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Winter 10-15-2020

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MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATIONS OF CAUDATE LOBE OF CADAVERIC LIVER WITH ITS PORTAL VEIN RAMIFICATION

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ABSTRACT:

Purpose: Understanding branching pattern of portal vein is essential in the localization of pathological lesions of liver as well as to plan surgical procedures on the same. The present study is confined to the branching pattern of portal vein in caudate lobe since the caudate lobe of the liver has technical and possibly, oncologic implications for surgeons. The entire caudate lobe is an independent anatomic segment supplied by the primary branches originating from the left & right branches of the portal vein as well as from the bifurcation of the portal vein. **Methods:** Fifty formalin fixed cadaveric livers were studied by minute dissection method in the department of anatomy. **Result:** A bifurcation branch of the portal vein was observed in nine specimens and the remaining showed the usual right & left branching pattern. The Spiegel lobe (major part of caudate lobe) was supplied principally by the twigs originating from the left branch of portal vein and the paracaval portion by the bifurcation branch of the portal vein predominantly. **Conclusion:** Results of the present study suggest about the possible existence of a boundary between Spiegel's lobe part of caudate lobe and paracaval portion of caudate lobe whereas, paracaval portion and caudate process of caudate lobe appears to be continuous in their portal vein supply.

Key words: caudate lobe, portal vein branches, segments, variation