

References

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Reply:

We thank Dr. Komiyama for his detailed and complete interpretation of the angiographic findings of our case (see box at end of letter). The collateral vascular network in this case was formed between

the ascending pharyngeal artery (APA) and the internal carotid artery (ICA) in its petrous portion. As he mentioned, the so-called vidian artery runs at the skull base horizontally, whereas the artery in our case ran downward to anastomose with the APA. Our interpretation may not be correct in this point. We agree with him that the anastomosis between the inferior tympanic branch of the APA and carotico-tympanic artery is most likely but we speculate that another possibility is a direct anastomosis between the superior pharyngeal pedicle of the APA and mandibular artery of the ICA.¹⁾ Whether the former or the latter, this anastomotic channel is still rare and should be taken into consideration as an important route.

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Article under discussion

Neurol Med Chir (Tokyo) 45 (9), 470-471, 2005

Vidian Artery as a Collateral Channel Between the External and Occluded Internal Carotid Arteries —Case Report—

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Abstract

A 68-year-old man presented with occlusion of the internal carotid artery (ICA) manifesting as a 6-month history of progressive sensory and motor disturbance of the left lower limb. Angiography clearly demonstrated a collateral arterial network between the ICA and external carotid artery (ECA) through the vidian artery, a small branch of both the ICA and ECA. The vidian artery may form an unusual but important ECA-ICA collateral pathway in patients with occlusive lesion of the ICA.