

- The bullet often fragments in the body and x-ray may show a lead snowstorm of fragments as it passes thru the body
- Contact wounds: extensive damage
 Distant-range: small entrance + large internal damage







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- Large E = large damage
- In close range wound is usually circular

Shotgun Patterns

The spread pattern of the shot determines distance.

The shot spread ~1in for every 3ft it travels

If the shot was spread out about 4 inches, how far away was the shooter?

Pelvic Bone

- In intraoral shotgun wounds, tissue tears around side of mouth
- Tears result from large amnt of gases exiting barrel @ high pressure

MEDIUM RANGE to DISTANT RANGE

- As the range increases, the pellets spread out
 - -Scalloping happens around 2-4'
 - -Satellite defects around 3-5'
 - -General spread of pellets around 8-10'

 As range increases & pellets spread out, they create a wider spread of entrance wound... also the spiral-shaped abrasion from the shell (plastic sleeve or wadding) If the plastic sleeve was able to fully expand before it hit the skin, you might see a petal mark

When a bullet is fired, gases and particles escape from the gun. These particles, called <u>gunshot residue (GSR)</u> cling to the shooter's hand, arm, clothing, face, and hair. (In close-range shots, GSR clings to the victim.)

IR photographs can reveal GSR. The Griess Test may also reveal GSR.

GSR on hand

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NOT foolproof

ODS DOVG

Being near gun can leave GSR
It fades away rapidly
Can easily be washed off
Nitrates can give a false + (fertilizer, tobacco, cosmetics, urine)

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