Noteworthy orbital-craniocerebral trauma

Figure Penetrating trauma to the brain through orbit

(A) Clinical photograph of the injured patient. Arrow indicates the outside portion of the pencil. (B) CT showing the pencil penetrating into the brain through left orbit. (C, D) The pencil was removed surgically.

A 31-year-old man presented 6 hours after sustaining a penetrating injury of his left orbit with an 11.5-centimeter pencil, with 1.6 centimeters left outside (figure, A, arrow). Neurologic deficits were not observed. CT showed the pencil penetrated into the inferior frontal lobe through the orbital roof, without injury to the eyeball. Ten centimeters of the pencil was located in the orbital and intracranial cavity, with 6 centimeters in the brain tissue, with scant accompanying hemorrhage (figure, B). Emergency surgery loosened and removed the whole pencil (figure, C and D), after which the patient had a satisfactory recovery.

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