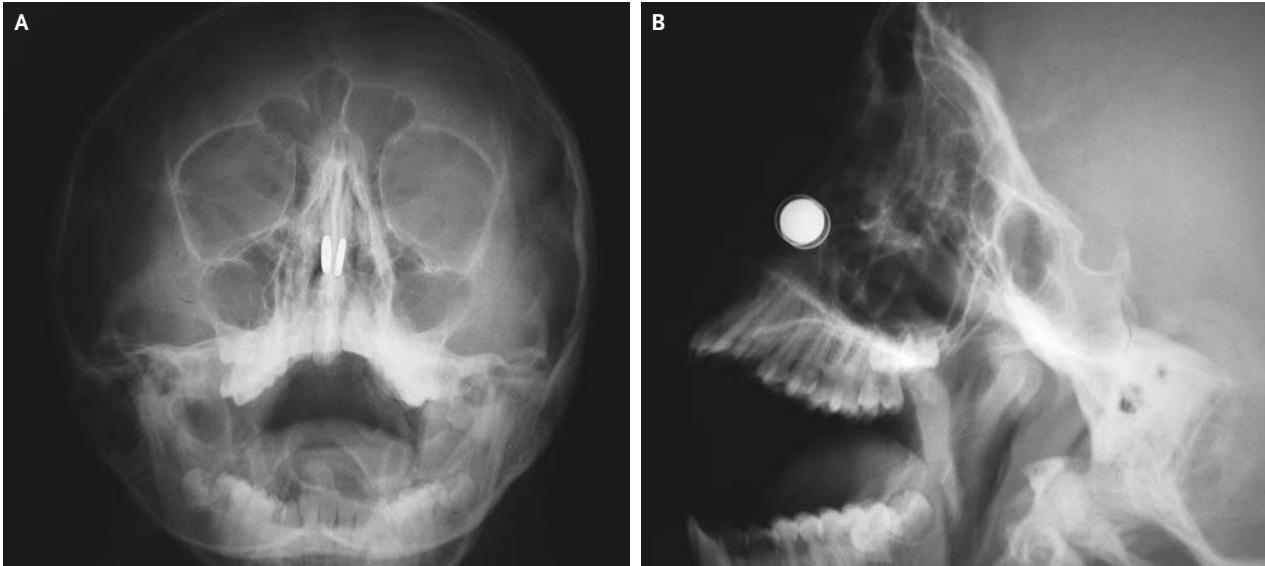


## IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Chana A. Sacks, M.D., *Editor*

## Button Magnets in the Nasal Cavity



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**A** N 11-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS BROUGHT TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT 6 hours after he had inserted button magnets in both sides of his nose. He had been unable to remove the magnets and presented with epistaxis and severe pain. Examination of the nasal cavity showed mucus and crusted blood. Radiography of the face revealed two disk-shaped foreign bodies at the same level across the nasal septum (Panel A shows the coronal view, and Panel B the sagittal view). Attracting nasal magnets necessitate emergency removal because they can compress the mucosa of the nasal septum, leading to necrosis and septal perforation. Attempts to remove the magnets in the emergency department were unsuccessful because of intense adherence, and the patient was taken to the operating room for removal of the magnets while he was under general anesthesia. The magnets were elevated off the nasal septum with the help of household magnets that were placed externally on both sides of the nose. The magnets had caused compression and mucoperichondrial erosion of the septal cartilage. Adhesion barriers were placed over the traumatized tissue surfaces, and splints were applied for 10 days. At follow-up 6 months later, the previously exposed cartilage was covered by healthy nasal mucosa.

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