

# Septal perforation

## Etiology

Perforation of the nasal septum may result from the following conditions:

- Nasal surgery
- Trauma including repeated nose-picking
- Chronic inflammation, e.g. nasal granulomatosis, syphilis
- Inhalation of fumes, e.g. chrome salts.
- Cocaine.
- Carcinoma.





# Septal perforation

## Effects

- Many septal perforations cause no trouble.
- They may give rise to epistaxis and crusting
- Rarely whistling on inspiration or expiration.
- A perforation is readily seen and often has unhealthy edges covered with large crusts.





# Septal Perforation Treatment

- Septal perforations are very difficult to repair.
- Nasal douching with saline or bicarbonate solution reduces crusting around the edge of the defect.
- Antiseptic cream will help control infection.
- A self-retaining double-flanged silastic button can be inserted into the perforation
- If crusting and bleeding remain a problem, the perforation can be closed surgically.

