

Conference Abstract

A Cadaveric Study on the Anatomical Variations of the Common Carotid Artery and its Branches Nirmiti Bhaven Mahadevia, Harshit Kumar, Dr. Sheetal Pattanshetti, Shilpa Bhimalli

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Background: Common Carotid arteries (CCA) are the chief blood supply of the head and neck. They usually divide at the upper border of thyroid cartilage to give off two branches, Internal Carotid (ICA) and External Carotid Arteries (ECA).

Aim: To check for variations in the level of bifurcation of CCA, origin of superior thyroid artery (STA), lateral positioning of ECA and trifurcation of CCA.

Materials and Methods: A total of 32 CCA from 16 cadavers were examined. Dissection was performed to expose thebranches. A section of one left CCA was taken to check for trifurcation at the carotid sinus.

Result: Variations in levels of bifurcation were found as: Upper border of thyroid cartilage- 9 cases(28.13%), greater cornu of hyoid bone - 9 cases (28.13%), laryngeal prominence - 7 cases (21.88%), between upper border of thyroid cartilage and greater cornu - 3 cases (9.38%), above level of greater cornu - 4 cases (12.5%).2 in 32 cases - origin of STA before bifurcation. 1 in 32 cases - trifurcation of CCA, ECA and STA at bifurcation level.

Conclusion: High level of bifurcation- above the border of thyroid cartilage was most commonly found in 16arteries (50%). Low level of bifurcation in 7 cases (21.9%), while usual level of bifurcation wasobserved in 9 out of 32 arteries (28.1%). An uncommon variation of the lateral placement of ECA was observed.

Key words: Common carotid artery, Superior thyroid artery, External carotid artery