

Traumatic avulsion of cranial bone flap simulating craniotomy

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Fracture of the cranial bones following trauma is common and sometimes there can be loss of bone fragments creating a calvarial defect¹. Avulsion and loss of the fractured fragments may sometimes occur with compound elevated fractures. We report a case of traumatic bone avulsion, which resembled a surgical craniotomy flap in size and shape.



Fig 1: Clinical photograph of the patient

A 16-year-old boy had been traveling in a 3-wheeler that was involved in a collision with a car. On examination, he had no neurological deficits. There was a curvilinear laceration involving the right frontotemporal region simulating a large surgical right-sided



Fig 2: CT head of the patient

frontotemporal scalp flap. The fractured calvarial fragment (resembling a craniotomy flap) was missing. The frontal and temporal dura, inferomedially extending upto the sphenoid ridge was visible in the wound. The exposed dura was seen to be intact and pulsating.

A CT scan of the head done 5 hrs after the injury confirmed the extent of bone loss. The bone defect had regular borders. There was no parenchymal injury. The wound was debrided, a thorough wash given and primarily sutured. He subsequently underwent laparotomy and splenectomy for a splenic laceration. We plan to perform cranioplasty at a later date.

REFERENCE

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