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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY OF ACCESSORY LESSER PALATINE FORAMEN IN NORTH INDIAN CRANIA

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ABSTRACT

Studies of non metric cranial variants have been a field of considerable interest to research workers especially because of their racial and regional importance.

40 north Indian skulls of U.P. were studied for the double accessory lesser palatine foramina, a cranial variant in the present study. Findings are discussed and compared with other global studies and are found to be of considerable regional and racial significance.

INTRODUCTION

The lesser palatine foramina lie on both sides of the posterior border of hard palate behind the greater palatine foramen for passage of lesser palatine nerves and vessels When more than one foramen are present then these are called accessory lesser palatine foramina. It is a cranial variant then.

Non-metric cranial variants have been a subject of study by many pioneering workers (Todd and Tracy 1930). Many such variants have been observed on a racial basis also (Berry and Berry 1967) and are of considerable ethnic but lesser forensic interest. Berry (1975) made a special study of non meterical human cranial variants including accessory lesser palatine foramina. Present study is undertaken to know the incidence of variant of accessory lesser palatine foramen and to draw significant conclusion, if any, from this study.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

28 north Indian human crania were studied for this study. Human crania of museum of Rohilkhand medical college Bareilly were studied. Incidence of accessory lesser palatine foramina was noted in these crania

RESULTS

Out of 28 skulls studied accessory lesser palatine foramen was seen only in 8 skulls .Thus the incidence of this cranial variant was 28.5%.

DISCUSSION

Cranial variants have aroused the curiosity of anatomists for many decades (e.g.Le Double,1903).It was Wood Jones(1930-1),however who first proposed that the differing incidences of these minor variants which occurred in different races might be useful in anthropological studies. Laughlin & Jorgensen(1956) put this idea in practice and in 1967 Berry & Berry suggested that a wide range of these variants could be used to calculate a distance statistic between population samples.

This paper is concerned with description and racial & regional incidence of accessory lesser palatine foramina one of the important cranial variant.

Cranial variants like all other variants have been studied by many workers; most of them are recognized only by mention in anatomical text books, being described in terms such as rare or occasionally found; nevertheless a few of them have been utilized as anthropological markers (Broth well 1963,1965).Some variants are consequences of disease or other extrinsic influences (Moller-christensen & Sandison 1963,Roche 1964 and Dorsey 1897);however most of these variants result from normal developmental processes and are genetically determined (Berry & Berry -1967). The frequency of any particular variant is more or less constant in a given rare and is somewhat similar in related races. Chambellan (1883) seems to have been first to suggest the possibility of using such traits as anthropological characters.

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Table No.1 (BERRY-1975) Accessory lesser palatine foramen present

Egypt (summed) 250 skulls	Nigeria (Ashanti) 56 skulls	Palestine (Lachish) 54 skulls	Palestine (Modern) 18 skulls	India (Punjab) 53 skulls	Burma 51 skulls	North America (British Columbia) 50 skulls	South America (Peru) 53 skulls	Our study (U.P) North India 28 skulls
48.6%	41%	13.2%	23.3%	48%	32%	71%	59.4%	28.5%

Russel in 1900 gathered together data on a number of skull variants in American group and gave the first indication of their use in the comparison of populations .Woodjones(1930-31,1933-34) used data on skull variants in a more systemic comparison number of far eastern group.

Berry (1975) made a special study of non metrical human cranial variations including the accessory lesser palatine foramina. His findings are given in the table no.1

In our study: It was observed that accessory lesser palatine foramina were present in 28.5% of crania (fig.1)

Hence the current study provides valuable data from U.P. the largest state of India, and compares the same with data of different global regions.

The findings are of considerable racial and regional global significance.

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