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ANSWER: MULTIPLE GOLD FACELIFT THREADS

A high-resolution bone-window CT-scan of the paranasal sinuses incidentally demonstrated multiple subcutaneous radio-opaque artefacts (Figure 1A and 1B) involving the entire face and upper neck (Figure 1C). Due to the asymptomatic nature of the facelift threads, the implants were left untouched. Her nasal symptoms were suggestive of chronic rhinitis and hence was treated with intranasal steroids and antihistamines. At 6-month follow-up visit, she remained asymptomatic and is currently being followed up closely.

Gold thread implantation is a well-known aesthetic procedure used in facial rejuvenation. It acts by inducing myofibroblastic activity, hence leading to a decrease in tissue laxity.¹ While not often performed, minimal side effects are usually seen as a result of implantation such as bruising. Side effects like infections and immunologic reactions have also been reported but are very rare. This is presumably due to the inert nature of gold when implanted under the skin.²

Recent studies have, however, shown a reduction in complications of facelift procedures even when absorbable sutures are used instead of gold threads hence putting gold threads out of favour over more conventional suture materials.³ However, in cases where multiple gold skin threads are inserted, symptoms mimicking sinusitis such as facial fullness or tenderness may arise.

Radiologic features may give rise to concern to the attending physician and is often found out incidentally. The treatment in such cases is mainly symptomatic and in severe cases, may require surgical removal of

gold threads.⁴ Clinical practitioners must be aware of gold threads in CT face scans due to the consequences for diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient management.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest in this work.

CONSENT

Consent has been obtained from patient and hospital authority to publish this article.

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