phy. MRI is very sensitive in detecting CSF accumulation and pseudomeningocele.

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Maxillary jewelry in a parturient: a new cause for concern

To the Editor:

A new fashion of self-expression through body piercing in unconventional sites among young adults (including pregnant women) appears to continue to

increase in our society. We previously described the anesthetic implications of oral (tongue piercing),¹ and nasal (alar piercing),² jewelry in parturients requiring anesthesia in the peripartum period, and made a recommendation that oral/nasal jewelry should be removed prior to the administration of anesthesia (of any kind). However, we recently administered an uneventful epidural anesthesia to a 22-yr-old parturient with a non-reassuring fetal heart tracing for forceps assisted vaginal delivery. The patient had a piece of jewelry attached to her maxillary gumline with through and through fixation (Figure). Removal of the maxillary jewelry would have required special tools. We elected to *not* try and remove the maxillary jewelry because of the urgent nature of the case. We would welcome comments from colleagues from other institutions on their guidelines for the management of labour analgesia in parturients presenting with oral/nasal jewelry *in situ*.

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Remifentanyl pretreatment for propofol injection pain in children

To the Editor:

Pain on propofol injection is a recognized problem in the pediatric population and several methods have been studied to reduce its incidence and severity.^{1,2} We designed this study to assess the effectiveness of remifentanyl in minimizing pain on injection of propofol in children. After Ethics Committee approval and written parental informed consent, healthy children ASA I or II status aged 5 to 12 yr scheduled for otolaryngological surgery were included in the study. Children with a past history of an adverse response to propofol, who refused *iv* induction, in whom we failed to insert an *iv* cannula on the back of the hand or who had cognitive or behavioural disorders were excluded from the study. When the patient arrived in the anes-

FIGURE Gingival jewelry (anterior view).