

## ANATOMICAL VARIATIONS OF THE VESSELS IN THE FEMORAL TRIANGLE; A CASE REPORT

R Nirranjan<sup>#</sup> and S Udhayakumar

Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

<sup>#</sup>rominirranjan@yahoo.com

The femoral triangle is an important site for various clinical procedures. A sound knowledge about the anatomical variations of femoral vessels and their branches in the femoral triangle is important to prevent inadvertent damage to these vessels during surgical procedures and for successful arterial and venous cannulation for various purposes. This case report describes the clinically important abnormal vascular patterns of the left femoral region of a middle aged Sri Lankan man observed during routine dissection. Profunda femoris artery originated 1 cm below the inguinal ligament from the lateral aspect of the common femoral artery at a higher level than that documented in the standard text books and in most of the previous studies. Subsequently femoral artery crossed superficially over the femoral vein and the femoral vein was lying deep to the femoral artery in most part of the

femoral triangle. The profunda femoral vein drained into the femoral vein as described in the text books nearly 3 - 4 cm below the inguinal ligament. Medial and lateral circumflex femoral arteries originated from profunda femoris artery. Even though the variations are mostly incidental findings and being of general anatomical interest, knowledge of these variations appears to be mandatory for planning surgery and vascular interventions. It also serves as a reminder that constant vascular land marks can occasionally be subject to marked variability. Ultrasonography should be used particularly for more difficult femoral vascular access.

**Keywords:** Femoral triangle, Femoral artery, Femoral vein, Profunda femoris artery