

Case Report

Multiple Violent Suicidal Attempts by One Mentally Ill Person: A Rare Case

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Abstract

Suicide is a potential threat to our society at present. Young aged boys and girls are most common victims of suicide. Social, economic factors play major role in commission of suicide. People may attempt suicide adopting various means like hanging, burning, poisoning etc. Sometimes multiple methods are adopted at a time. In this case we will discuss such a case where a young aged male person committed suicide using various means. The victim cut his throat at two places and also anterior aspects of both the forearms at a time. Hesitation cut marks were present over neck and right forearm. Presence of poison in the stomach was incidental finding. A painful death was the ultimate fate of the life reflecting an intense depressive state of the mind resulting from long term unemployment. Our goal is to make the society aware so that similar incidences can be prevented to some extent in future by proper precautionary measure and counselling.

Key Words: Suicide, Cut Throat, Depressive, Poisoning, Mental illness

Introduction:

Suicide is the only offence for which the offender cannot be punished. India is witnessing more and more numbers of suicides each year.

The young aged population is the most vulnerable group. People adopt various methods of committing suicide. Factors like depression, stress can turn the mind so desperate that a person can adopt much painful and multiple unusual means of committing suicide which are very difficult for us even to think about.

This case is about such an unusual multiple suicidal attempts.

Case History:

One 27 years old male subject attempted to commit suicide after a long episode of mental depression as a consequence of long term unemployment and poverty.

The history was obtained from inquest and also from family members.

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The victim was rushed to the emergency of Medical College, Kolkata with bilateral wrist cut and also two cut throat injuries.

He was then admitted and expired after few hours despite all the best possible efforts from the doctors. It was also stated by the family members that the person tried to commit suicide in few previous occasions and he was also being treated with some antipsychotic drugs for last few months.

Autopsy Findings:

Deceased was well nourished with body length of 5'6" and body weight of 72 kg. There were two stitched up incised injuries over neck.

One over right sided postero- lateral aspect which was 3" in length and directed anterior to posterior. The other was over anterior aspect of neck which was 3.5" in length and directed left to right. Hesitation cuts were evident around the wound margins. (Fig. 1)

Deep vessels were involved at the corresponding level. (Fig.2) Trachea was involved under the incised wound over anterior aspect of neck. (Fig. 3)

Two stitched up incised injuries were found over anterior aspect of both forearms.

Both were horizontal and surgically extended in a vertical direction as evident in bed ticket. (Fig. 4) The left sided one was less deep whereas deeper vessels were involved in right sided one. (Fig. 6) Multiple old linear scar marks were present over anterior aspect of right forearm which were indicative of self-inflicted injuries. (Fig. 5)

On dissection, incidentally, bluish green semisolid substance was found in stomach with peculiar smell and sub- mucosal haemorrhage over stomach wall which was a strong evidence of poisoning. (Fig. 7)

Discussion:

Suicide is taking away someone’s own life. [1] Attempt to suicide is a punishable offence under sec 309 IPC [2] but seldom one individual is punished for this offence.

No question of punishment arises when the person dies. According to National Crime Record Bureau, 134799 people committed suicide in 2013 and 15 to 29 years of age group are most vulnerable. [3] Women attempt suicide more than men but suicidal death is more common among men. [4] This may be because more desperateness of mind and ability to tolerate more pain.

This case is a classic example. Suicide by cutting throat, cutting forearm or any accessible body part or poisoning are not uncommon but adopting all these methods at a time is not common.

In this particular case death was due to combined effect of injuries and poisoning. Shock due blood loss, involvement of vital structure like trachea contributed to the death. [5]

Moreover tailing of wound indicated direction [6] and hesitation cuts indicate suicidal tendency of mind [7] which help to reconstruct the incidence. Bluish coloured substance in the stomach points towards the probability of CuSO₄ poisoning. [8] Due to these multiple factors, all the efforts of doctors failed.

Past history of psychiatric illness due to long term unemployment suggest the cause of such unusual desperate violent suicidal attempt.

Conclusion:

As mentioned before, multiple suicidal attempts in a single case are growing in number day by day in our country. Considerable numbers of young population are becoming so much disillusioned from life that they are becoming desperate in putting an end to their life resulting in multiple suicidal attempts.

We, the doctors and also other aspects of this society should come forward in the prevention of this suicidal ideation with proper counselling and care.

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Fig. 1: Incised Injury over postero-lateral aspect of Neck with Hesitation Cuts Tailing



Fig. 2: Incised Injury over Anterior aspect of Neck



Fig. 3: Incised injury over neck with Tracheal Involvement



Fig. 4: Incised injury over forearm with Surgical Extension



Fig. 7: Superficial Incised injury over Fingertip



Fig. 5: Hesitation Cuts over Anterior Aspect of Forearm



Fig. 8: Bluish Green Semisolid Substance in Stomach



Fig. 6: Deep Vessel Injury

