

## Foreign Body in the Scalp: A Rare Cause of Recurrent Headache

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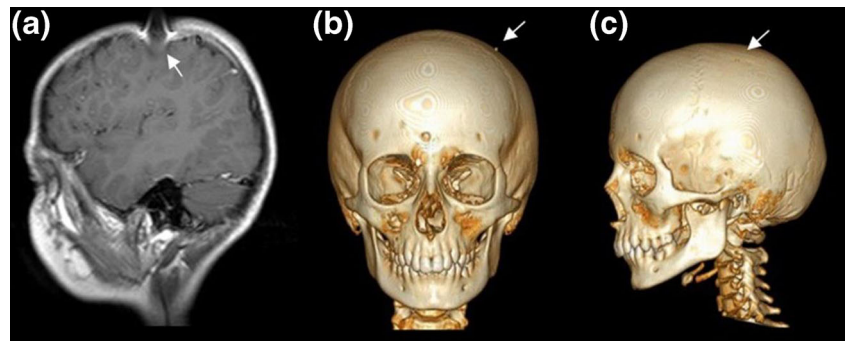
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*To the Editor:* A 9-y-old boy was admitted to the hospital with a complaint of continuous headache, starting from left part of his head and radiating through all parts. He was localizing the beginning and maximal point of the headache with his hand. He denied having any head trauma and his general physical examination was normal. On physical examination, haired skin was unremarkable and there was not any palpable pathology on his head. However, he was insisting on a focus for his headache on left parietal region. Brain computed tomography (CT) and brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) revealed a metallic artifact region on left parietal region (Fig. 1a). In 3-dimensional brain CT, a foreign material on left parietal region was localized (Fig. 1b-c). The foreign material was taken out from his scalp by neurosurgery team and it was a 1–1.5 cm in length, small, non-specific metal. In 6 mo of follow-up, he did not report any recurrence in headache.

Headache is one of the most common symptoms of children admitted to the hospital, with an incidence ranging between 26–82 % depending on the age of child; and recurrent headache constitutes for 10 % of these cases [1]. Headache in children is commonly primary and due to migraine [2]. On the other hand, recurrent headache associated with a foreign body in scalp, as reported here, is a very rare condition especially in children without any history of trauma.

In this case we have reported a child with a complaint of recurrent headache due to an intracranial foreign body without any history of trauma. Similar with our case, Jain et al. reported a 6-y-old girl with history of right sided recurrent headache which was determined to be due to a nasal metallic foreign body [3]. Foreign body associated headache is usually suspected in patients with trauma history. However, in children it should also always be kept in mind that they can forget,

**Fig. 1** Sagittal magnetic resonance imaging **a** and coronal **b** and sagittal **c** 3-dimensional computed tomography scan of the skull with an apparent metallic artifact (**a**, arrow) and foreign body in the left parietal region (**b**, **c**, arrows)



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or deny the presence of trauma due to some secondary causes. In conclusion, foreign body presence is a cause of recurrent headache in children, which should be suspected and evaluated even in the absence of any trauma history.

**Compliance with Ethical Standards**

**Conflict of Interest** None

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