Type 2 proatlantal intersegmental artery

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Dear Sir,

I read with great interest the recent article titled “The right vertebral artery originating from the right occipital artery and the absence of the transverse foramen: a rare anatomical variation” by Öner et al. [1] published in *Surgical and Radiologic Anatomy* (2017;39:1397–1400). The proatlantal intersegmental artery (PIA) enters into the posterior fossa via the foramen magnum, and comprises two types; type 1 arises from the internal carotid artery and type 2, from the external carotid artery (ECA). The type 2 PIA is an extremely rare congenital anastomosis between the proximal ECA and vertebral artery. Reviewing Figure 7, I believe that this patient has type 2 PIA. Because, this anastomotic artery between the ECA and the vertebrobasilar system runs in the similar course of our patient previously reported [2]. In our patient, the distal branch of the occipital artery arose from the anastomotic artery. Thus, the proximal segment of the anastomotic artery was regarded as a dilated occipital artery. This type of congenital anastomosis between the occipital

artery and the vertebral artery via the foramen magnum is called as a type 2 PIA or persistent first cervical intersegmental artery [3].

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

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