

a higher occurrence of aborted fetuses between 4.5 and 6 months of gestation, with macroscopically evident malformations observed in 56% of the cases. In conclusion, this study highlights the educational and research value of these anatomical specimens, while also providing significant insights into fetal development and the causes of spontaneous abortions.

P20 - THE MALLEOLAR LIGAMENT: A NEW TEMPOROMANDIBULAR LANDMARK?

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The discomalleolar ligament has not yet been mentioned in the traditional human anatomy textbooks. However, it is recognized as a significant landmark in articles on arthroscopy of the temporomandibular joint. During endoscopy, the identification of the ligament is possible in 1/5 cases. On the other side, in dissections it is observed constantly. The first anatomical description of the ligament was made by Pinto in 1962 and completed by Komori et al. in 1988.

Six left and seven right temporal bones from 7 human specimens were evaluated using a traditional anatomical preparation under an operating microscope. The specimens were through the medial cranial fossa starting. The topography and attachments of the discomalleolar ligament were analyzed.

A flat, thin, occasionally translucent and quite brittle ligament, with a triangle shape, connects the malleus to the upper posterior region of the temporomandibular joint.

However, the attachment of the ligament to the malleus is variable. It connects to the anterior malleolar ligament from the anteriomedial side, then to the sphenomandibular ligament, which is in fact its continuation. Anterior ligament of malleus runs together with the tympanic artery in the anteromedial part of the petrotympanic fissure. The disc of the temporomandibular joint and its upper lamina serve as the ligament's points of attachment.

In conclusion, the authors propose using the *De Moraes* anatomical term „malleolar ligament”, which is composed, respectively, of the anterior (tympanic) and posterior (articular) parts and is a permanent feature of temporomandibular joint ligaments, because of a shared link to the malleus.

P21 - EXPLORING CELLULAR PLASTICITY OF THE OXYTOCINERGIC SYSTEM IN HYPOTHALAMIC AND EXTRA-HYPOTHALAMIC NUCLEI

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The neuropeptide oxytocin (OXT) has been studied as a regulator of complex behaviors and homeostatic functions. This neuropeptide is synthesized at specific hypothalamic nuclei, such as the paraventricular nucleus (PVN), supra-chiasmatic nucleus (SON), and the retrochiasmatic area (RCH) and other extra-hypothalamic areas like bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST). To study the oxytocinergic system we have analyzed the plastic properties of OXT circuits in the adult brain using tissue clearing techniques (iDISCO⁺) and 3D imaging. Our study has revealed region-specific cell plasticity in several hypothalamic nuclei in response to sexual experience, motherhood, and aging. Our data indicate higher OXT level in females, which seemed significantly increased after parturition in several hypothalamic nuclei, particularly the SON, suggesting changes in the internal program of a distinct population of OXT neurons. Moreover, natural aging also induced plastic changes in the oxytocinergic system by reducing the number of OXT-expressing cells in rostral hypothalamic areas. Our findings reveal the cellular dynamics underlying the specification and plasticity of the oxytocinergic system during development and in response to critical life events during adulthood.

P22 - MOLECULAR AND MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF DOPAMINERGIC NEURONS OF THE SUBSTANTIA NIGRA AND THE ENTERIC NERVOUS SYSTEM IN A RAT MODEL OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE