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Case report

Fatal neck injuries caused by blank cartridges

M.A. Rothschild ^a  ... K. Vendura ^b

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Abstract

We report three cases where fatal neck injuries were caused by blanks from starting pistols. The weapons were loaded with blank cartridges or tear gas cartridges. Neither live ammunition nor any form of projectile was used. All three cases involved a contact discharge. The gas pressure caused by firing the weapons created extensive wound cavities in all three cases. Each victim died from blood loss as a result of ruptured cervical vessels; there were no air embolisms. In one case, a man shot himself eight times with two different starting pistols, and the wounds could be matched to each gun by the muzzle imprint marks on the neck.



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Keywords

Blank cartridges; Starting pistols; Shot wound; Muzzle imprint mark

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