# World Journal of Clinical Cases

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Thrice Monthly Volume 9 Number 19 July 6, 2021

#### **OPINION REVIEW**

4881 Fear of missing out: A brief overview of origin, theoretical underpinnings and relationship with mental health

Gupta M, Sharma A

#### **REVIEW**

4890 Molecular pathways in viral hepatitis-associated liver carcinogenesis: An update

Elpek GO

4918 Gastroenterology and liver disease during COVID-19 and in anticipation of post-COVID-19 era: Current practice and future directions

Oikonomou KG, Papamichalis P, Zafeiridis T, Xanthoudaki M, Papapostolou E, Valsamaki A, Bouliaris K, Papamichalis M, Karvouniaris M, Vlachostergios PJ, Skoura AL, Komnos A

Enhancing oxygenation of patients with coronavirus disease 2019: Effects on immunity and other health-4939 related conditions

Mohamed A, Alawna M

#### **MINIREVIEWS**

4959 Clinical potentials of ginseng polysaccharide for treating gestational diabetes mellitus

Zhao XY, Zhang F, Pan W, Yang YF, Jiang XY

4969 Remarkable gastrointestinal and liver manifestations of COVID-19: A clinical and radiologic overview

Fang LG, Zhou Q

4980 Liver injury in COVID-19: Known and unknown

Zhou F, Xia J, Yuan HX, Sun Y, Zhang Y

4990 COVID-19 and gastroenteric manifestations

Chen ZR, Liu J, Liao ZG, Zhou J, Peng HW, Gong F, Hu JF, Zhou Y

4998 Role of epithelial-mesenchymal transition in chemoresistance in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

Hu X, Chen W

Insights into the virologic and immunologic features of SARS-COV-2 5007

Polat C, Ergunay K

# **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

#### **Basic Study**

5019 SMAC exhibits anti-tumor effects in ECA109 cells by regulating expression of inhibitor of apoptosis protein family

Jiang N, Zhang WQ, Dong H, Hao YT, Zhang LM, Shan L, Yang XD, Peng CL

#### **Case Control Study**

5028 Efficacy of Solitaire AB stent-release angioplasty in acute middle cerebral artery atherosclerosis obliterative cerebral infarction

Wang XF, Wang M, Li G, Xu XY, Shen W, Liu J, Xiao SS, Zhou JH

#### **Retrospective Study**

5037 Diagnostic value of different color ultrasound diagnostic method in endometrial lesions

Lin XL, Zhang DS, Ju ZY, Li XM, Zhang YZ

5046 Clinical and pathological features and risk factors for primary breast cancer patients

Lei YY, Bai S, Chen QQ, Luo XJ, Li DM

5054 Outcomes of high-grade aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage patients treated with coiling and ventricular intracranial pressure monitoring

Wen LL, Zhou XM, Lv SY, Shao J, Wang HD, Zhang X

- 5064 Microwave ablation combined with hepatectomy for treatment of neuroendocrine tumor liver metastases Zhang JZ, Li S, Zhu WH, Zhang DF
- 5073 Clinical application of individualized total arterial coronary artery bypass grafting in coronary artery surgery

Chen WG, Wang BC, Jiang YR, Wang YY, Lou Y

#### **Observational Study**

5082 Early diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes of five patients with acute thallium poisoning

Wang TT, Wen B, Yu XN, Ji ZG, Sun YY, Li Y, Zhu SL, Cao YL, Wang M, Jian XD, Wang T

5092 Sarcopenia in geriatric patients from the plateau region of Qinghai-Tibet: A cross-sectional study

Pan SQ, Li YM, Li XF, Xiong R

5102 Medium-term efficacy of arthroscopic debridement vs conservative treatment for knee osteoarthritis of Kellgren-Lawrence grades I-III

Lv B, Huang K, Chen J, Wu ZY, Wang H

# **Prospective Study**

5112 Impact of continuous positive airway pressure therapy for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in patients with obstructive sleep apnea

II

Hirono H, Watanabe K, Hasegawa K, Kohno M, Terai S, Ohkoshi S

# Thrice Monthly Volume 9 Number 19 July 6, 2021

#### **Randomized Controlled Trial**

5126 Erector spinae plane block at lower thoracic level for analgesia in lumbar spine surgery: A randomized controlled trial

Zhang JJ, Zhang TJ, Qu ZY, Qiu Y, Hua Z

#### **SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS**

5135 Controversies' clarification regarding ribavirin efficacy in measles and coronaviruses: Comprehensive therapeutic approach strictly tailored to COVID-19 disease stages

Liatsos GD

5179 Systematic review and meta-analysis of trans-jugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt for cirrhotic patients with portal vein thrombosis

Zhang JB, Chen J, Zhou J, Wang XM, Chen S, Chu JG, Liu P, Ye ZD

#### **CASE REPORT**

- 5191 Myelodysplastic syndrome transformed into B-lineage acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A case report Zhu YJ, Ma XY, Hao YL, Guan Y
- 5197 Imaging presentation and postoperative recurrence of peliosis hepatis: A case report Ren SX, Li PP, Shi HP, Chen JH, Deng ZP, Zhang XE
- 5203 Delayed retroperitoneal hemorrhage during extracorporeal membrane oxygenation in COVID-19 patients: A case report and literature review

Zhang JC, Li T

- 5211 Autologous tenon capsule packing to treat posterior exit wound of penetrating injury: A case report Yi QY, Wang SS, Gui Q, Chen LS, Li WD
- 5217 Treatment of leiomyomatosis peritonealis disseminata with goserelin acetate: A case report and review of the literature

Yang JW, Hua Y, Xu H, He L, Huo HZ, Zhu CF

5226 Homozygous deletion, c. 1114-1116del, in exon 8 of the CRPPA gene causes congenital muscular dystrophy in Chinese family: A case report

Yang M, Xing RX

5232 Successful diagnosis and treatment of jejunal diverticular haemorrhage by full-thickness enterotomy: A case report

Ma HC, Xiao H, Qu H, Wang ZJ

5238 Liver metastasis as the initial clinical manifestation of sublingual gland adenoid cystic carcinoma: A case report

Li XH, Zhang YT, Feng H

5245 Severe hyperbilirubinemia in a neonate with hereditary spherocytosis due to a de novo ankyrin mutation: A case report

III

Wang JF, Ma L, Gong XH, Cai C, Sun JJ

# Thrice Monthly Volume 9 Number 19 July 6, 2021

5252 Long-term outcome of indwelling colon observed seven years after radical resection for rectosigmoid cancer: A case report

Zhuang ZX, Wei MT, Yang XY, Zhang Y, Zhuang W, Wang ZQ

5259 Diffuse xanthoma in early esophageal cancer: A case report

Yang XY, Fu KI, Chen YP, Chen ZW, Ding J

5266 COVID-19 or treatment associated immunosuppression may trigger hepatitis B virus reactivation: A case

Wu YF, Yu WJ, Jiang YH, Chen Y, Zhang B, Zhen RB, Zhang JT, Wang YP, Li Q, Xu F, Shi YJ, Li XP

5270 Maintenance treatment with infliximab for ulcerative ileitis after intestinal transplantation: A case report

Fujimura T, Yamada Y, Umeyama T, Kudo Y, Kanamori H, Mori T, Shimizu T, Kato M, Kawaida M, Hosoe N, Hasegawa Y, Matsubara K, Shimojima N, Shinoda M, Obara H, Naganuma M, Kitagawa Y, Hoshino K, Kuroda T

5280 Infliximab treatment of glycogenosis Ib with Crohn's-like enterocolitis: A case report

Gong YZ, Zhong XM, Zou JZ

5287 Hemichorea due to ipsilateral thalamic infarction: A case report

Li ZS, Fang JJ, Xiang XH, Zhao GH

5294 Intestinal gangrene secondary to congenital transmesenteric hernia in a child misdiagnosed with gastrointestinal bleeding: A case report

Zheng XX, Wang KP, Xiang CM, Jin C, Zhu PF, Jiang T, Li SH, Lin YZ

5302 Collagen VI-related myopathy with scoliosis alone: A case report and literature review

Li JY, Liu SZ, Zheng DF, Zhang YS, Yu M

5313 Neuromuscular electrical stimulation for a dysphagic stroke patient with cardiac pacemaker using magnet mode change: A case report

Kim M, Park JK, Lee JY, Kim MJ

5319 Four-year-old anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor encephalitis patient with ovarian teratoma: A case report

Xue CY, Dong H, Yang HX, Jiang YW, Yin L

5325 Glutamic acid decarboxylase 65-positive autoimmune encephalitis presenting with gelastic seizure, responsive to steroid: A case report

Yang CY, Tsai ST

5332 Ectopic opening of the common bile duct into the duodenal bulb with recurrent choledocholithiasis: A case report

Xu H, Li X, Zhu KX, Zhou WC

5339 Small bowel obstruction caused by secondary jejunal tumor from renal cell carcinoma: A case report

ΙX

Bai GC, Mi Y, Song Y, Hao JR, He ZS, Jin J

5345 Brugada syndrome associated with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest: A case report

Ni GH, Jiang H, Men L, Wei YY, A D, Ma X

# Thrice Monthly Volume 9 Number 19 July 6, 2021

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CASE REPORT

# Autologous tenon capsule packing to treat posterior exit wound of penetrating injury: A case report

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Author contributions: Yi QY drafted the manuscript, collected the data, and reviewed the literature; Wang SS, Chen LS, Gui Q, and Li WD reviewed the literature and collected the data; Yi QY performed the surgery; Yi QY critically reviewed the final manuscript; all authors confirmed and approved the final manuscript.

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#### **Abstract**

#### **BACKGROUND**

This study reports a case of autologous tenon capsule packing to treat the posterior exit wound of penetrating injury.

#### CASE SUMMARY

To treat a 58-year-old male patient with penetrating eyeball injury caused by an iron sheet, we used autologous tenon capsule packing. Two months after removal of the silicone oil, the corrected visual acuity was 0.3, the retina was flat, the tenon capsule graft was in place, the posterior wound closed well, and the intraocular pressure was 15.8 mmHg.

#### CONCLUSION

Autologous tenon capsule packing to treat the posterior exit wound of penetrating injury is safe and effective.

Key Words: Autologous; Penetrating injury; Case report

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Core Tip: Eyeball penetrating injury refers to an open trauma that may allow the exposure of any vulnerant into the eye from one side, and penetrates the entire eyeball and traverses through the other side of the eyeball. Eyeball penetrating injury wounds are divided into entry wound and exit wound. The laceration at the exit wound is often located at the posterior position and is difficult to suture during the first-stage surgery, and any attempt to a reckless suture may cause even greater damage to the eyeball. Thus, our report describes a newly modified technique involving the use of autologous tenon capsule packing to treat the posterior exit wound of penetrating injury.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Eyeball penetrating injury refers to an open trauma that may allow the exposure of any vulnerant into the eye from one side, and penetrates the entire eyeball and traverses through the other side of the eyeball. Eyeball penetrating injury wounds are divided into entry wound and exit wound. The laceration at the exit wound is often located at the posterior position and is difficult to suture during the first-stage surgery, and any attempt to a reckless suture may cause even greater damage to the eyeball[1]. We report a case of secondary surgery in which a new modified technique was used to treat the exit wound after penetrating ocular injury.

#### CASE PRESENTATION

#### Chief complaints

A 58-year-old male patient presented with decreased vision acuity and pain for 5 h in the right eye after being injured by an iron bullet.

#### History of present illness

The patient was admitted to our emergency department after being injured by an iron bullet.

#### History of past illness

The patient was healthy.

#### Personal and family history

The patient had a disease-free personal and family history.

### Physical examination

Ophthalmological examination of the right eye showed decreased naked vision, correct light projection, intraocular pressure of 3.7 mmHg, slight eyelid swelling, mixed congestion in the bulbar conjunctiva, and subconjunctival hemorrhage. An oblique laceration of about 6 mm long was visible in the bulbar conjunctiva at 5:30 o'clock direction and 4 mm away from the corneosclera margin. The cornea was slightly edematous with a large number of blood cells attached in the posterior cornea, and the depth of the anterior chamber was acceptable. The aqueous humor was bloody turbid. The pupil was round with a diameter of 4 mm and the lens was locally opaque. A large amount of vitreous hemorrhage was noticed and the fundus was unclear.

## Laboratory examinations

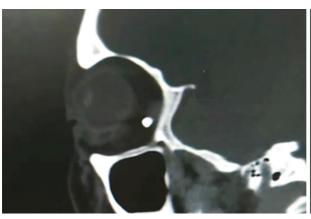
Blood tests showed no obvious abnormality.

#### Imaging examinations

Orbital computed tomography showed an abnormal morphology of the right eyeball, and a foreign body behind the eyeball (Figure 1).

# FINAL DIAGNOSIS

The final diagnosis of the present case was right eye penetrating injury and foreign body in the right eye orbit.



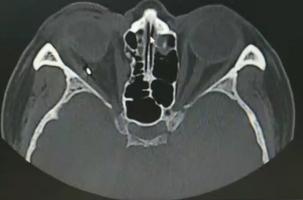


Figure 1 Orbital computed tomography showed a foreign body behind the right eyeball located discontinuously with the posterior wall of the eyeball.

#### TREATMENT

After emergency admission, the patient underwent right eyeball debridement and suturing with scleral exploration under local anesthesia. During surgery, a 6 mm long full-thickness laceration of the sclera was seen under a conjunctival laceration at 5:30 o'clock direction and 4 mm away from the scleral margin. The scleral laceration was closed with two stitches using 8-0 suture. Because the foreign body was located inside the posterior orbit and was stable in nature, the removal of it was not considered for the time being. Postoperatively, the patient was given general and topical antibiotics and hormonal medications, as well as preventive tetanus antitoxin. During 1 wk postoperatively, the patient's right eye was stable, without intraocular inflammation, elevated intraocular pressure, or intraocular active bleeding (Figure 2). One week later, the patient underwent "23G vitrectomy in the right eye" under local anesthesia to remove the vitreous hemorrhage. First, we performed a conventional 23G three channel incision to remove vitreous hemorrhage. It was found that the posterior exit wound of the penetrating injury was located at two pupillary distances (PD) below the temporal region of the macula in the right eye, and a full-thickness spindle hole with a transverse diameter of about one PD was seen in the wall of the eyeball. The conjunctiva was cut from the upper corneoscleral margin, the conjunctiva and fascia were separated, and a fascial flap with an appropriate size was selected, which was trimmed and filled in the hole at the posterior exit wound of the penetrating injury via the scleral puncture using intraocular forceps after the conjunctival epithelial tissue was removed. Subsequently, gas-liquid exchange in the vitreous cavity and injection of silicone oil were performed (Figure 3). The surgery diagram is shown in Figure 4. Postoperatively, the patient was given antibiotics and hormone eye drops.

#### OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

The patient revisited the hospital at 2 wk, 1 mo, and 5 mo after surgery, and 2 mo after removal of the silicone oil. Ophthalmological examination at 2 wk after surgery revealed that the best corrected visual acuity of the right eye was 0.02, there was silicone oil filling in the vitreous cavity of the right eye and a flattened retina, the tenon capsule graft was in place at the hole of the fundus eyeball wall, and the intraocular pressure was 15.3 mmHg. Optical coherence tomography (OCT) examination showed that the stuffing tissue in the hole was protruded in place, and the surrounding retina was flattened. Ophthalmological examination at 5 mo after surgery showed that the best corrected visual acuity was 0.3, there was silicone oil filling in the vitreous cavity of the right eye and a flattened retina, the tenon capsule graft was in place at the hole of the fundus ocular wall, and the intraocular pressure was 16.1 mmHg. OCT examination showed that the stuffing tissue in the hole was in place and continuous with the surrounding tissue, and the surrounding retina was flat. Ophthalmological examination at 2 mo after removal of the silicone oil showed that the best corrected visual acuity was 0.3, there was a flattened retina, and the tenon capsule graft was in place at the hole of the fundus ocular wall. OCT examination showed that the stuffing tissue in the hole was in place and continuous with the surrounding tissue, the

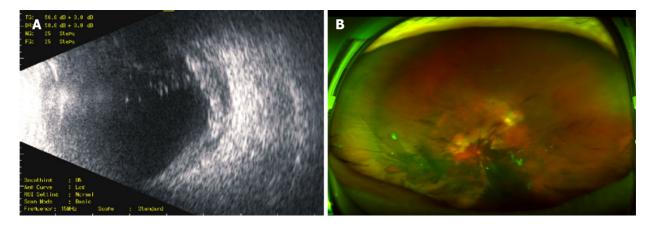


Figure 2 Ultrasound images. A: Ultrasound image of the fundus of the right eye after the first-stage scleral suturing showing opacity of the vitreous body in the right eye, with an abnormal echo of eyeball wall; B: Opel fundus image showing the vitreous hemorrhage with clots in the anterior retina of the posterior pole.

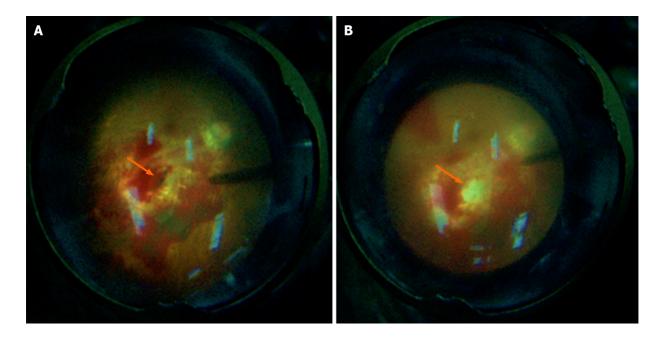


Figure 3 Intraoperative fundus photographs. A: Intraoperative fundus photograph showing a penetrating port with a transverse diameter of about one pupillary distance (PD) seen in the eyeball wall at two PD below the temporal region of the macula in the right eye; B: The autologous fascia was packed in the posterior exit wound, on which the surrounding inner limiting membrane was peeled off, flipped, and covered during the operation.

surrounding retina was flat, and the intraocular pressure was 15.8 mmHg (Figure 5). No complications occurred during or after the surgery.

# DISCUSSION

Eyeball penetrating injury refers to an open trauma that may allow the exposure of any vulnerant into the eye from one side, and penetrates the entire eyeball and traverses through the other side of the eyeball. Such extensive injuries accompanied by intraocular or orbital foreign bodies often cause serious damages to the eye tissue, and may predispose to secondary infections, retinal detachment, and optic nerve damage, which leads to difficulty in treatment and a poor prognosis[2].

Clinically, eyeball penetrating injury wounds are divided into entry wound and exit wound. The laceration at the exit wound is often located at the posterior position and is difficult to suture during the first-stage surgery, and any attempt to a reckless suture may cause even greater damage to the eyeball. It was reported that some smaller wounds with stable intraocular pressure can heal by themselves within the time window of second-stage surgery. Moreover, during the second-stage vitreoretinal surgery, these small wounds that can heal by themselves can be quickly filled with

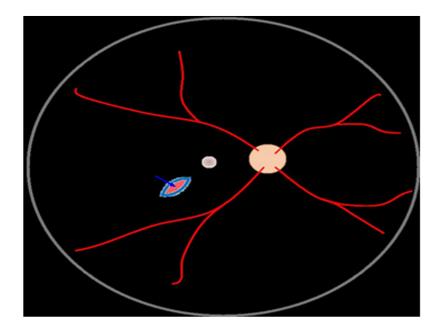


Figure 4 Surgery diagram. Green arrow shows autologous tenon capsule packing in the posterior exit wound.

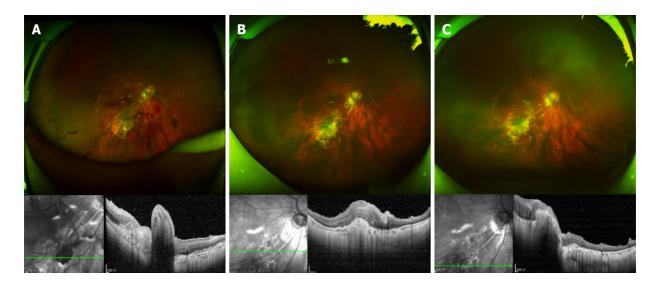


Figure 5 Ophthalmological examination after surgery A: Opel fundus image and optical coherence tomography (OCT) at 2 wk after surgery. The Opel fundus image shows that the autophagic fascia was in place in the submacrotemporal laceration of the right eye, with the hole closed and the retina flat. OCT examination showed that the stuffing tissue was protruded in place at the laceration, and the surrounding retina was flattened; B and C: Opel fundus images and OCT at 5 mo after surgery and 2 mo after removal of the silicone oil. The Opel fundus image shows that the autophagic fascia was in place in the submacrotemporal laceration of the right eye, with the hole closed and the retina flat. OCT showed that the stuffing tissue in the laceration was in place and connected with the surrounding tissue, and the surrounding retina was flat.

silicone oil after gas-liquid exchange, so as to control the stable intraocular pressure[3, 4]. On the other hand, larger wounds with more extensive damage are managed by filling the posterior exit wound using gelatin sponge. However, studies have shown that gelatin sponge is a synthetic material that may induce an immune response when used as a filler [5,6]. Zhu et al [7] have reported to use amnion transplantation to treat and correct the choroidal holes caused by trauma. Similar to gelatin, amnion as a foreign body filler may also potentially induce an immune response [7-9]. Ma et al[1] have used autologous tenon capsule transplantation to fill posterior exit wounds caused by penetrating injuries. The main component of the tenon capsule is fibrous tissue, which is similar to scleral tissue and conducive to tissue repair and scar healing. To avoid the chances of rejection reactions and to facilitate the healing process, autologous tenon capsules are used to fill such posterior exit wounds[1]. This method provided impressive results and restored the integrity of the wall of the eyeball, and maintained the intraocular pressure and prevented the leakage of silicone oil or inert filling gas in the eye.

#### CONCLUSION

In this case, we used autologous tenon capsule packing to treat the posterior exit wound of penetrating injury, which achieved satisfactory effects. For the case, the posterior perforation port was closed well, without immune reaction and silicone oil overflow. The intraocular pressure remained normal. Over time, the stuffing became flat. It healed and had good continuity with the surrounding eyeball wall. This method provides a reference for the treatment of similar cases, but should be subject to validation with more cases and long-term observation.

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