Penetrating Brain Injury Caused by Retained Plastic Tip of Ballpoint Pen

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Radiological evaluation was performed using a 64-MDCT scanner without any sedation. Multiplanar reformation images clearly revealed a residual foreign body – possibly the tip of the ballpoint pen – in the frontal lobe (fig. 1). Therefore, surgical removal of the foreign body was planned.

Bifrontal craniotomy was performed. The orbital roof was found to be fractured, and bone fragments were lodged in the dura mater. The tip of the pen was found in the frontal lobe and carefully removed using a microsurgical technique (fig. 2).

After the operation, the patient remained conscious, and no new neurological or ophthalmological deficits were observed. The postoperative MDCT scan showed no residual foreign body or intracranial hemorrhage. The patient was discharged on postoperative day 10 without any neurological deficit. During the follow-up period of 1 year, no apparent neurological event has occurred.

The institutional review board approved the publication of this case illustration.
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