

Variation in the venous drainage of the right kidney: A cadaveric case report

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Introduction Each kidney is usually drained by a renal vein of the respective side which directly empties into the inferior vena cava at the level of second lumbar vertebra. Right renal vein, but not the left one, receives no tributaries on its course. Knowledge on variations in the vasculature of kidney is central to avoid unforeseen vascular injuries in surgeries such as renal transplantation, nephrectomy and, other interventional procedures in the retroperitoneal region.

Case presentation During routine anatomical dissection of a formalin - fixed cadaver for undergraduate medical students at the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, an accessory right renal vein (in addition to the normal right renal vein) was observed. In this cadaver, the normal right renal vein leaves the hilum of right kidney anterior to the branches of the right renal artery. It travelled anterior and later became above to the course of right renal artery and entered the lateral aspect of the inferior vena cava. An accessory renal vein that leaves separately from the lower aspect of hilum of right kidney lies deep to the plane of branches of right renal artery and normal right renal vein, and drains into the inferior vena cava separately and inferior to the termination of normal right renal vein. Presence of accessory renal vein on the right side has already been reported in the scientific literature.

Conclusion the knowledge on variation of the renal vessels such as the presence of accessory right renal vein is important for surgical, radiological and other interventional procedures.