

Vicious Complication Of Axillary Artery Cut

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INTRODUCTION:

Vascular injuries to the upper limb occur more frequently due to penetrating than blunt trauma. Among these injuries, axillary artery is the most uncommon. These are important injuries because delayed diagnosis and treatment may result in serious sequelae including functional impairment, Volkmann ischemic contractures, and even limb loss.

CASE REPORT:

A 64 years old gentleman was referred to from district Hospital for alleged work injury, cut by grinder machine over his left axilla. On examination, patient sustained deep laceration wound with axillary artery cut. He was immediately sent to operation theatre for artery repair. Intraoperative notable third part of axillary artery cut. Mechanical hemostasis achieved however noted patient already develops Volkmann ischemic contracture prior to artery repair. Axillary artery repair successful however patient succumbed to death due to disseminated intravascular coagulopathy.

[1]. Patient develops this condition due to delayed treatment and long travel distance from district to primary care center. Muscle ischemia produces irreversible damage within 6-12 hours, whereas the nerve ischemia beyond 12 hours would produce irreversible nerve damage [2], and this patient develops this condition after 5 hours post injury, which is quite rare to occur.

CONCLUSION:

Incidence of complications of axillary artery cut could be lowered by improving the perioperative managements including time of referral to primary care and patient transport time.

REFERENCES:

- 1.Mirza TM, Taqi M. Volkmann Contracture. Updated 2022 Aug 29
- 2.Saaq M. Clinical and Demographic Profile of Volkmann's Ischemic Contractures Presenting at National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, Islamabad, Pakistan. World J Plast Surg. 2020 May

Figure 1: Axillary artery post repair.



DISCUSSION:

Volkmann ischemic contracture is the outcome of prolonged muscle and nerve ischemia resulting most commonly from acute compartment syndrome and vascular injuries.