

## Case Report

# Fatal Penetrating Lacerated Wound By Tusk of Indian Wild Boar

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### Abstract

Attack of wild boar is rare and death by single injury on body due to attack of wild boar is rarest of rare. Although wild boars do not generally pose a threat to people, they occasionally attack humans. Due to the clearing of natural boar habitats, the number of interactions, including aggressive ones, between humans and boars has increased. When dealing aggressively with a human, boar will charge at them. When ramming into a person, the boar will slash the tusks upwards, creating sizeable open lacerations on the skin. Due to the height of the boar relative to a human, most wounds are inflicted to the upper legs, fatalities do occasionally occur. Wild boar attacks are under reported. There are very few cases of human attack by wild boars mentioned in literature. This case is reported for single fatal penetrating lacerated injury to lower limb inflicted by tusk of wild boar.

**Key Words:** Fatal, Indian Wild boar, Single injury, Penetrating Lacerated injury, Tusk, Lower Limb

### Introduction:

The Wild Boar is a medium-sized mammal with a large head and front end, which leads into a smaller hind. "The Indian wild boar is found during the day in high grass or bushes, sometimes in forest and often in high crops the females and young as a rule associating in herds or "sounders" usually of ten or a dozen, and rarely exceeding about twenty individuals, whilst the adult males keep apart. [1]

Adult boars can measure from 90-200 cm (35 to 79 inch) in length, not counting a tail of 15 to 40 cm (5.9 to 15.7 inch), and have a shoulder height of 55 to 110 cm (22 to 43 inch).

As a whole, their average weight is 50-90 kg (110-200 pounds), though boars show a great deal of weight variation within their geographical ranges, Mature sows from Southeast Asia and southern India may weigh as little as 44 kg (97 lb). [2]

After 2 years of age male wild boar grow tusks from both the upper and lower canines curving upwards.

The top tusks are hollow and act as a permanent whetstone against which the lower tusks are continually sharpened. The lower tusks are indeed extremely sharp.

Tusks can reach 5.5 to 6 cm in length. Females do not grow the upper 'sharpening' tusks as do the males, and their lower tusks are smaller, 2.5 to 3 cm long. Female 'tusks' are still quite sharp, but do not protrude from the lip, as they do in the males. [3]

Although wild boars do not generally pose a threat to people, they occasionally attack humans. Due to the clearing of natural boar habitats, the number of interactions, including aggressive ones, between humans and boars has increased. When dealing aggressively with human, boars will charge at them.

When ramming into a person, the boar will slash the tusks upwards, creating sizeable open lacerations on the skin. Due to the height of the boar relative to a human, most wounds are inflicted to the upper legs, fatalities do occasionally occur. [4]

Wild boar attacks are under reported. There are very few cases of human attack by wild boars mentioned in literature. Here we present a case of wild boar attack with fatal penetrating laceration on thigh.

### Case History:

A 42 year old male patient presented to emergency department in drowsy and disoriented state at 02.30 p.m. on 11/02/14 following a wild boar attack, which he sustained at 08.00 a.m. on 10/02/14. Wild boar attacked him from behind, while he was working in his

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farm by hearing his scream the nearby farmers came for rescue and the wild boar ran away into the adjoining woods.

He was bleeding heavily, while shifting him to primary health centre situated 10 kilometers away and further referred after packing the wound to our Tertiary Care hospital situated 200 kilometers apart, it takes around 24 hours to the relatives because of poor economic condition. On admission he was in drowsy state and was given one point of whole blood but condition was not improving.

He was taken into operation theatre same night the wound was examined and around 200cc blood wiped off and no active bleeding found at the injured site as peripheral vessels were collapsed and patient was in state of peripheral circulatory failure, the wound was repacked and given one more point of blood the condition was deteriorating and the patient died on 12/02/14 at 7.00 a.m.

### **Autopsy Findings:**

The body was that of a moderately built and moderately nourished male with a height of 1.2 m and weight of 51 kg.

External examination revealed the single penetrating lacerated wound on poster medial aspect of lower one third of left thigh of size 6cm\*2cm\*4cm, directed obliquely upwards and medially, with tailing on lower lateral end for 0.3 cm, edges of injury were rugged red.

The wound make a tear on posterior wall of femoral artery with muscle damage.

There was hematoma with infiltration of blood in muscles but no obvious bone injury corresponding to the wound.

On Internal examination all the internal organs were intact and pale.

The cause of death was attributed to **hemorrhagic shock due to penetrating laceration to thigh by wild boar tusk.**

### **Discussion:**

Death due to attack by wild boar is very rare. As per literature the most frequent site of injury among reported cases of wild boar cases is posterior thigh. Death due to attack by wild boar is very rare. According to the literature, the most frequent site of injury among reported cases of wild boar attack was the posterior thigh. [5-7] However, wild boar wounds can be fatal.

There are three reported cases of deaths due to wild boar attacks, with the cause of death being cranio-cerebral injury, multiple abdominal penetrating injuries and hemorrhagic shock due to lacerations to thigh by wild boar tusk, also named them as tusk injuries. [5-6]

Gunduz et al related this pattern to the physical characteristics of the wild boar. [4]

This is possibly due to the shoulder height of an adult wild boar, which is 90 cm on average, which approximately corresponds to the height of the thigh. In contrast to previous reports of Manipady et al and Shetty et al, there was only single lesion on the postero-medial aspect of the thigh.

The wild boar has a typical method of attack wherein it rushes forward, pointing the tusks towards the animal to be attacked and inflicts the injuries. It goes back, takes position, and attacks the victim again.

This repeated nature of attack continues until the victim is completely incapacitated owing to multiple penetrating injuries, which can have fatal consequences. As the boar continues its assault while the victim is on the ground, secondary lesions can occur in any anatomical location depending on the relative position of the victim. [7]

In the present case, there was only a single attack by the wild boar causing the single penetrating lacerated wound. The medial side of wound seemed to be caused by the lower tusk whereas the tailing represents injury while removal of lower tusk. There were no secondary injuries as mentioned in previous literature. This indicates that the boar attack was a defensive act and was not offensive in nature.

The penetrating injury inflicted by the wild boar is in below and upwards due to the anatomical position of the tusks.

Such attacks may occur in a distant uninhabited wilderness rather than on the well-travelled path where the boar is tolerant of people and less likely to attack.

In the present case, the wild boar attack occurred at the border of agricultural field and adjacent to forest the normal habitat of the wild boar. Therefore, the people living in similar geographical surroundings are vulnerable to attack by wild boar.

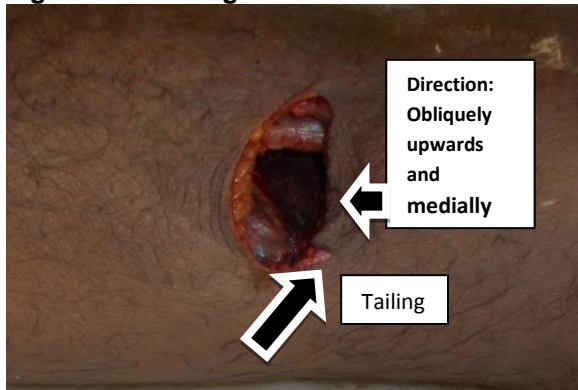
This case is reported for its rarity, for the pattern of the possible injuries in a boar attack, and to stress that how fatal a single injury could be even though present over the thigh. From Forensic point of view if any dead body is found in such circumstances, then possibility of attack by wild animal like wild boar could be a possibility and should be ruled out.

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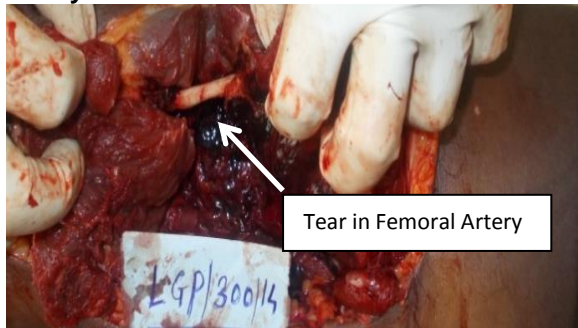
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**Fig. 1: Penetrating Lacerated Wound**



**Fig. 2: Tear In Posterior Wall of Femoral Artery**



**Fig. 3: Indian Wild Boar**



**Fig. 4: Front view of Indian Wild Boar**

