

## **OTA Tip-of-the-Month – May 2012**

### **Ross K. Leighton, MD, Dalhousie University Halifax, NS, Canada Easy Technique for a Difficult IM Nail Removal**

If your usual nail extractor just does not fit, or fails to succeed in removing an intact or broken intramedullary nail, try this.

1. Insert a ball-tipped guide, and advance it out the end of your nail. If the nail-tip orifice) is really small, you may need to use a humeral guide wire.
2. Insert another regular or humeral guide wire, and advance it out the end of the nail, as well.
3. Now pull both guide wires back so the ball-tip, and both wires, are jammed outside the nail.
4. Grasp the free ends of both guide wires with a guide wire holder (cannulated T-handle chuck or equivalent) or a large pair of locking pliers (Vise-grip® or equivalent)
5. Slap hammer the nail out