DISCUSSION

The term Jael’s Syndrome is an oblique Biblical reference to the murder of Sisera by Jael in Judges IV, 21" “Sisera was so tired that he fell sound asleep. Then Jael took a hammer and a tent-peg, went up to him quietly, and killed him by driving the peg through the side of his head into the ground.” The first report of Jael’s syndrome is attributed to Jefferson (1968) who described a severe, accidental craniofacial injury to a 16 year old boy who was impaled on a tent peg. The term was further defined by McKechnie (1986) who reported a case in which a fence post was driven through the temple of a 21 year old accident victim. Other grotesque injuries of this type have been previously reported. According to Harris et al (1988) the term Jael’s syndrome is an intentional craniofacial stab injury. To be sure, these cases do not represent tent peg homicides of a somnolent victim as in tale of Jael and Sisera. Despite this, they can be defined as Jael’s syndromes since deliberate penetrating wounds of the face resulted from an assault. What is surprising is the complete absence of serious signs and symptoms in these two patients.

Reference