

Septal injury

Septal injury

A blunt injury of moderate force may lead to lateral displacement or deformity of the septal cartilage, restricting the nasal airway. Unlike the nasal bones the nasal septum cannot be manipulated back into position and requires a formal septoplasty procedure to restore the anatomy and the patency of the nasal airways. Bleeding under the mucoperichondrium of the septum will cause a septal haematoma and nasal obstruction. Untreated, a septal haematoma will progress to abscess formation and ultimately result in necrosis of the septal cartilage, septal perforation and nasal collapse. A septal haematoma should be treated by incision and drainage of the blood clot, insertion of a small s and silicone drain and packing of the nasal fossa. A broad-spectrum prophylactic antibiotic should be prescribed. Summary box 51.9 Nasal trauma /uni25CF /uni25CF /uni25CF

Do not overlook a septal haematoma Displaced nasal bone fractures should be reduced within 3 weeks of injury Severe persistent epistaxis after trauma suggests lacrimal bone fracture and injury to the anterior ethmoid artery CSF rhinorrhoea indicates a fracture involving the anterior skull base with a dural tear

Septal injury

A blunt injury of moderate force may lead to lateral displacement or deformity of the septal cartilage, restricting the nasal airway. Unlike the nasal bones the nasal septum cannot be manipulated back into position and requires a formal septoplasty procedure to restore the anatomy and the patency of the nasal airways. Bleeding under the mucoperichondrium of the septum will cause a septal haematoma and nasal obstruction. Untreated, a septal haematoma will progress to abscess formation and ultimately result in necrosis of the septal cartilage, septal perforation and nasal collapse. A septal haematoma should be treated by incision and drainage of the blood clot, insertion of a small s and silicone drain and packing of the nasal fossa. A broad-spectrum prophylactic antibiotic should be prescribed. Summary box 51.9 Nasal trauma /uni25CF /uni25CF /uni25CF

Do not overlook a septal haematoma Displaced nasal bone fractures should be reduced within 3 weeks of injury Severe persistent epistaxis after trauma suggests lacrimal bone fracture and injury to the anterior ethmoid artery CSF rhinorrhoea indicates a fracture involving the anterior skull base with a dural tear

Revision #1

Created 2025-12-31 15:19:27 UTC by Omar Ayman

Updated 2025-12-31 15:19:27 UTC by Omar Ayman