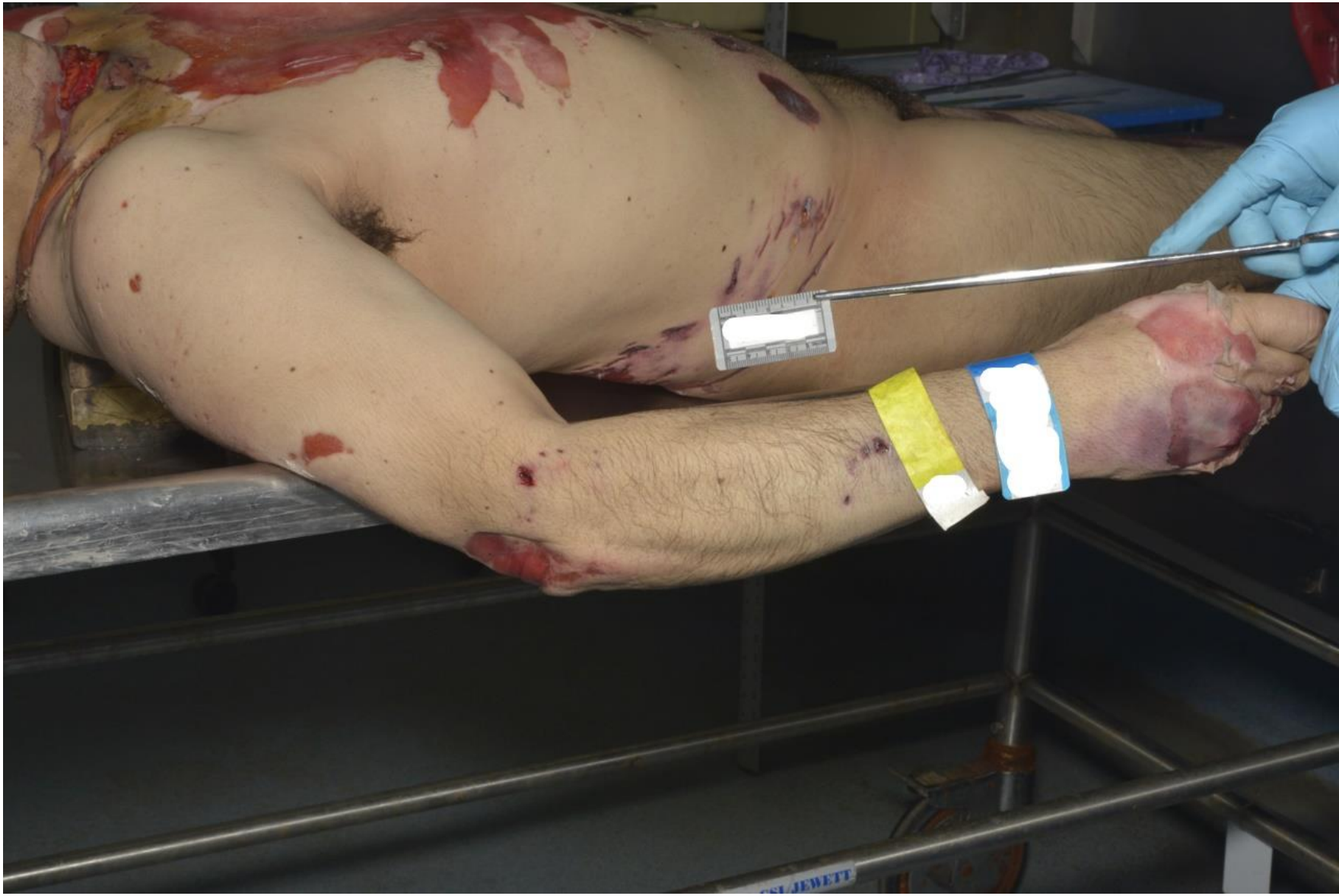




Case #31

NAME Educational Activities Committee



Case provided by Dr. Lindsay Taute (Cook County Medical Examiner)



1. A man was involved with a complex, prolonged police stand-off and sustained multiple types of injuries, including self-inflicted injuries.

What do you think caused the injury on his right flank shown above? (free text answer)

Answer...

Dog Bite (German Shepherd)

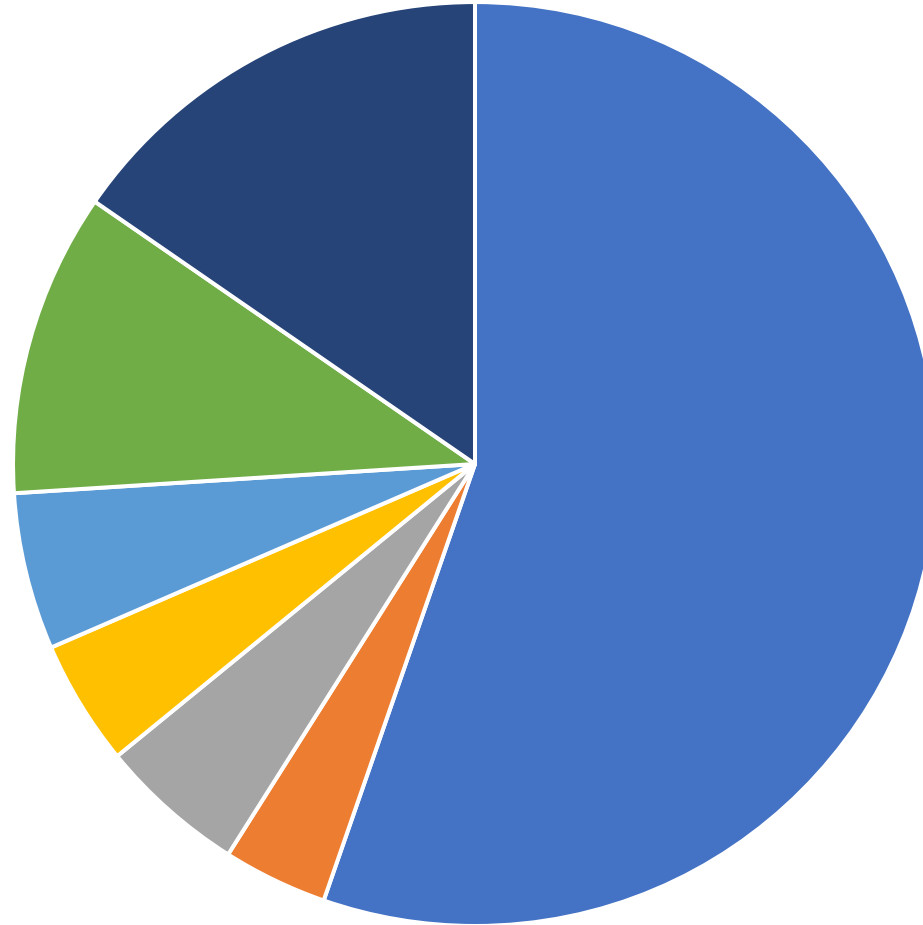
Full story: “A middle-aged man chased his wife and child from the house trying to stab them and set them on fire – fortunately, a neighbor took in the wife and child. When police arrived, there was a complex stand-off that was clearly described in the police report and was well-replicated on the body with the injuries. He had set himself of fire and stabbed/cut himself; the police had fired bean bag rounds and sent the dog (a German Shepard) on him.”

In one of the photos you could also see some of his other injuries including some of the self-inflicted thermal injuries. Just about 55% of the responses included some version of bite or dog bite. Credit was also given for one “big dog or dinosaur bite” and “werewolf bite,” though I would not try using those on the boards! Partial credit to “BBQ tongs” for recognizing a paired teeth pattern. Interestingly there were 3 responses for “bear trap,” which would also fit this paired sets of teeth pattern. Our favorites included “Clifford the Big Red german shepherd” and “Dog Bite. Big Big Scary Dog Bite.”

Submitted Answer Word Cloud

K-9 stab K9 Flash bang animal blunt force Knife burn Police dog
Taser bite projectile Dog bite marks Canine
Bean bag round Police bean bag Abrasions attack injury shotgun Dog
fall

Police Stand-off Injury



■ Bite ■ Explosive ■ Knife ■ Firearm ■ Alternative ammunition ■ Blunt force ■ Other

Additional Information

There are a few take-away points that can be made on this case. First, dog bites are very often confused with sharp force injuries because of the nature of dog teeth. Several cases have been mistaken for multiple stab wounds, when in fact they were dog maulings. Second, several people specifically commented on the presence of the central bruising, thinking that there may be overlapping injuries. Bites (even human) will often show this type of central bruising. Third, bite marks will not always distinctly show both mandibular and maxillary sets of teeth, and you won't always see distinct individual teeth marks. Rule of thumb – any time you see an abrasion or contusion on a body, take a second to say “Could this be a bite mark?” 99% of the time it won't be, but if you don't think about it you won't recognize it!

The rest of the responses were as follows:

Blunt force trauma (11%) – these included motor vehicle/tires, shoe prints/abrasions from the ground

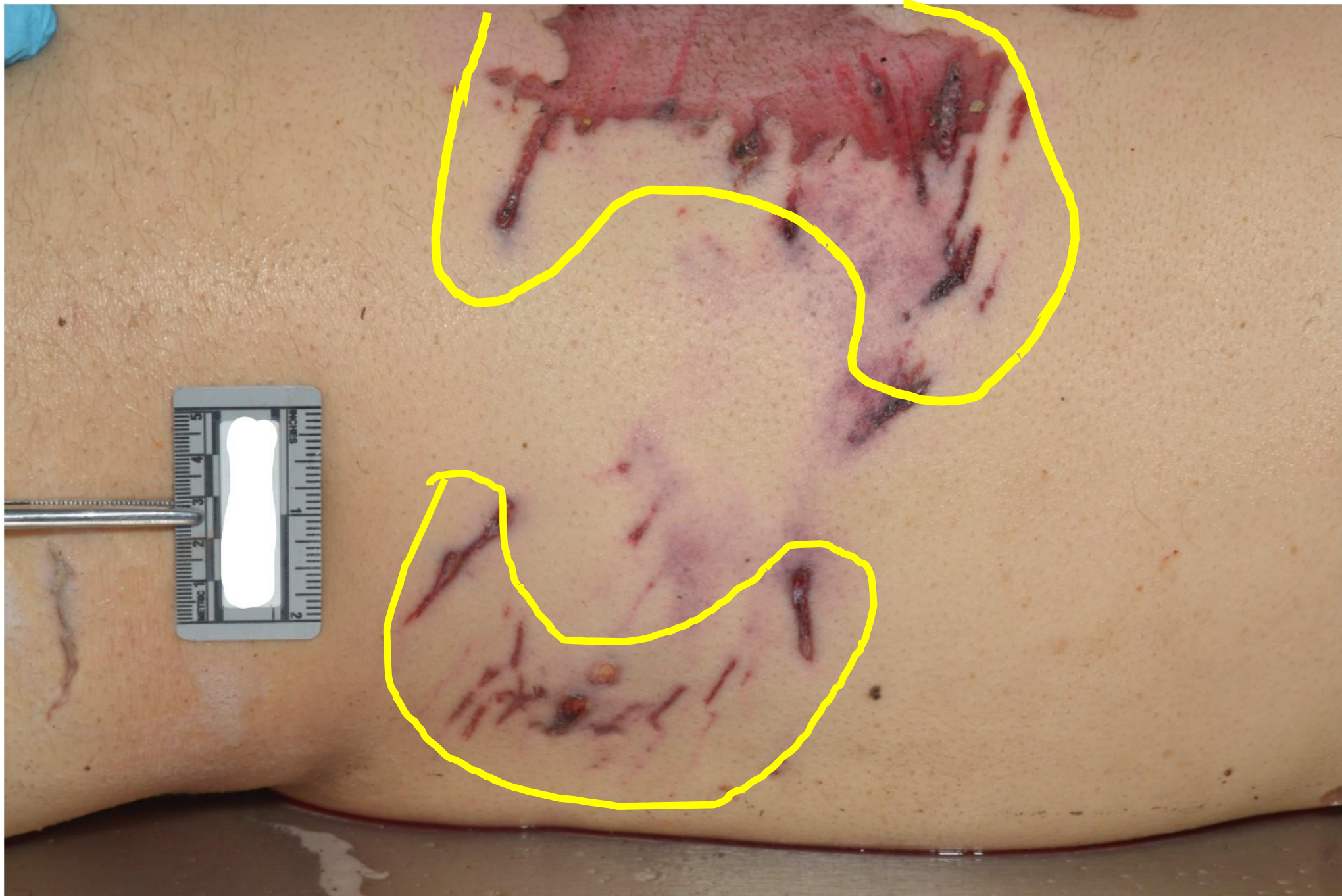
Sharp force (5%) – these included knives, scissors, barbed wire

Alternative ammunition (5%) – these included bean bag rounds, flechette ammunition

Firearm injuries (4%) – these included shotgun, interposed targets, ricochets

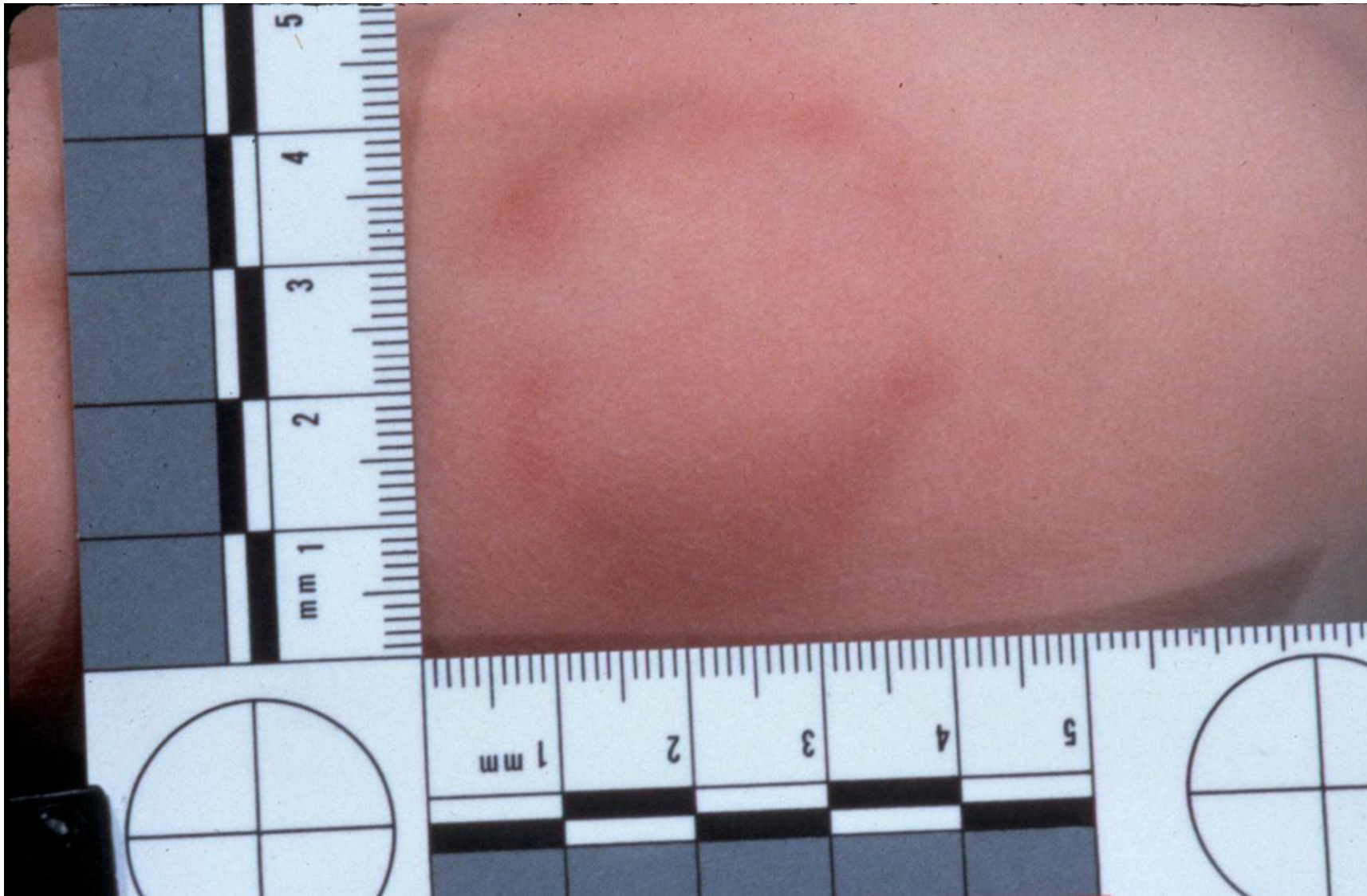
Explosives (4%) – these included flash bags, tear gas cannisters

Other (15%)





Human bite with central bruising



More subtle human bite mark



Dog mauling – can look like stab wounds!

Reference:

- Spitz and Fisher's Medicolegal Investigation of Death. 4th ed. Chapter 6 Forensic Odontology. Pp 269-272