



Case #54

NAME Educational Activities Committee

Case provided by:

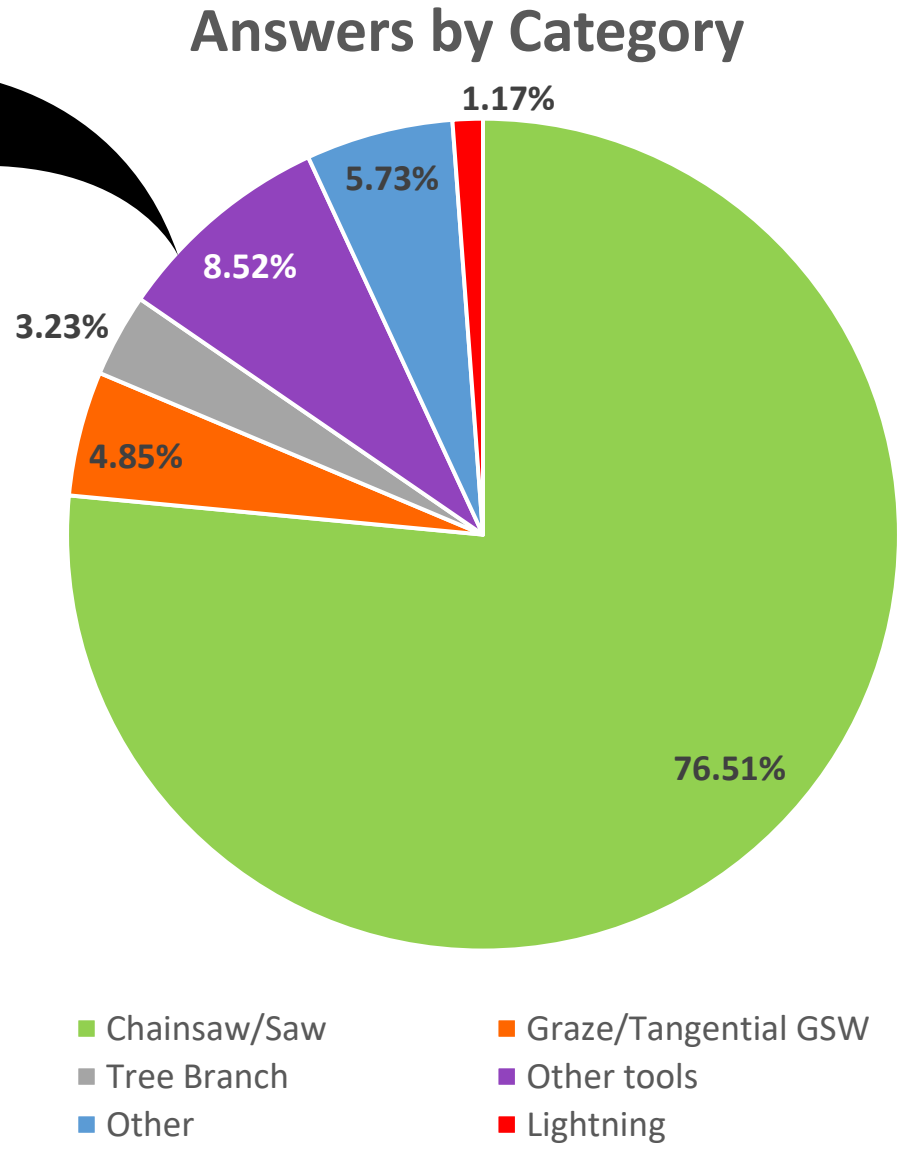
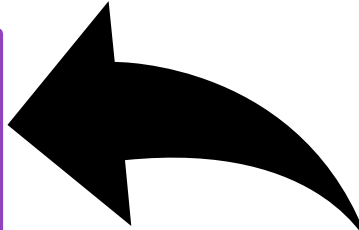
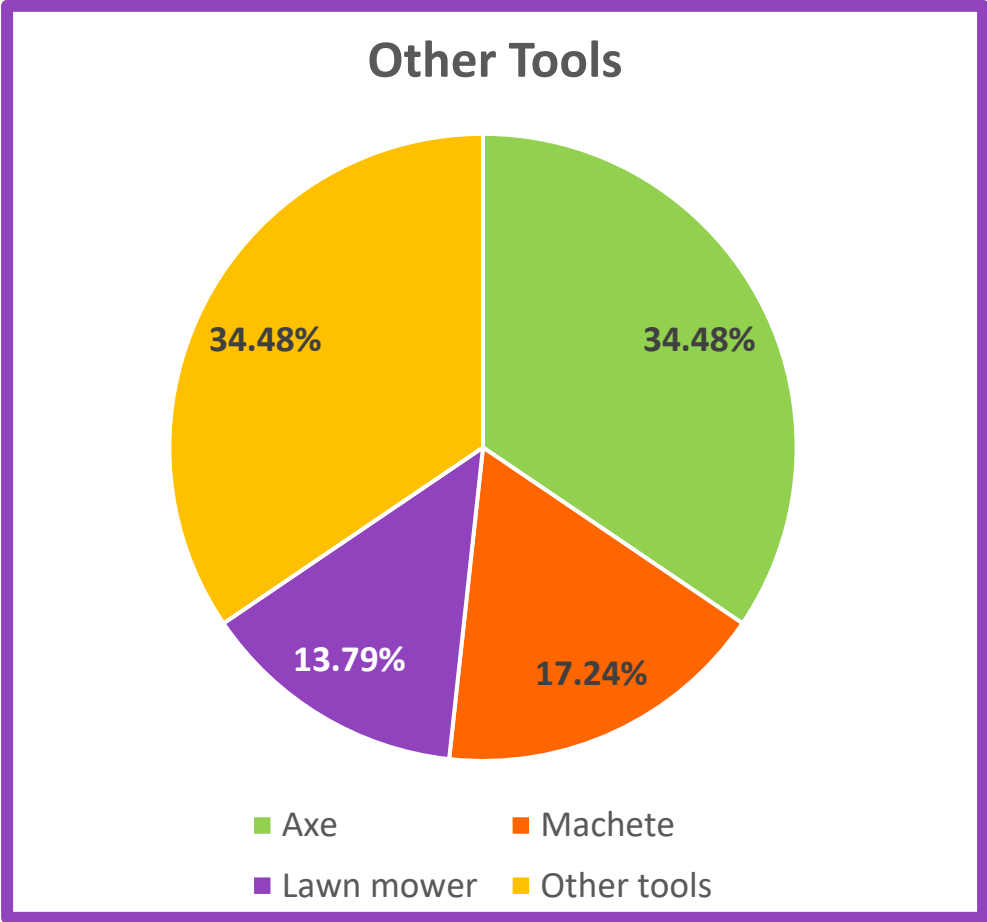
Dr. Tracy Dyer (Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, TX)



1. A 58-year-old man was found unresponsive next to a tree in his back yard. What could have caused the defect shown? (FREE TEXT ANSWER)

Word Cloud

sharp force Electric Falling branch Ax Graze gunshot wound
Power graze possibly falling heavy falling tree fencing
Laceration blunt force sharp kick back branch trauma
Machete fell tree Axe Lawnmower blade injury object
Chain saw Lightning Chainsaw head saw
Chainsaw kickback blade Tangential cutting Texas
gunshot wound Chop wound tree chop injury
electric saw Projectile Tree branch pole wound Possible
Blunt force trauma hit tool accident Tree trimmer instrument
circular saw



Answer...

Chainsaw – (CORRECT ANSWER, 76.51 % of responses)

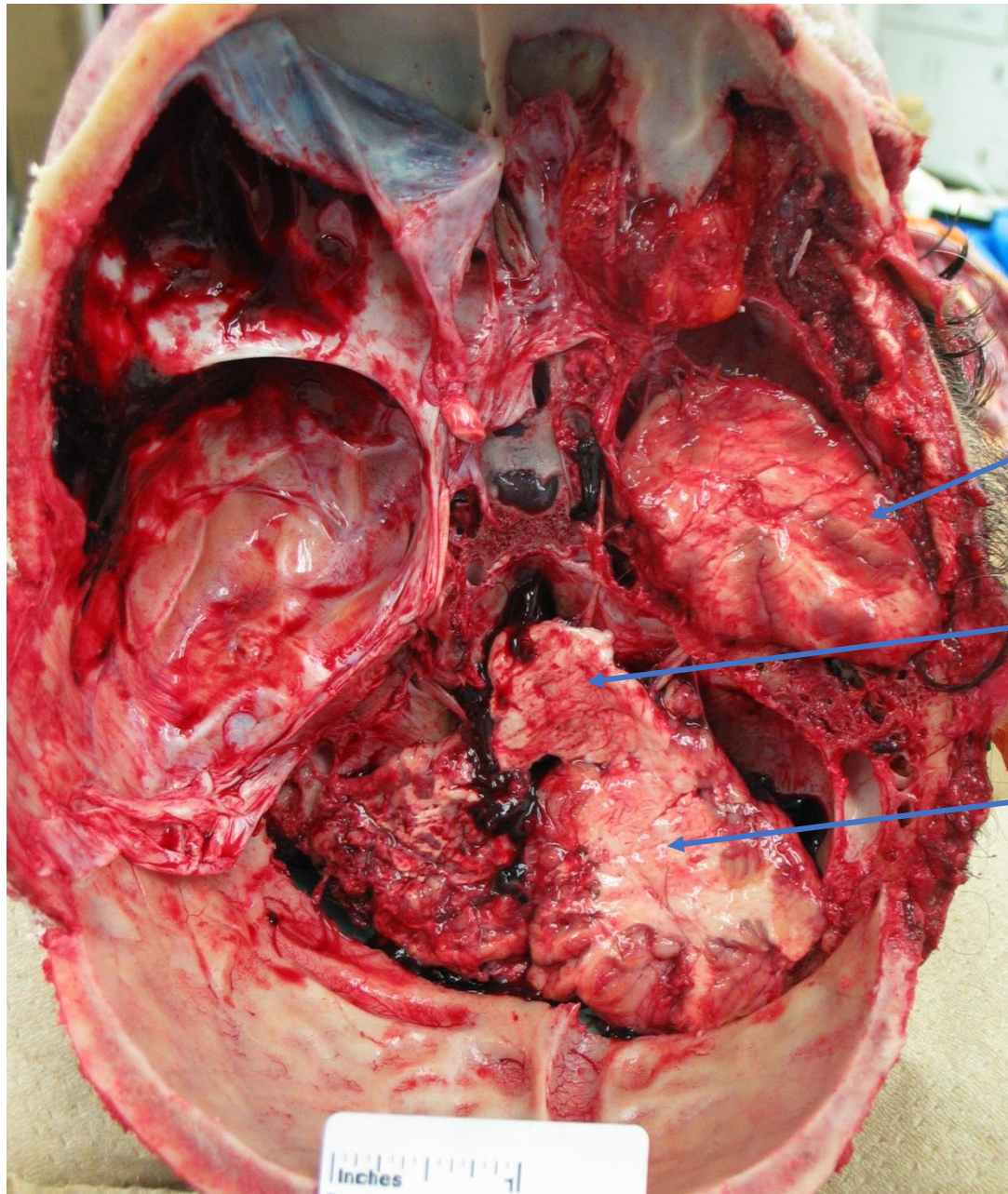
The decedent on this case reportedly had a long history of depression. He was in his backyard when he was witnessed to take a chainsaw (pictured on the right), and turn it on to himself, causing the injury depicted in our question.

The wound in the picture has irregular patterned ragged edges, consistent with the chisel cutters seen within the chain of a chainsaw. The chainsaw functions by having its chain spin around the long-steel plate called the “guide bar”. Therefore, the small “skin tags” seen along the wound’s edge likely resulted from the motion of the chainsaw’s chain as it is cutting into the skin, giving the wound a “directional” appearance, which as quite a few people mentioned, can look similar to the look of a graze gunshot wound.



Chainsaw chain





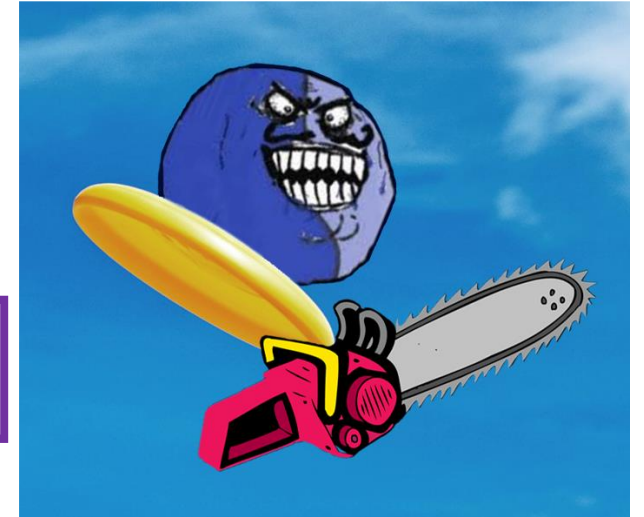
Temporal lobe

Brainstem

Cerebellum

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Killer Frisbee. Or a frisbee attached to a chainsaw.



possibly an attack from a very angry bird.

Land shark with one row of teeth? No- it looks "choppy" but the tissue tears imply a directional motion. Next to a tree-- I say chainsaw or minichainsaw.