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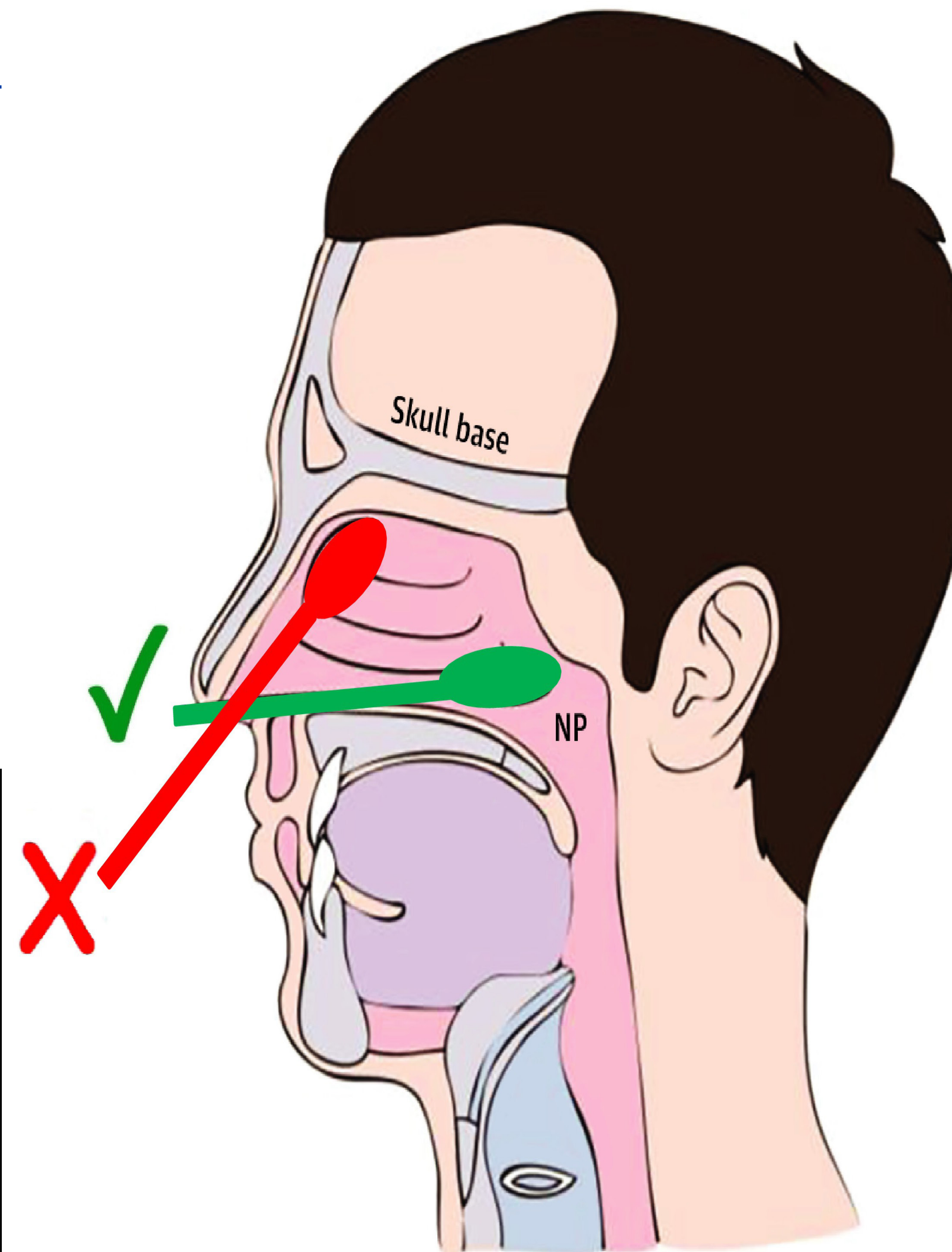
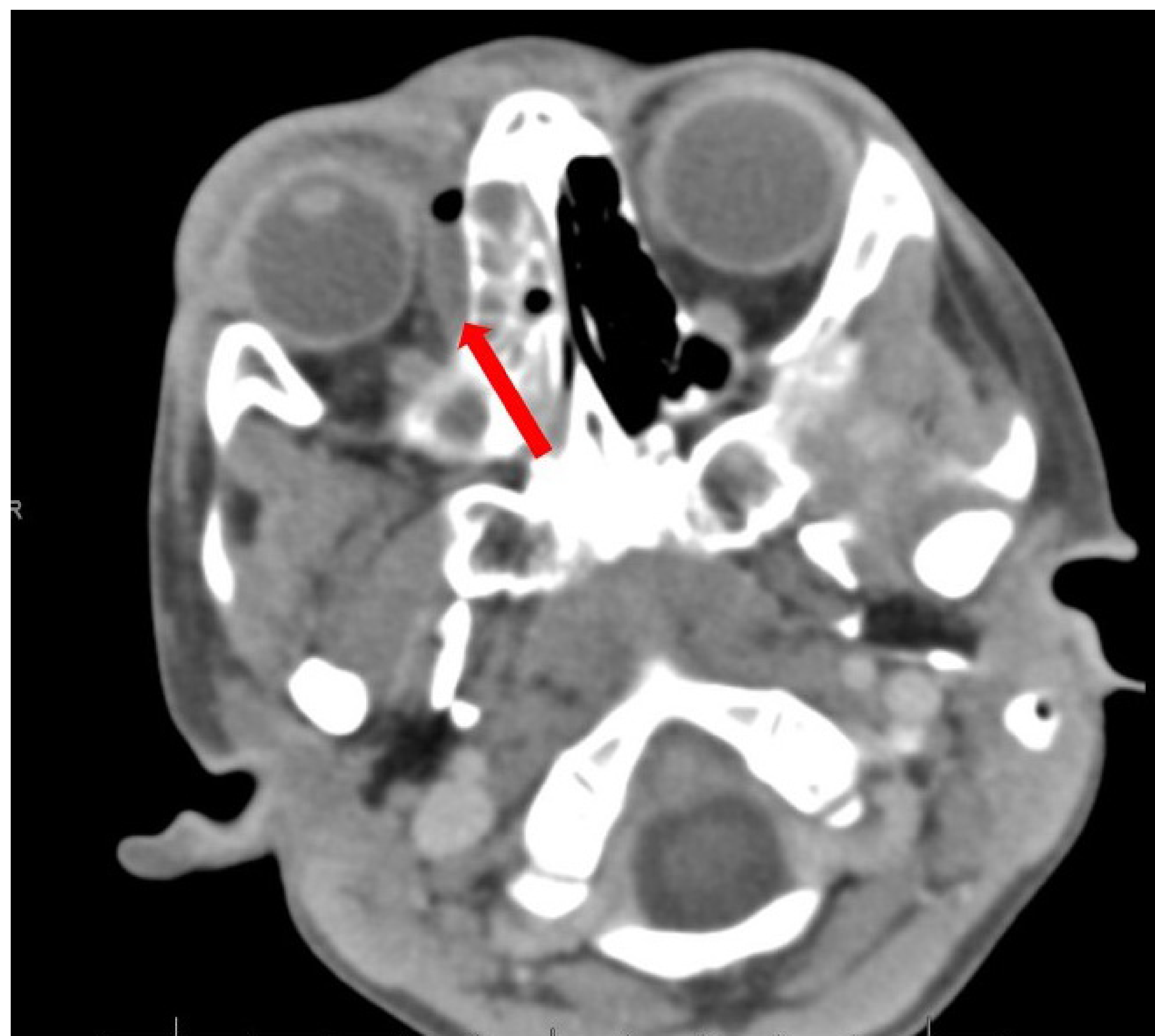
Nasopharyngeal Swabs Gone Wrong: An Unexpected Complication of a Common Procedure

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Case Report

- 4-year-old male presented with persistent fevers and right peri-orbital swelling.
- Prior to presentation, he had 5 nasopharyngeal swab tests for COVID-19 within 7 days.
- CT orbits showed right subperiosteal abscess along the medial wall of the orbit in addition to sinusitis.
- He underwent emergent surgery to drain the abscess and completed antibiotic course with complete resolution.



Discussion

If untreated, orbital cellulitis can lead to significant morbidity and mortality. Most patients respond well to appropriate therapy. Some serious complications can occur, including cavernous sinus thrombosis, intracranial extension, and vision loss. Even simple testing, like nasopharyngeal swabbing, can lead to these dangerous complications if done incorrectly or repeatedly within a short period of time. We recommend systematic education regarding high-risk factors and nasopharyngeal anatomical structures to lower the incidence of adverse events.

