

CASE REPORT

Death Due to Violence and Sharp Force Injury on the Neck: A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Crime against life (homicide) is one of the highest hierarchical crimes in the classification of international crimes. A 26-year-old woman was found in a room, the body was put in a refrigerator box with several neck injuries due to an assault using a sharp object. The body arrived at the Forensic Medicine Installation on June 20, 2020, at 1.50 p.m with SPVR Police Number: VER/ B/30/VI/2020/SPKT. An external examination found 5 wounds caused by sharp violence on the neck, defense injury in the hands, dilation of blood vessels in the mucous membranes of the right and left eyelids, bluish hue on the lips, mucous membranes of the upper and lower lip, gums, fingertips, and nails. The cause of death was due to stab wounds on the neck that penetrated blood vessels, larynx, trachea, and cervical vertebrae 3.

Keywords: Autopsy, Sharp Trauma, Homicide

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INTRODUCTION

Violence has been an inseparable part of human civilization. Along with the passing times, humans created various kinds of weapons both to attack opponents and to defend themselves. In total, 520,000 people die each year as a result of persecution, which is 1400 deaths every day (1).

Cases of murder with multiple puncture wounds that penetrate several vital organs and using several methods of killing become a challenge for a forensic doctor in determining the cause of death. However, in such cases, the cause of death can clearly be determined through the injury (2).

CASE REPORT

A woman was found dead in a house on June 17, 2020, around 10:30 a.m, with several bodily injuries allegedly caused by sharp violence. The body was taken to the Forensic and Medicolegal Medical Installation of the

Regional General Hospital Dr. Soetomo Surabaya accompanied by a Letter of Request for Visum er Repertum For external and internal examination.

An external examination found: The corpse of women, aged between 20 years and 30 years, brown skin, good nutrition, body length of 150 cm, body weight 55 kg. Postmortem lividity over back disappeared after being given pressure. Any signs of decomposition. Blood vessel dilation and Petechial hemorrhages on the right and left eyelid mucous membranes. Lips, mucous membranes of lips, fingertips, and nails of both hands and feet looked cyanosed. There were 7 stab wounds on the back of the right ear, right cheek, and right neck. There were 4 incised wounds between the fingers of the left hand, right palm, and left forearm.

An internal examination found: A stab wound on the neck (Fig. 1) with cut the jugular vein (Fig. 2) and penetrated the larynx, trachea, and cervical vertebrae 3. Blood absorption in the right neck. Blood clots in the trachea to the carina (Fig. 3). Dilation of blood vessels in the cerebrum, gaster, and spleen. Petechial hemorrhages were present in the cerebrum and brain stem (pons).



Figure 1 : The first stab wound on the right neck

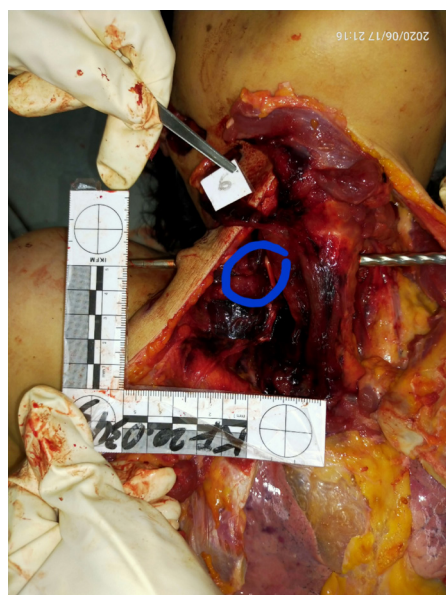


Figure 2 : Jugular veins are cut off



Figure 3 : Blood clots in the trachea to the carina

DISCUSSION

In this case, on the victim's arm and finger, incised wounds were found. incised wounds are the result of objects with sharp edges, where the direction of pressure is parallel to the surface of the skin, the length of the wound is greater than the depth of the wound. This wound is a victim's attempt to fend off the attack from the perpetrator, it is often known as the Defense injury which is usually done to protect body areas that are considered important (3).

On the victim's neck, several stab wounds were found. Stab wounds are wounds produced by objects/tools that have sharp edges and sharp eyes, characterized by flat wound edges, sharp angles, and have a wound depth longer than the length of the wound. Tools that are often used include knives, bayonets, etc. The target is usually any unprotected areas of the body, where the neck and abdomen often become targets because it is close to the attacker, in which many vital organs are located there. Most perpetrators use the right hand (right-handed) so that the victim may be stabbed in the back because the wound is on the right side of the body (3).

Based on the results of the examination on the body of the victim, in this case, it was suspected that the victim's way of death was unnatural, that is, due to murder.

In this case, the wound that plays a role in the death is the first stab wound in the right neck that cuts the jugular vein and penetrates the larynx, trachea, and cervical vertebrae 3 and caused bleeding. The presence of blood clots along the airways shows aspiration resulting in a blockage in the main airway.

The first stab wound on the right neck that cut large blood vessels penetrated the larynx, trachea, and cervical vertebrae 3, resulting in a blockage in the main airway and bleeding, was a possible mechanism of death. Manifestations of internal organs that appear dilated blood vessels and petechial hemorrhages indicated that the primary mechanism of death is the obstruction of the main airways and the secondary mechanism includes bleeding.

Blockage in the main airways will cause the body to lack oxygen (hypoxia) because inspiration and expiration will be disrupted due to obstruction in the airway, which will inhibit the body from getting oxygen intake, causing the carbon dioxide levels in the body to increase. The mechanism of cell damage that occurred was hypoxia, which is a condition of lack of oxygen, leading to cell damage or cell death (4).

The bleeding that occurred was due to a jugular vein cut which aggravated the condition of hypoxia, as the bleeding caused a lack of oxygen following the decrease of the hemoglobin levels that bind oxygen. The occurrence of hypoxia reduced blood flow (ischemia), caused inadequate oxygenation as a result of cardiorespiration failure, and decreased levels of hemoglobin as in the cases of massive blood loss (hypovolemic) (4).

The number of compounded injuries in non-lethal areas indicates that the offender has the intention to take her life, causing this case to meet the subjective and objective elements of planned murder, as stated in Article 340 of the Criminal Code is as follows: "Anyone who intentionally planned to take the life of another person is charged for planned murder by death sentence, lifetime imprisonment, or cell confinement for a certain period of time with the maximum of twenty years" (5).

CONCLUSION

In this case, the victim has been declared dying of unnatural death, presumably murder. The cause of death was stab wounds on the neck that cut large blood vessels and penetrated the larynx, trachea, and cervical vertebrae 3. The obstruction in the airway prevented the entry of air into the respiratory organs and the mechanism was aggravated by bleeding.

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