Case #82

NAME Educational Activities Committee
Case provided by:

Dr. Andrew Layman, MD (Mayo Clinic, Rochester).
1. An elderly man with a history of severe atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and hypertension was involved in a head-on motor vehicle accident. EMS reported that airbags had deployed and the seatbelt had to be cut to remove the decedent from the vehicle. He was pronounced at the scene and the autopsy identified multiple blunt force injuries as the cause of death. During the autopsy, this dry yellow H-shaped injury was identified on the abdomen. What could have caused this injury? (Free text answer!)
Answer...
Suspenders!  

The postmortem abrasion seen in the photo was consistent with the decedent’s suspenders clips that became entraped between the decedent’s abdomen and the seatbelt of the vehicle. The abrasion has a squared (H-shaped) configuration, and if you look closely you can see the suspender clip “teeth” marks.

You can also observe the faint horizontal red linear across the abdomen consistent with the seatbelt, part of which crosses right over the patterned injury.
Honorable mentions

• “This is where the space aliens put the probe in. Pretty classic really.”

• “Clip-on suspenders. Or a tiny tiny shark.”

• “Hebilla cinturón” → Apparently “Belt buckle” in Spanish!