# Man in Coventry suffers legal blindness after falling onto sharp eagle figurine while intoxicated



A shocking incident in Coventry has highlighted the severe risks associated with alcohol consumption and home accidents. A 39-year-old man, while inebriated, fell onto a sharp figurine of an eagle positioned on his fireplace, resulting in a horrific eye injury that narrowly spared his brain. The figurine's 15cm wing penetrated deep into his eye socket, necessitating immediate medical intervention.

Upon arriving at the hospital, the man was conscious and able to communicate, which is notable given the severity of his condition. A CT scan revealed that the eagle's wing had breached the eye's orbit, extending into his sinus cavity and narrowly missing vital structures within the brain. Given the potential for catastrophic outcomes—such as severe brain damage or death—medical professionals described the man's escape from further injury as remarkably fortunate.

Following the incident, he was treated with antibiotics and given a tetanus vaccination to mitigate the risk of infection. Although doctors managed to safely extract the figurine, the damage to his eye was significant: he suffered from a haemorrhage, leading to vision loss. This condition, where blood accumulates in the eye's anterior chamber, is often attributed to blunt trauma and can yield lasting complications, including permanent vision impairment.

According to medical reports, he now has a visual acuity of 6/60 in his right eye, rendering him legally blind in the UK, as this threshold indicates profound vision impairment. Visual acuity of this nature suggests that he can only see at six metres what a person with normal vision can see at 60 metres, underscoring the dramatic impact of his injury.

This incident underscores the importance of being aware of potential dangers at home, particularly when under the influence of alcohol. Alcohol consumption is known to impair coordination and judgement, increasing the likelihood of accidents. Eye injuries, like those resulting from blunt force trauma, can result in multiple symptoms including pain, sensitivity to light, and drastic changes in vision. They require prompt medical attention to prevent irreversible damage.

Moreover, the medical community emphasises that closed-globe injuries, such as the one sustained by this man, can be particularly insidious. They often do not result in external wounds yet can lead to severe internal damage, potentially causing complications like retrobulbar haemorrhage, which can also result in vision loss if not urgently addressed.

In light of this incident, it is essential for individuals to exercise caution in their homes and be mindful of the potential perils that everyday objects can pose, particularly when intoxicated. As traumatic as this case may be, it serves as a potent reminder of the fragility of eye health and the critical nature of immediate medical intervention in emergencies.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14757097/Man-impales-EYE-falling-narrowly-missing-brain.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14757097/Man-impales-EYE-falling-narrowly-missing-brain.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000054.htm)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14757097/Man-impales-EYE-falling-narrowly-missing-brain.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.optometrists.org/general-practice-optometry/guide-to-eye-exams/eye-emergencies/6-most-frequent-eye-injuries)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14757097/Man-impales-EYE-falling-narrowly-missing-brain.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/25075-orbital-fractures)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.aao.org/education/disease-review/closed-globe-injuries)
* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000054.htm), [[5]](https://www.optometrists.org/general-practice-optometry/guide-to-eye-exams/eye-emergencies/6-most-frequent-eye-injuries)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14757097/Man-impales-EYE-falling-narrowly-missing-brain.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/25075-orbital-fractures> - Orbital fractures occur when one or more bones surrounding the eye socket are broken, often due to blunt force trauma. Symptoms may include pain, swelling, bruising, and double vision. Treatment depends on the type and severity of the fracture, ranging from observation to surgical intervention. Prompt medical attention is essential to prevent complications such as vision loss or chronic discomfort.
3. <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000054.htm> - Eye emergencies encompass a range of conditions, including cuts, scratches, foreign objects, burns, chemical exposures, and blunt injuries. Prompt medical attention is crucial to prevent vision loss. Causes vary from physical trauma to infections and other medical conditions. Immediate care can prevent further damage and preserve eye health.
4. <https://www.optometrists.org/general-practice-optometry/guide-to-eye-exams/eye-emergencies/black-eye-from-an-eye-injury/> - A black eye, or periorbital hematoma, results from bruising around the eye due to an injury. It typically heals on its own within a week or two. However, if accompanied by vision changes, severe pain, or other concerning symptoms, immediate medical attention is necessary to rule out more serious injuries.
5. <https://www.optometrists.org/general-practice-optometry/guide-to-eye-exams/eye-emergencies/6-most-frequent-eye-injuries> - Common eye injuries include acute hyphema, where blood pools in the front chamber of the eye, often caused by blunt trauma. Symptoms may include pain, blurred vision, and sensitivity to light. Immediate medical attention is essential to prevent complications such as increased intraocular pressure or permanent vision loss.
6. <https://www.aao.org/education/disease-review/closed-globe-injuries> - Closed-globe injuries involve damage to the eye without penetrating the eye wall. They can result from blunt trauma and may lead to complications like retrobulbar hemorrhage, which can cause vision loss if not treated promptly. Symptoms include pain, swelling, and decreased vision. Immediate medical evaluation is crucial.
7. <https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/understanding-black-eye-basics/> - A black eye, or periorbital hematoma, is bruising around the eye caused by an injury. While it often heals on its own, it's important to monitor for signs of more serious injuries, such as fractures or internal bleeding. If symptoms worsen or don't improve, seek medical attention.