Anatomical variations of the saphenofemoral junction in patients with varicose veins.

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Source

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Abstract

Varicose veins are an extremely common medical condition (present in 5-30% of adults). Surgery remains the gold standard of care in patients with varicose veins, however several newer interventions have been recently introduced which need to be evaluated. During the standard surgery it is imperative to demonstrate and ligate the tributaries of the saphenofemoral junction in combination with stripping of the great saphenous vein. We studied 228 patients with varicose veins who underwent surgery during two years. The number and name of tributaries at the saphenofemoral junction, presence of external pudendal artery and its relationship to the saphenofemoral junction were recorded. The number of tributaries varied from 2 to 7 at the first five centimeters of the great saphenous vein. The average number of branches was 3.87 and the most common branch was the superficial external pudendal vein. The external pudendal artery was identified during all surgical exploration. It crossed anterior to saphenofemoral junction in 39.5% and posterior in 60.5%. Anatomical variations in venous branches at the saphenofemoral junction are varied (from 2 to 7), so it is recommended to explore the location of varicose veins precisely to ensure appropriate surgical technique.