

ICKY CUTESY RESEARCH REVIEW

Research reports that are icky and/or cutesy

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Icky: Rifling

“Accidental Impalement Injuries of the Intraperitoneal Rectum Caused by the Barrel of the Self Loading Rifle,”

D.S. Jackson, *Journal of the Royal*

Army Medical Corps, vol. 131, 1985, pp. 164–6. The author, at Military Wing Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland, writes:

I report two similar cases of accidental impalement in soldiers on the barrel of the self-loading rifle....

Signalman S, aged 19... jumped off the back of an Army 4-ton lorry and impaled himself on the barrel of the SLR (self-loading rifle) of another soldier who was crouched on the ground with his weapon vertical. The victim was disimpaled by colleagues at the scene of the accident and a penetrating length of 20 cms was estimated. The barrel of the weapon was described as faeculent with “flesh” attached to the end....

Private McG aged 19 was admitted to hospital in October 1984. Whilst on patrol in the border area of Northern Ireland he attempted to climb over a fence. He leant his SLR vertically against the fence and as he climbed up, the fence collapsed....

Case Report

Accidental Impalement Injuries of the Intraperitoneal Rectum caused by the Barrel of the Self Loading Rifle

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SUMMARY: Rectal impalement injuries are uncommon. Two cases are described of soldiers who suffered similar injuries due to accidental impalement on the barrel of a self-loading rifle.

Rectal injuries are the most serious of those which involve the large bowel. Only 10-15 years ago the mortality ranged from 30 to 60%, though more recent reports have substantially improved on these figures¹.

Impalement of the ano-rectum is unusual and accounts for very few of the causes of rectal injury. I report two similar cases of accidental impalement in soldiers on the barrel of the self-loading rifle.

After peritoneal toilet with normal saline the abdomen was closed with tube pelvic suction drainage. He made a good post-operative recovery and four weeks later the colostomy was closed uneventfully. Two weeks afterwards he rejoined his unit.

Case B

Private McG aged 19 was admitted to hospital in October 1984. Whilst on patrol in the border area of

Icky: Invasive Stool Sampling

“Penetrating Anorectal Injury: An Unrecognized Hazard for Surgeons,” A.R. Dennison and B.J. Britton, *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, vol. 27, no. 9, 1984, pp. 624–5. The authors, at the University of Oxford, U.K., report:

A 26-year-old doctor was assisting at a neurosurgical operation when it became necessary to use the binocular operating microscope. The stools on which all the surgeons were seated then required repositioning. They were of the standard stainless steel swivel type and screwed up and down to allow height adjustment. In some of these stools it appears that the top is able to completely unscrew from its base. When the junior surgeon replaced his weight, the two halves separated, the top falling onto the floor, with the shaft uppermost. He then fell backward, resulting in his impalement upon the unprotected shaft of the top of the stool...

Cutesy: Handy Memory

“Getting a Grip on Memory: Unilateral Hand Clenching Alters Episodic Recall,” Ruth E. Propper, Sean E. McGraw, Tad T. Brunye, and Michael Weiss, *PLoS ONE*, vol. 8, no. 4, 2013, p. e62474. The authors, at Montclair State University, New Jersey, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, and the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research in Natick, Massachusetts, explain:

Unilateral hand clenching can be used to test hypotheses concerning the specializations of the cerebral hemispheres during memory encoding and retrieval. We investigated this possibility by testing effects of unilateral hand clenching on episodic memory.

Penetrating Anorectal Injury

An Unrecognized Hazard for Surgeons

A. R. DENNISON, F.R.C.S., B. J. BRITTON, M.S., F.R.C.S.

Dennison AR, Britton BJ. Penetrating anorectal injury: an unrecognized hazard for surgeons. *Dis Colon Rectum* 1984;27:624–625.

Accidental anorectal injuries are becoming less common. This case, where impalement of the anorectal region by the shaft of a stool occurred to a junior surgeon at work, illustrates a previously unrecognized menace. [Key words: Impalement, anorectum, stool]