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Prevalence of the pneumatized articular eminence in the temporal bone

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Yayın tarihi 2009/4/1

Dergi Journal of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery

Cilt 37

Sayı 3

Sayfalar 137-139

Yayıncı Churchill Livingstone

Açıklama

OBJECTIVES

The pneumatized articular eminence (PAT) of the temporal bone has been identified as an asymptomatic radiolucent appearance defect in the temporal bone. Although it occurs very rarely, when present, it may represent the potential for complications following surgical manipulation of the temporomandibular joint.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The record of 8107 patients who presented to our Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery services, between January 1998 and February 2008 was reviewed. Observations were made on the side and radiographic appearance of the PAT; and sex and age of patients.

RESULTS

Eighty-three of 8107 (1.03%) individuals had PAT with 41 females and 42 males. PATs were located on the right side in 60 individuals and in the left side in 50 individuals. PATs were unilateral in 56 cases and bilateral in 27 (totally 110 PAT). Forty-four of the PATs were unilocular type, and 66 of ...

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