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Perforation of the inferior alveolar nerve by the maxillary artery: An anatomical study

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Abstract

The infratemporal fossa is a clinically important anatomical area for the delivery of local anaesthetic agents in dentistry and maxillofacial surgery. We studied the infratemporal fossas in white cadavers, and in particular the topographical relations of the inferior alveolar nerve and the maxillary artery. In 3 of the 50 fossas dissected the maxillary artery passed through the inferior alveolar nerve, splitting it into superficial and deep divisions. Entrapment of the maxillary artery may cause numbness or headache and may interfere with injection of local anaesthetics into the infratemporal fossa.



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