

## Pneumoencephalus after one missed step

Daniel Cabrera · Rachel Gilmore · David L. Klocke

Received: 28 December 2007 / Accepted: 31 March 2008 / Published online: 29 May 2008  
© Springer-Verlag London Ltd 2008



**Fig. 1** CT of head and face revealed massive pneumoencephalus

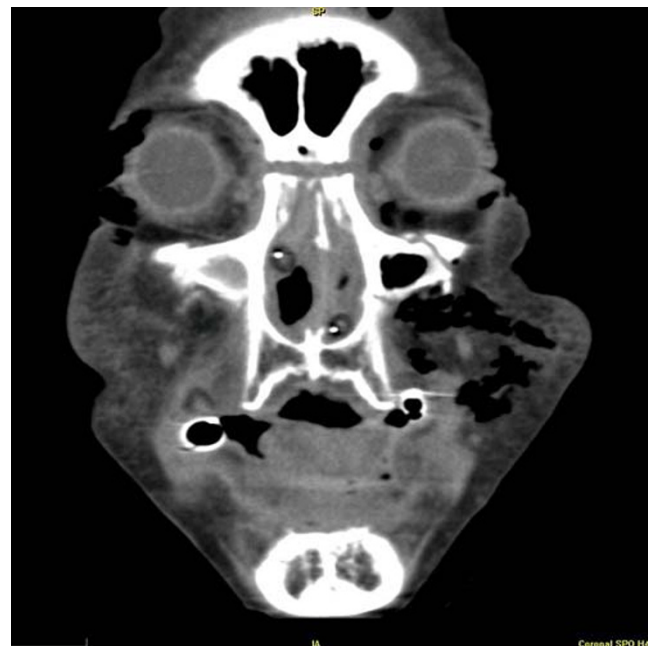
D. Cabrera · R. Gilmore  
Department of Emergency Medicine,  
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine,  
Rochester, MN, USA

D. L. Klocke  
Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine,  
Rochester, MN, USA

D. Cabrera (✉)  
200 First Street SW,  
Rochester, MN 55901, USA  
e-mail: cabrera.daniel@mayo.edu

### Case

An 82-year-old female sustained a ground level fall after missing a single step while Christmas shopping. She arrived at the emergency department with stable vital signs, but with massive facial bleeding threatening her airway. We proceeded with emergent nasal packing and endotracheal intubation. CT of head and face revealed massive pneumoencephalus (Fig. 1) secondary to complete disruption of the facial complex from the cranium, consistent with LeFort I, II and III fractures (Fig. 2). The patient was taken to surgery and subsequently extubated on day 2 without neurological deficit.



**Fig. 2** Complete disruption of the facial complex from the cranium, consistent with LeFort I, II and III fractures