Caterpillar hump of right hepatic artery during laparoscopic cholecystectomy

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Keywords: Caterpillar hump, right hepatic artery, Laparoscopic cholecystectomy, Calots triangle

Introduction
The common hepatic artery arises from the coeliac trunk and divides into gastroduodenal artery and proper hepatic artery. Proper hepatic artery divides into right and left hepatic arteries. The RHA gives cystic artery on the way to the right lobe of the liver[1].

Anatomical variations in and around the hepato-cystic triangle are common (20-50%)[2]. The variations in RHA origin and course and branching pattern are well documented[1]. But tortuous RHA running upward and downward course producing a hump is a less common but dangerous anomaly[3]. This sinuosity of the RHA is called caterpillar hump or Moynihan's hump.

An overall incidence of surgical patients with caterpillar hump of RHA is 7%[2]. In 40% of caterpillar hump RHAs pass anterior to the cystic duct and 60% pass posterior to the cystic duct[2]. Of all of the caterpillar hump RHAs 55% are single loops and 45% are found to be having double loop configurations[2].

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Received: 19-02-2023  Accepted: 15-07-2024
DOI: http://doi.org/10.4038/sljs.v42i2.9038

Figure 1. Intra-operative view of the Calot's triangle showing caterpillar right hepatic artery passing anterior to the cystic duct

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The surgeon should have a clear understanding of variations of the vasculature of the hepatocystic triangle. It is essential to prevent fatal complications such as intraoperative bleeding and ischaemic necrosis of the liver.

Reference