

## Index case of kite string causing neurovascular and tendon injury to ankle is being reported

Sir,

Kite-flying is a popular activity in children and young adults in North India in the months of June, July, August and September.<sup>[1]</sup> Kites are associated with various types of injuries including accidents that occur during the preparation of the threads, electrical injuries from high-tension currents, falls from heights that occur during the game, injuries caused to bystanders during kite flying, especially those riding motorcycles or bicycles.<sup>[2-4]</sup>

Among published cases of kite string injuries, majority are head and neck injuries. However, kite string injuries most commonly involve palm and fingers. There are some reports of injuries to the other parts of the body particularly lower limbs, but in those cases, it was due to electrical burn.<sup>[5]</sup> Here, we report a case of injury to ankle leading to transection of nerves, vessels and tendons.

A 70-year-old male was walking on the road during the evening hours, and suddenly his left leg got entrapped in a kite string which was entangled around the fence of a park on one side and a vehicle on the other side. When he tried to pull his leg out of the string, there



**Figure 1:** Kite string injury to ankle

was severe pain and heavy bleed. On exploration under anaesthesia and tourniquet control, there was complete transection of all structures of the posterior compartment (tendoachilles, tibialis posterior, posterior tibial artery and posterior tibial nerve) and lateral compartment (peroneus longus, peroneus brevis, flexor hallucis longus and peroneal artery) [Figure 1]. Only 4 cm strip of skin in the anterior aspect, anterior compartment structures and bones were not injured. All the injured structures were repaired. The patient had an uneventful recovery of the wound but had prolonged stiffness of ankle joint.

A processed thick thread or, occasionally, a thin metal wire is used to fly the kite. Previously, kite flyers mainly used a string that was made with 3–9 layers of variously treated cotton thread. Later on, elastic string and nylon cord were introduced. To make the competition more challenging, kite fighters started using metallic, chemical and glass powder (from fused bulbs and fluorescent glass tubes) coated string (manja), in the recent past. This made the simple traditional fun of kite flying deadlier, and now, it has become the potential cause of severe injury, disability and death each year.<sup>[5]</sup>

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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