

Orbital emphysema

Etiology

Blowout fracture is defined as an internal orbital fracture that does not involve the orbital rim. This type of fracture results in the loss of tissue and disruption of the structure of the orbital wall. The symptoms and signs include pain, enophthalmos, diplopia, orbital emphysema, and ecchymosis ¹⁾.

Complications

Orbital [subcutaneous emphysema](#) can be associated with [optic nerve](#) and vascular compromise, with subsequent potentially irreversible [visual loss](#).

Case reports

Healy et al. reported a 4-year-old girl who presented right orbital emphysema after [posterior fossa surgery](#) for [pilocytic astrocytoma resection](#) in the [sitting position](#). [Endoscopic third ventriculostomy](#) (ETV) had been previously carried out for the treatment of symptomatic [obstructive hydrocephalus](#). The hypothesis is that periorbital emphysema developed due to air passing from the [intracranial](#) to the extracranial compartment through the ETV [burr hole](#).

Result and discussion: The [emphysema](#) resolved spontaneously without any sequelae. This is the first description of orbital emphysema after [posterior fossa surgery](#) in the [sitting position](#) ²⁾.

¹⁾

AlSubaie MF, Al-Sharydah AM, Nassim HM, Alhawsawi A. Orbital Floor Blowout Fracture Reconstruction Using Moldable Polymethyl Methacrylate: A Report of Two Cases and Their Imaging Findings. Open Access Emerg Med. 2022 May 25;14:223-232. doi: 10.2147/OAEM.S359173. PMID: 35656329; PMCID: PMC9153998.

²⁾

Solivera J, Navarro R, Costa JM. Orbital emphysema after endoscopic third ventriculostomy and posterior fossa surgery in the sitting position. Childs Nerv Syst. 2007 Jan;23(1):27-9. doi: 10.1007/s00381-006-0255-8. Epub 2006 Nov 7. PMID: 17089169.

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