



ISSN NO. 2320-5407

Journal homepage: <http://www.journalijar.com>
Journal DOI: [10.21474/IJAR01](https://doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01)

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF ADVANCED RESEARCH**

RESEARCH ARTICLE

MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATION OF FORAMEN MAGNUM.

***R.YASODAI¹, DR. SHIVAKUMAR A.H.², DR.S.RAJASHANKAR³ and M.VEERAMUTHU⁴.**

1. Lecturer, Dept.of human anatomy, JKK Nataraja Dental College, Komarapalayam, Nammakal district, Tamilnadu, India.
2. Professor and hod, Davanagere, Karnataka.
3. Professor, Dept of human anatomy, Velammal Medical College.
4. Tutor, Dhanalakshmisrinivasan Medical College, siruvachur, perambalur.

Manuscript Info

Manuscript History:

Received: 15 April 2016
Final Accepted: 29 May 2016
Published Online: June 2016

Key words:

FM-foramen magnum, AP-
anteroposterior, TP-transverse
process.

*Corresponding Author

R. YASODAI.

Abstract

Aim:- To study the foramen magnum size, shapes variations in the dry skulls.

Materials and method:- The morphological diameter variation distance taken from

i) Antero posterior/sagittal diameter

ii) Transverse diameter of foramen magnum from completely ossified unknown ages of male, female 250 skulls of south India, Tamilnadu, Nammakal district dental colleges with the help of Vernier caliper

Result and conclusion:- According to our study foramen magnum shows shape variations like rhomboid, hexagonal, pentagonal, oval, irregular and spherical. It is very useful to identify the sex difference and also with the clinical intervention by the measurement of longitudinal transverse diameter of foramen magnum.

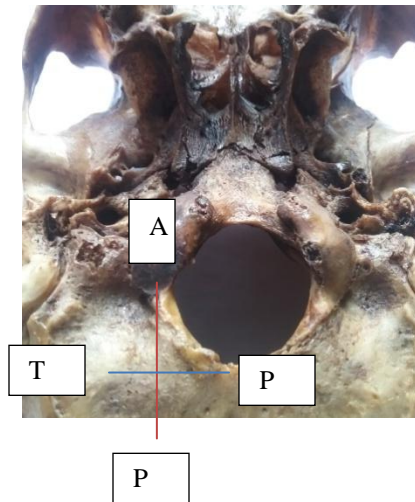
Copy Right, IJAR, 2016,. All rights reserved.

Introduction:-

Foramen magnum provides the communication between the cranium and vertebral column. The knowledge of FM diameter is very important to the surgeons, anthropological and forensic medicine. In this study we find out the variation of foramen magnum of the skull. Many studies focused on the Occipital condyles and foramen magnum. Morphometric analysis highlighting their clinical, orthopedic, neurosurgical and forensic importance. Pathological FM dimensions, as in achondroplasia and brain herniation cases can result in compression of the vital structures passing through it and can influence the flow of blood and CSF. In the present study, the FM were classified according to their shape; their anatomic matrix values were evaluated. The morphological abnormalities in the region were reported and possible correlations between the parameters studied, were investigated, as an orientation point in cases requiring craniocervical surgery.

Materials and method:-

The morphological diameter variation distance taken as follows(diagram)



- i) Antero posterior/sagittal diameter(the distance from basion to opisthion)
- ii) Transverse diameter of foramen magnum (the distance between the lateral margins of the FM at the point of greatest lateral curvature)
- iii) shape of foramen magnum

From completely ossified unknown ages of male, female 150 skulls of South India,Tamilnadu,Nammakal district Dental colleges with the help of vernier caliper. The different shapes of foramen magnum like round, oval, egg, irregular, pentagonal,hexagonal were measured.The area of the foramen magnum was calculated by using the formulae $\frac{1}{4} \times 3.14 \times \text{FML} \times \text{FMW}$. Foramen magnum index was calculated by $\text{width} \times 100 / \text{foramen magnum}$.

Results:-



Round



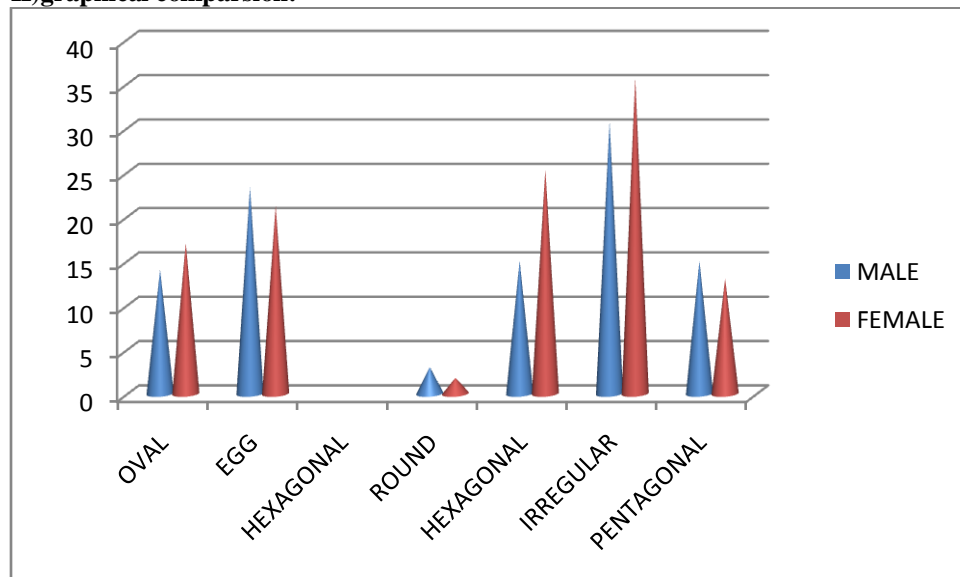
Pentagonal



Egg

Comparison of male and female fm skull

SHAPES	MALE	FEMALE
OVAL	14	17
EGG	23.3	21.2
ROUND	3	1.8
HEXAGONAL	15	25.3
IRREGULAR	30.7	35.7
PENTAGONAL	15	13

II)graphical comparson:**II)Mean value of foramen magnum AP and TP diameter of both sex**

Gender	Ap diameter	Tpdiamete	P value
Male	30.3	22.2	>0.006
Female	25.6	20.8	>0.001

III) Index of foramen magnum area with other articles

Authors	FM area(mm2)	FM index
Present study	913.07	85.66
Gunay et all	909.91	-
Burden et al	874.4	89.34

Discussion and conculsion:-

In our study the result of FM of the skulls shows, antero posterior and transverse diameter maximum and minimum values were noted respectively. Normally, the foramen magnum is oval shape, but in our study shows different shapes, variation of foramen magnum. In the present study reported that, the male skulls show more variation with the help of mean values as well as antero posterior diameter and transverse diameter of the female skulls of FM.

Result shows that, the FM was identified in the male skulls shown irregular and egg shape compared to the female skulls comparison with AP and TP and also with p value >0.006 in males. It is very important and useful for the clinical intervention because, the vital structures passing through it. According to

i) SINDEL et al observed that the foramen magnum shape is oval at 18.9%

ii) MURSHED ET AL found OVAL FM at 8.1%, PENTAGONAL FM 14.6%, HEXAGONAL FM at 14.6%.

iii) According to ZAIDAI AND DAYAL REPORTED that HEXAGONAL FM at 24.5%, pentagonal FM at 7.5%, irregular FM at 18%, hexagonal FM at 8%.

Reference:-

1. Murshed KA, Cicekcibasi AE, Tuncer I. Morphometric evaluation of the foramen magnum and variations in its shape: A study on computerised tomographic images of normal adults. *Turk J Med Sci.* 2003;33:301-306.
2. Radiansky L. Relative brain size a new measure. *Science.* 1967;155:836-838.
3. Zaidi S H, Dayal S S. Variations in the shape of the foramen magnum in Indian skulls. *AnatAnz Jena.* 1988;167:338-340.[22].
4. Barut N, Kale A, TuranSuslu H, Ozturk A, Bozbuga M, Sahinoglu K: Evaluation of the bony landmarks in trans condylar approach. *Br J Neurosurg.* 2009;23:276-281.
5. K. Edward, M.D. Viner, W. Schweitzer, M.J. Thali. Sex determination from the foramen magnum. *Journal of forensic radiology and imaging.* 2013;1(4):186- 192. Radhakrishna SK, Shivarama CH, Ramakrishna A, Bhagya B (2012)
6. Morphometric analysis of foramen magnum for sex determination in South Indian population. *NUJHS* 2:20–22
7. Avci E, Dagtekin A, Ozturk AH, Kara E, Ozturk NC, Uluc K, Acture E, Baskaya MK (2011) Anatomical variations of the foramen magnum, occipital condyle and jugular tubercle. *Turk Neurosurg* 21:181–190 3. Babu RP, Sekhar LN, Wright DC (1994)
8. Extreme lateral trans- condylar approach: technical improvements and lessons learned. *J Neurosurg* 81:49–59 4. Barut N, Kale A, Suslu HT, Ozturk A, Bozbuga M, Sahinoglu K (2009)
9. Evaluation of the bony landmarks in transcondylar approach. *Br J Neurosurg* 23:276–281 5. Berge JK, Bergman RA (2001)
10. Variations in size and in symmetry of foramina of the human skull. *ClinAnat* 14:406–413
11. Boulton MR, Cusimano MD (2003) Foramen magnum meningiomas: concepts, classifications and nuances. *Neurosurg Focus* 14:10.