DOUBLE BILATERAL RENAL ARTERY IN HUMAN FETUS

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ABSTRACT

Context: The knowledge about the presence of accessory renal arteries is of great importance to surgeons, especially those who perform kidney transplants.

Objective: To report the finding of double bilateral renal artery case in human fetus.

Case Report: Duplicity of the renal artery was found in a male fetus. The right kidney received two renal arteries, one superior, measuring 6,68 mm, and other inferior with 5,85 mm, both steered parallel and bifurcated before penetrating the renal hilum. Likewise, the left kidney received two renal arteries, one superior, measuring 4,16 mm and other left with 9,93 mm, the superior being the only one that bifurcarted itself before penetrating the renal hilum.

Conclusion: The current finding of accessory renal arteries represents collaboration not just for anatomists, but also with considerable significance to urological surgeons.

KEY WORDS: Accessory Renal Arteries, Kidney, Kidney Transplants. Renal Hilum.

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Access this Article online		
Quick Response code	Web site: International Journal of Anatomy and Research	
	www.ijmhr.org/ijar.htm	
	Received: 22 Dec 2016	Accepted: 06 Feb 2017 Published (O): 28 Feb 2017
DOI: 10.16965/ijar.2016.517	Revised: None	Published (P): 28 Feb 2017

INTRODUCTION

The renal artery originates predominantly in the lateral surface of the abdominal descending aortic artery, below the superior mesenteric artery [1,2], at the intervertebral disc level between the lumbar vertebrae L1 and L2 [1,3]. In rare cases it can be originated below the

celiac trunk or below the inferior mesenteric artery [2].

Among all its anatomical variations one of the most common is the presence of additional renal arteries [4,5]. This occurrence can become a complicating factor in renal surgeries, and particularly in kidney transplants [4]. A good understanding about anatomical variations of the renal arteries is important not only for anatomists, but mostly for urological surgeons on the formulation of better conduct on the renal transplants procedures [4,6,7]. The present study had the goal to report a case of renal artery bilateral duplicity in a male fetus.

CASE REPORT

During the routine dissection on the anatomy laboratory of the Federal University of Sergipe, São Cristóvão, SE, Brazil, was found, bilaterally, the presence of double renal arteries (Fig. 1), in a male human fetus with estimated age of 30 weeks (hallux-calcaneus measure). The arteries were originated on the lateral side of the abdominal descending aortic artery. The two renal arteries on the right side, one superior and other inferior, measured 6,68 mm and 5,85 mm respectively. Both bifurcated into two new arteries before entering the renal hilum. On the left side, the two arteries, superior and inferior, measured 4,16 mm and 9,93 mm respectively, and only the superior one bifurcated itself before entering the hilum.

Fig. 1: Bilateral double renal arteries.



AO – Aorta, RK – Right kidney, LK – Left kidney, RRA –Superior right renal artery, IRRA – Inferior right renal artery, SLRA – Superior left renal artery, ILRA – Inferior left renal artery, RSG – Right suprarenal gland, LSG – Left suprarenal gland

DISCUSSION

The number of renal arteries can be considered as a variation most frequently found on the renal system. The knowledge about the number variation of renal arteries is extremely important for the vascular clinic and imageologists [3]. The accessory renal arteries range from 18.3% and 36.1% of the cases, on the right side the variation is from 11 to 16% and on the left side from 10 to 23%, and in both sides it can get to 5% [1,4,5,8]. In our study, two double bilateral renal arteries were found. While studying 356 kidneys from 178 cadavers Ogeng'o et al. [9] reported that 59.5% of the bilateral arteries penetrated parallelly in the renal hilum and only 7.1% penetrated crosswise. In our study, most renal arteries penetrated parallelly in the kidneys and were divided before penetrating the hilum. The presence of mutiple renal arteries and their mode of penetrating the renal hilum is of great surgical importance, specially, in the transplants' complex surgical procedure [3,10-13]. Thereby we consider that the present anatomical discovery can contribute to the enlargement of this kind of knowledge, especially regarding the occurrence of bilateral duplication of renal arteries.

CONCLUSION

The present finding is a contribution to the knowledge of possible anatomical variations of the renal arteries, which can help imageologists, and, specially, vascular and urological surgeons in endovascular procedures and kidney transplants.

Conflicts of Interests: None

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How to cite this article:

José Aderval Aragão, Eder Santos Souza, Felipe Matheus Sant'Anna Aragão, Iapunira Catarina Sant'Anna Aragão, Francisco Prado Reis. DOUBLE BILATERAL RENAL ARTERY IN HUMAN FETUS. Int J Anat Res 2017;5(1):3513-3515. DOI: 10.16965/ ijar.2016.517