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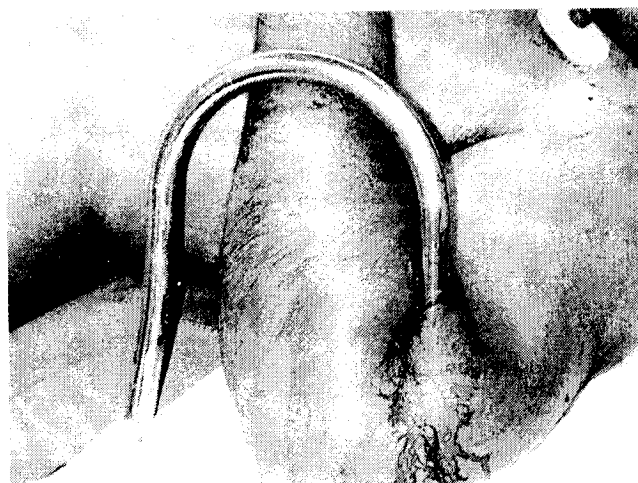


Fig. 1. Impaled fish hook: left arm.

### IMPALED SHARK HOOK: AN UNCOMMON OCCUPATIONAL INJURY

A 37-year-old man was brought to our comprehensive Level I trauma center by the Coast Guard after being involved in a fishing accident. The patient had been 70 miles out at sea when a Mako shark was caught. In the process of pulling the shark on board, the hook dislodged from the shark's mouth and rebounded into the fisherman's left arm (Fig. 1). Numerous attempts by the fisherman to remove the hook at sea were unsuccessful as it appeared to have been imbedded deeply into the soft tissue, resulting in an excruciating amount of pain and bleeding. The Coast Guard was contacted and the fisherman was rescued at sea and brought to our center. A radiograph of the left arm was obtained (Fig. 2). Clinically, he had signs suggestive of radial nerve injury, but no vascular injury was suspected. He was administered tetanus toxoid and antibiotics and was subsequently taken to the operating room where the hook was removed (Fig. 3). The radial nerve was explored and found to be extensively contused but not transected. He is currently doing well and receiving rehabilitation for his hand.

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Fig. 2. Radiograph demonstrating impaled shark hook.

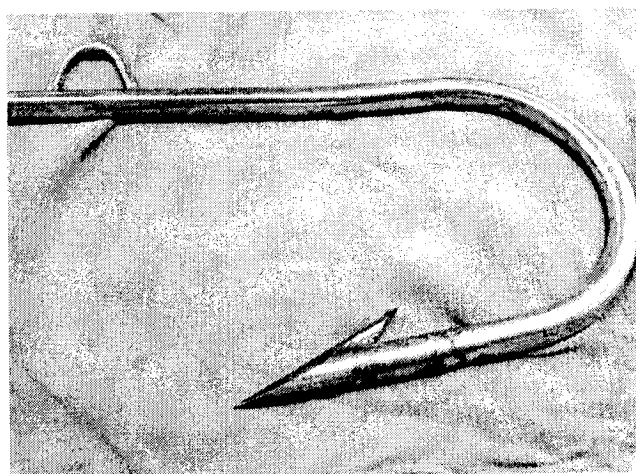


Fig. 3. Shark hook removed.