

A DISTINGUISHING FEATURE  
OF LACERATED WOUNDS

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Identifying lacerated wounds is an important facet of forensic work both in the clinical as well as in the pathological fields. Differentiating between them and incised injuries is equally important. This differentiation has hitherto been done by appearances of the wound itself. An attempt was made to see whether additional distinguishing features could be identified in the surrounding area.

Ten experimental lacerated wounds were inflicted on the shin of fresh cadavers, by pre-determined blunt force. The surface surrounding the lacerations so caused were examined after usual fixation, histopathological sectioning, and staining with Hemotoxylin and Eosin. It was

observed that all of them had surface splits, of varying length distributed almost at regular intervals, surrounding the main injury. These were absent in comparable incisions.

It is therefore concluded that the presence of secondary splits around a primary injury point to a diagnosis of laceration of the split variety. A description of these appearances could not be traced in existing relevant literature. Further investigation is contemplated to ascertain a relationship between the degree of force and the distribution of surface splits.