Penetrating Neck Injury Evolving into Thyroid Injury with Empty Cartridge

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Gunshot injury is a relatively uncommon occurrence in South Korea. Here, we present a case of neck injury caused by an empty cartridge shot.

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Key Words: Gunshot wound; Neck injury; Thyroid

CASE

A 24-year-old male with no medical history was admitted to the emergency room with penetrating neck injury caused during his Reserved Forces Military Training. The patient was shot with a sharp object into his neck from behind while he was looking at a

machine gun shooting process. Upon admission, he was found to be stable with one injury on his neck. His plain X-ray and CT (Fig. 1.) demanded an emergency surgery. Accordingly, we conducted a planned subtotal thyroidectomy (Fig. 2.). The patient recovered without complications.

Fig. 1. Plain X-Ray and CT scan showing the location of the empty cartridge

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Fig. 2. (A) An external finding. The opening of the Gunshot wound is shown. (A) Surgical findings of a left thyroid injury (C) Specimen after subtotal thyroidectomy

DISCUSSION

The characteristic of a wound caused by a gunshot injury depends on the characteristics of bullet yawing, the position, and the section of the wound ballistics or profile (1). Although gunshot injury is a rare event in South Korea, proper management is mandatory for handling future cases.

Conflict of Interest Statement

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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