

AN UNUSUAL VARIATION OF THE PHARYNGEAL MUSCLES

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THE anomalies of the pharyngeal muscles are usually found in the longitudinal muscles. They may appear as muscular strand arising from the base of the occipital bone or the petrous portion of the temporal bone. The variations in the constrictors are, however, less frequently encountered. The following case is a pair of anomalous muscles found on the posterior aspect of the pharynx, forming a portion of the constrictors with their origin from the medial surface of the angle of the mandible. As their presence has not been reported in the literature, a brief account is, herewith, given.

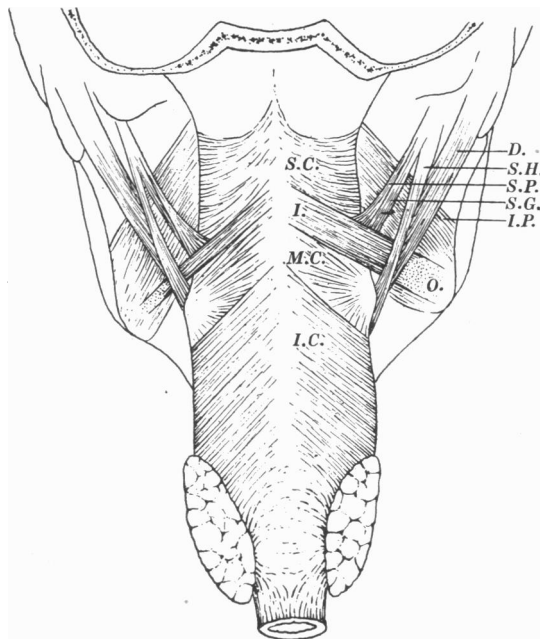


Fig. 1. Sketch of the anomalous muscles. *O.*, *I.*, origin and insertion of the right muscle; *S.C.*, *M.C.*, *I.C.*, sup., mid. and inf. constrictors; *D.*, digastric m.; *S.H.*, stylo-hyoid m.; *S.P.*, stylo-pharyngeus m.; *S.G.*, stylo-glossus m.; *I.P.*, internal pterygoid m.

The specimen was obtained from a male body 30 years of age. The muscle of the right side was much stouter than that of the left side. It took origin from the medial surface of the angle of mandible by a number of tendinous strands some of which passed out between the fasciculi of the internal pterygoid muscle. They fused to form a fascial membrane directed upwards and medially and were covered by the posterior portion of the submaxillary gland. Underneath the digastric and stylo-hyoid muscles this fascial membrane was replaced by the fleshy fibres which formed a strap-shaped

band lying in front of the external carotid artery, immediately above its external maxillary branch, and crossing, at a right angle, the lower portions of the styloglossus and stylo-pharyngeus muscles. On reaching the pharyngeal wall it was blended and parallel with the upper part of the middle constrictor of the pharynx and inserted into the median raphe. Its muscular portion measured 35 mm. in length and 10 mm. in maximum width at the medial border of stylo-hyoid muscle, and its fascial portion measured 15 mm. in length, the width of which could not be well determined.

The left muscle bore the same relationships with its surroundings as the right one although it was much more attenuated.

As the origin of this pair of muscles was lateral to the pharynx, they could not be considered as one of the constrictors, but, on the contrary, rather a lateral dilator and depressor in their action.