of the weapon up to which it has been driven in, because of stretching of the skin.

## 3. Width

The maximum possible width of the knife can be approximately determined if the edges of a gapping wound are brought together .

## 4. Depth

- It is **greater** than the width and length of the external injury.
- The depth is usually **equal to or less** than the length of the blade that was used in producing it.
- The mobility of the internal organ is taken into account.
- The depth of the wound should be determined in the operation theatre when wound is repaired.
- The abdominal wall is relaxed after death .
- In anterior chest wall injury, the post-mortem depth is greater than it was during life, because of the collapse of lungs.

### Depth of stab wound depends on

1. **Condition** of the knife : sharpness of tip, thin slender, double edged knife.
2. **Resistance** offered by the organs or tissues.
3. **Speed** of the thrust of the knife.
4. **Stretched** skin or **lax** skin.

### 5. Shape

It depends on –

- **Sharpness, width and shape** of the weapon.
- **Body region** stabbed, the **depth** of insertion.
- The **angle of withdrawal**, the **direction** of thrust.
- The **movement** of the person or animals stabbed, and condition of the tension or **relaxation** of the skin.

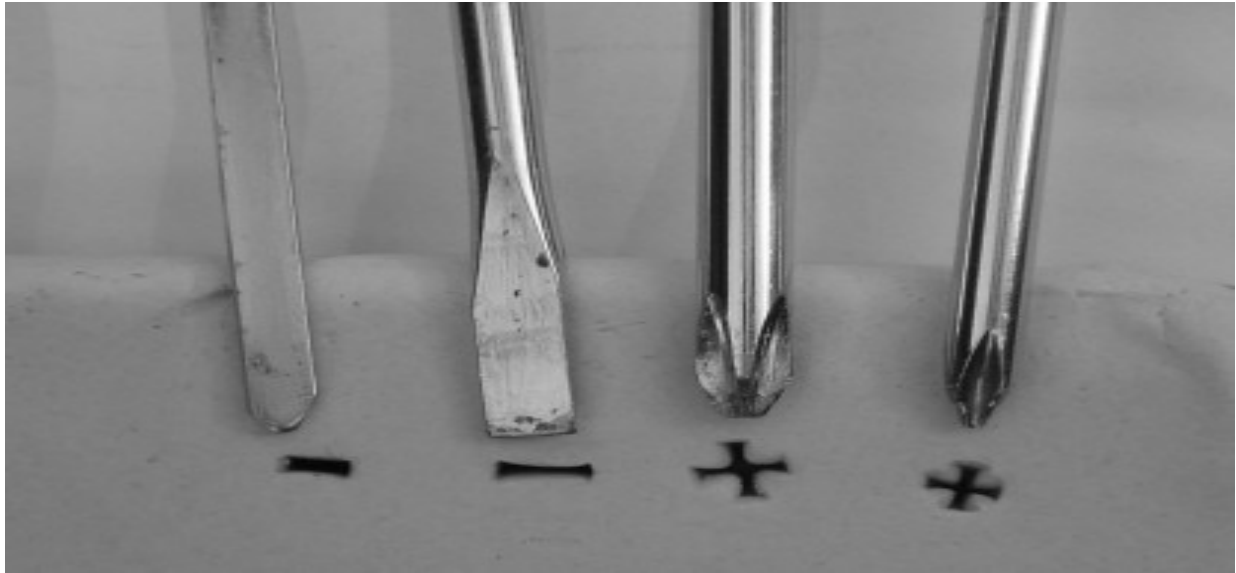
1. If single edged weapon is used, the surface will be **triangular** or **wedge** shaped
2. If a double edged weapon is used, the wound will be **elliptical** and both angles will be sharp and pointed.
3. Rounded object will produce **circular** wound.
4. Pointed square weapon may produce **crossed shaped** injury.

WEDGE SHAPED



ELLIPTICAL



**DIFFERENT SHAPES****Complications**

1. External haemorrhage is slight but there may be marked internal haemorrhage.
2. Infection of wound.
3. Air embolism.
4. Pneumothorax
5. Asphyxia

## Incised stab wound

- It is a wound which **starts as incised** wound but **ends with stab** wound by the sudden thrust of the blade into the body.
- **Starts as a stab wound** and **becomes incised** wound as the knife is pulled of the body at a shallow angle to the skin.

## Opinion

The external and internal appearance of a stab wound helps to give an opinion upon: -

- **Dimension** of the weapon
- The **type** of the weapon
- **Movement** of the blade in the wound.
- The **depth** of the wound
- The **direction** of the stab
- Amount of the **force**



## Examination of the Weapon

- The length, width and thickness of the blade.
- Whether single edged or double edged.
- The nature of the back edge in a single edged weapon.
- Any grooving, serration or forking of the blade.
- Sharpness of the extreme tip of the blade and cutting edge.

## Medico Legal Importance

- The shape of the wound may indicate the class and type of **weapon**.
- The depth of the wound will indicate the **force** of penetration.
- Dimension and direction of wound indicate the relative **positions** of the assailant and victim.
- **Age** of the injury can be determined.
- Position, number and direction of the wound may indicate **manner** of production i.e. suicidal, homicidal or accidental.

<b>Differences between Suicidal, Homicidal &amp; Accidental Stab Wounds</b>			
<b>Traits</b>	<b>Suicidal wounds</b>	<b>Homicidal wounds</b>	<b>Accidental wounds</b>
1. Number	Often single	Frequently multiple	Usually single
2. Site	Accessible precordial area or upper abdomen	May be anywhere	May be anywhere
3. Tentative wounds	May be present around site of fatal wound	May be present rarely but away from fatal wound	Absent
4. Clothing	Removed from injured area	Normally not disturbed	Not disturbed
5. Defence wounds	Absent	Often present	Absent