

Title: Suprasternal Impaled Knife on a 57 Year Old Male

This is a discussion of a 57 year old male who was brought to the Emergency Room with an impaled knife located at the above the sternal notch. 7 hours prior, the patient attempted self harm with a kitchen knife when he was found and brought to their local hospital. Due to the location of the impaled object, he was referred to Northern Mindanao Medical Center. At the emergency room, he was received non hypotensive, non tachycardic, and with a slight elevation of his respiratory rate at 22 cpm. His oxygen saturation was 98% at room air, and a kitchen knife lodged 2 finger-breadths above the sternal notch. Initial imaging done with a radiograph revealed a metallic density traversing the visualized cervical osseous structures. To rule out aerodigestive and vascular injuries, a CT scan was taken. It showed a metallic object entering through the anterior neck portion below the thyroid gland extending posteroinferiorly to the superior segment of the right lower lobe, likely representing a knife. The object indented the right side of the trachea along its course, and created an intraluminal defect just before the carinal bifurcation, at the level of T5 with no extravasation seen. Patient was brought to the operating room for neck exploration and median sternotomy for removal of the foreign object. Intra-operatively, a grade II lung injury at the superior area of the right lung was seen and pneumorrhaphy was done, approached via a right hemiclamshell. A bronchoscopy was additionally done to rule out other injuries together with a pleural lavage and tube thoracostomy prior to closing up the patient. Post operatively, the patient's chest tube was removed on day 2 and returned to regular diet and eventually discharged on the 5th post operative day. He was seen by a psychiatrist and is under medical therapy and rehabilitation.