

A case study of variation of medial pectoral nerve in a cadaver

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INTRODUCTION

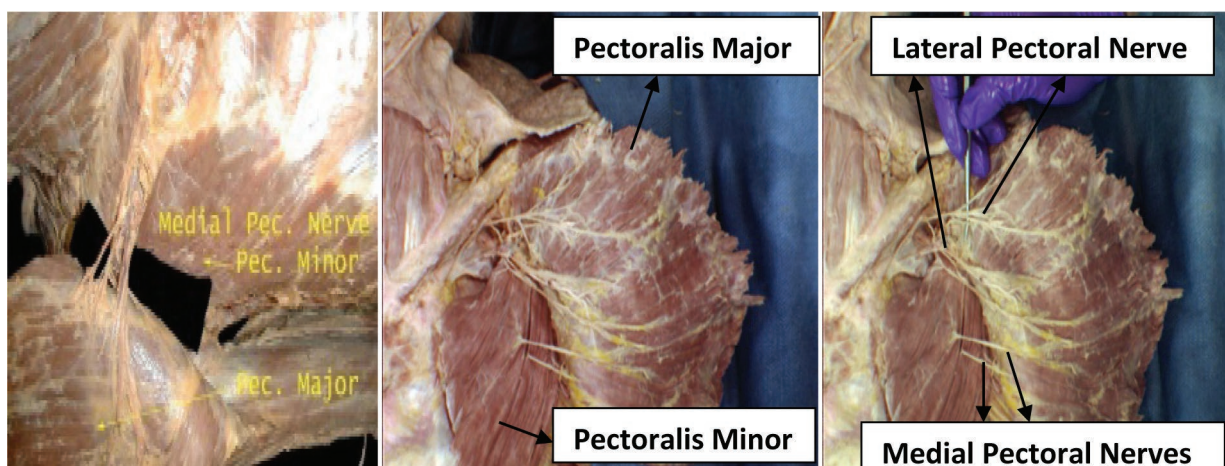
The medial pectoral nerve is the first branch of medial cord of brachial plexus and lies behind the first part of axillary artery. The nerve passes forward between axillary artery and vein, joins with lateral pectoral nerves to form a loop in front of the artery. It pierces the pectoralis minor, supplies the pectoralis minor, enters deep surface of pectoralis minor, and ends by distributing fibers to pectoralis major. Usually in most cadavers only one nerve pierce pectoralis minor but occasionally two or three branches may pierce pectoralis minor and may pass round its inferior border to end in pectoralis major.

AIM OF STUDY

Knowledge of course of the medial pectoral nerve is important more in women as it may be affected during breast carcinoma due to infiltration of nerve causing pain in breast. Also it is important during pectoralis major muscle resection and grafting.

OBSERVATIONS

In right pectoral region of the cadaver there are two medial pectoral nerves piercing the pectoralis minor muscle and ending in pectoralis major muscle. It was seen to form loop with the lateral pectoral nerve beneath the pectoralis major. The left pectoral region of the cadaver had normal findings.



INFERENCE

The course of medial pectoral nerve is important during modified radical mastectomy (MRM) performed for the breast carcinoma patients. Sometimes pectoralis major muscle grafts are also resected and grafted in cases of cellulitis of foot after extensive surgical exploration of dead tissues. Also muscle grafts are sometimes used in extensive third degree burn patients along with the skin grafting.

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