

A STUDY ON VASCULATURE OF THE SUPRARENAL GLANDS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Suprarenal glands are among the most vascular organs in the body and they are richly supplied by the vasculature from the various sources. Suprarenal gland vasculature and its course characterized by the many unique features. Adrenal vascular studies are performed in order to identify benign or malignant, functioning or non-functioning lesions of the adrenal gland. However the vascular supply of adrenal gland is subject to a lot of variations and adequate knowledge of the arterial and venous vascularisation is of considerable importance in angiographic studies.

Materials and Methods: Total number of specimens studied in the present work is 75. Number of foetal specimens studied in dissection is 50 and Numbers of adult specimens studied in dissection is 25. All specimens were preserved in 4% formaldehyde solution. **Dissection method:** The present study is done only by direct dissection method. All the specimens are cleaned with water to remove the clots. The aorta and inferior vena cava are injected with acetone and then cleaned with distilled water to remove the clots. Specimens kept in 5% formalin.

Observations: Detailed study of vasculature of suprarenal glands along with the origin, course, branching pattern and point of entry into the gland were tabulated accordingly.

Conclusion: The usual pattern of origin of superior, middle and inferior suprarenal arteries from inferior phrenic, aorta and renal arteries is found in the present study. A few variations in the origin of the superior suprarenal, middle and inferior suprarenal arteries are also found along with the few variations in the termination of the supra renal veins.

KEYWORDS: Adrenal Glands; Vasculature; Inferior Vena cava; Abdominal Aorta; Supra Renal Veins.

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INTRODUCTION

Adrenal gland is a pyramidal structure lying immediately above the kidney, hence the name (**ad**, "**near**" or "**at**" + **renes**, "**kidneys**"). The term adrenal has more general application than suprarenal. The anatomy of the adrenal glands was described almost 450 years ago by Bartholomeo Eustacius and the Suprarenal glands are among the most vascular organs in the body and they are richly supplied by the vasculature from the various sources [1].

Suprarenal gland vasculature and its course characterized by the following unique features:

- Unlike those in other organs, the arteries and veins do not usually run together.
- The arterial supply is abundant. As many as fifty to sixty terminal small arterioles have been counted in some glands.
- The venous blood is channelled almost completely through a large single venous trunk easily identified.