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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Accidental fatal craniocerebral injury caused by broken chain of sawing tool

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Highlights

- Non-fatal injuries caused by sawing tools are relatively frequent
- On the contrary, fatal saw-related injuries are very rare
- Most of fatal saw-related injuries occurred with suicidal ideation
- Accidental fatal injuries caused by sawing tools are extremely rare

Abstract

The case of an accidental fatal penetrating craniocerebral injury to a 26-year-old man at work when cutting wood is reported. There was used an angle grinder with an accessory for cutting similar to a chainsaw. The injury was caused by a fragment of the broken chain. The chain fragment broke through the facial part of the head to the left and penetrated the brain in the region of the left parietal bone of the cranial vault. The immediate cause of death was a failure of the central nervous system (brain death). The toxicological analysis of biological materials was negative. The death occurred as a result of a triple violation of safety precautions. The presented case is extremely rare in terms of fatal injuries caused by power tools for sawing having been published in the forensic literature.

Keywords: Power saw, Angle grinder, Chain, Autopsy, Accident, Head injury

Introduction

Power saw-related injuries can be caused by three types of saws [1]; table or portable circular [2,3], band [4,5] and chain [6] saws. Such injuries most often occur randomly in working and non-working settings when cutting wood [7-10]. Injuries are located in different parts of the body especially the head, neck, and extremities [2,11-13]. When using chainsaws, they are most often caused by a so-called kickback phenomenon at bouncing back from a hard object located in the wood, and they are usually not fatal [14,15]. Fatal injuries caused by using power saws are described in the literature extremely rarely. In most cases, it deals with causing harm in suicidal ideation [1,5,16-20], exceptionally with assaulting by another person [21,22]. The paper presents an exceptional case of accidental fatal craniocerebral injury caused by a fragment of the broken chain when cutting wood.

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