Sinking Bullet Syndrome:
A Unique Case of Transhemispheric Migration

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DISCLOSURES

NONE
Intracranial Bullet Migration

- Rare phenomenon
- Usually through preexistent bullet tract
- Only a handful of case reports
- Transhemispheric migration through intact brain NOT reported previously

20-year old man with GSW to head

Decompressive Hemicraniectomy

Admission  8 Hours  24 Hours  11 Days
Possible Mechanisms

- Differences in tissue/material density
- Force of gravity
- CSF pulsations
- Necrosis/softening of brain tissue
- Chemical composition of bullet
- Impact of Hemicraniectomy?
- Dissection through white matter tracts?

Dissection Through White Matter Tracts?

Superior Longitudinal Fasciculus
Conclusions

Transhemispheric migration of bullet fragments may exceptionally occur through intact, uninjured brain tissue.

Such a migration does not necessarily delay or prevent neurologic recovery.

Though unclear, the exact mechanism is likely multifactorial: bullet weight, CSF pulsations, dissection through white matter tracts, impact of a wide hemicraniectomy.