INCIDENCE OF CILIO-RETINAL ARTERY IN INDIANS*

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THE incidence of a cilio-retinal artery has been described by various authors in different parts of the world, but never among Indians (Asians). For this purpose all patients in whom fundoscopy was possible, irrespective of age and sex, who attended the ophthalmic out-patient department of the College of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, were examined for the presence of a cilio-retinal artery. The total number was 1,448 patients.

Observations

The incidence in terms of sex and site is given in the Table.

TABLE
OBSERVATIONS ON 1,448 CASES

Sex	No. of Cases	Cilio-retinal Artery				
		Bilateral	Unilateral		Total	
			Right	Left	No.	Per cent.
Male	998	11	27	27	65	6.4
Female	450	6	17	12	35	7.7
Total	1,448	17 (1.1 per cent.)	44 (3 per cent.)	39 (2.8 per cent.)	100	6.9

In 95 out of the hundred cases in which a cilio-retinal artery was present it supplied the macula; in three cases it supplied the superior temporal quadrant, and in two the lower temporal quadrant.

In every case the artery arose from the temporal margin of the disc. In 69 cases it arose from the centre of the margin (3 o'clock meridian in left eye and 9 o'clock meridian in right eye), in twenty cases from the superior temporal margin, and in eleven cases from the inferior temporal margin.

Only three of the hundred cases (two males and one female) showed an anastomosis between the cilio-retinal artery and branches of the central retinal artery.

The refractive condition of the hundred cases was as follows: emmetropia, 60; myopia, 19; hypermetropia, 14; astigmatism, 7.

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Discussion

Various authors have given various percentages of incidence of a cilio-retinal artery: Randall (1887) 20 per cent.; Lang and Barrett (1888) 16·7 per cent.; Bonamour and Gaillot (1956) 15 to 20 per cent.; Mann (1957) 25 per cent.; Blunt (1956) none in 72 eyes.

In the present series the percentage is 6·9, so that there is little significant difference from the findings of other observers.

Summary

A statistical analysis is made of the occurrence of a cilio-retinal artery in Indian ophthalmic out-patients.

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