Epistaxis & Nasal Trauma

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Definition

- Epistaxis is the medical term for nosebleed.
- Commonly occurs in children and older adults
- Most nosebleeds are benign, self-limiting, and spontaneous, but some can be recurrent.
- The life long incidence of epistaxis is 60%, however only 10% seek medical attention.
- Incidence in males > females.

Etiology

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LOCAL

TRAUMA

ANATOMICAL

LOCAL CAUSES

ANATOMICAL IRREGULARITIES

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INFLAMMATION



TOPICAL NASAL SPRAYS (incorrect/excessive use)



(rare)

SYSTEMIC CAUSES







CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES



OSMOSIS.org

Blood Supply of the Nasal Septum

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CLASSIFICATION

EPISTAXIS

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ANTERIOR NOSEBLEEDS ARE MOST COMMON

COMMONLY CAUSED BY TRAUMA, INCLUDING NOSE-PICKING

KIESSELBACH'S PLEXUS

MORE COMMON IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS POSTERIOR BLEEDING IS LESS COMMON

WOODRUFF'S PLEXUS

ASSOCIATED WITH HYPERTENSION AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS

USUALLY SEEN

CLASSIFICATION

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 There are two types of epistaxis depending on their origin: anterior and posterior epistaxis.

Criteria	Anterior epistaxis	Posterior epistaxis
Clinical features	Bleeding from the nostrils.	*Bleeding through the posterior nasal aperture down the throat (no external signs of bleeding). *Haemoptysis, hematemesis, and/or melena may occur due to swallowing of large amounts of blood.
Relative freaquency	90% of cases.	10% of cases.
Peak Incidence	Children < 10 years of age.	Older individuals (> 50 years of age).
Most common site of bleeding	Kiesselbach plexus.	Woodruff plexus.

Clinical Assessment

History

• Physical Exam



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DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- Allergic rhinitis
- Trauma
- Cocaine toxicity
- Coumarin plant poisoning
- Nasal foreign bodies
- NSAID toxicity
- Osler-Weber-Rendu syndrome
- Hemophilia A
- Hemophilia B
- von Willebrand disease
- Warfarin and sub-warfarin toxicity



TREATMENT

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TREATMENT

• If we are able to identify the bleeding point: Cauterization.

- Can be:
- \rightarrow Chemical: Silver nitrate.
- \rightarrow Thermal: Electrocautery device.



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TREATMENT











COMPLICATIONS

- Sinusitis
- Septal hematoma/perforation
- External nasal deformity
- Mucosal pressure necrosis
- Vasovagal episode
- Aspiration



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PREVENTION

- Correction of bleeding disorders
- Control of hypertension
- Use of humidifiers or vaporizers
- Nasal saline sprays, ointment, Vaseline
- Avoid hard nose blowing or sneezing
- Sneeze with the mouth open
- Avoid nose picking
- Control the use of medications
- Avoid excessive alcohol drinking and smoking



Nasal Trauma



Etiology

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TYPES OF FRACTURES

Type 1

Only one bone is affected (nasal bone) due to anterior trauma

Type 3

labyrinth of ethmoid basal skull fracture base of orbit, maxilla or mandible



Type 2

Two bones are affected (the frontal process of maxilla and the nasal bone) due to lateral trauma

Clinical Assessment

1. History

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- 2. Physical Exam:
- swelling and discoloration of the skin and subcutaneous tissue covering the nasal bones
- Tenderness
- mobility of the nose
- Crepitation
- obvious deformity
- Look for skull and chest fractures
- Look for signs of intracranial or abdominal bleeding
- 3. Imaging: CT scan if:
 - 1- Type 3 fracture
 - 1- Type 5 fracture
 - 2- Fracture of other facial bones
 - 3- Evidence of CSF leak





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Management





COMPLICATIONS

. Septal hematoma



2. Septal dislocation



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Thank You