

A rare anatomic variation of the chorda tympani

Korda timpaninin nadir bir anatomik varyasyonu

M. Tayyar Kalcioğlu, M.D.,¹ Evren Köse, M.D.,² Tuba Bayındır, M.D.,³ Serdar Duman, M.D.⁴

Departments of ¹Otolaryngology, ²Anatomy, Medicine Faculty of İnönü University, Malatya, Turkey

The chorda tympani is an important anatomical structure in the tympanic cavity. It may have some anatomic variations. Its anatomic variations are of interest in certain otologic surgical procedures. There are limited reports in the literature about the variations of the chorda tympani. A 49-year-old female patient was referred to our clinic because of conductive hearing loss and tympanic membran perforation in the right ear. During the tympanoplasty surgery, when the tympanomastoid flap was elevated, the chorda tympani was seen between flap and bone as a non-described anatomic variation. This article presents a non-described anatomic variation of the chorda tympani.

Key Words: Anatomy; chorda tympani; variation.

Korda timpani, timpanik kavitenin önemli anatomik yapılarından biridir. Bazı anatomik varyasyonları olabilir. Bu anatomik varyasyonlar belirli otolojik cerrahi işlemlerde önem taşımaktadır. Literatürde korda timpaninin anatomik varyasyonlarıyla ilgili sınırlı sayıda yayın bulunmaktadır. Kırk dokuz yaşında kadın hasta sağ kulakta iletim tipi işitme kaybı ve kulak zarı perforasyonu nedeniyle kliniğimize sevk edildi. Timpanoplasti ameliyatı sırasında timpanomastoid flep eleve edildiği sırada, daha önce tanımlanmamış bir anatomik varyasyon olarak korda timpaninin flep ile kemik arasında seyrettiği görüldü. Bu yazıda korda timpaninin tanımlanmamış bir anatomik varyasyonu sunuldu.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Anatomi; korda timpani; varyasyon.

The chorda tympani originates from the facial nerve 5 mm above the stylomastoid foramen and runs anterosuperiorly through a bony canal to enter the tympanic cavity via the posterior canaliculus. It crosses medially toward the upper part of the handle of the malleus to the anterior wall, where it enters the anterior canaliculus. It exits the skull at the petrotympanic fissure and joins the lingual nerve. It carries taste fibers for the anterior two-thirds of the tongue and efferent preganglionic parasympathetic fibers, which supply the submandibular and sublingual salivary glands.^[1,2] We report an abnormal course of the chorda tympani nerve.

CASE REPORT

A 49-year-old female consulted at the otorhinolaryngology department of the İnönü University Medical Faculty because of hearing loss of several years. On examination, there was a large perforation of the right tympanic membrane with 30 dB hearing loss. Chronic otitis media surgery was performed. When the tympanomastoid flap was elevated from the posterior wall of the external ear canal, the chorda tympani was seen between flap and bone (Figure 1). It emerged from the inferior part of the mastoid bone approximately 6 mm lateral to the annulus of the tympanic membrane without a bony canaliculus and lay anteroinferior