

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

What Do You Think?: Forensic Fiction Or Fact

Can a wound tell you exactly when it occurred?

If you think an expert can look at a wound or picture of a wound and pinpoint the time it occurred, you may have been misled by forensic TV shows.

The rest of the story: No science exists to allow you to observe a wound or picture of a wound to determine the date of injury, says forensic nurse expert **Daniel J. Sheridan, PhD, RN, FNE-A, FAAN**, associate professor at **Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing**.

"You can tell by a photo or observation that a wound is relatively new versus relatively old," he adds. "But it won't tell you the exact time or shift when the wound occurred."