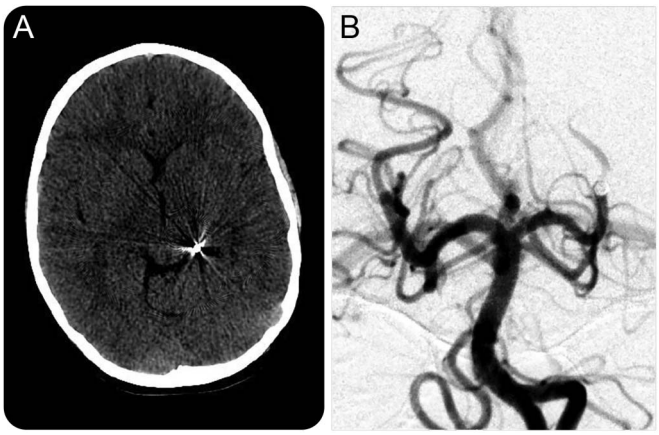
Ischemic stroke after pellet embolization

Figure Imaging



(A) Noncontrast head CT shows a pellet in the left ambient cistern. (B) Catheter-based angiogram shows the pellet in the left posterior cerebral artery with distal flow.

A 9-year-old boy was shot with a pellet shotgun and developed a visual field deficit. Head CT revealed a pellet in the left ambien cistern, in the left posterior cerebral artery on catheter angiography (figure). Chest fluoroscopy revealed multiple thoracic pellets, including a mobile cardiac pellet (video on the *Neurology*® Web site at Neurology.org). There was no clear cardiac injury, patent foramen ovale, or skull penetration. Arterial embolization of a pellet from the chest to the intracranial vasculature likely caused a stroke.[1,2] We considered arteriotomy, endovascular retrieval, and medical therapy. The established infarct, clinical stability, and flow distal to the pellet argued for conservative treatment; the visual field deficit was unchanged at 1-month follow-up visit.

Amin Aghaebrahim, MD, Dan-Victor Giurgiutiu, MD, Brian T. Jankowitz, MD, Tudor Jovin, MD, Ashutosh P. Jadhav, MD, PhD

From the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, University of Pittsburgh, PA.

Author contributions: Dr. Aghaebrahim: drafting/revising the manuscript, acquisition of data. Dr. Giurgiutiu: acquisition of data. Dr. Jankowitz: acquisition of data. Dr. Jovin: acquisition of data. Dr. Jadhav: drafting/revising the manuscript, acquisition of data.

Study funding: No targeted funding reported.

Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

Correspondence to Dr. Jadhav: jadhavap@upmc.edu

Supplemental data at Neurology.org

1. Stein M, Mirvis SE, Wiles CE. Delayed embolization of a shotgun pellet from the chest to the middle cerebral artery. J Trauma 1995;39:1006–1009.
2. da Costa LB, Wallace MC, Montanera W. Shotgun pellet embolization to the posterior cerebral circulation. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol 2006;27:261–263.