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An Unusual Trauma of the Ear

Report of a Case

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When a family doctor was syringing a patient's ear, the hind lock of the syringe got detached and the nozzle forcefully entered the external meatus. Emergency operation revealed a large perforation in the posterosuperior quadrant of the tympanic membrane and multiple fractures of the stapes, the footplate being slightly dislocated into the vestibule. The fragments of the stapes were completely removed. The oval window was covered by a vein graft and a polythene strut was placed between this graft and the lenticular process of the incus. The perforation of the tympanic membrane was closed by means of a second vein graft.

Recovery was uneventful with restoration of hearing to normal level in the speech frequencies. A high tone loss of 70 db, however, is still present as a remnant of the trauma. The ear has been well now for more than two years.