

Orbito-maxillary Fractures Following an Assault against a Witch Doctor by his Clients

Théra JP^{1*}, Théra F², Diassana M³, Soumah M⁴, Botti K⁵, Etté H⁶, Sow ML⁷

¹Maitre-Assistant de Médecine Légale à la Faculté de Médecine, Bamako, Mali

²Professeur de Droit à la Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques, Conseiller à la Cour D'appel de Bamako, Mali

³Substitut du Procureur, près le Tribunal de Grande Instance de Kayes, Mali

⁴Professeur agrégé de Médecine Légale, Faculté de Médecine de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Sénégal

⁵Professeur agrégé de Médecine Légale, Département de Médecine du Travail, Médecine Légale et Toxicologie. UFR Sciences Médicales-Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan Cocody, Côte d'Ivoire

⁶Professeur Titulaire, Département de Médecine du Travail, Médecine Légale et Toxicologie. UFR Sciences Médicales-Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan Cocody, Côte d'Ivoire

⁷Professeur 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

Abstract: Assaults against witch doctors are relatively uncommon in our society. Witch doctors are generally honored and feared by laymen who think they have divine power. Many people consult them seeking protection, financial blessing and miraculous healing. Assault against witch doctor means increase of violence in society.

Keywords: Fractures, Attempt, Murder, Witch, Doctor.

INTRODUCTION

Interpersonal violence/ assault have been established as the commonest etiology of maxillofacial injuries in the developed countries [1].

Intentional injury has been defined as maltreatment caused by an action or omission meant to cause harm to the victim or done deliberately [2].

In the USA injuries account for more potential years of life lost before 65 years of age than cancer and heart disease combined [3].

Violence is growing in developing countries such as Mali for many reasons among others poverty and unemployment.

CASE REPORT

A 32-year-old witch doctor assaulted by four men (his former clients) who intruded into his house during the night. According to the victim, they were armed with guns, knives, and traditional spears. After they failed to shoot him deadly with their guns, one of the assaulters planted the spear in the left eye of the witch doctor and pulled it outward. Another hit him with many violent punches. While he was screaming because of the pain, the surrounding neighbors came to rescue him, so the attackers fled.

At admission with a requisition from the Sheriff, the clinical findings were: lacerated lower lid, burst of the left eye ball, peri-orbital and temporal haematoma and swelling (Fig. 1).

The CT scan showed a multiple fracture of the lateral wall of the orbit as well as the floor (Fig. 2).

The lacerated eye lid was sutured and the traumatic eye eviscerated. The victim was then sent to a maxillary and facial surgeon. The total work inability was 2 months.



Fig. 1: Photograph of the victim showing the injuries



Fig. 2: CT Scan showing the fractures

DISCUSSION

This case illustrates the increase of violence in our society.

Many reasons are behind the growing burden of violence for instance: lack of education, unemployment, alcohol and substance abuse, interpersonal conflict, intimacy and power [4]

Weapons are circulating easily in many countries notwithstanding the legal barriers that regulate them.

The importance of effective domestic regulations in reducing the misuse and proliferation of small arms has been affirmed by the United Nations in several different contexts [5].

An estimated three million people have been killed with small arms in conflict over the past years. Handguns, rifles, shotguns, mortars, and other small arms have been a significant cause of both civilian deaths [6].

Under the provision of Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [7], "All human beings have the right to life, liberty, and security of the person". Some people think this provision gives the right to everyone to bear weapon for his security, but akin some authors [8] we do not think so; since one of the duties of the public authorities is to secure its citizens.

Freedom from physical or psychological violence is a prerequisite to the enjoyment of fundamental human rights [9].

CONCLUSION

Assaults against people are increasing throughout the World. The Security forces which must

prevent and fight them are not well equipped and well trained oftentimes in developing countries. Policemen need a special training and an appropriate equipment to tackle this issue.

REFERENCES

1. Telfer MR, Jones GM, Shepherd JP; Trends in the aetiology of maxillofacial fractures in the United Kingdom (1977-1987). *Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg.*, 1991; 29: 250-255
2. American Heritage Dictionary. 3rd edition, Houghton MiZin Company, Boston, MA, 1992.
3. MacKenzie EJ; Epidemiology of injuries: Current trends and future challenges. *Epidemiologic Reviews*, 1999; 22(1): 112-119.
4. Seedat M, Van Niekerk A, Jewkes R; Violence and injuries in South Africa: prioritising an agenda for prevention. *Lancet*, 2009; 374(9694):1011-1022.
5. Coupland RM; The effect of weapons on health. *Lancet*, 1996; 347: 450-451
6. Meddings D; Protecting children from armed conflict. Are most casualties non-combatants? *BMJ*, 1998; 317(7167):1249.
7. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), G.A. Res. 217A (III) (1948). Available from <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>
8. Di Chiaro J; Reasonable measures: addressing the excessive accumulation and unlawful use of small arms. Bonn: International Centre for Conversion (BICC).1998.
9. Wendy C, Antoine C; Small arms: A major public health hazard. *Medicine & Global Survival*, 2001; 7(1): 26-32.