

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

R. Book

**Self-implanted subcutaneous penile balls –
a new phenomenon in Western Europe**

M. A. Rothschild et al.

Int J Legal Med (1997) 110: 88–91

Sir,

I read with interest Rothschild's paper on subcutaneous penile balls, and note that the phenomenon is as uncommon here in southern Africa as it apparently is in Western Europe.

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In my series of 5865 necropsies in Namibia and South Africa, I've only seen it once, in an Afrikaner youth who was said to have been a satanist. And in my nine years of doing forensic pathology here, only three other cases were seen by my colleagues: all of them Oriental merchant marine sailors who died within our territorial waters, and as a consequence required our services.

I suspect there is no causal relationship between satanism per se and penile implants, although my ignorance of both is vast. It is hoped that Rothschild's paper and this letter will generate elucidative correspondence.