

Presenter

Jamie Hoffman-Rosenfeld, MD

Topic

Cutaneous Injuries – a Potpourri of Linear Marks

Why this case is of interest

Cutaneous injuries are the most common physical indicator of inflicted injury. In this series of cases, linear marks were observed by professionals and diagnosed as indicia of inflicted injury. There is a differential diagnosis that must be considered even when marks that appear to be patterned in character are observed.

Case summary

This is a series of cases that demonstrates the varied appearance of inflicted and noninflicted cutaneous marks.

Key learning points

- 1) Linear marks on the skin often represent patterned injuries that are created when there is impact to the skin with a linear implement.
- 2) Some apparent linear marks are not inflicted and represent an important “mimic” of physical abuse.
- 3) The characteristics of the various types of marks will be reviewed with these cases.