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Veterinarni Medicina

Analysis of morphological variation of the internal ophthalmic artery in the chinchilla (*Chinchilla laniger*, Molina)

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The aim of this investigation was the analysis of the variability within the internal and external ophthalmic artery in the chinchilla (*Chinchilla laniger*, Molina). The head vasculature of 65 individuals was analysed, with particular emphasis on the internal ophthalmic artery originating from the central and rostral part of the cerebral arterial circle. Head blood vessels were filled with acrylic latex for vascular corrosion casting. The results showed ten variants of blood supply for the orbit, with a predominance of the first variant (66.1%) = bilateral presence of the external ophthalmic artery originating from the maxillary artery. Other variants

differed in symmetry and asymmetry, sites of origination and the coexistence of both internal and external arteries. Vascularisation of the brain in chinchillas originates mainly from the vertebra-basilar system. The observed variability seems to confirm the role of the basilar artery in the arterial blood supply of the brain in this species.

Keywords:

variability; head arterial system; rodents

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