Prominent middle genicular artery

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A 17-year-old boy underwent MRI for knee trauma, revealing a torn medial meniscus (Fig. 1). Additionally, an unidentified linear structure was demonstrated coursing through knee joint space. This was further evaluated with MR angiography, revealing it to be arterial in origin (Fig. 2). This vessel followed the expected course of the middle genicular artery. Typically the middle genicular artery is small and tortuous [1]. This boy's middle genicular artery was more conspicuous because of its generous diameter and relatively straight course in congruity with the plane of imaging.

The middle genicular artery originates from the popliteal artery, enters the posterior joint capsule and

Fig. 1 Sagittal proton-density MRI

Fig. 2 Reconstructed 2D time-of-flight MR MIP angiogram with inferior saturation pulse

courses through the joint space, providing blood supply to the anterior and posterior cruciate ligaments [1]. An artery of this prominence should be described, given its potential for complication during arthroscopic knee procedures [1, 2].

References

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