A Case of Bilateral Existence of Ischiadic Artery in Man

By

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The authors in this paper have observed the bilateral existence of the relatively developed ischiadic artery in an autopsy case of a 21-year-old man (Fig. 1).

Since there have been only a small number of reports concerning the ischiadic artery, it is hoped that this paper will contribute something to this subject.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the ischiadic artery on both sides of the body shows a similar appearance in its course, topographically.

Each of them leaves the pelvis through the foramen infrapiriforme and then descends towards the popliteal fossa being accompanied by the ischiadic veins between the tibial and common peroneal nerves. Finally, the ischiadic artery is anastomosed with the femoral artery beneath the distal ridge of the adductor magnus muscle and ends in the popliteal fossa, supplying blood with the small branches to a part of the gluteal maximus muscle and the flexor muscles of the thigh.

These ischiadic arteries have not communicated anywhere with the 1st and 2nd perforating arteries (3rd perforatings absent).

Of course, in this case, the inferior gluteal artery was found on both sides of the body, but had a smaller diameter than the normal. The femoral arteries in this case were normal in diameter and in distribution.

In our case, especially, the ischiadic nerves have already divided the tibial and common peroneal nerves in the pelvis; the former passes through the foramen infrapiriforme and the latter perforates the middle venter of the piriformis muscle (Figs. 2 and 3).

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Literature cited

Fig. 1. A photograph showing the bilateral existence of the ischiadic artery. 21-year-old man. a.I.; Ischiadic artery, P.m.; Piriformis muscle, T.n.; Tibial nerve, C.p.n.; Common peroneal nerve.
Fig. 2. Drawing of the left thigh in Fig. 1. (Dorsal view), reduced to 1/2 normal.
Fig. 3. Drawing of the right thigh in Fig. 1. (Dorsal view), reduced to 1/2 normal.