

## Unintentional Injury by Imprudence with a Butcher Hook in a Child

Théra JP<sup>1</sup>, Diassana M<sup>2</sup>, Théra F<sup>3</sup>, Soumah M<sup>4</sup>, Sow ML<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Maitre-Assistant de Médecine Légale à la Faculté de Médecine,

<sup>2</sup> Substitut du Procureur, près le Tribunal de Grande Instance de Kayes (Mali)

<sup>3</sup> Docteur en droit Président du Tribunal de commerce, Bamako (Mali)

<sup>4</sup> Médecin Légiste, Maitre-Assistant, Faculté de Médecine de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Sénégal).

<sup>5</sup> Professeur Titulaire, Département de Médecine Légale /Médecine du travail, Faculté de Médecine de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar.

### \*Corresponding Author:

Name: Dr Japhet Pobanou THERA

Email: [therajaphet@yahoo.fr](mailto:therajaphet@yahoo.fr)

**Abstract:** Injury by imprudence with a butcher hook is not very common. It is a breach of human right to integrity. Though it is not deliberate, it may involve lawsuit. We report the case of a primary school girl of 6 years old who was injured by a butcher hook in a market.

**Keywords:** Unintentional- Injury- butcher hook-lawsuit.

### INTRODUCTION

Injuries add considerably to the global burden of ill health. Around 16% of all disabilities and 9% of all deaths worldwide occur as a result of intentional and unintentional injuries [1, 2].

Unintentional injuries include road traffic incidents, falls, drowning and poisoning [3]. The most common causes of death due to unintentional injury in Europe are road traffic injuries (37%), drowning (15%), poisoning (8%), falls (5%) and fires (4%). In England and Wales, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death in children aged 1–14 years [4].

Though unintentional injuries are not deliberate, they constitute a breach to the law.

### CASE REPORT

We report the case of a primary school girl of 6 years old who was injured by a butcher hook. The injury happened on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014; when she went to the market along with her mother; while they were walking in the aisles, she was hooked on her left eye by a careless butcher with his hook he held to hang meat. She was immediately taken to the Institute of ophthalmology where we noticed after a clinical examination with a slit lamp, the laceration of the left upper lid. The eye ball was not injured. The wound was successfully sutured; then the parents took legal proceedings against the butcher for compensation. One week later, they canceled the lawsuit after the butcher begged them.



Fig 1: the victim the day of injury



Fig 2: the victim 1 day after surgery

### DISCUSSION

This case of non intentional injury with butcher hook is not very common in Mali. Children under 5

years are most likely to be injured at home. As they get older, children are increasingly at risk for injury outside the home [4].

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of death among children and young adults [5]. Over 875 000 children  $\leq$  18 years of age die annually in the world as a result of injuries, mostly in low- and middle-income countries, where injuries account for 13% of the total burden of morbidity among children  $\leq$  15 years of age [6].

Though they are unintentional, the law punishes the authors of unintentional injuries either by putting them to jail or commanding them to cater for compensation. According to the article 2010 of the criminal code of Mali, the author of unintentional injuries can be jailed for 3 months, up to 2 years [7].

In the provision of the article 125 of Malian code of obligations “who soever cause to someone prejudice, even by negligence or imprudence is obliged to bring compensations” [8].

## CONCLUSION

Injury with butcher hook is rare and can cause serious damage to the physical integrity of children and may even threaten their lives. Care should be taken by both parents and society to protect children.

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