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Radioanatomic study of cardiac veins: functional approach.

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Retroperfusion of the coronary sinus (CS) does not provide homogenous distribution of cardioplegia. In cadaver hearts, the CS was selectively cannulated using two different techniques: ballon inflation or purse string occlusion. Computed digital angiography was performed in 14 hearts, and computed tomographic study in 8. All the hearts were dissected to anatomic analysis and measurements of the CS and afferent veins. Results: With the ballon technique the posterior descending vein was shunted, and the inferior part of the septum remain poorly opacified. Conversely with the purse string occlusion, all venous channels were simultaneously injected. The semiquantitatively measuring of the density of the contrast material in myocardium by computed tomographic scan confirmed similar results according to the type of cannulation. However in all the cases the right ventricle was not perfused. Anatomic study showed that the posterior descending vein is close to the CS orifice (average 2mm, range 0-5).

Incidence and distribution of scapho-trapezio-trapezoidal arthritis in 73 cadaveric limbs.

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The STT joint was examined in 73 fresh cadaveric specimens (25 male and 48 female with an average age of 84 years) with a view to study the incidence and characteristics of degenerative changes in this joint. The articular degeneration was graded from 0 to 3 according to increasing loss of cartilage and the location of the changes was noted. At the same time, the presence and extent of concomitant trapezio-metacarpal arthritis was noted.

61 of the 73 hands (83.3%) were found to present STT arthritis.

Degeneration of the trapezoid articular surface was:

- more frequent: 53 hands (72.6%) as compared to 48 (65.7%),
- of greater severity: 40 cases (55%) of grades 2/3 as compared to 25 (34%), than that of the trapezium. Concomitant arthritis at the base of the first metacarpal was present in 57 of the 73 hands (79%) examined with grade 3 changes in 13 cases.

The apparent predominance of degeneration in the scapho-trapezoidal articulation could, perhaps, lead us to assume that this might be the site of origin of STT arthritis. It could also explain the persistence of symptoms following prosthetic replacement of the trapezium.

Erratum

In memoriam: Miltiades Papamiltiades (1910-1987): eminent Greek anatomist and ambassador of Franco-Hellenic friendship

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We are sorry to have misspelled the name of one of the authors. The right spelling is **G Androutsos and Sp Marketos**.

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