

# Injury slides and court processes

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# Legal Outcomes: total =600

13\* Convictions

23 Court Appearances

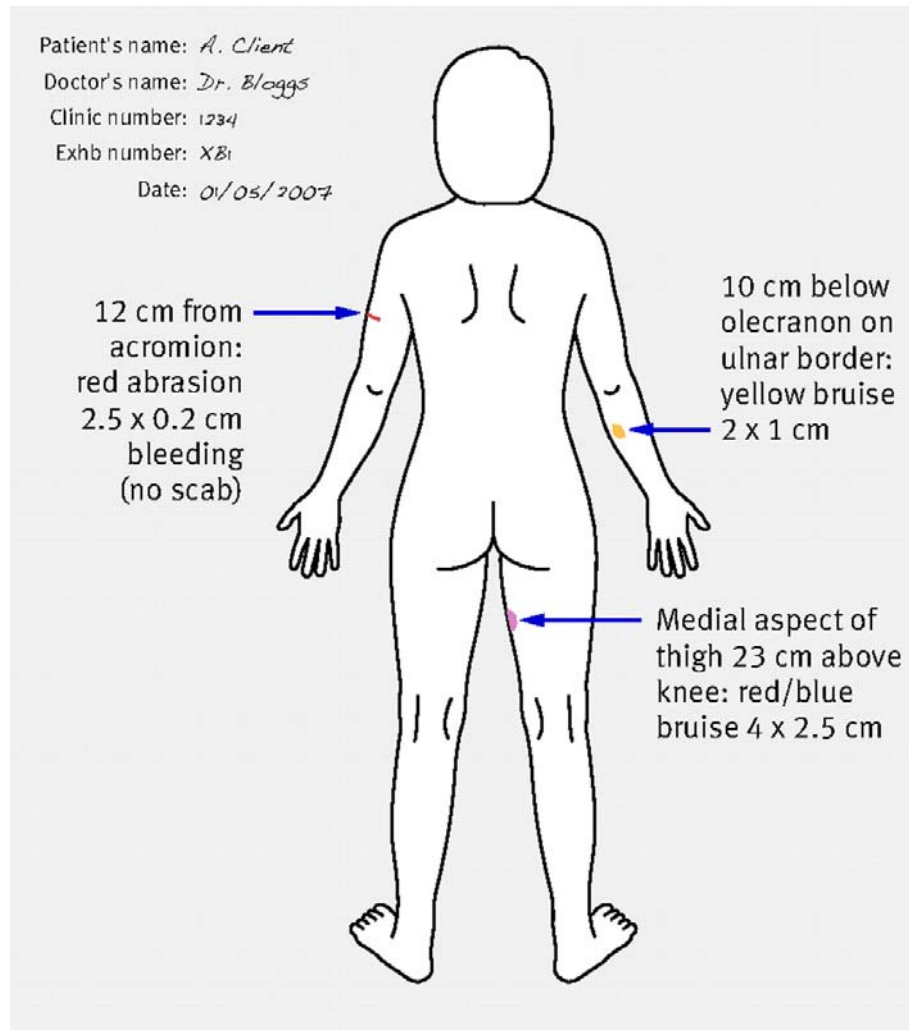
46 Court Dates

45 Subpoena's

67 Court Reports

**\*5 Victims and 1 assailant**

## Fig 1 Recording injuries on a body diagram



Welch, J. et al. *BMJ* 2007;334:1154-1158

Approaching the court setting

**Truth**

**Integrity**

**Preparation**

# Things to make going to court easier

- Make sure your statement is handed in on time
  - This may prevent you from going to court at all
- Read and analyse your statement and photographs
  - know it's faults and inconsistencies
- Go over it with the DPP and a colleague
  - Read and analyse your contemporaneous notes
- Anticipate questions and verbalise a response
- Discuss with the prosecutor if there are Aids (e.g. visual diagrams)
  - Don't use them without asking the DPP first.
- Know the time frame of when you are expected at the committal, the trial etc.
- Organise support for you
- Talk to someone afterwards

# Things to make going to court easier

- Dress formally for court
- Remember your status as an expert witness
- Make sure you bow to the banner above the judge's/magistrate's head on entering the court
- Decide if you will take the oath or do the pledge before going to court
- Move the microphone so you can be heard and recorded in the courtroom
- Engage the jury and judge
  - Look at them when talking
  - Not the defence or prosecution
- When explaining use instructive non- condescending language
  - Explain things in the way a good teacher would

# **A court report**

- **A statement of qualification and experience of the examining doctor**
- **Background information**
- **History of assault**
- **Examination, general and specific**
- **Forensic samples collected**
- **Opinion**
- **General comments**
- **Review and check**