STAB WOUNDS
A stab wound produced by thrusting of any pointed (sharp or blunt) object into the body so that the depth is the greatest dimension of the wound.
WEAPONS CAUSING STAB WOUND

• Knife
• Dagger
• Needle
• Spear
• Arrow
• Scissor
• Ice pick
• Screw driver
- Punctured:
- Perforating:
- Penetrating:

Concealed punctured wounds
EXAMINATION OF STAB WOUND

• Number of wounds
• Position of each wound
• Shape
• Length
• Depth of penetration
• Direction of thrust
• Depth of the thrust
• Force required to inflict the injuries
• movement of the knife in the wound
Entry wound

- Wedge shaped
  - Elliptical
  - Rounded
  - Cruciate
  - Irregular
SHAPE:

stab wound which runs parallel to the cleavage lines
  – remain slit shaped and narrow

• A cut which is inflicted across the natural lines of tension
  – tend to gape

• If the knife is inserted in an oblique plane
  – the skin defect is wider
wound depends upon

- Dimensions of the weapon
- Type of weapon
- Taper of the blade
• **Knife with one sharp edge**

• **Knife with two cutting edge**
• Chisel and screwdrivers
  – produce rectangular entry hole
• Cross head screwdrivers
  – leave stellate shape holes with abraded margins
• Bayonet with ridges, grooves or multiple sharp edges produce distinctive pattern
'fishtail'.
INJURIES FROM SCISSORS

• whether the scissors were used open or closed.
  – If open and one blade is stabbed into the victim
  – indistinguishable from a knife wound.
• Two-part blade with steel cutting edge may produce a
  – stepped wound
– flat 'Z' or the usual sign for a flash of lightning.

• small lateral splits in the wound Centre from a projecting hinge screw.
Movement of the knife in the wound

• Scrimmage enlargement
Margins:

Length:

- The length of a stab entry slit can be measured only
- when its margins have been properly apposed.

For permanent recording
  – the best method is to fasten the margins in place with transparent sticky tape
DEPTH

depth (length of track) is greater than the width and length of the external injury

– (not safe to find out the depth by introducing a probe)
Measurement of depth in living

- Impossible to measure depth in living

- The depth should be determined in the operation theatre when the wound is repaired
MEASUREMENT OF DEPTH AT AUTOPSY

- instrument and supplemented by careful dissection.
- gentle insertion of a narrow wooden tongue-depressor with its rounded tip

- Radio opaque material or dyes can be injected into the stab wound to demonstrate the wound track by x-Rays.
- Layer by layer dissection
- MRI
DIRECTION

• When the knife penetrates at an angle, the wound will have a beveled margin on one side with undermining (undercut) on the other.
Force required to inflict stab wound

• The force required to inflict stab wound is subjective & can only be stated in comparative terms like
  – Slight pressure
  – Moderate force
  – Considerable force
  – Violent penetration
COMPLICATIONS OF STAB WOUNDS
Examination of injuries

• Situation
• Size
• Appearance
• Orientation
• Direction of infliction
• **Investigations**
  – Swab
  – Radiology