

Sub-amputation occurring as a result of upper extremity trauma

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Introduction

Amputation is the removal of a limb by a reason. Peripheral vascular illnesses, trauma, burns, freezing, poisonous bites, tissue necrosis occurring after infection and ischemia are the main reasons of amputation. Peripheral vascular illnesses are the most seen reason and the second one is traumas. Amputation decision must be given from distal end. Life quality of the patient and suitability of prosthesis must be considered in determining the tissue which will remain after amputation. Decision of amputation must be interdisciplinary.

Case:

18 year old female patient was taken to our hospital by the emergence medical service (112) because of being hit by a crane while driving her car. The patient, who was intubated in another hospital because of agitation, was taken to the resuscitation service. When she was taken, her Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) (sedationed) was TA: 74/43 mmHg, pulse was 106/minute and saturation was %95. After a physical examination, subgaleal hematoma in the left temporoparietal was detected. There was a splint in the left arm. When the splint was opened, sub-amputation in left humerus distal was seen (Picture 1), there was no pulse in break distal. There were bilateral rales in both Pulmonary basals. There were no extra findings except this. There was concordant appearance with linear fracture under the part which has subgaleal hematoma and contusion in both Pulmonary basals in the tomographies of the patient. The patient in this situation was taken to the operating room with urgent amputation decision taken after suggestions of neurosurgery, cardiovascular surgery, orthopedics, and plastic surgery clinics.

Conclusion

Extremity amputations are very problematic processes for emergency service doctors in terms of legal dimension. For this reason, opinions and suggestion of required clinics must be taken in determining the situations of patients who frequently applying to emergency services with necrosis, ischemic extremity and need amputation. Legal responsibility of amputation must be shared.



Picture 1: sub-amputation with condyle related to external environment and soft tissue destruction.