

WHAT IS TODAY'S OBJECTIVE?



**RECOGNIZING
PATHOLOGICAL
SIGNS OF SFT**

WOUND TRACK

- ✂ Following pictures, wounds on the **body** can be *lightly* probed to determine the angle
 - Wounds on the **head** should never be probed before the brain has been examined
- ✂ Most stab wounds are **penetrating**, but they can be **perforating**
 - Describe exit wound w/as much detail as entrance wound

DEPTH of STAB WOUND

- ✂ The length of the entire wound track (starting @ the skin surface) should be measured as close as possible
 - Tells us the **MINIMUM** length of the blade
 - In the chest/ab: this is a best estimate
- ✂ The weapon causing the stab may be longer than the wound track b/c it may not have been inserted in all the way

CHOP WOUNDS

- ✎ In between blunt & sharp force injuries (b/c they involve both tissue laceration & slicing)
- ✎ Caused by: axes, machetes, and propeller & machinery blades

SFT from OTHER OBJECTS

- ✂ Sharp wounds can be caused by **noncutting** objects, such as wires, skewers, pokers, screwdrivers, and glass

*Right rear seat passenger;
Not wearing her seatbelt;
Propelled forward during a
front-end collision*

Crime of Passion

- over kill
- 1° suspect = significant other

Crimes of Passion

- Quantity of injuries does *not always* mean a 'romantic connection'

What Happened?

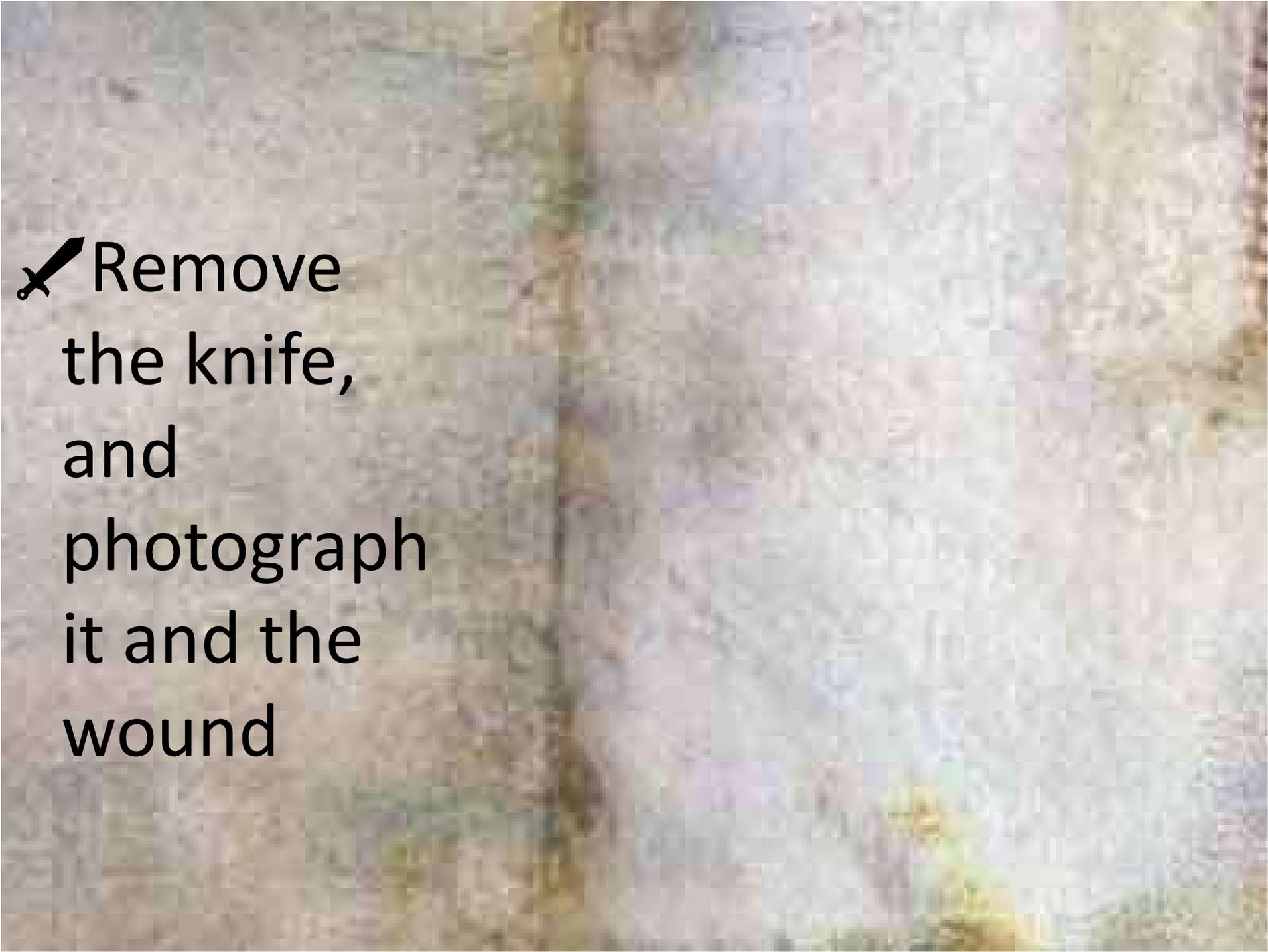
- Boyfriend in driver's seat, Tania in front passenger's seat
- Tania wouldn't let Ponce drive car, so he stabbed her **205** times
 - Some were partial stabbings, some were full hilt
- After stabbing everyone else fled the car

DEFENSIVE INJURIES

- ✂ **Def Inj**: injuries sustained by victims as they are trying to protect themselves from an assailant
 - Diagnosis is circumstance-dependent
- ✂ Classically are on the **hands, forearms**, and even **upper arms**... can also be on the **legs** and **feet** if victim on ground kicking
- ✂ *Def Inj can be from BFT, gunshot wounds, and chop wounds*

KNIVES LEFT *in situ*

- ✂ Radiograph the body to verify the size, appearance, and position of the blade in the body
- ✂ Photograph from different angles
- ✂ When withdrawing, note the **direction** of the wound path



✂ Remove
the knife,
and
photograph
it and the
wound

DOCUMENTING STAB WOUNDS

- ✂ Location on the body
- ✂ Measurement from a landmark
- ✂ Orientation (use clock face as reference)
- ✂ Size & shape of the wound
- ✂ Associated abrasions & ecchymoses
- ✂ Tissues injured (wound track)
- ✂ Direction thru the body (wound path)
- ✂ Length of wound track from the skin to ___?
- ✂ Presence of tool marks on cartilage & bone