



IMAGES

Camilo Mosquera, DDS, *Editor*

Severe Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound of the Face

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A 26-year-old male was transported to the hospital with a severe self-inflicted gunshot wound of the middle and lower face (Panel A) due to the suicide attempt. Three-dimensional computed tomography (CT) showed multiple site comminuted fracture of the facial skeleton including maxilla, mandible, right zygomatic, ethmoid, and nasal bones (Panel B). Also, the sockets of multiple avulsed teeth were

noted. The patient was transported from the region several days after the injury. Due to the osseous and soft tissue loss, this type of gunshot wounds typically poses a considerable challenge to the oral and maxillofacial and plastic surgeons.² Acute management in such cases includes resuscitative and life-saving measures.¹ Timing of each surgical procedure should be chosen according to the patient

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condition, extent of the injury, and international recommendations.¹ Operative principles include: (1) general considerations (all reconstructive options are to be taking into account, moreover, the volume of bone and soft tissue loss, functional and aesthetic purposes should be analyzed and planned very precisely), (2) skeletal fixation, (3) bone grafts, (4) soft tissue coverage, and even (5) a facial transplantation in some cases.¹ In our case, the right eye *enucleation* (removal of the entire globe with all intraocular contents, while preserving orbital/periorbital structures) was done due to the severely ruptured globe.^{2,3} Typical indications for enucleation are severe eye trauma and blind, intraocular tumors, painful, and cosmetically disfiguring eyes.⁴ In case of *evisceration* the intraocular contents are removed from an intact sclera, extraocular muscle attachments and the orbital adnexa are preserved, with placement of an implant within the scleral shell with a purpose to retain orbital volume.³ Common indications for enucleation are unresponsive endophthalmitis and for improvement of cosmesis in a blind eye. The most common indication for orbital *exenteration* (removal of the globe and all orbital contents, including muscles, fat, optic nerve, lacrimal gland, nerves, periorbital bone, upper and lower lid

complexes) is malignancy.⁵ ■ DTJournal.org

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