

PENETRATING WOUNDS OF THE NECK IN COMBAT CONDITIONS: ANALYSIS OF SCIENTIFIC DATA FROM UKRAINE AND THE WORLD

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Penetrating neck wounds remain one of the most pressing issues in combat medicine, as they are characterized by a high risk of fatal complications and require immediate qualified medical care. The main objective of our study was to conduct a retrospective analysis of modern scientific sources regarding the characteristics of structural damage, topography of penetrating neck wounds, incidence of complications, as well as approaches to providing medical and surgical care in armed conflicts. For this purpose, 73 scientific publications were analyzed, selected from authoritative international databases such as MEDLINE/PubMed, Karger, EMBASE/Ovid. Based on the results of an in-depth review covering the period 2004-2024, 37 sources that met the study criteria were included in further analysis. The analysis focuses on the characteristics of neck wounds accompanied by significant bleeding, damage to vital structures and a high risk of airway obstruction [1]. Among the most dangerous injuries recorded in military conditions, gunshot injuries to the pharynx and larynx should be highlighted. These injuries can lead to asphyxia, massive bleeding, hypovolemic shock, which makes them especially critical for the survival of victims [2].

Modern medical care protocols, especially in settings with limited medical resources, provide for the primary provision of airway patency (for example, by cricothyrotomy or endotracheal intubation) and stopping critical bleeding by direct pressure, wound tamponade, or the use of hemostatic agents [2].

The Ukrainian experience, in particular, gained during a full-scale armed conflict, plays an important role in the formation of new approaches to medical care. The introduction of improved prehospital response algorithms, including TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care), is aimed at quickly stabilizing the victim's condition directly on the battlefield. In general, optimizing algorithms for providing assistance at the stage of evacuation to a medical facility is a key factor in reducing the level of combat mortality and disability. In the future, a promising direction is the development of portable respiratory monitoring devices, as well as training of Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel and medical personnel according to uniform protocols adapted to Ukrainian realities.

Refereces:

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2. Yang P., Song Y., Yu M. A new approach to organization and implementation of military medical treatment in response to military reform and modern warfare in the Chinese Army // *Military Medicine*. – 2017. – Vol. 182, Iss. 11–12. – P. e1819–e1823.