

Case Report

SUPERFICIAL BRACHIOULNAR ARTERY AND OTHER VASCULAR VARIANTS IN LEFT UPPER LIMB

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ABSTRACT

Background: Variations in origin, course and distribution of upper limb arteries are well documented and they have a great clinical significance. But the incidence of certain variations like presence of Superficial BrachioUlnar Artery (SBUA) is less and its association with other vascular variations in hand are very few.

Material: Human male cadaver of about 65 years age, received for student demonstration dissections provided the material for this study.

Results & Observations: SBUA originated from brachial artery (BA) in the left upper limb of a human male cadaver. Other vascular variations noted were division of BA into radial artery (RA) and a common trunk (CT) for common interosseous and ulnar recurrent arteries (URA); and variant pattern in completion of Superficial Palmar arch (SPA).

Conclusion: Arterial variations of upper limb have been reported to have clinical implications. A variant vessel like SBUA may be encountered during elevation of forearm flaps, or accidental injections of drugs into artery with mistaken identity for a vein, may land in severe complications. Added to these, knowledge of formation of palmar arterial arches and their branching pattern is important in reconstructive surgeries of hand.

KEYWORDS: Superficial BrachioUlnar Artery; Brachial Artery; Radial Artery; Superficial Palmar Arch.

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BACKGROUND

Normal course and distribution of upper limb vessels have been described in standard books [1, 2]. Incidence of variant vessels varies from author to author and there is difference in the incidence of individual variations. Variations ranging from existence of simple superficial brachial artery and its variant branches to complete absence of either radial or ulnar arteries have been reported. Different terminologies and criteria were used to describe and to classify them [3]. This variable terminology was unified by Rodriguez-Niedenfuhr et al [3].

One such variant vessel reported was superficial brachioUlnar artery. Superficial Brachio Ulnar artery (SBUA) was defined as an ulnar artery with high origin, which courses over the superficial forearm flexor muscles [3]. Reported incidence of this variant vessel was less.

In present case in addition to presence of SBUA, the brachial artery presented an altered pattern in branching and the radial artery and superficial palmar arch presented different type of communication in hand. Hence an attempt is made to present this case.