

# AN INCIDENTAL FINDING OF A METALLIC OBJECT DURING DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ITS MANAGEMENT: A CASE REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

Although the focus of Pediatric Dentists during a routine dental examination includes management of patients with and without special health care needs, performing caries risk assessment, providing anticipatory guidance, performing prophylaxis, diagnosing, and executing treatment plans, Pediatric Dentists are also responsible for screening and detecting metabolic, inflammatory, neoplastic, and developmental disease processes.

This case presentation emphasizes the importance of the knowledge of normal anatomy, identification of abnormalities and its diagnosis.

## CASE PRESENTATION

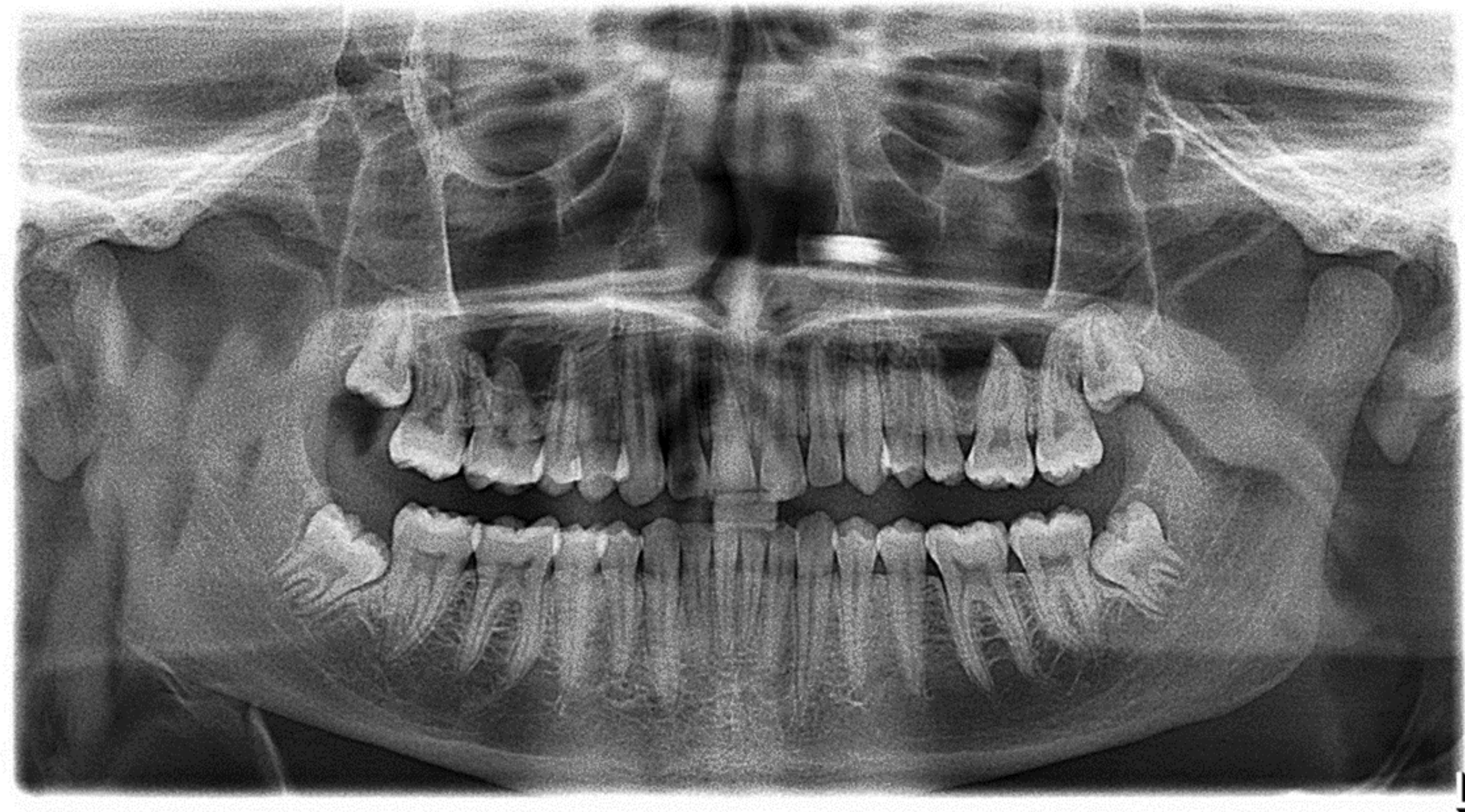


Fig -1 Pre-Operative Panoramic

A high functioning autistic male patient presented for a dental examination and was a keen interest in receiving orthodontic treatment. The patient's mom reported a history of recurrent epistaxis.

A clinical examination was completed, and two-dimensional panoramic image was acquired (Fig-1). The identification of a foreign object merited the use of three-dimensional imaging to facilitate identification of the foreign object.

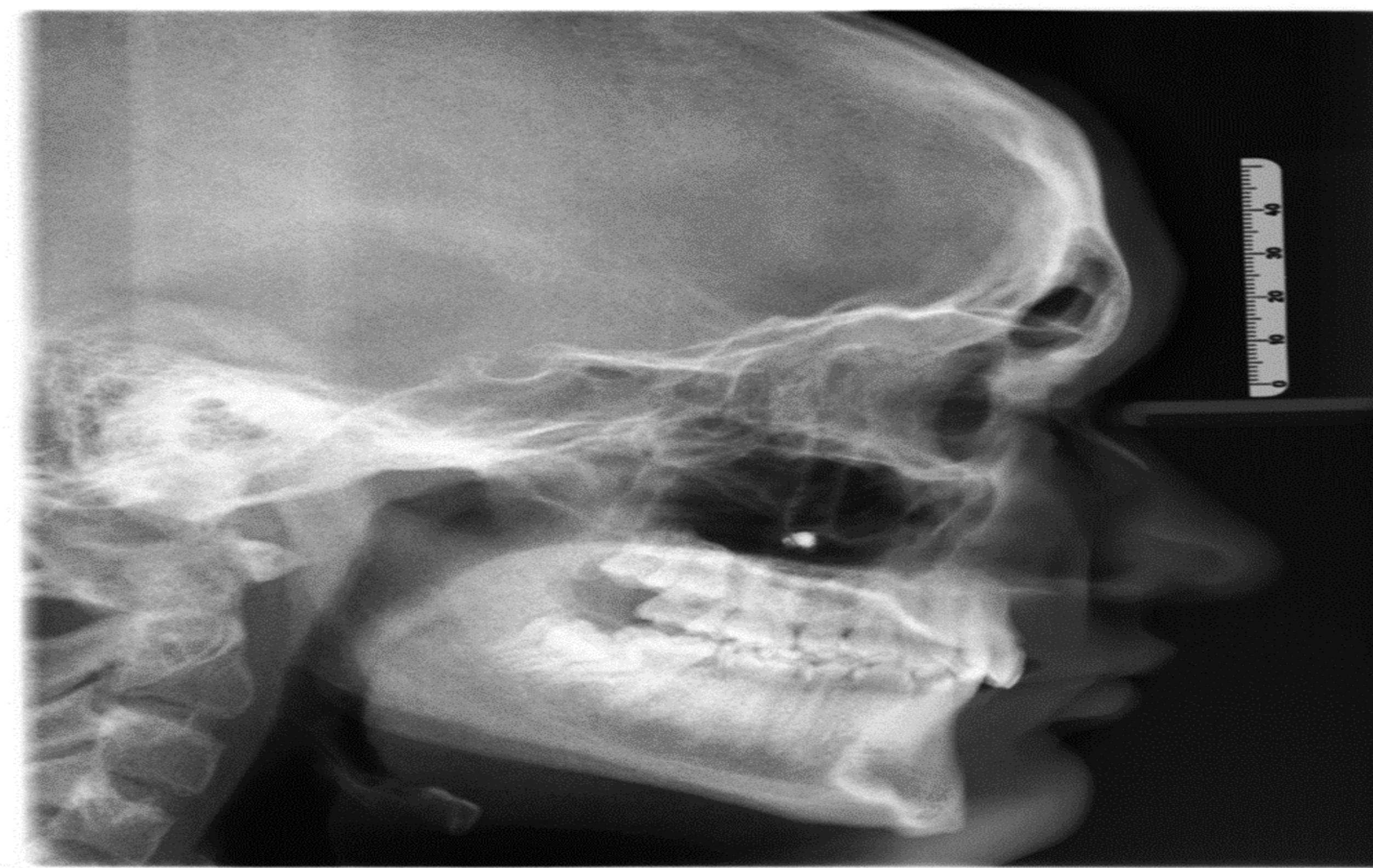


Fig -2 Pre-Operative Cephalometric Image

The acquisition of any imaging necessitates complete interpretation and as a result, the Dental Cone Beam Computerized Tomography image was sent to the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologist. The results identified the object as a Ball Bearing (BB) gun pellet dislodged in the patient's sinus.

## ADDITIONAL INCIDENTAL FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Interpretation of the image revealed that the borders of the paranasal sinuses were intact and the osteomeatal complexes were patent.

It also revealed two mucus retention cysts in the left maxillary sinus. One was along the roof of the left maxillary sinus and the other was seen along the medial wall of the left maxillary sinus. (Fig 3-4)

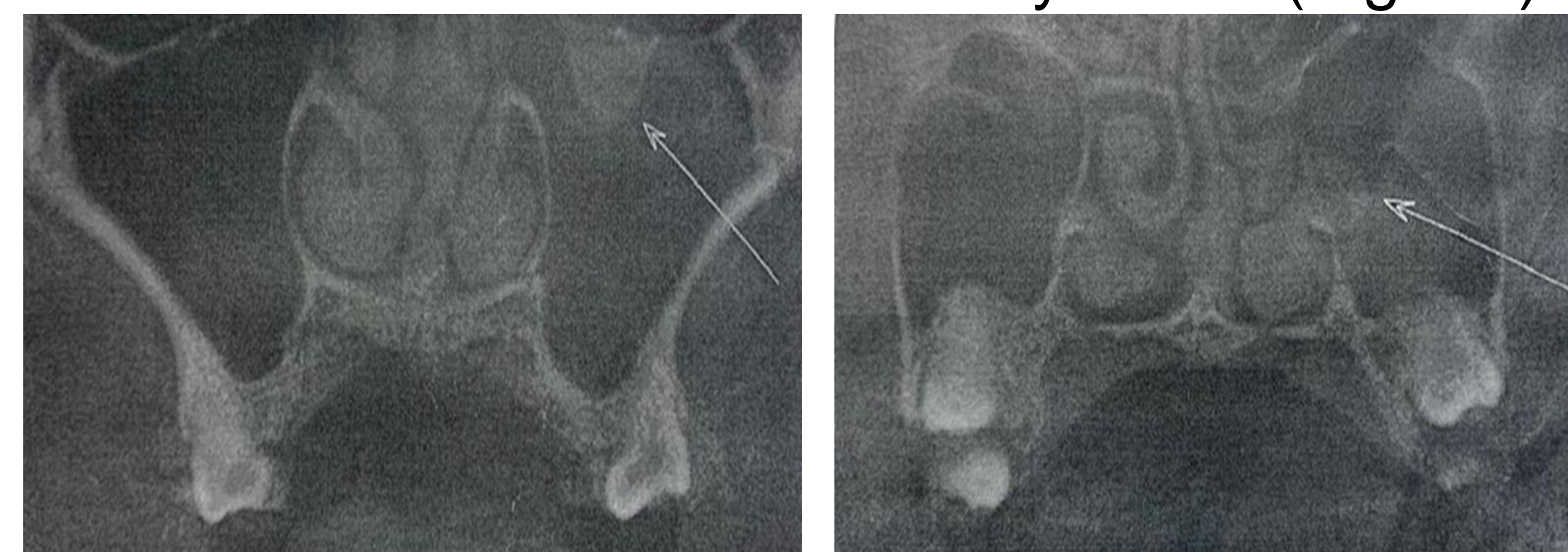


Fig -3, 4 Cone Beam CT images

The foreign object was described as metallic in density and located in line with the nasal septum. It was located superior to the floor of the nasal cavity and situated in the anterosuperior midpoint. (fig-5)

The object was ovoid to spherical with a diameter of 4.5mm. Additionally, the surrounding soft tissues and visualized maxillofacial structures were assessed and noted to be free from pathosis and inflammatory changes.

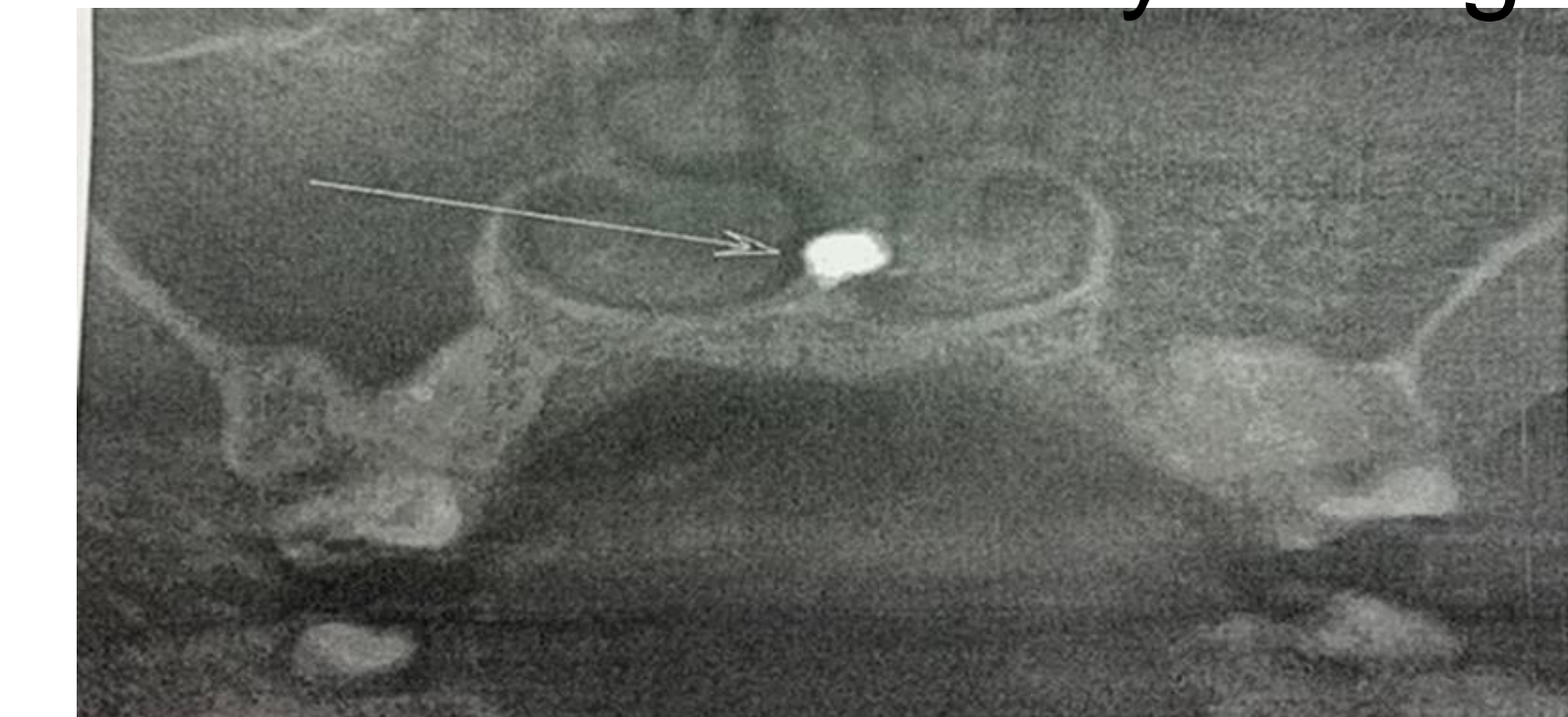


Fig -5 Cone Beam CT image

## POST OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT

After removal of the metallic foreign body: The recurrent epistaxis and the patient's quality of life improved.



Fig -6 Post-Operative Panoramic

## CONCLUSION

This case presentation illustrates the importance of:

- ☐ A thorough dental examination.
- ☐ Highlighting the importance of our diagnostic imaging tools and interpretation.
- ☐ Need for vigilance and appropriate anticipatory guidance.
- ☐ Demonstrating the advantage of collaborating with other health care providers to render high quality care.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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