

Anatomical Variation of Corona Mortis

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Corona mortis is the name of arterial or venous anastomosis between the external iliac (more commonly the inferior epigastric) and the obturator vessels. This structure, located on the posterior surface of the superior pubic ramus, is at risk during surgical approaches to the pelvis and acetabulum. The corona mortis ominous name, meaning "crown of death", reflects its significance in pelvic trauma, particularly pubic symphysis and superior pubic ramus fractures. The case reported was described after a routine dissection during anatomy class with students from the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Pathology at the Medical Faculty of the University of Sofia. The cadaver was a 82-year old woman and was fixed with the formaldehyde method. We encountered a variant obturator artery that originated from the external iliac artery. Each vascular variant in this area is important for description in order to confirm the classification of variations in order to prevent future errors in surgery.

Key words: corona mortis, pelvic fractures, inguinal hernioplasty, venous anastomosis