

IMPROBABLE MEDICAL REVIEW

Improbable diagnoses, techniques, and research

compiled by Bertha Vanatian, Improbable Research staff



How the Tooth Got in the Foot

“An Unusual Foreign Body in the Foot: Traumatic Implantation of a Human Tooth,” Zenon Pogorelić, Mihovil Biočić, and Josip Bekavac, *Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery*, vol. 50, no. 2, March 2011, pp. 225–6. The authors, at Split University School of Medicine, Split, Croatia, write:

We report the case of a 29-year-old man who presented to the emergency department with persistent swelling and pain in his right foot, initially reported to be related to stepping on something while walking on the beach. When radiographs showed what appeared to be a human tooth embedded in the foot, the patient admitted to having been in a fight, during which he kicked his opponent in the jaw with his foot. The tooth was surgically removed and oral antibiotic therapy was administered for 1 week. The wound eventually healed by secondary intention without complications, and the patient returned to his regular activities 15 days after the operation.

Detail from the study “An Unusual Foreign Body in the Foot: Traumatic Implantation of a Human Tooth.”



Fig. 1. Plain radiograph of the patient's right foot, anteroposterior (A) and oblique (B) views, with the foreign body tooth visible between the third and fourth metatarsophalangeal joints.

An Unusual Foreign Body in the Foot: Traumatic Implantation of a Human Tooth

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ABSTRACT

We report the case of a 29-year-old man who presented to the emergency department with persistent swelling and pain in his right foot, initially reported to be related to stepping on something while walking on the beach. When radiographs showed what appeared to be a human tooth embedded in the foot, the patient admitted to having been in a fight, during which he kicked his opponent in the jaw with his foot. The tooth was surgically removed and oral antibiotic therapy was administered for 1 week. The wound eventually healed

Relative Finger Lengths in Superior Surfer Dudes

“Digit Ratio (2D:4D) and Performance in Male Surfers,” Liam P. Kilduff, Christian J. Cook, and John T. Manning, *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*, vol. 25, no. 11, 2011, pp. 3175–80. Manning, the father of comparative finger length research, and his colleagues report:

In this study, we consider the relationship between 2D:4D [the relative length of the second and fourth digits] and performance among male surfers. Our sample comprised 46 competitors in the Men's 5-star Professional World Qualifying Series surfing competition in Newquay, United Kingdom, in 2009. Three experienced surfing coaches rated the participants for overall surfing ability.... In addition, the final placing of the Newquay competition was used as an additional performance measure... We found that... low right 2D:4D correlates to high surfing ability in men.

We welcome your suggestions for this and other columns. Please enclose the full citation (no abbreviations!) and, if possible, a copy of the paper.