

AN ABNORMAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE RIGHT
SUBCLAVIAN ARTERY IN A RABBIT. By W.
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SOME time ago, on making an injection of the arterial system of a large, full-grown, male rabbit, and dissecting out the vessels of the anterior extremity, I found that the subclavian artery on the right side was abnormal in its origin and course. Intending to keep the specimen merely as a permanent preparation of the arterial system, I had allowed it to stand aside for some time before examining it carefully, and unfortunately the parts were in such a condition that the relations of some of the adjoining structures to the subclavian artery could not be made out with certainty. The preparation, however, shows very well the following peculiarities:—

1. There is no innominate artery, the four large vessels all arising independently from the arch of the aorta.

2. The right common carotid artery is given off from the arch of the aorta at the point where the innominate artery usually arises.

3. The left common carotid artery is given off from the arch immediately beyond the right.

4. The left subclavian artery, which is of smaller size than usual, arises from the superior aspect of the arch of the aorta in very much its normal position.

5. The right subclavian artery arises from the back (dorsal aspect) of the arch of the aorta, just where the vessel begins to descend, and passes behind the œsophagus and trachea to assume its proper position as it approaches the first rib. All its branches have their usual origin and course.

6. The left subclavian vein follows the normal course.

In rabbits the origin of the vessels from the arch of the aorta is subject to considerable variation. I believe the most common arrangement is that shown in fig. 2, which I give for comparison with the abnormal arrangement I have just described, shown in fig. 1.

This abnormality of the right subclavian artery passing behind the œsophagus and trachea is relatively by no means uncommon in the human subject (see *Quain's Anatomy*, 9th ed., vol. i. p. 357, where the arrangement is figured and explained and references are given); but so far as I am aware, it has not been reported as occurring in the rabbit. As this case is the only one I have found in a careful examination of about 700 specimens, I think the condition must be somewhat rare.

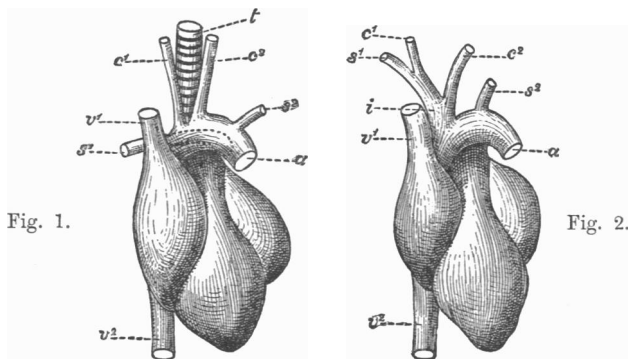


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 1. Abnormal arrangement of the right subclavian artery.

Fig. 2. Normal arrangement of the arteries arising from the arch of the aorta.

c^1 , c^2 , right and left common carotid arteries; s^1 , s^2 , right and left subclavian arteries; a , aorta; i , innominate artery; v^1 , v^2 , superior (right) and inferior venæ cavæ; t , trachea.