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Email Dr. B.D.Gupta (the corresponding author) by clicking here

Dr. B.D. Gupta (Click to enlarge)



Patterned bruise at the sole in a case of hanging: An unusual finding

***B. D. Gupta**[*] **and Jignesh B. Patel**[* *]*

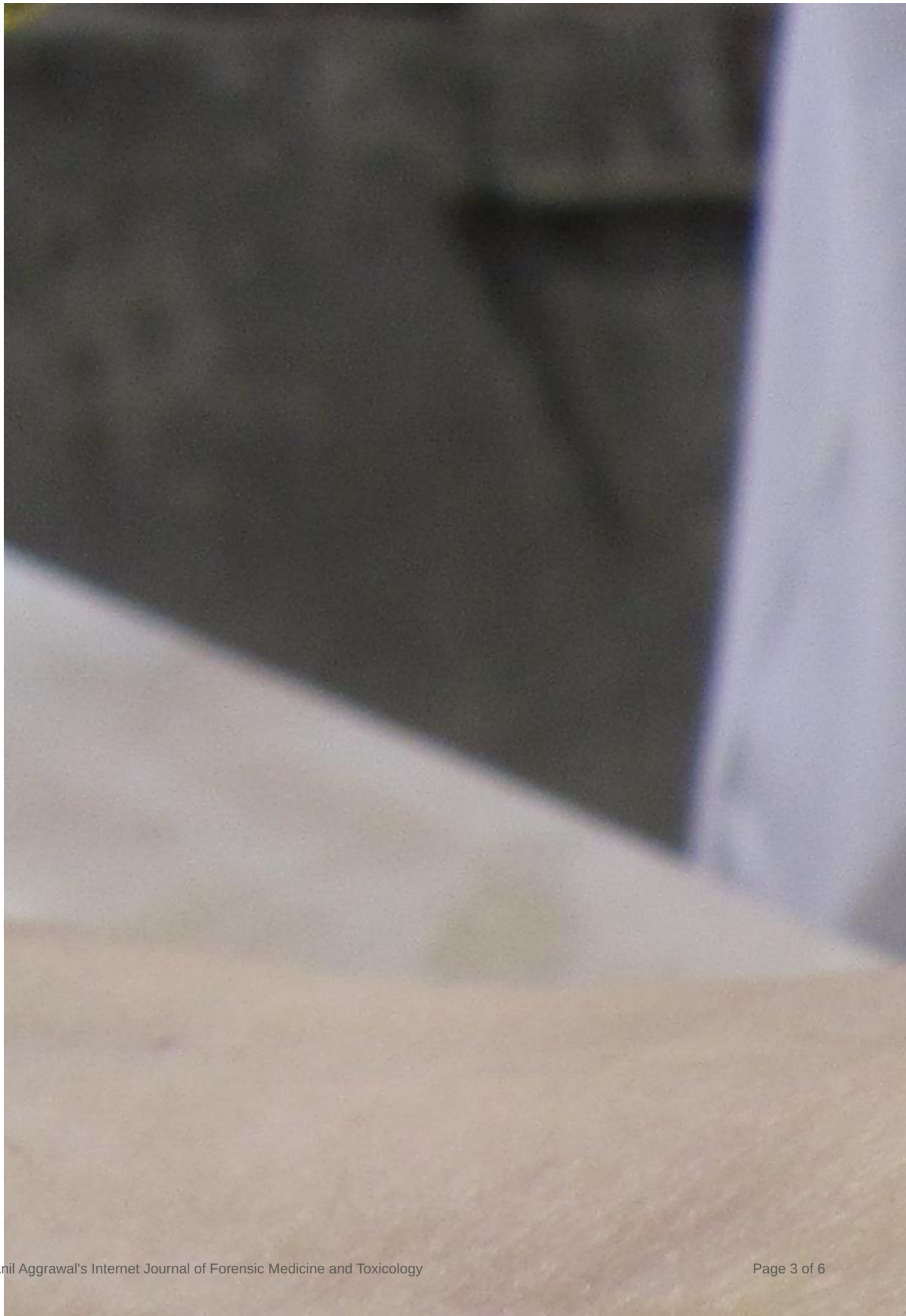
**** Prof & Head, **Tutor***

Forensic Medicine Department

M.P.Shah Medical College, Jamnagar
India

Case Report

Picture 1: obliquely placed railroad bruise



Picture 3: The tattoo mark



Please click all pics to enlarge

It was a case of death of 23 year old married female due to hanging. Unusual finding is seen on the left sole. See photograph-1 there was an obliquely placed railroad bruise.

There were no other injuries on the body except mark of ligature at the neck.

See the photograph carefully. It clearly shows pale area in the centre of the ‘bruise’ surrounded by reddish area on either side.

The photograph was kept for discussion in the department. Burns due to solid object that is branding, electrocution and mark produced by keeping the body in cold room tray were raised by faculty members. They were excluded one by one.

On investigation it was found that the deceased used a stool, a ‘four legged’ small furniture to climb to tie the knot at the hanging point, a ceiling fan. It was a case of partial hanging. It can be safely presumed that till the body of the deceased was pulled down this part of the leg was in contact with the rim or border of the stool and it pressed the centre which turned out to be pale while either side of this pale area became congested. The soft tissue of the sole was compressed between the body weight and the hard rim of the stool. We want to say that to begin with the formation of bruise was ante mortem and later on it continued to be formed or aggravated as perimortem.

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

*Corresponding author and requests for reprints:
B.D. Gupta
Professor of Forensic Medicine
M.P.Shah Medical College
Jamnagar 361008
India

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