

# Laceration of Penis From Hand Vacuum Cleaner

*To the Editor.*—Some time ago I treated a middle-aged man who arrived at the emergency room with multiple superficial lacerations of his glans and distal penile shaft, roughly parallel and about 0.5 cm apart.

He said that he had been in his back yard, clad only in his undershorts, and cleaning his car when the hand vacuum cleaner he was using became clogged with dirt and stopped.

He sat down on his back steps, took the cleaner apart, and began to clean it out. Unfortunately, he had forgotten to turn it off; and, as he cleaned the last bit of debris that held the fan blades, the motor suddenly started, the penis was sucked into the whirling blades, and the damage was done.

The lacerations were sutured and healed without incident, except for one across the meatus, which left him with a meatal stricture and a deviated urinary stream.

I regarded the whole thing as somewhat apocryphal until, recently, I encountered another patient with an almost identical injury, meatal stricture and all. So beware! It may be more common than you think.

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