

## Case Report

# Amputation due to fishing net

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## Abstract

Occupational injury is a major and often preventable health problem in a work environment. Every year around a million people are affected and thousands are killed in work related accidents.

Fishing as a sport and occupation is enjoyed and practiced by people of all age groups. Fishing related hazards and injuries are common but unreported. A fatal case of amputation of a limb caused by fishing net is described.

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**Keywords:** Occupational injury; Occupational trauma; Fishing injury; Fishing; Fishing net

## 1. Introduction

Occupational injury is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the working environment. Each year, a large number of people are affected by traumatic occupational injuries in various parts of the world. Transport, construction, agriculture, forestry, mining and fishing are the major culprits in this regard and the effects may range from disease, disability and even death. Hazards from all occupational fields are widely known and reported with an exception of fishing and mining industries, mainly because of localized area distribution and unavailability of bodies.

Fishing practiced as an occupation as well as sport has the highest participation rate of any recreational or sport activity around the world. Commercial fisherman work is one of the world's harshest environments facing isolated seas, cyclones and cold water. Most of the equipment designed to catch and hold resisting fish are usually sharp and pointed. Thus, fishing related injuries can be either environmental or equipment related. Environment related hazards are mainly due to bad weather, drowning, hypo-

thermia, aquatic animals attack and being thrown overboard. Equipment related injuries can be due to fishing hooks, harpoons, fishing net and boat propellers.

Here, we present a case report of amputation and fatal trauma due to fishing net in a fisherman in the coastal city – Mangalore, India.

## 2. Case report

A fisherman aged 44 years went fishing in a boat with other colleagues. In the process of fishing, the deceased got entangled in a fishing net and sustained severe injuries. His left lower limb was completely severed from the body. He died at 1.15 p.m. on the way to hospital. Postmortem examination was done on the same day.

### 2.1. External examination

A moderately built and moderately nourished adult male measuring 173 cm in length and weighing 73 kg. Rigor mortis was present all over the body. Postmortem lividity could not be detected. A greasy material was present over the abdomen, back, upper and lower limbs.

The following antemortem external injuries, were present on the body:

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1. Vertically directed grazed abrasion measuring  $20 \times 15$  cm over the anterior and lateral surfaces of left lower abdomen (Fig. 1).
2. Left lower limb amputated at the level of hip with disarticulation of the sacroiliac joint and symphysis pubis. The underlying muscles and vessels were lacerated (Figs. 1 and 2).
3. A reddish colored grazed abrasion measuring  $65 \times 9$  cm over the medial surface of the entire left lower limb with adherent grease particles (Fig. 3).
4. Left leg amputated at the level of ankle joint, exposing the underlying lacerated muscles, vessels and ligaments. Both tibia and fibula were fractured at their lower one thirds (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1. Amputated left lower limb at hip joint.

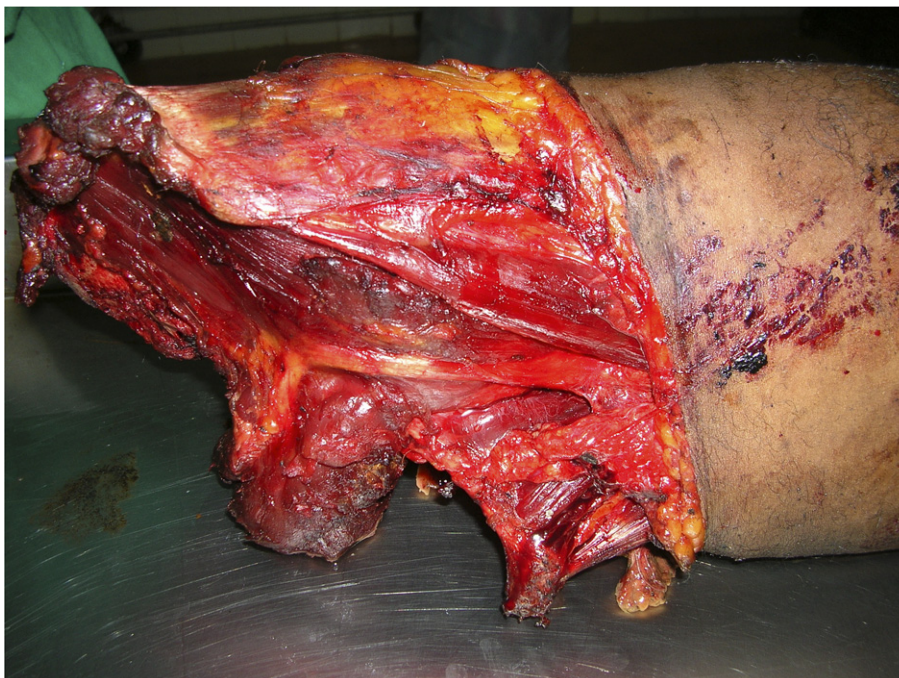


Fig. 2. Disarticulated left hip joint.

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