SHARP FORCE TRAUMA

(INJURIES)

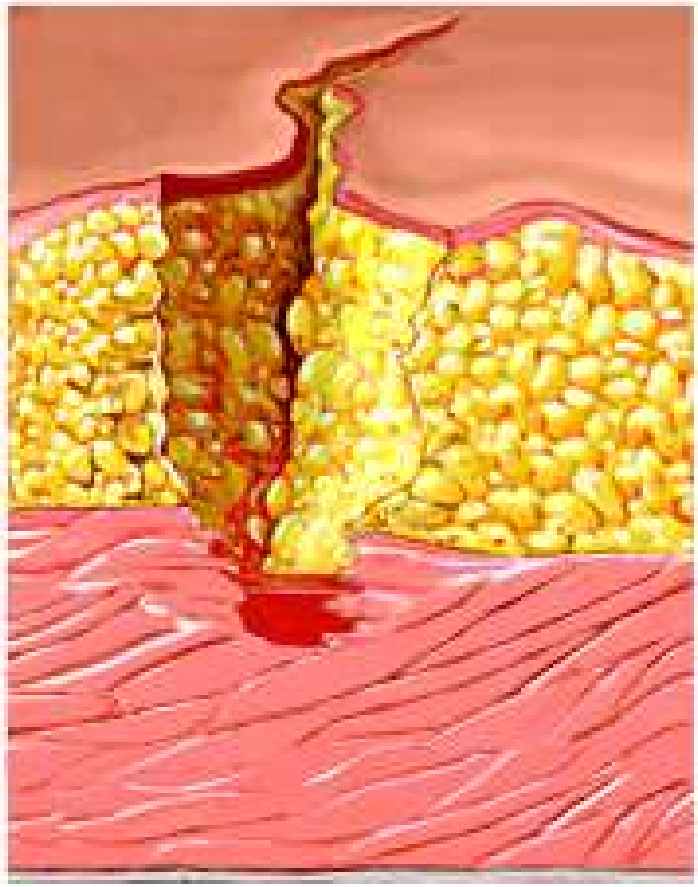
SHARP FORCE INJURIES

- Includes **incised** & **stab** wounds

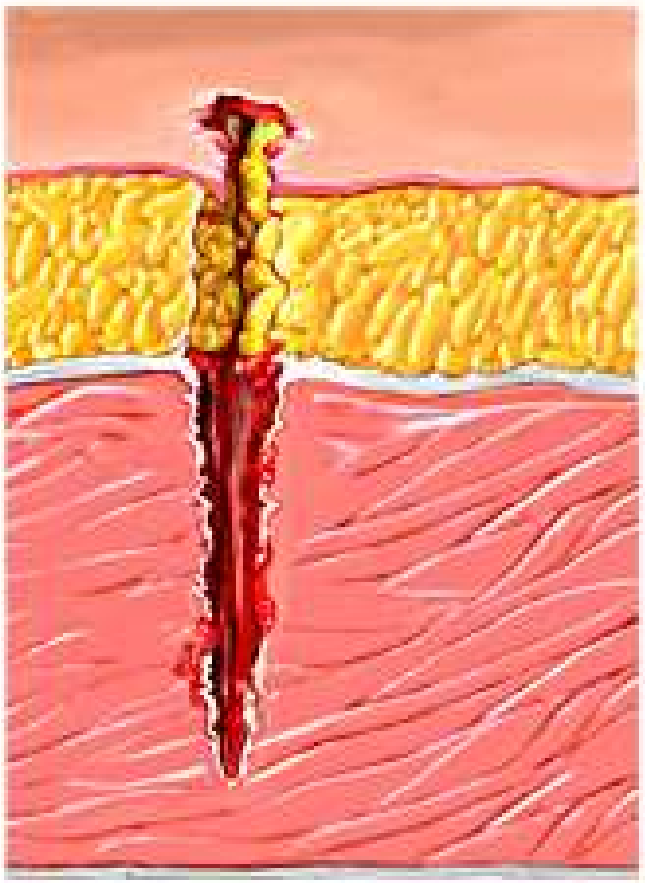
  **** These wounds have **SMOOTH** edges ****

- **INCISED wound**: a slicing wound that is **longer** than it is deep *(aka "slash")*
- **STAB wound**: **deeper** than its surface length
- **PUNCTURE wound**: penetrating injury due to a pointed object with **NO** blade

Laceration



Puncture wound



RECALL **- <u>Lacerations</u>**: forceful tears of tissue due to **blunt force impact**

~ Wounds edges tend to be ***irregular***

WEAPONS: KNIVES

- **Tool marks** can be left by instrument on cartilage or bone – *can be used to ID weapons*
- **Knives** have physical features that are important in the investigation
  - **Important Features**: length, width, thickness, single- or double-edged, serrated

ANATOMY OF A STAB WOUND

SINGLE-EDGED BLADE

- Wounds have a sharp end and a blunt end
  - If stab is ⊥ to the elastic fibers, the edges of wound will be pulled away from each other (= **gaping wound**)
  - If stab is **II** to the elastic, wound will appear **slit-like**
  - If stab is **oblique**, it may appear irregularly shaped

- The wound edges can be pushed together & taped for measurement purposes (*& to provide a more accurate determination of the* ***wound size***)

DOUBLE-EDGED BLADE

- The wounds produced by a DEB are typically pointed or tapered at BOTH ends
- ***However, 2 tapered ends do not always indicated a DEB***

SCISSORS & SCREWDRIVERS

- **Scissors** leave a wound that is **broader** than "normal" stab wounds *(b/c scissors are thicker)*

- **Screwdrivers** leave a patterned stab wound

NOTANDA about STAB WOUNDS

- Stab wounds by the **same** knife can vary in size & shape, depending on:
  - Type of blade, body region stabbed, depth of insertion, angle of withdrawal
- An abrasion around stab wound may indicate knife inserted up to crossguard or handle

- A **V-shaped**, **chevron-shaped**, or **check mark** appearance suggests an angle of withdrawal different from angle on insertion