Charm Needles Extraction on Patient's Face: An Unique Case Report

Giovanni Adrian Santoso, Mohamad Rinaldi Dahlan, Shanti Fitrianti Boesoirie, Raden Angga Kartiwa, Niluh Putu Ayu Dewi Wardhani
Padjadjaran University, National Eye Center Cicendo Eye Hospital

INTRODUCTION

Charm needles or *susuk* are needle-shaped metallic objects inserted subcutaneously in different parts of the body. The practice of inserting *susuk* is a cultural and superstitious traditional belief common in the South-East Asian region, especially to the people of Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei. Most needle-wearers wish to keep the existence of the needles as a secret to preserve its effects.

PURPOSE

To present the management approach for a patient using charm needles.

RESULTS

Based on performed examinations, patient was diagnosed with multiple foreign bodies on her both superior eyelid, chin, and right hand. Multiple foreign bodies extraction was performed based on patient's concern.

CASE PRESENTATION

A 41-year-old woman came with the chief complaint of pain on her right eye for one month before admission. Her complained was accompanied by migraine, watery eyes, and blurry vision on her right eye. Patient had history of using charm needles when she was young around fifteen years ago on her both superior eyelid, chin, and right hand. Visual acuity of both eyes was 0.63 and improved with pin hole to 0.8. Charm needles were palpable on her both superior eyelid and other anterior and posterior segment examinations were within normal limit. Three position Schedel X-ray examination showed multiple charm needles on patient's superior eyelid and chin.

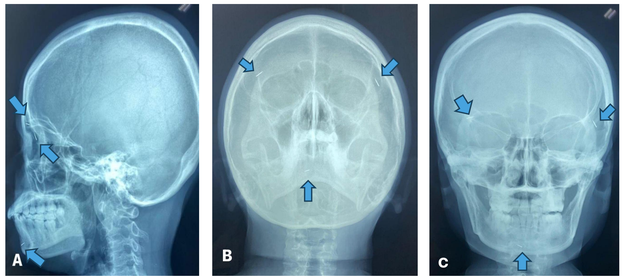


Figure 1. 3-position Schedel X-ray showed evidence of multiple foreign bodies

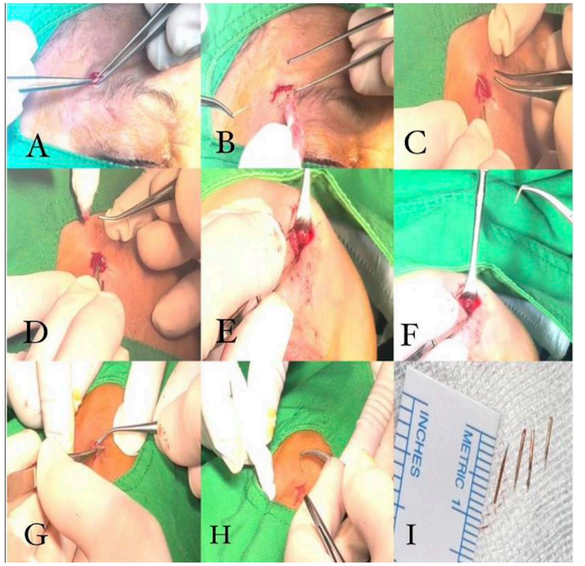


Figure 2. (A-H) Multiple foreign bodies extraction procedure using metal to metal approach (I) Charm-needles after extracted from patient's face and right hand

KEYWORDS

Charm-needles, *susuk*, extraction procedure

Address all correspondence to Giovanni A. Santoso at: giovanniadrian95@gmail.com



Figure 3. Day-1 post surgery without any complication

CONCLUSIONS

Charm needles are unique foreign bodies that inserted subcutaneously into various parts of the body and is believed to enhance the user's beauty with potential complications of migration to critical anatomical structures and organs. This cultural practice is largely confined to South-East Asia countries. Understanding of its imaging appearance and potential complications is required. Surgical therapy is indicated based on patient concern or complications had happened.