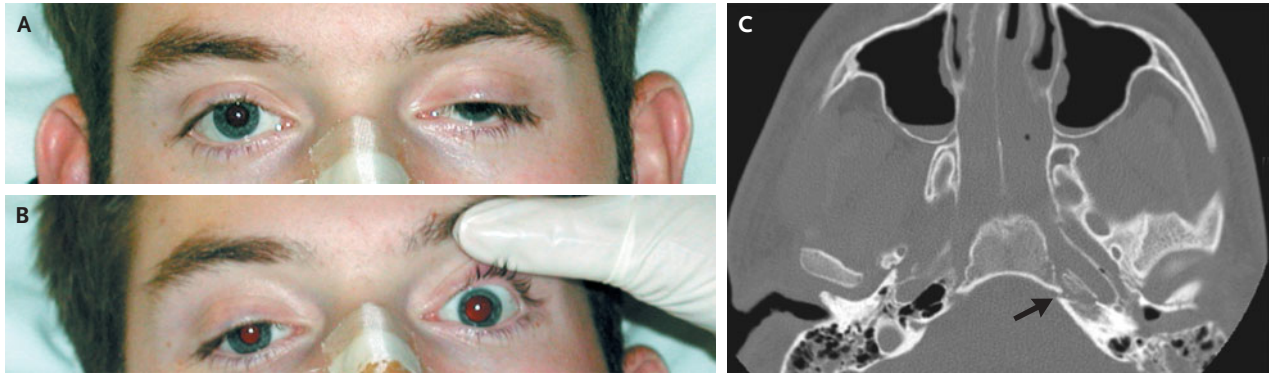


IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Traumatic Cranial Nerve Palsy



A 19-YEAR-OLD MAN SUSTAINED A CRUSH INJURY TO HIS SKULL FROM A piece of heavy machinery. Although on initial assessment he readily followed commands, his mental status deteriorated and he required intubation for airway protection. He was rapidly transferred to our level 1 trauma center. An examination of his pupils at his arrival showed ptosis (Panel A) and anisocoria (Panel B), which aroused concern that there was uncal herniation. A high-resolution computed tomographic scan of his head did not show uncal herniation but, rather, revealed a complex fracture of the sella turcica (Panel C, arrow) and of the skull base (not shown), with impingement of the bony nerve canals and a C1 fracture. He was discharged to his home 16 days after the injury with a hard cervical collar. Subsequently, he has done well but has had occasional vertigo and tinnitus. His ocular defects have resolved.

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