



## Lost And Found 25 Years Later -A Tale Of A Neglected Metallic Foreign Body On The Nasal Dorsum

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### Abstract

Foreign bodies of the nose are common in ENT practice. Usually seen foreign bodies include toys, seeds, buttons, coins inside the nasal cavity, and the most affected group are children, (1,2). Nasal foreign bodies in adults are rare, especially those that are lodged outside the nasal cavity. The etiology can be different but invariably it can be attributed to an injury or an iatrogenic cause (3). Metallic foreign bodies can be neglected and can remain inside the body for long periods of time. Here, we present a case of a neglected metallic foreign body on the dorsum of the nose.

**Keywords:** Foreign body, dorsum of nose, Computerized Tomography

### Introduction

A metallic foreign body was lodged in the dorsum of nose of a male patient while he was hammering a nail onto a wooden plank. He neglected the small swelling on the left medial canthus (Figure 1) for 25 years till it affected his new job of shifting patients to the MRI room. He incidentally noticed a pulling force when he had approached the MRI machine.

Computerized Tomography of the nose and paranasal sinuses showed a metallic structure of size ~4.2x3mm within the subcutaneous plane and embedded in the nasal bone (Figure 2)

A horizontal incision of approximately 1cm was placed on the left side of the dorsum of the nose. The foreign body was seen, just below the skin, embedded in the subcutaneous tissue, causing erosion of the underlying left nasal bone (Figure 3)

Histopathology showed metallic foreign body with fibrous tissue and infiltrates of lymphocytes and

histiocytes. There was no area of necrosis nor foreign body reaction seen on deeper section evaluation

The patient was kept on a close follow-up. He visited the out-patient department on the first week postoperatively for suture removal, and later after a month. He had returned to his daily routine within a few days of the procedure, without any hindrance. He fully recovered and did not have any further difficulty in his occupation.

### Discussion:

Foreign bodies are quite commonly seen in children, lesser in adolescents and are quite rare in adults. In adults' foreign bodies are seen following a traumatic injury or in patients with mental ailments.

Patients usually seek urgent help to the emergency department as they have acute symptoms and are in distress.

Foreign bodies of the paranasal sinuses can present with pain, nasal discharge, increased lacrimation of the eye, along with irritation (4).

But, retained foreign bodies have their associated sequelae, which can include sinusitis, sinus or fistulous tract formation, chronic facial pain or rarely sino-nasal malignancies (5,6,7)

There also have been reports of long standing foreign bodies in the nose and paranasal sinuses without any sequelae (7).

A few cases of neglected foreign bodies of the nose of more than 20 years have also been reported (8,9).

In this current case, the patient had a foreign body embedded on the nasal bone. Once the initial irritation had settled, he had neglected it for 25 years, did not seek any medical attention, until it affected his occupation.

**Conclusion:**

Retained foreign bodies of the nose usually present with symptoms such as nasal discharge, chronic facial pain, but rarely they can also remain without any sequelae. With a careful and thorough history taking and examination the clinician can accurately identify the nature and location of the foreign body

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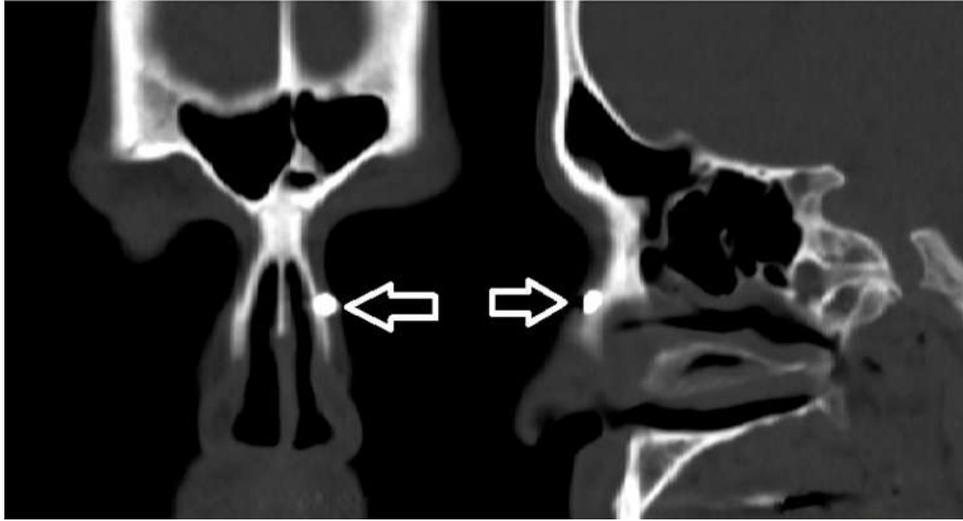
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**Figure 1: The foreign body on the dorsum of the left side of nose (encircled in red)**



**Figure 2: Computerized Tomography Image (Coronal and Sagittal views) showing the foreign body ( marked with arrows)**



**Figure 3: The excised metallic foreign body (Arrow marked)**

