Anamolous Course of Right Common Carotid Artery in a Case of Papillary Carcinoma Thyroid

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Abstract Anamolous Course of Carotid Artery is one of the rarest of the rare anamoly, we describe one such case of anamolous Course of Right Common Carotid Artery.

Keywords Anamolous carotid artery · Anamolous artery

A 28-year-old woman with multinodular goiter admitted to our ward was posted for near-total thyroidectomy.

During surgery, we started our procedure from the left lobe of thyroid, which appeared to be normal.

After finishing the left lobe when we moved on to the right lobe, we found it hard and fixed; for facilitating the dissection, we injected saline to create a cleavage plane. After ligating

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and dividing the superior thyroid pedicle, we started searching for the middle thyroid vein. We found a huge vessel blue in color near the lower pole. We thought of inferior thyroid vein, but because of its huge size, we wanted to verify any anomaly and traced it upward. It was pulsatile and found to be the right common carotid, which was abnormally superficial and crossing the lower pole of the thyroid gland. The blue color was due to saline infiltration for creating a cleavage plane, which bruised the vessel wall.

Meticulously we had completed a near-total thyroidectomy and the specimen was sent for histopathological examination. The report came as papillary carcinoma of thyroid.

In order to confirm and evaluate the anomaly of the right common carotid artery, CT angiogram was carried out. It confirms that, though the origin of the right common carotid artery is normal from the right brachiocephalic trunk, its course is anomalous. It means the brachiocephalic trunk arises from arch of aorta near the left sternoclavicular joint instead of its normal origin near the right sternoclavicular joint, and curves over the lower pole of the right lobe of thyroid superficially, instead of its normal depth.

This anomaly is very rare and the surgery would have ended in a catastrophe if we were less than meticulous.