

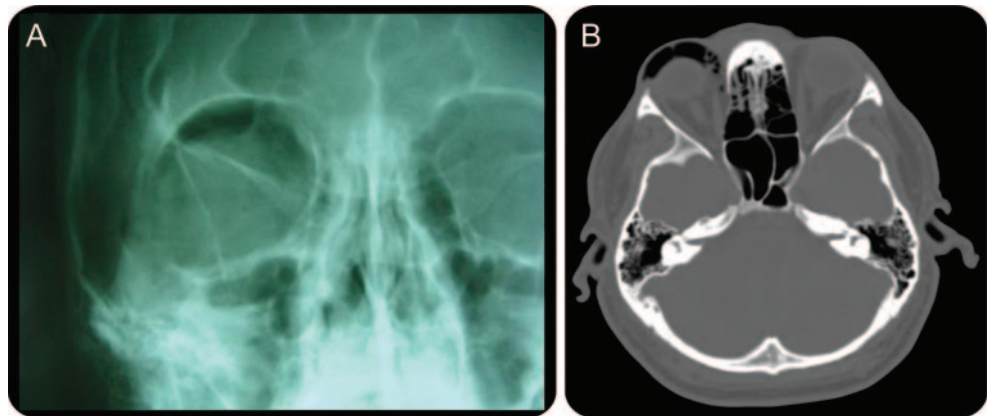
# Orbital emphysema after nose blowing

**Figure 1** Right eyelid emphysema



A 36-year-old man, a heavy smoker with chronic allergic rhinitis, awoke with a blocked nose. When blowing the left nostril, keeping the right one blocked, there was sudden pain over his right eye with ptosis (figure 1). Palpation over the right eyelid revealed crepitations; X-ray and CT scan (figure 2, A and B) showed air over the medial wall of the right orbit. Orbital emphysema may be due to injury.<sup>1</sup> Similar cases with spontaneous recovery have been reported.<sup>2</sup> We advised him not to blow his nose vigorously and to use physiologic water for nasal rinsing, followed by nasal decongestant. The ptosis resolved in 2 weeks.

**Figure 2** Imaging



(A) X-ray showing air over the right eyelid. (B) CT scan showing pneumatized upper lid and a very thin layer of the right orbit medial wall.

*Ridvan Alimehmeti, MD, PhD, Artan Gjika, MD, Jera Kruja, MD, PhD, Tirana, Albania*

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*Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Jera Kruja, University Neurology Service, UHC Mother Theresa, Dibra St 372, Tirana, Albania; jkruja@gmail.com*

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Ridvan Alimehmeti, Artan Gjika and Jera Kruja

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