Variant pronator teres muscle and supracondylar process: interesting for anatomists and surgeons but a well-known variation

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We read with interest the article by Narayanan and Adikesavan [5] on three unique variations—“Coexistence of variant pronator teres muscle and variant course of the neurovascular structures in the arm: clinical significance.” We appreciate the authors for describing their interesting case report with three unique anatomical variations: (1) a variant origin of pronator teres (PT) from the supracondylar process (SP); (2) a variant course of the brachial neurovascular bundle behind the SP; (3) a proximal origin of the radial artery from the brachial artery. According to these authors, knowledge on such variations will be of benefit to surgeons during their practice, as well as to radiologist in interpretation of, for example, angiograms.

However, we do not agree with the author’s claims that the following are unique: (1) first, the unique origin of PT from the SP. We would like to point out that this variation was described four centuries ago in the works of Macalister [4] and has been mentioned more recently [1–3]; (2) second, according to the authors, the variant course of the brachial neurovascular bundle was behind the SP. The variation also is widely known, e.g., Bergman et al. [1]—*Illustrated Encyclopedia of Human Anatomic Variation*; and third, (3) the proximal origin of the radial artery from the brachial artery. This is also a well-known variation described in the previously mentioned resource [1], as well as in classical anatomical and surgical textbooks.

In conclusion, this case highlights that before accepting some variations as unique, it is necessary for authors to

explore old anatomical textbooks and perform an extensive review of current literature. These steps will avoid future miscommunications.

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