

## Infected Textiloma, 35 Years after the Operation for Femur Fracture, an extremely rare occurrence

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### Case Report:

Textiloma and gossipyboma are nonmedical terms referring to retained cotton materials in body cavities after surgical operations.<sup>1</sup> Of course the true incidence cannot be determined because of legal aspects, though it has been reported to occur in 1 in 100 to 1 in 500 surgeries or so, this large variation in the incidence is a proof to the difficulty of the true incidence determination.<sup>2,3</sup>

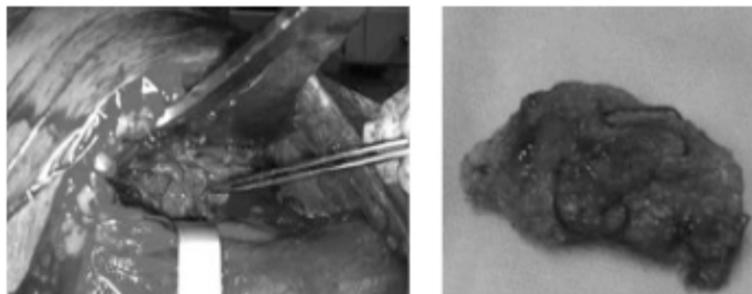
A 60 year old man who had undergone open reduction and open intramedullary nailing (Kuntcher) for his fractured femur in another center 35 years ago, arrived to the authors clinic presenting with redness, pain and swelling in his thigh for the last two weeks.

A radiograph of the thigh revealed a completely healed fracture of the femur (figure 1), and intramedullary nail without locks, a mass with a radiopaque line and some bone resorption in the mass area.



Figure 1

The mass was removed under general anesthesia and it was found to be surgical gauze (figure 2), which was compatible with pre-operative diagnosis.



[Figure 2. Intraoperative photographs of the retained gauze.]

### Discussion:

Perhaps the first report of retained surgical instruments can be attributed to Wilson in 1884.<sup>4</sup> Despite the passage of 130 years and frequent recommendations, this preventable complication still occurs, probably not infrequently.

What are the dangers of retained gauze after surgery? In rare cases the textiloma may be expelled spontaneously, but aside from infection, which occurred in our patient, retained gauze may be fatal.

How can this complication be prevented? The most important point is gauze count, which is an established rule in any surgical procedure, but in the authors' and others' experience, not only the surgery may end without a gauze count, but also the count may be reported mistakenly.<sup>5</sup>

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