the muscle belly occupies a length of 5–10 cm. It is believed that the plantaris muscle was an accessory muscle and only vestigial in humans, and that it might be absent in 7–20% of individuals.
Aim and Objective: To study absence of plantaris tendon in lower limbs.
Material and Method: 32 legs from 16 adult cadavers were dissected, of which 16 were right legs and 16 were left legs. The apparent age of the cadavers was between 30 and 68 years from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2014. The observations were documented by means of digital photographs.
Result and Observation: In the present study, plantaris was absent in 4 limbs (12.5%) in 2 cadavers (2 on right and 2 on left) dissected.
Conclusion: The typical universal occurrence of absence of plantaris tendon in lower limbs tallies with our results.

59. Study of variations of suprascapular notch

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Abstract: Hundred dried scapulae are examined for variations of suprascapular notch in R.G. Kar Medical College Kolkata. Meticulous naked eye examinations reveal various shapes including "V"-, "U"-, "J"-shaped notches. Very shallow notch has been found in six scapulae (Rt-4/Lt-2). Total number of scapulae having "U"-shaped suprascapular notch are 41 (Rt-22/Lt-19), scapulae having "V"-shaped notch are 19 (Rt-10/Lt-9) and scapulae having "J"-shaped suprascapular notch are 32 (Rt-22/Lt-10). Absence of suprascapular notch has been found in 2(Rt) scapulae. Very shallow suprascapular notch is alarming and May predispose to entrapment of suprascapular nerve causing wasting of supraspinatus and infraspinatus muscle. Anatomical knowledge of such variations should be kept in mind by radiologist, orthopaedic and neuro-surgeons, as these variations may alter the technique of surgery.

60. Variations in the branching pattern of external carotid artery in cadavers

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Introduction: The External Carotid Artery (ECA) begins at the bifurcation of the common carotid artery lateral to the upper border of the thyroid cartilage, level with the intervertebral disc between the third and fourth cervical vertebrae. The external carotid artery has eight named branches distributed to the head and neck. The superior thyroid, lingual and facial arteries arise from its anterior surface, the occipital and posterior auricular arteries arise from its posterior surface and the ascending pharyngeal artery arises from its medial surface. The maxillary and superficial temporal arteries are its terminal branches within the parotid gland.
Objective: To study and note down variations in the branching pattern of ECA.
Methods: In this study, 60 cadavers (52 male and 8 female) embalmed with 10% formalin obtained from the Department of Anatomy were used, and thus 120 neck-halves were dissected and ECA and its branches were studied.
Results: Some branches of ECA were found to be arising as common trunks such as thyrolingual trunk, linguofacial trunk, thyrolinguofacial trunk and occipitoauricular trunk. Accessory branches of ECA such as branches to the parotid gland and submandibular gland were also found.
Conclusion: The variations in the branching pattern of ECA should be kept in the mind during surgical procedures in the neck region, such as emergency cricothyroidotomy, radical neck dissection, catheterization, etc.

61. Morphology of rotator cuff tear: An anatomical perspective

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Objective: To evaluate incidence of rotator cuff ruptures and to compare the findings of the present study with previous studies. To establish morphological parameters of impending rotator cuff rupture.
Methods: 100 embalmed cadaveric shoulders (50 right and 50 left) aged between 34 and 69 were dissected to study the morphology of rotator cuff. The parameters observed were Total muscle length, Extramuscular tendon length, Functional tendon length and Tear size of Supraspinatus (SSP), Infraspinatus (ISP), Subscapularis (SSC) and Teres Minor (TM). The parameters were tabulated and compared between sides and torn with intact tendons.
Results: The incidence of rotator cuff tear is mostly seen with rupture of SSP tendon (23%) and also with SSC tendon (3%). Tear size ranged from 0.2 to 1.2 mm. No tear was found in ISP and TM. Right side tears in both SSP and SSC were found more than left. In all the torn tendons, the myotendinous junction had shifted away from insertion and the observation was statistically significant.
Conclusion: The incidence of rotator cuff tears increases with age. We did not see any complete thickness ruptures of the cuff. Supraspinatus tendon rupture was always observed with torn rotator cuff. Increase in functional tendon length appears to be consistent with cuff tears and should be regarded as a forerunner of cuff tear in intact rotator cuff. Surgical repair can prevent cuff tear in such cases.

62. Fusion of manubriosternal joint: Role in estimation of age

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Introduction: Estimation of age of an individual from unidentified skeletal remains is a crucial step in osteological analysis. For this reason, developing ageing criteria from various