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Electrocution: Suspicion of manipulation at the neck

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Case Report

(Picture 1)



(Picture 2)



This interesting case shows us how deceptive electrocution can sometimes be. This was a genuine case of accidental electrocution. However a very deep electric mark at the neck, surrounded with intense blackening and charring gave rise to suspicion of homicidal strangulation being covered up by burning later on. However a detailed history of the accident and the presence of eyewitnesses as well as other findings ruled out homicide. This case is an interesting illustration of the fact that electrocution injuries may be bizarre. The importance of detailed history can not be overemphasised.

Picture 1 shows the suspicious electric entry mark around the neck, which generated the whole controversy. Picture 2 is the elctric exit mark through the legs. Pictures 3 and 4 shows burns at other areas.

(N.B. Click all pictures to enlarge!)

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