

# An unusual case of firearm injury: bullet lodged in the tongue

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## SUMMARY

Firearm-related injuries are a major problem worldwide, in forensic medicine practice. and unusual presentation of bullet trajectory can create surgical or medico-legal diagnostic problems. A 23-year-old man suffered two gunshot wounds, was taken to emergency department immediately after the incident. Physical examination revealed two entrance gunshot wounds on the left lumbar region under the lower margin of left scapulae and right gluteal region. An exit wound was defined on the lateral side of the right gluteal region which was located 5 cm distance of entrance wound. Radiological investigation showed a bullet in the tongue without any life threatening impairment. A thoracic CT scan and abdominal USG were normal. Following the initial examinations he was hospitalized and the bullet removed from the tongue by a simple surgical operation. An interesting case of gunshot injury where the passage route of bullet extending along from upper posterior part of the left lumbar region to the tongue without vital organ injury or serious disability has been reported.

**Keywords:** gunshot wound – injury – trajectory – forensic science

## Neobvyklý případ střelného poranění: střela zachycená v jazyku

### SOUHRN

Zranění způsobená střelnými zbraněmi jsou v soudnělékařské praxi celosvětově jedním z největších problémů. Neobvyklý průběh trajektorie střely může způsobit chirurgovi nebo soudnímu lékaři diagnostické obtíže.

Prezentujeme případ muže stáří 23 let, který byl se dvěma střelnými poraněními přivezen na pohotovost. Vyšetření prokázalo dva vstřely: v levé bederní krajině pod dolním okrajem lopatky a v pravé gluteální krajině. Výstřel byl nalezen na laterální straně gluteální krajiny vpravo ve vzdálenosti 5 cm od vstřelu. Radiologické vyšetření ukázalo přítomnost střely v jazyku, bez život ohrožujícího postižení. CT vyšetření hrudníku a ultrazvuk břicha byly normální. Muž byl hospitalizován a střela z jazyka byla chirurgicky odstraněna. Jde o zajímavý případ střelného poranění s pasáží střely z horní části bederní krajiny do jazyka bez vážnějšího postižení pacienta.

**Klíčová slova:** střelná rána – zranění – trajektorie – soudní lékařství

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Firearm-related injuries are a major public and medico legal problem worldwide (1). An unusual presentation of a bullet trajectory can lead to surgical or medico-legal diagnostic problems. The bullet trajectory is one of the parameters which affect the extent of tissue damage in gunshot wounds (1-6). Determination of the missile trajectory may also be useful to clarify any event to judicial authorities, security forces and forensic scientists in determining the ty-

pe and severity of firearm injury and direction of fire We presented a case of interesting gunshot wound.

## CASE REPORT

A 23-year-old man suffered two gunshot wounds, was taken to emergency department immediately after the incident. According to his hospital reports, he was cooperative and fully conscious, the vital signs and neurological examination (Glasgow Coma Scale score 15) were normal when he arrived at the hospital. The neck examination was also negative (no thrill, bruit or expanding or pulsatile hematoma). The carotid artery pulses were present and equal bilaterally. Physical examination revealed two entrance gunshot wounds on the left lumbar region under the lower margin of left scapulae and right gluteal region. An exit wound was defined on the lateral side of the right gluteal region which was located 5 cm di-

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