

A rare anomaly that can be confused with a fracture: dehiscence of the lamina papyracea

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A 43-year-old man presented to the emergency department with right orbital trauma. Axial and coronal computed tomography images revealed that his right globe was ruptured and showed protrusion of orbital fat through a defect in the anterior ethmoid bone, but there was no fracture (**Figure 1**).

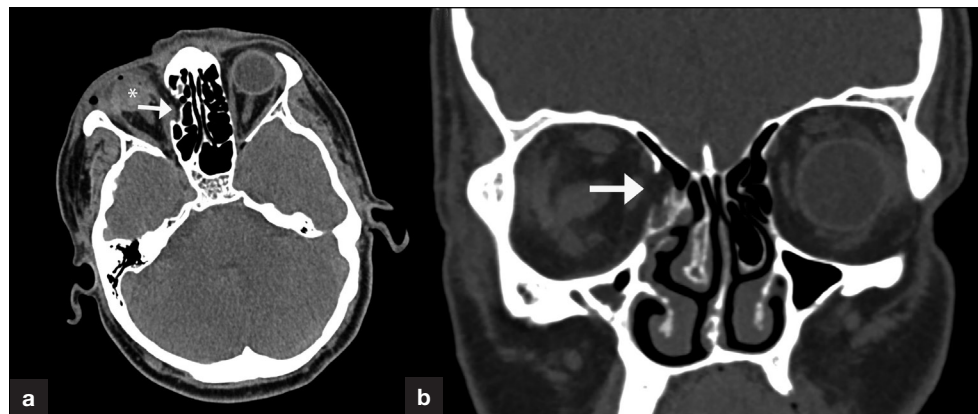


Figure 1. a. Axial and (b) coronal computed tomography views showing protrusion of orbital fat through a defect in the anterior ethmoid bone (arrows).

The patient was diagnosed with dehiscence of the lamina papyracea, which is an anomaly of the paranasal sinuses represented by a defect of the medial orbital wall. Dehiscence is usually characterised by protrusion of orbital fat through a defect in the anterior ethmoid bone. Dehiscence of the lamina papyracea should not be confused with medial orbital fractures. Dehiscence of the lamina papyracea is limited to the anterior ethmoid sinus, whereas medial orbital fractures often involve the posterior ethmoid sinus as well. Late orbital fractures are often associated with adhesive change different from dehiscence of the lamina papyracea (Kitaguchi et al, 2016). Differentiation of these two entities is useful for surgical planning.

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References

Kitaguchi Y, Takahashi Y, Mupas-Uy J et al. Characteristics of dehiscence of lamina papyracea found on computed tomography before orbital and endoscopic endonasal surgeries. *J Craniofac Surg.* 2016;27(7):e662–e665. <https://doi.org/10.1097/SCS.0000000000003005>

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