NEUROLOGICAL PICTURE

Spontaneous migration of airgun pellet in the brain

CT scans of an 18-year-old girl shot in the right eye by a 0.177 airgun pellet fired from close range.

Top left: The pellet passed through the orbital roof, entered the intracranial compartment via the cribriform plate and lodged in the left cerebral hemisphere adjacent to the anterior limb of the internal capsule (arrow, top right).

Bottom left: Three months later the pellet

had spontaneously migrated along its initial entry path to lodge at the base of the anterior cranial fossa where it is asymptomatic (arrow).

Bottom right: The arrow indicates the original location of the pellet.

ERIC P GUAZZO
University of Cambridge Department of Neurosurgery,
East Anglia Regional Neurosurgery Unit,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Cambridge CB2 2QQ, UK