3 - Clinical Anatomy

PO-060 - (23986) - MORPHOLOGY OF THE ANATOMICAL SNUFFBOX: A CADAVERIC STUDY

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There are no conflicts of interest

The Anatomical snuffbox is an important area for diagnosing localized tenderness surrounding the region of the wrist joint, as well as injuries like common radius and scaphoid bone fractures. This could be attributed to the rapid overuse and exertion of the hand or wrist that will essentially affect the articulating structures that function in relation to the anatomical snuffbox. Furthermore, interventional radiologists have also explored the potential use of the snuffbox for access to the radial artery for transcatheter vascular interventions. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the gross anatomy of the anatomical snuffbox and its possible variations.

After ethical approval was received, standard dissections on both the right and left hands of fourteen cadavers was performed (n=28).

This study found that the abductor pollicis longus tendon showed the most variation in tendon number and slips, while the extensor pollicis longus and brevis tendons displayed the most variable insertion patterns. The anatomical course of the radial artery remained relatively normal in both sides. However, the course of the cephalic vein and superficial branch of the radial nerve were the most variable. Although there was no statistical significance for laterality, majority of the documented variations occurred on the right side which may be a result of handedness.

Understanding the varied tendon anatomy within the anatomical snuffbox compartment has important clinical implications for treating conditions like de Quervain's syndrome. Recognizing these anatomical variations may assist interventional radiologists (e.g. distal radial artery access) and orthopaedic surgeons (e.g. during tendon reconstruction procedures).

Palavras-chave : Anatomical snuffbox, radial nerve, abductor pollicis longus