

Chop Wound Due to Theft with Violence: Case Report

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ABSTRACT--Injury caused by the application of physical force can be divided into two main groups: blunt force and sharp force. One of the wounds caused by sharp violence is chop wounds. Crimes with sharp violence that are quite common in Indonesia are theft with violence. Thieves often injure their victims with sharp weapons during their action. In proving this crime, the police often ask the doctors to help them in regarding the injury of the victim. Doctor can predict the cause of the injury, the qualification of the wound and the degree of injury by using their knowledge. Case report: In this case study, a man suffered due to violence on December 4, 2019, at 01.30 a.m carried out by a person who did not known by the victim. We found chop wounds on his left hand and right leg. Chop wounds cause fractures, severed veins and blood vessels in the left hand and right leg so they must be amputated. Discussion: In determining the degree of injury, the doctor must understand the criminal law relating to injury. According to the criminal law, the qualifications for the degree of injury can be divided into Penal code classified wounds as mild wounds (penal code article 352), medium wounds (penal code article 351), and severe wounds (penal code article 90). Wound description of sharp violence are skin lesions that have smooth edges, sharp angles, hair cut off, no wound bridge, no bruises or blisters around. Conclusion: in this case, the victim sustained 4 (four) chop wounds, 1 (one) in the left hand and 3 (two) in the right leg. We can categorize this case as a torture, which can be subjected by article 351, 353, 354, 355, 365 and 90 of the Indonesian penal code.

Keywords: chop wound, violence, degree of injury, Indonesian penal code

I. INTRODUCTION

Wounds caused by sharp force are generally caused by knives, swords, blade razors, scissors, axes, sickles, machetes, bayonets and others. Wounds caused by pointed and sharp-edged weapons can be divided into four categories, stab wounds, incised wounds (cuts), chop wounds, therapeutic/diagnostic wounds. [1]. Crime using sharp objects is often found in Indonesia because it is easy to get these sharp weapons. Based on Indonesia criminal statistic data, east java has 611 cases of theft with violence in 2017 and 663 cases in 2018 . [13]. The thieves often injure their victims with sharp weapons. Based on data contained in the Forensic and Medicolegal Medical Installation of RSUD dr. Soetomo Surabaya, wounds caused by sharp weapons are 34 cases in 2018 and 7 cases in 2019 (5 cases of chop wounds, 2 cases of stab wounds). [6].

In handling cases of violent crime, both blunt violence and sharp violence, investigators (police) ask forensic doctors or general practioners for help according to their medical competence. Doctors can have two positions, as medical and legal when they treat violent crime victims . Doctors need to regard the injuries, tools used, causes of injury, age of the wound and degree of injuries. The doctor must understand the legal law in conveying the degree of injury for making visum et repertum conclusion, according to the medical point of view. [4]

In practice, doctors sometimes encounter difficulties in determining qualification of wounds. For visum et repertum conclusion to a living victim, the doctor must complete the qualification of the wound to help law enforcement. For that reason, in referring to this case report, the author wants to explain about the meaning of sharp force injury, chop wounds, qualifications of wounds, degree of injury and medicolegal aspects related to chop wounds.

II. CASE REPORT

A 19-years-old man, was suffered from theft with violence incidence on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at around 1:30 a.m. The victim rode a motorbike with his girlfriend to apply for a job at restaurant around Citrand Regency Surabaya and then he met the unknown person who rode a motorcycle and asked him an address but the victim began to get suspicious while at the lonely road when the victim was about to turn right and the unknown person forced the victim to go straight, then the unknown person issued a machetes and threatened the victim to surrender his motorbike, but the victim fought and was hacked on his right leg and left hand. The unknown person then ran away, the victim asked for help and was finally taken to the Emergency Installation of Dr. Soetomo Hospital. The victim arrived at the Emergency Room on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 02.32 a.m. He was found in supine position with chop wounds and active bleeding from the left hand and right foot chop wounds. Glasgow Coma Scale was E4V5M6, his blood pressure was 120 per 80 mmHg, pulse was 100 times per minute, respiratory rate was 18 times per minute and temperature 36.5 degrees celsius. On December 4, 2019 at 05.00 a.m., the district police of Sukomanunggal sent us *visum et repertum* request letter. We found there were many chop wounds in his left hand and right foot. On the left hand, 5 centimeters below the wrist, 75 centimeters above the heel, was found open wound, with wound patterns, irregular shaped, smooth

edges, sharp and blunt angles, with open fractures of first to fourth finger bones, cut off blood vessels, size 10 x 8 centimeters. The left hand X-ray findings were open fractures of first to fourth finger bones (*metacarpal digiti I, II, III and IV*). On the front side of the right lower leg, just at the ankle, 1.5 centimeters above the heel, there was chop wound with irregular shaped, smooth edges, sharp angles, broken bone, size 12 x 10 centimeters. On the outer side of the right lower leg, 30 centimeters below the knee, 20 centimeters above the heel, there was chop wound with regular shaped, smooth edges, sharp angles, the base of the wound has muscular tissue, size 8 x 3 centimeters. On the inner side of the right lower leg, 5 centimeters below the knee, 45 centimeters above the heel, there was chop wound, irregular shaped, smooth edges, blunt and sharp angles, the base of the wound has muscular tissue, size 2.5 x 1.5 centimeters. The right foot X-ray finding was open fracture of ankle bone.

Doctors decided to do surgery on December 4th, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. with the operation report as follows, performed Syme amputation on the ankle dextra. Performed amputation in the distal part of the left hand but still maintaining digiti 5. Performed tenoraphy and musculoraphy, debridement and wound exploration.

Patient was treated for 5 days from December 4th to December 8th 2019 with diagnosis post syme amputation ankle dextra and amputation manus sinistra, partially metacarpal digiti 1-4. Patient went home on December 8th 2019.

III. DISCUSSION

Sharp injuries are those caused by any implement with cutting edges (e.g., knives, scissors, or glass). [3] Sharp force injuries should be carried out an examination of the weapons or objects that are possibly involved (especially their dimensions). Chop wound is one of sharp force injuries due to heavy objects or tools with sharp or rather blunt edges that occur with a swing accompanied by force, usually lead to death from an extensive damage to the skull and brain structure. Characteristics of chop wounds are large size, wound edge and angle depends on the edge of of the weapon used. It usually cause damage to the bone. [2].

Visum et Repertum is a written statement made by a doctor at the request of authorized investigators about the results of medical examinations of humans, whether alive or dead or part or parts of the human body are suspected, based on their knowledge and under oath, to the benefit of Justice. [7]. The objective of a forensic examination on injury cases is to know the type of wound, type of injuriy and degree of injury. This is meant to fulfill the formulation offence in Indonesian's Penal Code (KUHP).. Errors in the determination of the degree of injury can lead to injustice for victims and perpetrators of criminal acts. There is only stated the definition of assault and mild assault in Indonesia Criminal code. A moderate injury is defined as an injury not categorized as a severe or mild injury in Criminal Code article 351 and the criteria of severe injury is defined from the definition of severe injury in the Criminal Code article 90. [5]. Under the Penal Code is stated that except for the Articles 353 and 356 maltreatment that does not result in

an illness or obstacle in the performance of official or professional activities, shall, as light maltreatment, articles 352. While articles 365 is stated that theft accompanied or followed by force or threat of force against persons, committed with intent to prepare or facilitate the theft, or when taken in the act, either to enable for himself or for other accomplices to the crime to escape, or to ensure possession of the thing stolen. So for determining the degree of injury, the doctor must understand the criminal code relating to injury. [8].

IV. CONCLUSION

In this case report, visum et repertum conclusion : type of injury is chop wound in the right ankle and left hand due to sharp force, degree of injury is serious physical injury denotes mutilation (criminal code articles 90). However, the type of criminal offense that is imposed on perpetrators depends on the results of investigation by the police.

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