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COUP D'OEIL

Traumatic Arteriovenous Fistulae 25 Years After Gunshot Injury

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A 61-year-old male patient had a gunshot injury in the left shoulder area 25 years ago in Iraq. Over the last 10 years he developed an arteriovenous fistula (AVF) fed mainly from the left subclavian and internal mammary arteries involving the internal and external jugular veins. As the anatomy was not suitable for endovascular repair, open surgical repair under low flow cardiopulmonary bypass was chosen with ligation of main feeding arteries, veins and resection of the large venous aneurysms. Direct surgical repair of long-standing traumatic AVF can be challenging because of the obvious venous hypertension and surrounding scar tissue.

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