

Kissing superior parathyroid glands -A case report

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Parathyroid glands are responsible for maintaining calcium level and usually each thyroid gland has a pair of superior and inferior parathyroid glands. Sometimes it is difficult for surgeons to identify the parathyroid glands due to their smaller size and variation in the anatomical location and this will leads to accidental removal of gland during thyroidectomy. This case is an incidental finding of two superior parathyroid glands (SPG) which were located at first tracheal ring in left lobe of thyroid gland during the anatomy dissection for a research purpose at the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Identified superior parathyroid glands were similar to each other and found together as twin pair, separated from each other only by a distance less than 1mm. Each gland was circular in shape, covered by a thin capsule, tan yellow in colour, 2 mm in size and they were confirmed histological method as parathyroid tissues. SPG develop from fourth pharyngeal pouch, get detach from its origin and migrate to its final position. They assume a relatively constant final location near cricoid cartilage. In this present case, SPG found to have undergone division into two separate SPG at its early embryological period. Up to now a very few cases of kissing superior parathyroid glands are reported in the literature and this will provides an additional anatomical information of kissing parathyroid glands.

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