



MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE CORONOID PROCESS OF THE MANDIBLE BONE

Vivekanand

Assistant Prof. Department of Anatomy PMCH Patna.

Kumari Rashmi*

Junior Resident, Department of Surgery PMCH Patna. *Corresponding Author

Birendra Kumar Sinha

Associate Prof. & HOD, Department of Anatomy PMCH Patna.

ABSTRACT

Background: The coronoid process is the anterior bony projected part of ramus of mandible giving attachment to important muscles of mastication. Two main muscles of mastication attached are temporalis and masseter. It varies in both shape and size. Its anterior border is convex and continuous with the anterior border ramus of the mandible. The variations in the shapes of coronoid process are of mostly three types they are triangular, hook, and rounded. Different morphological variations of the coronoid process.

Materials and Methods: The total of 84 human mandibles of unknown sex and age was taken from the department of anatomy and forensic medicine at patna medical college and hospital patna bihar, for morphometrical study and evaluated. Shapes of the coronoid process on both sides of the mandible (168 sides) were analyzed. The various shapes of the coronoid process were observed and recorded.

Results: We observed that The triangular shaped coronoid process was most prevalent in 104(61.90%) sides, the hook shaped was reported in 40(23.80%) sides & the round shaped was found only in 24 (14.30%) sides. So, triangular shaped coronoid process was most prominent in our study followed by hook and round shaped was least. The bilateral occurrences of all the three types were more common. All values were compared with series of other workers to draw the conclusions.

Conclusion: The knowledge of the morphological shapes of the coronoid process is useful for the oral and maxillofacial surgeons. It makes an excellent donor graft site for reconstructive surgeries of the face like orbital floor repair, alveolar defects repair maxillary augmentation and repair of non-union fracture of mandible. In this regard, the present study was undertaken to depict various morphological disparities of the coronoid process in our ethnic group so as to aid in personal identification. It also helps in determining buccal vestibule during denture fabrication.

KEYWORDS : mandible, coronoid process, triangular, hook, round.

INTRODUCTION

The mandible or submaxilla is a 'u' shaped bone forming the lower jaw articulate with the temporal bone on either side, Mandible is the strongest and largest bone of skull, having various morphological features which can be useful in identifying race, sex and age. Morphological variations are produced by the corresponding developmental variations through hereditary determinants and functional changes, this takes place during the growth process. The muscle and bone may dynamically affect the function of each other and lead to the changes in the morphology of the bone involved.¹ It has a curved body which is convex forward and two rami that ascend posteriorly. The rami bear the coronoid and condyloid process.

The coronoid process projects upwards and slightly forward as a triangular plate of bone. Its posterior border bounds the mandibular incisor and its anterior border continues into that of ramus.² there may be Presence of double or second coronoid process. The temporalis muscle is attached to the apex of the coronoid process, the whole of the medial surface and anterior part of lateral surface of the coronoid process. The lateral surface provides attachment to anterior fibers of masseter. These two are the important muscles which show morpho-functional dependence. The word coronoid process is derived from Greek word "korone" means "like a crown". In humans, there is another "coronoid fossa" in humerus and a "coronoid process" present in ulna. coronoid process is a cartilaginous type of bone which can be removed intra orally without any functional deficiency and facial disfigurement for reconstruction of orbital floor deformities, alveolar defects, paranasal sinus augmentation, non union fracture of mandible, various morphological features of mandible show changes in reference to age and sex.

Literature shows the variations in the shapes of coronoid process is classified into three types as hooked, triangular and rounded⁴. Triangle-shaped process has a tip pointing

upwards, hook-shaped process has the tip points backward where as the tip is rounded in rounded coronoid process., The cause for the variation in the shape of coronoid process may be due to the hereditary or functional changes and has correlation with the way of attachment of temporalis muscle and chewing habits.⁵ It also acts as an anthropological marker for detection of races.⁶ Elongation of the coronoid process either unilaterally or bilaterally can cause impingement resulting in the restriction of mouth opening and mandibular hypomobility.⁷

Coronoid process of mandible can be used as a local bone graft as it can be harvested easily, with minimal morbidity and no cutaneous scarring.⁸ A Coronoid process graft can be used for maxillary augmentation, repair of alveolar defects, repair of non-union fracture of mandible and orbital floor repair.⁹ Though fracture of mandible is common, but fracture of the coronoid is very uncommon (2%) and requires no treatment unless impingement is present on the zygomatic arch. After removing the coronoid process no functional limitations are apparent. The anatomical variations in coronoid process can result in narrowing the vestibular space due to the close proximity of the medial aspect of the coronoid process to the distal molar. and it is suitable for paranasal augmentation.¹⁰ The size and shape of coronoid process is influenced by genetic constitution, dietary habit, hormonal activity and by temporalis muscle activity. Coronoid process enlargement can be seen in some pathological conditions like osteochondroma, exostosis, osteoma and other developmental anomalies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted on 84 mandibles of unknown age and sex, so total 168 both sides were observed. The bones were obtained from the museum of Department of Anatomy patna medical college and hospital patna, and other medical college bihar. The bones are cleaned, dried and numbered. The deformed bones are discarded. The various morphological

forms of coronoid process were observed, documented and classified as follows.

- Triangular: apex is pointed
- Rounded: apex is rounded,
- Hook shaped: apex was pointing backwards

Shapes of the coronoid process on both sides of the mandibles were observed carefully & compared for difference on either side. Digital photographs were taken using a digital mobile camera.



Fig.1 measurement of triangular coronoid process.



Fig.2 measurement of round coronoid process.

RESULTS

In study it was found that the Triangular shape of coronoid process was present in 52 mandibles(104 sides) out of which, in 76.92%(80 sides) cases it was bilateral while in 23.08 %(24sides) cases it was unilateral, in which 14 belongs to right side & 10 belongs to left.Hence, we conclude that bilaterally the common shape is triangular. The hook shaped coronoid process was found in 40 mandibles (80 sides) out of which, in 60%(48 sides) cases it was bilateral and 40%(32 cases) it was unilateral in which 24 belongs to right side & 8 belongs to left. The round shaped coronoid process was reported in 12 mandibles (24 sides) out of which,in 25%(6 sides) cases it was bilateral and 75%(18 cases) it was unilateral in which 8 belongs to right side & 10 belongs to left.[Table 1]. So, triangular shaped coronoid process was most commonly reported in our study followed by hooked shaped and round shaped was least. The bilateral occurrences of all the three types were more common.

On analyzing above data using Microsoft excel software "P" value is .0131 and hence, results are significant. The test is used between unilateral and bilateral shapes of the bone. It was found that higher percentage (76%) of bilateral is triangular in shape and about 60% in Hooked shaped. And 25 % in round shaped. In rounded shape, percentage of unilateral is higher than bilateral. Hence the results are significance.

Table-1: Frequency of various shape of coronoid process in total side with percentage.

shape	total	Perc enta ge%	bilateral		unilateral			
			Sides	perce ntage	Right	Left	Total	perce ntage
Triangular	52	61.90	40	76.92	7	5	12	23.10
Hooked	20	23.80	12	60	6	2	8	40
Round	12	14.30	3	25	4	5	9	75
Total	84	100	55	65.47	17	9	29	34.53

DISCUSSION

The word , coronoid means 'crow', which has been described as one of the bony projection of the ramus of the mandible.The knowledge of the morphological shapes of the coronoid process is useful for the oral and maxillofacial surgeons. It makes an excellent donor graft site for reconstructive surgeries of the face like orbital floor repair, alveolar defects repair maxillary augmentation and repair of non-union fracture of mandible, the size of coronoid process was found to be approximately 1.5mm longer on the right side than on the left side, 0.01 mm longer in males than females and 0.01 mm longer edentulous than in edentulous.

Many authors have been done studies globally on different races and groups of population about the coronoid process and their findings are compared by our results and observations After comparing and evaluating findings of the present study with that obtained by the various authors, we found several similarities and dissimilarities.(Table.2)

We observed that most common shape of coronoid process is triangular while round shape is least common, which is very much similar to findings of Issac B et al¹⁴, Khan TA et al¹⁵ Prajapati VP et al¹⁶, Nirmale et al^{18,9} Sanmugam K.²¹ Kadam SD et al²², A Quadri²³ Dhanaji S Jadhav,²⁴Sufia Parveen²⁵,&.We recorded that triangular shaped coronoid process seen in 61.90% cases which is very much near to findings of Dhanaji S Jadhav²⁴,which is seen in 60.76% cases. Hooked shaped coronoid process was the second commonest type found in 23.80% cases which is similar to the study done by Dhanaji S Jadhav,et al²⁴ and Desai VC et al¹⁹,they reported in 23.84% and 24% respectively. While Kasat P.A. Hossain SMA¹⁷ & Mouna S et al²⁰ observed that hook shaped coronoid process was most commonly found. They reported triangular shaped coronoid process as 2nd most common type.

Round shaped coronoid process was found in 14.30 % cases which is least common,and the finding is very much nearer to the findings of Kadam SD et al²² and Mouna S et al²⁰,they reported round shaped coronoid process in 14.05% cases and 12% respectively.

Temporalis myofascial flap can be used both as a single and as composite flap with the cranial bone,as the arteries supplying the coronoid process commonly arise from vessels which supply the muscles attached to the coronoid processes. It is not generally derived from the inferior alveolar artery which mainly supplies the mandibular body and teeth.

CONCLUSION :

Th different morphological shapes of the coronoid process of mandible is useful for preoperative planning during reconstructive surgeries, by the dental surgeons in oral& maxillofacial surgeries. The coronoid process can be easily harvested as a donor bone and also suitable for paranasal augmentation. This Study may be used by anthropologists to assess different populations & races and by forensic experts for determination of gender.It is suitable for graft because of its availability, biocompatibility & reduced operation time for harvesting. It is also helpful in determining the buccal vestibule during denture fabrication In the present study, out of 82 mandibles triangular shaped coronoid process was found to be most common followed by hook shaped then by rounded shaped.

Table 2.Comparison of Incidences of different shapes of coronoid process in various studies

Author (year of study)	Types of Coronoid Process		
	Triangular Shaped	Hook shaped	Round shaped
Issac B et al [14] (2001)	49%	27.4%%	23.6%
Khan TA et al [15] (2011)	67%	30%	3%

Prajapati VP et al [16] (2011)	54.17%	21.25%	24.58%
Hossain SMA [17] (2011)	29%	45%	25.35%
Nirmale et al [18] (2012)	65%	28%	7%
Desai VC et al [19] (2014)	68%	24%	8%
Mouna S et al [20] (2015)	14%	61.25%	12%
Sanmugam K. [21] (2015)	49%	27%	24%
Kadam SD et al [22] (2015)	64.97%	21.02%	14.01%
A Quadri (2016)[23]	67%	30%	3%
Dhanaji S Jadhav,(2017)[24]	60.76	23.84	15.38
Sufia Parveen[25](2018)	66.10%	21.97%	11.93%
Present study 2020	61.90%	23.80%	14.30%

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