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Clinical Ramifications of Dual Inferior Vena Cava: Understanding Anatomical Variations and Implications

Shinji Onda*

Department of Surgery, Colchester General Hospital, Colchester, UK

Corresponding author: Shinji Onda, Department of Surgery, Colchester General Hospital, Colchester, UK, E-mail: Onda_s@cgh.jp

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Description

The presence of dual Inferior Vena Cava (IVC), a relatively uncommon anatomical variant, poses unique considerations and implications in clinical practice. This article aims to delve into the clinical ramifications of having dual IVC, exploring its anatomical variations, diagnostic challenges, surgical implications, and relevance in medical interventions. The anatomy of a dual Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) involves an uncommon variation in the venous system, characterized by the presence of two separate inferior vena cava pathways within the abdominal region. This anatomical anomaly arises due to developmental variations during embryogenesis, resulting in an atypical arrangement of the venous drainage system.

Embryological Development

During fetal development, the inferior vena cava originates from the fusion of three pairs of the subcardinal, supracardinal, and posterior cardinal veins. Anomalies or deviations during this developmental process can lead to variations in the formation and persistence of the venous system, resulting in the presence of dual IVC. Dual IVC typically involves the existence of two separate venous pathways descending along the posterior abdominal wall. The two IVCs may vary in size, symmetry, and location, with one on the right side and the other on the left or both located on the same side of the spine.

Each inferior vena cava functions as a major vein responsible for returning deoxygenated blood from the lower body and pelvic region to the heart. Variations might occur in the tributaries and drainage patterns of these duplicated IVCs, impacting the blood flow and drainage from the lower limbs, pelvis, and abdominal organs. Identifying dual IVC often requires advanced imaging techniques such as Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), or venography. Accurate interpretation of imaging studies is crucial in diagnosing this anatomical variation and understanding its specific configuration. While the presence of dual IVC might not typically cause clinical symptoms, it can complicate diagnostic interpretations and surgical planning in some cases. Knowledge of this anatomical variant becomes essential in certain medical scenarios, such as surgeries involving the retroperitoneal space, renal procedures, or vascular interventions. Awareness of dual IVC is important for healthcare professionals to avoid misinterpretations in diagnostic imaging and to anticipate and navigate potential variations in vascular anatomy during surgical or interventional procedures.

Fetal Development

Understanding the anatomy of dual inferior vena cava is essential for healthcare professionals involved in diagnosing, managing, or performing procedures in patients presenting with this unique anatomical variation. Accurate identification and comprehension of this anomaly are crucial in ensuring appropriate patient care and minimizing potential complications during medical interventions. Dual IVC refers to the existence of two separate inferior vena cava pathways, each descending along the posterior abdominal wall. This anatomical variation occurs due to developmental anomalies during embryogenesis, resulting in the persistence of bilateral venous systems or the presence of an additional vena cava. Identifying dual IVC presents challenges in diagnostic imaging. Radiological modalities, such as Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), or ultrasound, play a critical role in detecting and characterizing this anatomical variation. Accurate imaging interpretation is essential for preoperative planning and interventional procedures. In surgical settings, awareness of dual IVC becomes crucial, particularly in procedures involving the retroperitoneal space, renal surgeries, or interventions requiring vascular access. Understanding the specific anatomical variation helps surgeons anticipate and navigate complex vascular patterns, minimizing potential intraoperative complications. Dual IVC poses implications in interventional radiology procedures, such as venous access, embolization, or catheter-directed therapies. Knowledge of variant venous anatomy guides the selection of appropriate vascular access routes and reduces procedural risks associated with inadvertent vascular injury. While dual IVC itself might not cause clinical symptoms, its presence can impact the diagnostic interpretation of abdominal imaging studies, potentially mimicking other pathological conditions or affecting treatment strategies in certain scenarios. Clinicians need to recognize this anatomical variant to avoid misinterpretations. Understanding the clinical ramifications of dual IVC is pivotal for accurate diagnosis, surgical planning, and interventional procedures. Further research and advancements in imaging technologies can enhance our ability to detect and

characterize anatomical variations, improving patient outcomes in clinical practice. Dual inferior vena cava presents unique challenges and considerations in clinical practice. Knowledge of this anatomical variation is indispensable for healthcare professionals involved in diagnosis, surgical interventions, and interventional procedures. Heightened awareness and continued research contribute to better comprehension and management of this intriguing anatomical anomaly. This article aims to provide insights into the clinical implications of dual inferior vena cava. Healthcare professionals encountering this anatomical variant should consider its potential impact on patient management and clinical decision-making, emphasizing the need for precise anatomical understanding and interdisciplinary collaboration in medical care.