

Rectal Impalement Injury: from Cruelty to Salvage Endeavour

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Abstract

Massive penetrating trauma by rectal impalement is a very rare form of injury, complicated and potentially lethal. It is even rarer for such injury to result in pelvic, abdominal and thoracic internal damages. We report the case of a 62 year-old man who was admitted in emergency after an aggression with a sharp wooden stake inserted forcibly into his rectum. Clinical examination revealed the blunt extremity of the stake outside the anus and the prominent sharp end reaching his right supraclavicular fossa. Radiographic examination showed the stake extending from the rectum to the right side of the neck. Surgery disclosed penetration through the rectum, retroperitoneum, large bowel mesentery, liver, diaphragm, right lung and right 2nd rib. The patient survived following management by a multidisciplinary surgical team. As similar reported cases are scarce, knowledge of the management of the few cases that have been successfully treated is likely to prepare the emergency teams to act rationally and efficiently in such exceptionally circumstances.

Key words: impalement, injury

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