The Official Journal of the National Association of Medical Examiners

AJFMP Journal Club

Article Title: Determination of the Force Required to Produce Stab “Wounds” in Fruit Compared With Cadaveric Chest Tissue

Authors: Lorenzo Gitto, Serenella Serinelli, Frederick w. Werner, Nathaniel R. Ordway, and Robert Stoppacher


1. Why is it necessary to know the forces necessary to produce injuries on the human body?
2. Previous studies have shown that how much force is necessary to penetrate the skin, cartilage, and bone of a human cadaver?
3. What are the variables involved in determining the force required to penetrate tissues and which are addressed in the present and previous studies?
4. How might and by how much would the results of the present study be affected if the variables above were changed?
5. Why do you think the authors limited themselves to fruit rather than other commonly found items? What other items might have been used which could improve the study?
6. What did the authors determine were the forces necessary to penetrate the different fruits?
7. Which fruits required more force to penetrate and why?
8. How do the forces required to penetrate fruit compare to those required to penetrate the skin, cartilage, and bone of a human cadaver?
9. The authors list several limitations of the study (i.e., small sample size, consistent velocity, and sharpness), do they affect the usefulness of the study? How and why?
10. How applicable are the results to your practice? How would you use this study?