

**VARIATIONS AND BONY LANDMARKS OF THE MAXILLARY  
ARTERY: A CADAVERIC STUDY**

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**A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of Master of  
Dental Surgery in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the University of Nairobi**

**2017**

**DECLARATIONS**

This dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for the award of a degree in any other university.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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May God bless you all.

## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate this study to my parents for their support and prayers and for continuously teaching me that: Knowledge is the most precious possession one can ever acquire.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AMA - Accessory Meningeal artery

ECA - External Carotid artery

IAA - Inferior Alveolar artery

IAN - Inferior Alveolar nerve

KNH - Kenyatta National Hospital

LPM - Lateral Pterygoid muscle

MA - Maxillary artery

MMA - Middle Meningeal artery

TMJ - Temporomandibular joint

UoN - University of Nairobi

ATA - Anterior Tympanic Artery

## **ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND:** The maxillary artery (MA) is known to vary in the branching pattern, relation with the lateral pterygoid muscle (LPM) and its distances from conventional bony landmarks. These variations pose surgical challenges in procedures around the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) and infratemporal fossa and, therefore, their knowledge is vital. Data on African populations are scanty. Therefore, this cadaveric study sought to provide information pertaining the MA in a Kenyan population.

**STUDY OBJECTIVE:** To describe the variations and anatomical landmarks of the MA.

**STUDY DESIGN AND POPULATION:** This was a descriptive cross-sectional cadaveric study, carried out in the department of human anatomy at the University of Nairobi. Cadavers of adults available in the University of Nairobi Human Anatomy dissection laboratory with intact structures in the parotid and infratemporal region were included in the study.

**STUDY DURATION:** The study was conducted between November 2015 and May 2016.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:** Ninety three (93) hemi-sections from 48 cadavers were used for the study. The side of the face dissected was noted. Dissection of the infratemporal fossa was done to expose the MA and its branches on both the right and left sides. The distance of the MA from the articular eminence, mandibular neck, mandibular notch and pterygoid fovea were measured in millimetres (mm) using digital Vernier calipers and protractor. The relationship of the MA with the LPM was noted and the branching pattern of the first part of the MA was described.

**DATA MANAGEMENT:** Photo-macrographs were used to demonstrate the variations in branching and relationship of the MA with the LPM. Data were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 17.0 and presented in tables.

Independent paired student's t test was used to test the level of significance for the parametric data.

**RESULTS:** The average perpendicular distances between the MA and the posterior cortex at the centre of the condylar neck of the mandible, inferior most part of the mandibular notch, inferior part of the articular eminence and inferior part of the pterygoid fovea were determined as  $8.58 \pm 2.69$  mm,  $5.76 \pm 2.8$  mm,  $14.20 \pm 3.89$  mm and  $14.28 \pm 6.62$  mm respectively. Out of the 93 hemi-sections dissected 67% of the MA was within the parotid gland while 33% of the MA was medial to the gland. Thirty five of the MA had a medial relationship to the LPM while 58 of the MA had a lateral relationship to the LPM. Four (8.9%) of the cadavers showed asymmetry whereby the MA passed on the medial side of the LPM on one side while on the other side it passed on the lateral aspect of the LPM. Six (6.5%) hemi-sections had the middle meningeal artery (MMA) and the inferior alveolar artery (IAA) originating from a common trunk on the MA. The accessory meningeal artery (AMA) was absent in 3 (3.2%) hemi-sections on the right side and in 2 (2.2%) on the left side. On the right, the MMA branched off from the MA before the IAA in 18 (37.5%) of the hemi-sections whereas in 27 (56.3%) of the hemi-sections it was given out after the IAA. On the left side the MMA was given off before the IAA in 10 (22.8%) of the hemi-sections and branched off after the IAA in 32 (71.1%) of the hemi-sections.

**CONCLUSION:** The variations of the MA in this population displayed patterns comparable to other populations. The distance of the MA to selected bony landmarks between the right and left sides was comparable. Remarkably, in this Kenyan sample population, the MA passed significantly further from the articular eminence compared to other populations. Majority of the MAs were within the parotid gland in this population. There was high prevalence of the MA passing lateral to the LPM which was consistent with studies done

elsewhere. A branching pattern similar to other studies was observed on the first part of the MA.

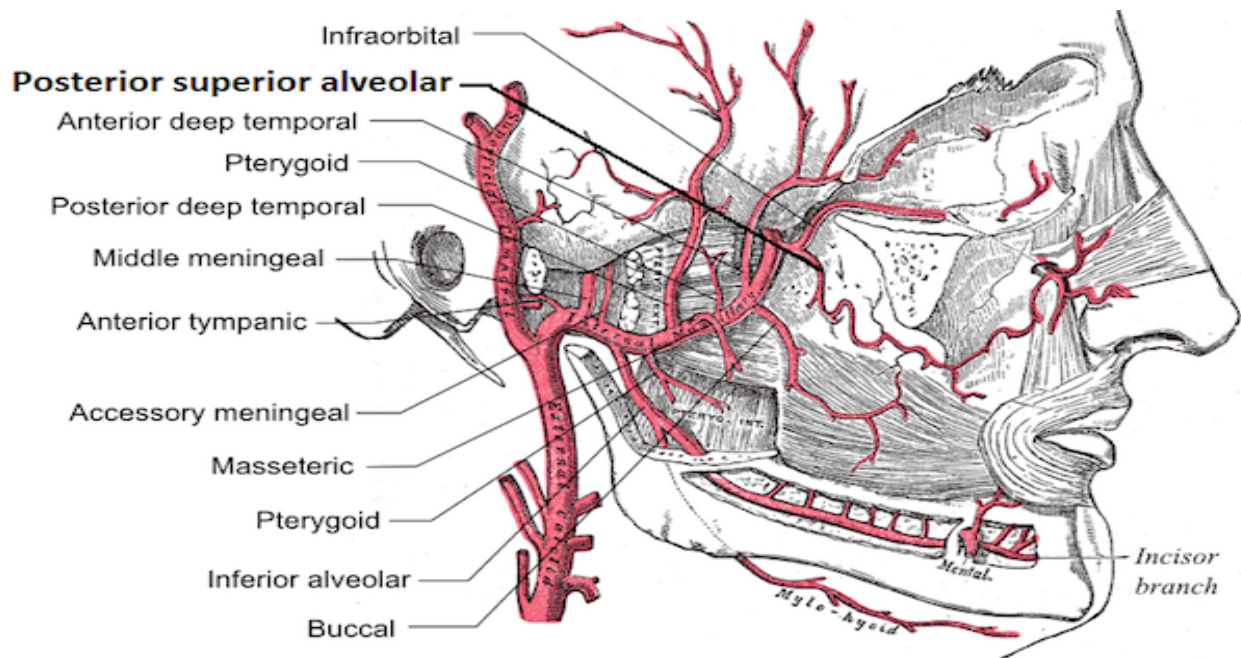
## CHAPTER 1

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND

##### 1.1.1 ANATOMICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MAXILLARY ARTERY

The maxillary artery (MA) is one of the terminal branches of the external carotid artery (ECA). It supplies deep structures of the face and the dura in the anterior and the middle cranial fossae. The artery branches off from the ECA at the neck of the mandible and courses into the infratemporal fossa from where it enters the pterygopalatine fossa through the pterygopalatine fissure (1).



**Figure 1.1: Anatomy of the maxillary artery (MA).** *Standring et al 2005*

It is divided into three parts anatomically. The 1<sup>st</sup> part (the mandibular part) is the region between where the artery branches off to where it reaches the lateral pterygoid muscle (LPM).

This segment gives rise to branches that mainly enter various foramina, namely the deep auricular artery, the anterior tympanic artery (ATA), the middle meningeal artery (MMA), the accessory meningeal artery (AMA) and the inferior alveolar artery (IAA). The MA through its MMA supplies the dura in the anterior cranial fossa while the AMA supplies the dura in the middle cranial fossa. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part (the pterygoid part) is the region where the artery traverses the LPM. This segment gives branches to soft tissues primarily muscles of mastication. They include the deep temporal, pterygoid, masseteric and buccal arteries. The 3<sup>rd</sup> part (the pterygopalatine part) is the segment which lies within the pterygopalatine fossa. This part gives rise to: the posterior superior alveolar, infraorbital, descending palatine, sphenopalatine, pharyngeal and pterygoid canal arteries.

### **1.1.2 REPORTED INJURIES TO THE MAXILLARY ARTERY IN THE CLINICAL PRACTICE**

The MA is a large vessel and is known to have a high blood flow. Accordingly, its iatrogenic injury during surgeries around the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), the mandible, the maxilla and the infratemporal fossa can lead to massive haemorrhage or formation of pseudoaneurysms (2-4). This kind of injury is made possible due to its variability in landmark and branching, and its proximity with the parotid gland, the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), the mandibular neck and ramus. Although there are few studies focusing on the MA injuries, there are several isolated reports regarding the same (5-9). Hemorrhage following such injuries have been reported to be so severe in some cases that require blood transfusion (5, 6), temporal pressure application on the external carotid artery (ECA) through a neck incision and direct ligation of the artery (10-12). Similarly, cases of pseudoaneurysms that sometimes complicate with severe epistaxis have been reported (10-12), and some of these may require embolization (13). Therefore, given the fact that

the MA and its branches are vulnerable to iatrogenic injury, precautions have to be taken in order to minimize or prevent hemorrhage and improve intraoperative safety (14).

### **1.1.3 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY**

Despite the existence of population differences in the variations of the MA, there is paucity of data on such variations in the African population. Knowledge of the reliable landmarks of the MA will help reduce inadvertent injuries to the vessel in procedures around the parotid region and infratemporal fossa. The study aimed at providing information about operative landmarks relations of the MA.



## CHAPTER 2

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 ANATOMICAL VARIATIONS OF THE MAXILLARY ARTERY

Variations of the MA have been reported with regard to its relation to the parotid gland, the LPM and the branching pattern of its first part. These variations display population differences (7, 15, 16).

##### 2.1.1 RELATIONSHIP OF THE MA AND THE LPM

The relationship of the MA to the LPM can either be medial or lateral which vary depending on the gender and the population studied. Hussain *et al.* studied the relationship of the MA and the LPM in a Caucasian population in Canada and found that in the majority (68%) the MAs were lateral to the lower head of the LPM (71% in men and 65% in women). There were no variations in the course of the MA noted between the right and the left side and between genders (17). However, a study by Pretterklieber *et al.* showed asymmetry in the same cadavers (18). Among the Turkish population the MA has been reported to be lateral to the LPM in 57.1% and medial to the LPM in 42.9% of cases (19). These findings are similar to those reported in New Zealand (20). Among the Asian population, the MA travelled on the lateral aspect of the LPM in 82.0% of the cases and on the medial side in 18.0% of the cases which was consistent with a study done by Sashi *et al.* in the Japanese population (15, 21). In another study among the Japanese, in 3.6% of the cases the MA passed medial to the LPM and in 96.4% of the cases it passed lateral to the LPM (22). Verma *et al.* described a case where the MA was seen passing medial to the LPM and crossed through the nerve loop formed between the two roots of the auriculotemporal nerve and the posterior division of the mandibular nerve. Further, the course of the MA was medial to the

posterior division of the mandibular nerve. The MA gave its MMA branch as it traversed through the nerve loop. A tortuous course taken by the MA can lead to its entrapment which is associated with headaches or nerve irritation presenting with neuralgia (23). In a study by Fujimura et al., cases were described where the MA passed laterally and superficially to the LPM in 9 to 55% in whites, 69% in blacks, and in about 90% in the Japanese (7). Racial variation is also reported by Lasker et al. where the MA passed on the medial aspect of the LPM in 46% of white individuals and in 31% of an African-American population (16).

### **2.1.2 BRANCHING PATTERNS OF THE FIRST PART OF THE MA**

The branching patterns are the MA originating from the ECA in a single trunk or forming a loop, the MMA being given off the MA before or after the IAA, the MMA and the AMA being given off from the MA separately or in a common trunk, missing AMA, two IAAs, the IAA originating directly from the ECA and the anterior tympanic artery and the AMA being given off from the MMA. This branching pattern of the first part of the MA has been described in various studies. Uysal *et al.* found out that while the MMA was present in all cases, the AMA was observed only in 57.1 % of the cases. In 35.7% of the cases, the IAA arose from the MA before the MMA while in 35.7 % it arose after the MMA. The IAA and the MMA branched from the same area of the MA in 14.3 % of the cases. In others, the IAA branched from the beginning of the MA in 14.3% of the cases (19).

Looping of the MA in the infratemporal region has been described. Maeda *et al.* reported a case where the MA bifurcated into a superficial trunk and a deep trunk in the proximal part, with the MMA and the AMA originating from the deep trunk while the IAA originated from the

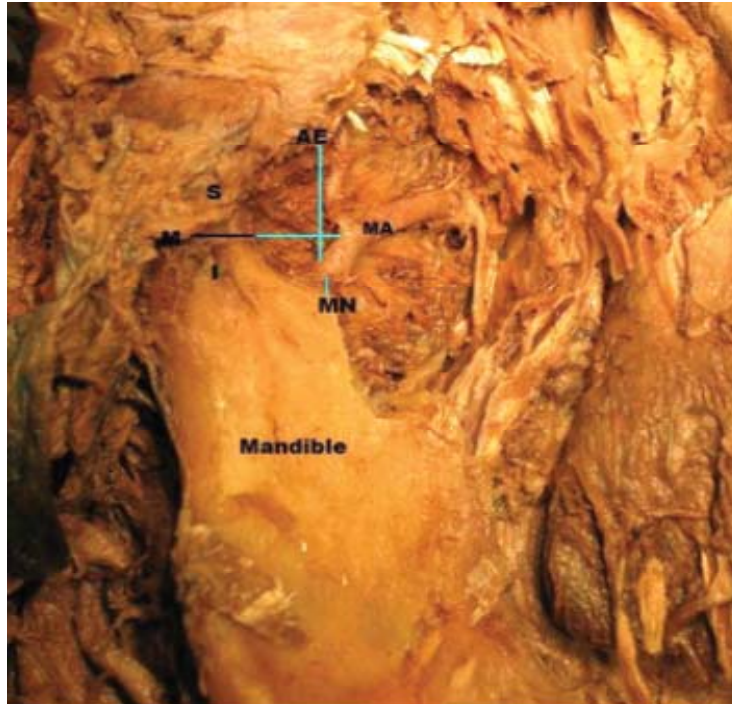
superficial trunk. The trunks reunited to form a complete loop (24). Claire *et al.* described a case where the MA bifurcated into deep and superficial branches at the distal part of the divergence of the anterior tympanic artery which reunited to form a complete loop at the infratemporal region (25). Bhat *et al.* reported a case where the MA passed through the loop of the auriculotemporal nerve (26). Lydia *et al.* reported a case whereby the MMA and the AMA originated from the second part of the MA and the deep temporal arteries arose from the first part in a common trunk with the IAA (27).

Rao *et al.* described different variations in the branching of the MA. They described a case whereby the MMA originated directly from the ECA. They also described a case in whom there were two IAAs 1.5 cm apart arising from the first part of the MA. The first artery went to the mandibular canal along with the inferior alveolar nerve. The second artery accompanied the lingual nerve to the last molar tooth. Another variation described showed the anterior tympanic artery and the AMA arising from the MMA (28). Khaki *et al.* also reported a case in which the IAA originated directly from the ECA (29).

## **2.2 DISTANCE OF THE MA FROM SELECTED BONY ANATOMICAL LANDMARKS**

The distances of the MA from different bony landmarks have been reported in the literature (4, 30, 31). These bony landmarks include the articular eminence, posterior cortex at the centre of condylar neck of the mandible, mandibular notch and the pterygoid fovea (Fig.2.2). These landmarks are used as intraoperative reference points during bone osteotomies and are dissected to some extent intraoperatively (30). Although there are few studies focusing on the landmarks

of the MA, these distances seem to vary in various populations.



**Figure 2.2: Selected bony landmarks.** Maxillary artery (MA), Articular eminence (AE), Mandibular notch (MN), Midcervical (M), supracerical (S), infracervical (I).(30) *Balcioglu et al 2010*

For example a study done by Orbay et al in the Turkish population, the distance between the MA to the mandibular notch was 5.1 mm .The same distance was, however, 3.3mm as reported by Aziz et al. in their study of the Columbians. Similarly, Balcioglu et al. reported the average distance of 5.38 mm between the MA and the medial cortex of the mandible in a study of a Turkish population, while Orbay et al. reported an average distance of 6.8 mm in a different Turkish population.

### 2.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Distances from different bony landmarks and anatomical variations of the MA has been reported in different populations, however there is no data that is available in this population. Cases of iatrogenic injury to the MA with hemorrhage and formation of pseudoaneurysms have been documented.

## **2.4 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY**

Knowledge on the findings about the variations in the anatomy and distances from different bony landmarks of the MA may help in reduction of the iatrogenic injuries to the MA in surgical procedures involving the parotid region, infratemporal fossa and the TMJ. Knowledge of the relationship of the MA with different anatomical landmarks may be utilized to avoid iatrogenic injuries during surgical procedures involving the TMJ, condyle, mandibular ramus osteotomy and total maxillectomy.

## **2.5 RESEARCH QUESTION**

What are the variation patterns and distances from selected bony landmarks of the MA in this population?

## **2.6 OBJECTIVES**

### **2.6.1 BROAD OBJECTIVE**

To describe the variations and anatomical landmarks of the MA.

### **2.6.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

1. To determine the distances between the MA and the following bony landmarks: the most inferior part of the mandibular notch, posterior cortex at the centre of the condylar neck of the mandible, inferior part of the articular eminence and the inferior border of pterygoid fovea.
2. To describe the relationship of the MA to the parotid gland.
3. To describe the relationship between the MA and the LPM.
4. To describe the branching pattern of the first part of the MA.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **3. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

#### **3.1 STUDY DESIGN**

Data about this study was collected at the Department of Human Anatomy dissection laboratory, University of Nairobi in duration of 2 months. This was a cadaveric descriptive cross-sectional study.

#### **3.2 STUDY AREA**

The study was carried out in the Department of Human Anatomy dissection laboratory, University of Nairobi at the Chiromo campus which is approximately 2 km from the Nairobi Central Business District, Riverside Drive off Waiyaki Way. The University of Nairobi is the largest public universities in Kenya with a Department of Human Anatomy in the College of Health Sciences where training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students in health related disciplines is undertaken. The Human Anatomy Department acquires human cadavers for teaching purposes mainly from pastoralist communities in the country as well as unclaimed human bodies at the Kenyatta national hospital mortuary. Annually there are between 50-60 cadavers available for teaching human anatomy. The Kenyan law, under the Human Tissue Act Chapter 252, allows dissection of cadavers for purposes of medical education and research. CAP 252...“An Act of Parliament to make provision with respect to the use of parts of bodies of deceased persons for therapeutic purposes and purposes of medical education and research; and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

### **3.3 STUDY POPULATION**

The study included all the available cadavers for dissection for the academic year 2015/2016 in the Human anatomy laboratory, University of Nairobi.

### **3.5 SAMPLE SIZE CALCULATION**

With finite population correction (32).

$$n' = \frac{NZ^2P(1-P)}{d^2(N-1) + Z^2P(1-P)}$$

P = expected proportion (0.5)

Z = normal standard deviate corresponding to  $\alpha=0.05$ (1.96)

d = Precision (0.05)

N = the size of the study population (50)

n' = Sample size with finite population correction (45) (minimum number of cadavers to be dissected).

### **3.4 SAMPLING METHOD**

All cadavers meeting the inclusion criteria were utilized as this was a population study.

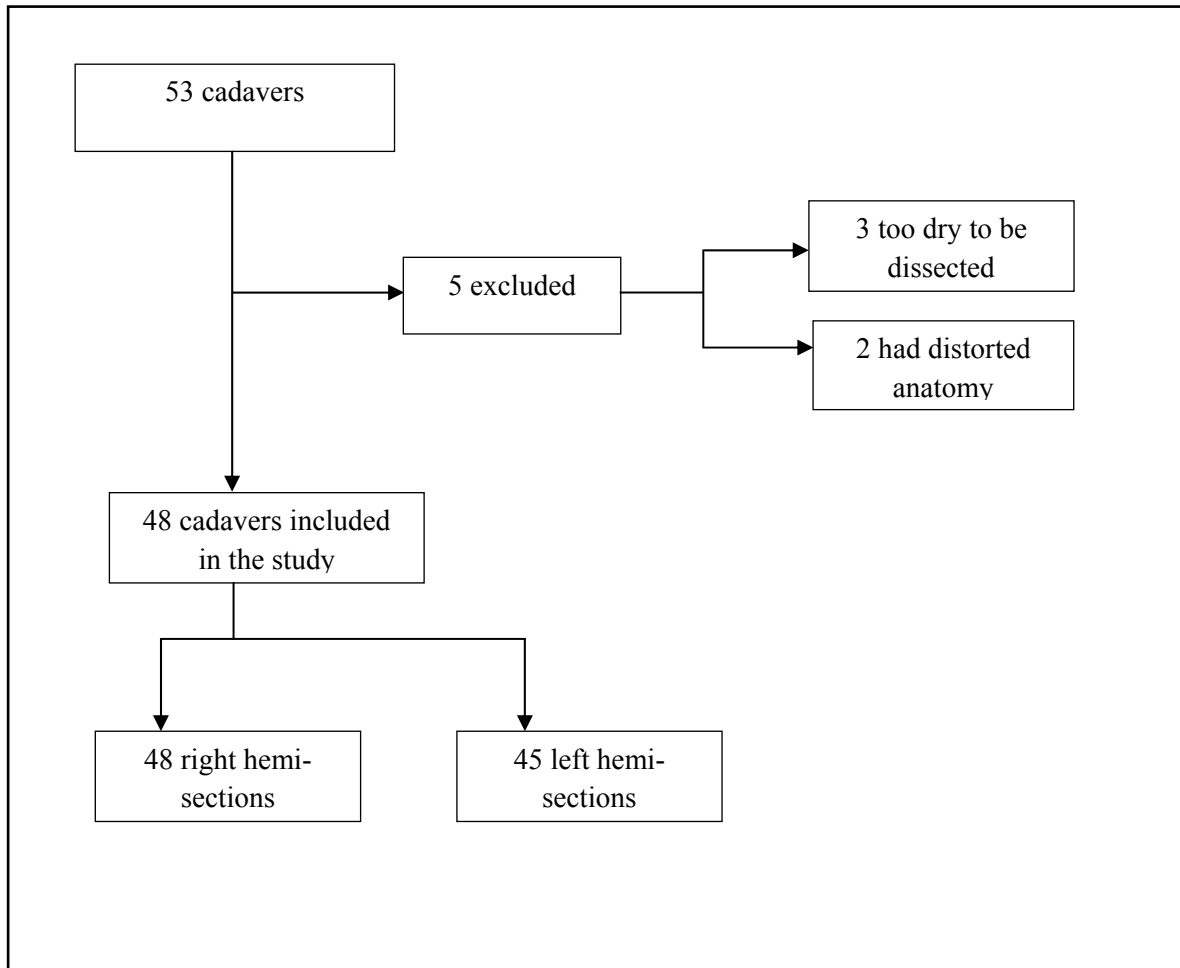
### **3.6 SELECTION CRITERIA**

#### **3.6.1 INCLUSION CRITERIA**

Cadavers from adult Kenyans with the following intact structures: the preauricular regions, parotid areas, the rami of the mandible and infratemporal region. The cadavers which were in occlusion.

### 3.6.2 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

The cadavers with any of the following defects were excluded from the study: facial malformations involving the temporomandibular regions, craniofacial congenital malformations, gross pathologies like tumors, too dry to be dissected, cadavers with depressed mandible distorting injuries and evidence of surgical operation scar on the site (figure 1.3).



**Figure 3.3: Flow chart of specimens available for dissection**

### 3.7 STUDY VARIABLES

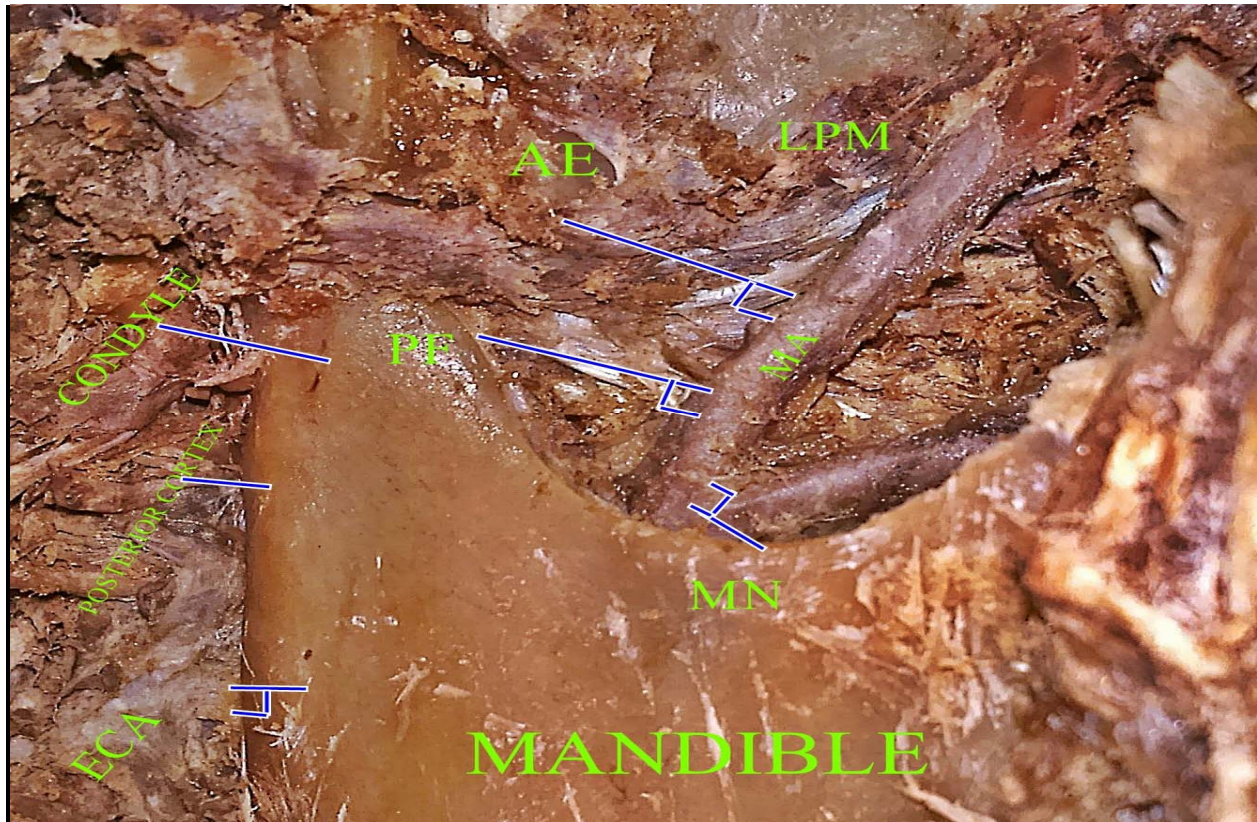
- i. Distance between the MA and the following bony landmarks: the most inferior part of the mandibular notch, posterior cortex at the centre of condylar neck of the mandible, inferior part of the articular eminence and the inferior border of pterygoid fovea.



- ii. The relationship of the MA to the parotid gland.
- iii. Relationship between the MA and the LPM.
- iv. Branching pattern of the first part of the MA.

### **3.8 DISSECTION METHOD**

A pre-auricular incision was made and skin reflected anteriorly to expose the parotid gland. The superficial lobe of the parotid gland and masseter muscle were removed to expose the mandibular condyle and ramus. The ECA was identified in the neck and was dissected rostrally. The origin of the MA was identified and its course noted if it was within or medial to the substance of the parotid gland. The zygomatic arch was resected using an oscillating saw and the coronoid process was transected with reflection of the temporalis muscle superiorly to expose the MA within the infratemporal fossa. The perpendicular distances between the MA and the following bony landmarks were measured using Vernier calipers (Fig. 5.3) and protractor (Fig.6.3): the most inferior part of the mandibular notch, posterior cortex at the centre of the condylar neck of the mandible, inferior part of the articular eminence and the inferior border of the pterygoid fovea were taken at least three times. The measurements were taken by drawing a perpendicular line from the selected bony landmarks to the MA. The relationship between the LPM and the MA was recorded. Photographs of the exposed region were taken using a digital camera. The condyle was transected together with the LPM to further expose the MA. The MA was dissected out to display the branches of the first part.



**Figure 4.3: Photomacrograph of the right side of the face showing perpendicular distances measured between the Maxillary artery and the selected bony landmarks. Maxillary artery (MA), articular eminence (AE), mandibular notch (MN), external carotid artery (ECA), pterygoid fovea (PF). NOTE: the MA passing lateral to the lateral pterygoid muscle (LPM).**

### **3.9 QUALITY CONTROL IN THE STUDY**

Calibration of the digital Vernier calipers was done. The landmarks were clearly defined. To reduce the intra-observer bias at least three measurements were taken and averaged. The mean distance measured by different research assistants were averaged and recorded as the final measurement in the data collection sheets.

### **3.10 DATA MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.10.1 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS**

- i. Dissection kit- The instruments in the dissection kit included blade holders, blade size 23, tissue forceps, dissecting scissors and an oscillating saw.

- ii. Digital camera- The camera used was Nikon 3100 with lens of 18-55mm.
- iii. Digital calipers- They were stainless steel Vernier calipers which were calibrated by Kenya Bureau of Standards for standardization (Fig.5.3)



**Figure 5.3: Vernier callipers**



**Figure 6.3: Protractor used during measurement**

### **3.10.2 DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE**

The data collected were recorded in a data collection sheet (Appendix 1). The data were then entered in a preprogrammed format in the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 17.0. Data cleaning was done before analysis.

Back-up for the data was saved in an external hard drive and written on a digital versatile compact disk (DVD). Access to these back-ups was limited to the investigator only.

### **3.10.3 DATA ANALYSIS**

Data analysis was done using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 17.0. The distance of the MA from the selected bony landmarks on the right and the left side were tested for significance using paired students t-test.

### **3.10.4 DATA PRESENTATION**

The results of the study were summarized and presented as tables.

### **3.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION**

The study proposal was approved by Kenyatta national hospital-university of Nairobi (KNH/UoN) Ethics and Research Committee (approval No.p660/10/2015).

## CHAPTER 4

### 4.0. RESULTS

There were 53 cadavers available in the dissection laboratory. Forty eight cadavers (46 male and 2 female) were included in the study. Five cadavers were excluded from the study, three were too dry to be dissected and the other two had distorted anatomy where one had deep cuts bilaterally in the preauricular region extending into the submandibular regions and the other had bilateral lazy – S surgical scars. Out of the 48 cadavers, three had the left sides mutilated by the medical students, therefore, the data were collected from the right sides only (Fig. 3.3). Therefore, there were 48 right hemi-sections and 45 left hemi-sections. Because of inadequate number of female cadavers, gender differences were not determined in this study.

### ***4.1 DISTANCES OF THE MAXILLARY ARTERY (MA) FROM SELECTED BONY LANDMARKS***

The distances of the MA were measured from the following selected bony landmarks; the posterior cortex at the centre of condylar neck of the mandible, from the inferior-most part of the mandibular notch, the inferior part of the articular eminence and the inferior part of pterygoid. (Fig.4.3). The mean distance of the MA from the inferior-most part of the mandibular notch on the right side was  $5.72 \pm 2.82$  mm (mode = 5.25 mm) while on the left side it was  $5.80 \pm 2.85$  mm with a mode of 5.75 mm. On the right side the average distance of the MA from the posterior cortex at the centre of the condylar neck of the mandible was  $8.39 \pm 2.67$  mm (mode = 6 mm) whereas on the left side the mean distance was  $8.78 \pm 2.70$  mm (mode = 3.60 mm). Whereas the mean distance of the MA from the inferior part of the pterygoid on the right was  $13.93 \pm 6.17$  mm; (mode = 7.25 mm), on the left side the mean distance was  $14.61 \pm 7.07$  mm (mode = 5.25 mm). The mean distance of the MA from the inferior part of articular eminence on the right was

14.05±3.77 mm mode of 6.62 mm while on the left side the mean distance was 14.47±4.01 mm; mode of 14.25 mm. The difference between the measurements from the MA and the selected bony landmarks on the right and left sides were not statistically significant (Table 1.4).

**Table 1.4: Comparison of the measured distances between the right and the left side in relation to selected bony landmarks.**

Bony landmarks	Mean Distance (mm)±SD(mm)	Median Distance (mm)	95 % confidence interval of the difference		Independent student's t Test		
			Minimum Distance (mm)	Maximum Distance (mm)			
Distance of MA from inferior most part of mandibular notch on the right side (n=48)	5.72±2.82	5.44	1.03	14.76	-0.64402	0.12947	0.187
Distance of MA from inferior most part of mandibular notch on the left side(n=45)	5.80±2.85	6.00	0.00	14.00			
Distance of MA from posterior cortex at the centre of condylar neck of the mandible on the right side(n=48)	8.39±2.67	8.30	3.87	18.27	-0.93597	0.16143	0.162
Distance of MA from posterior cortex at the centre of condylar neck of the mandible on the left side (n=45)	8.78±2.70	9.15	3.60	17.81			
Distance of MA from inferior of articular eminence on the right side (n=48)	14.05±3.77	14.19	6.62	21.48	-1.53776	0.25185	0.155
Distance of MA from inferior part of articular eminence on the left side (n=45)	14.47±4.01	14.38	6.50	24.08			
Distance of MA from inferior part of pterygoid fovea on the right side (n=48)	13.93±6.17	11.70	4.94	24.50	-1.50507	0.23689	0.149
Distance of MA from inferior part of pterygoid fovea on the left side (n=45)	14.61±7.07	13.38	3.98	26.76			

#### **4.2 COURSE OF THE MAXILLARY ARTERY**

The MA originated directly from the ECA in a single trunk bilaterally in all the cadavers. Out of the 93 hemi-sections dissected, 62 (67%) of the MAs were within the parotid gland while 31 (33%) of the MA were outside the gland. The MA on the right side passed within the parotid gland in 32 hemi-sections (68.1%) while in 16 hemi-sections (31.9%), the MA passed medial to the parotid gland. A similar pattern was observed on the left side, whereby 30 hemi-sections (67%) had the MA within the parotid gland while in 15 hemi-sections (33%) the MA passed medial to the parotid gland (Table 2.4). One cadaver had asymmetry whereby on the left side the artery was within the gland while on the right side the artery passed medial to the gland.

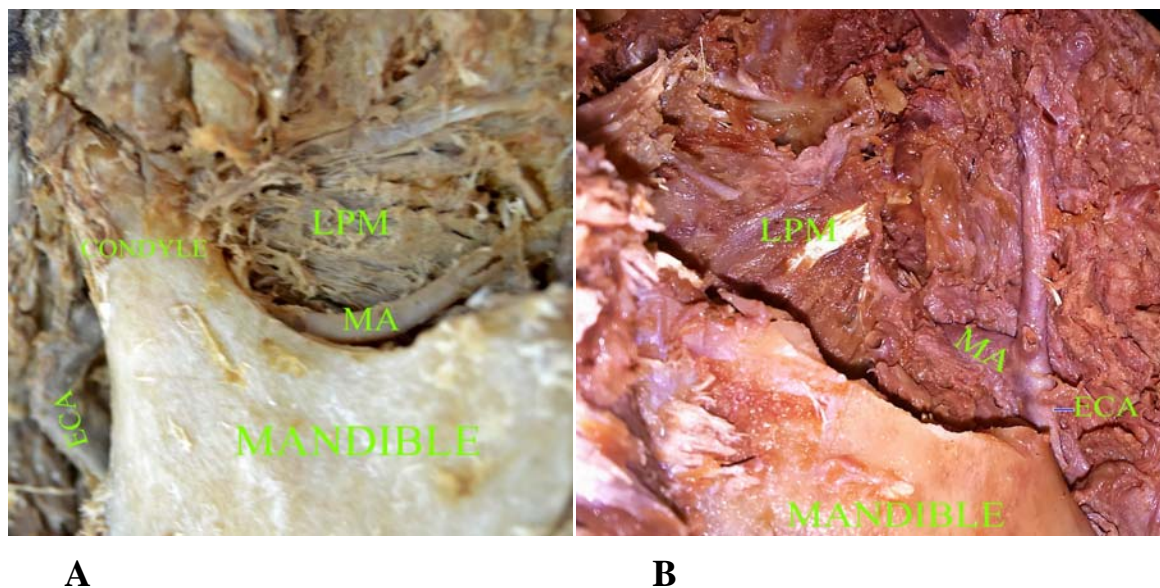
**Table 2.4: Relationship of the maxillary artery with the parotid gland**

<b>Side</b>	<b>MA within the parotid gland n (%)</b>	<b>MA medial to the parotid gland n (%)</b>	<b>Total n (%)</b>
<b>Right side</b>	32 (68.1)	16 (31.9)	48 (100)
<b>Left side</b>	30 (67.0)	15 (33.0)	45 (100)
<b>Total</b>	62 (67)	31 (33)	93 (100)

#### **4.3 RELATIONSHIP OF THE MAXILLARY ARTERY TO THE LATERAL PTERYGOID MUSCLE**

The relationship of the MA to the LPM was described as either lateral or medial to the LPM (Fig.7.4). Out of the 93 hemi-sections dissected, 35 (38%) of the MA had a medial relationship to the LPM while 58 (62%) of the MA had a lateral relationship to the LPM (Fig. 7.4).





**Figure 7.4: Relationship between the maxillary artery and the lateral pterygoid muscle**

**3A – Photomicrograph of the right side of the face showing maxillary artery passing lateral to the lateral pterygoid muscle.**

**3B - Photomicrograph of the left side of the face showing the maxillary artery passing medial to the lateral pterygoid muscle. ECA = External carotid artery.**

On the right side 17 (35%) of the MA passed medial to the LPM (Fig. 4.7A) while 31 (65%) of the MA passed lateral to the LPM (Fig. 4.7B). On the left side, 18 (40%) of the MAs were medial to the LPM while 27 (60%) of the MA were lateral to it (Table 3.4).

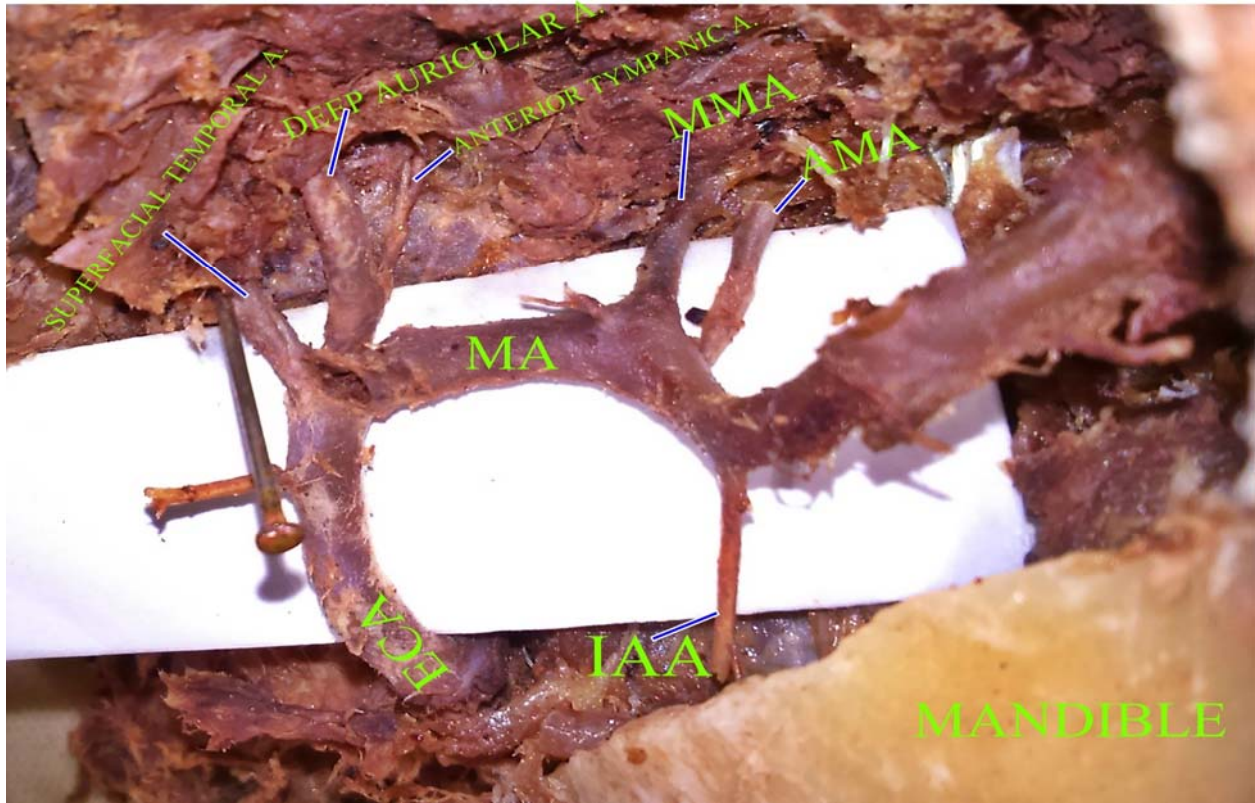
**Table 3.4: Relationship of the maxillary artery (MA) to the lateral pterygoid muscle (LPM)**

Side	Medial to LPM n (%)	Lateral to LPM n (%)	Total n (%)
<b>Right</b>	17 (35)	31 (65)	48 (52)
<b>Left</b>	18 (40)	27 (60)	45 (48)
<b>Total</b>	35 (38)	58 (62)	93 (100)

Four (8.9%) cadavers showed asymmetry whereby the MA passed on the medial side of the LPM on one side while the other side it passed on the lateral aspect of the LPM.

#### ***4.4 BRANCHING PATTERN OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PART OF THE MAXILLARY ARTERY***

The branching pattern of the first part of the MA was successfully bilaterally dissected in forty five bilaterally whereas 3 were dissected only the right side. Branching patterns observed were, in 6 (6.5%) different cadavers the MMA and the IAA originated at the same point off the MA. The AMA was absent in 3 (3.2%) cadavers on the right side and in 2 (2.2%) cadavers on the left side. A different branching pattern observed was on the right side, the MMA branched off from the MA before the IAA in 18 (37.5%) of the cadavers (Fig. 8.4) whereas in 27 (56.3%) of the hemi-sections it was given out after the IAA (Table 4.4). On the left side the MMA was given out before (Fig. 9.4) the IAA in 10 (22.8%) of the cadavers and branched out after the IAA in 32 (71.1%) of the cases. In all the cadavers the IAA originated directly from the MA. There was one case whereby two IAAs were given out. One branch entered the mandibular canal while the other one accompanied the nerve to the mylohyoid muscle. Another pattern observed was where the deep auricular artery and the anterior tympanic artery originated from the same trunk of the MA. Also the deep auricular artery was abnormally larger than would have been expected (Fig. 8.4).



**Figure 8.4: Illustration of the branching pattern of the 1st part of the right maxillary artery (MA). The inferior alveolar artery (IAA) branching after the middle meningeal artery (MMA). Separate origin of the MMA and the accessory meningeal artery (AMA). Note also an abnormally large deep auricular A.**

**Table 4.4: Pattern of origin of the middle meningeal artery (MMA) and the inferior alveolar artery (IAA) from the maxillary artery (MA).**

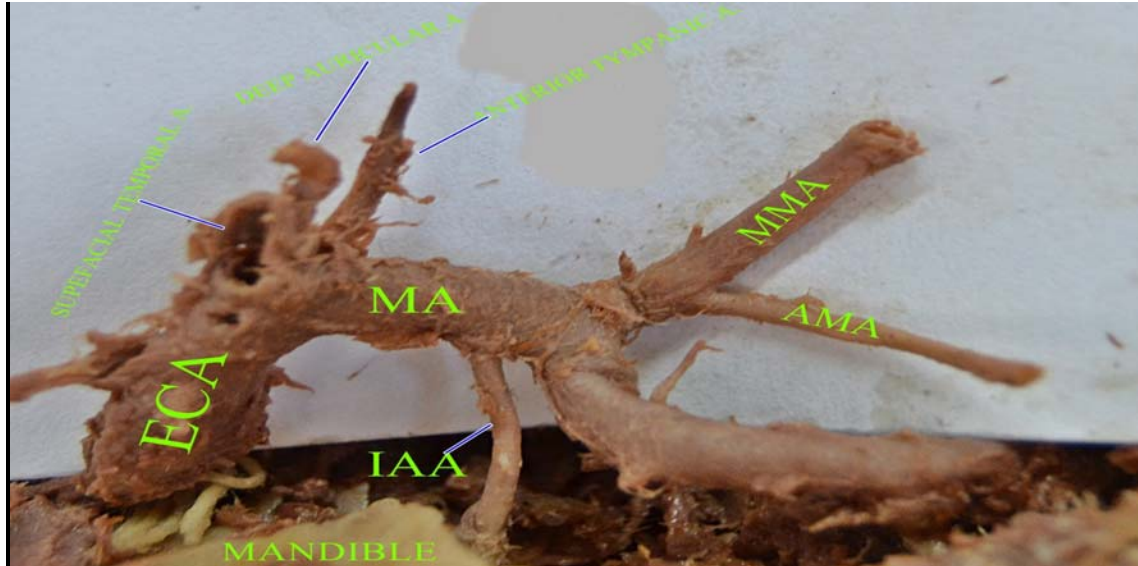
Description		Right n (%)	Left n (%)	Total n (%)
The MMA	Branching before the IAA	18 (37.5)	10 (22.8)	28 (32)
	Branching after the IAA	27 (57.4)	32 (71.1)	59 (68)
<b>Total n (%)</b>		45 (53)	42 (47)	87 (100)

The MMA and AMA originated from a common trunk off the MA on the right side in 28 (58.3%) of the cases (Table 5.4). On the left side the MMA and the AMA originated from the same trunk on the MA in 25 (55.6%) of the cadavers (Fig. 9.4). There was asymmetry in the

origin of the MMA and AMA in 4 (8.3%) of the cadavers whereby on one side they originated from the MA on the same trunk while separately on the other side.

**Table 5.4: Variations in origin of the middle meningeal artery (MMA) and accessory meningeal artery (AMA)**

	Right side n (%)	Left side n (%)	Total n (%)
The MMA and AMA common trunk off the MA	28 (58.3)	25 (55.6)	53 (57)
The MMA and the AMA given separately off the MA	17 (35.4)	18 (40)	35 (37.6)
The AMA missing	3 (3.2)	2 (2.2)	5 (5.4)



**Figure 9.4: Illustration of the inferior alveolar artery (IAA) originating before the middle meningeal artery (MMA).** Photomicrograph showing the inferior alveolar artery (IAA) originating before the middle meningeal artery (MMA). Also the MMA and the accessory meningeal artery (AMA) are given off from a common trunk from the maxillary artery (MA). External carotid artery (ECA).

## CHAPTER 5

### 5.1 DISCUSSION

Different specialities have interest in understanding the MA and studies have been done on different aspects of the artery. Being one of the most vulnerable structures in the craniofacial region, knowledge of the MA may help in reduction of its injury and intraoperative haemorrhage.

In the present study, 67% of the MA was given within the parotid gland as compared to 33% of the arteries which passed medial to the gland. This relationship is important when doing total parotidectomy as it may help in the reduction of iatrogenic injury to the MA. Remarkably, there is hardly any study describing the relationship between the MA and the parotid gland.

Different bony landmarks have been studied to try locating the MA which acts as guide to prevent its injury. The studied parameters are key bony landmarks that are used intraoperatively during osteotomies. The distance from the mandibular notch to the MA at  $5.76 \pm 2.82$  mm was consistent with other studies done elsewhere (4, 30, 31). The average distance of the MA from the articular eminence has been reported as  $1.67 \pm 0.48$  mm (n=34) (30). There was great variation from the current study whereby the average distance from the articular eminence to the MA was  $14.25 \pm 3.87$  mm. However, the distance from the pterygoid fovea to the MA was  $14.21 \pm 6.61$  mm, which was consistent with a study done by Balcioglu et al. (30). There are few cadaveric studies focusing on the risk of the MA injury during mandibular osteotomies (7, 8). Care is needed in intraoral vertical ramus osteotomies to prevent injury to the MA when performing bicortical osteotomy inferiorly since the MA passes upward across the lower head of the LPM inside the mandibular notch (7, 33). This necessitates exposure of the medial aspect of the mandibular notch such that special retractors (Bauers retractor) should be inserted to prevent

injury to the MA (7). There is a high probability of injuring the MA when the medial cut of sagittal split ramus osteotomy is placed very close to the mandibular notch which may lead to severe bleeding(2).

In the current study, the majority of the MAs were lateral to the LPM, with 58 (62%) of the MA having been lateral and 35 (38%) of the MA having been medial to the muscle. The MA was lateral in 62% of the hemi-sections in the current study which was comparable to a study by Fujimura et al. (69% in blacks) and Lasker et al. (69 % in an African American population)(7). This was also consistent with other studies which showed that the MA passed lateral to the LPM in most of the hemi-sections(17, 19, 21, 22).The MA passed medial to the LPM (38%) in the present study which was comparable to a study by Lasker et al (31% of an African American population) (16) and a Caucasian population whereby the MA passed medial in 32 % of hemi-sections(17). However, the lateral relationship of the MA to the LPM has been reported as 9 to 55% and 90% in the white and Japanese respectively(7). In most of the cadavers, there was symmetry in the courses of the MA on both the left and the right sides. However, four (8.9%) cadavers showed asymmetry whereby the MA passed on the medial side of the LPM on one side while the other side it passed on the lateral aspect of the LPM. The prevalence of the asymmetry in the course of the right and the left MAs has been reported to be 6.8% by Takarada (34) and 6.3% by Ikakura (35).

Though the relationship between the MA and the LPM is not consistent, given most of the MA passes lateral to the LPM, the pterygoid part can be identified after blunt dissection of the buccal fat pad. During total maxillectomy, some studies have shown that tying the MA in advance reduces the risks of intraoperative bleeding (36, 37).The MA passes in close proximity with the subcondylar region of the mandible. This is of great importance when managing subcondylar

fractures to avoid iatrogenic injury to the MA. In the infratemporal fossa the MA is closely related to the LPM with the artery passing either medial or lateral to the muscle. The relationship has been widely studied and has been shown to differ depending on the race and population. The most common source of bleeding during fixation of subcondylar fractures of the mandible is due to accidental puncture of the MA(2, 4). Therefore, it should be prudent for surgeons to know the location of the MA in order to mitigate the risks of intraoperative bleeding. The Gow-Gates technique is commonly applied in the administration of local anaesthesia in clinical dentistry (38) and is associated with a higher response rate (>95%) than other techniques with a low risk of puncturing vessels. However, the response of the Gow-Gates technique has been shown to vary depending on the population, which is attributed to differences in the course of the MA. Toki reported that the technique had a response rate of 75% in Japanese patients whereby most of the MAs are lateral to the LPM consistent also with the present study, which was lower than that in Australian patients and has increased risk of intravenous puncture (38).

The IAA is the main source of blood supply to the mandible. It mainly branches from the mandibular part of the MA, though rarely can originate from the ECA (29, 39). In the current study, the IAA originated directly from the MA in all cadavers. In the present study, the IAA branched off before the MMA in 59 (63.4%) of the hemi-sections, branched after the MMA in 28 (30.1%) of the hemi-sections and at the same localization with the MMA in 6 (6.5%) hemi sections. Otake et al found that the IAA arose distal to the MMA in 25 of 28 hemi sections (89.3%) (22). In a study by Uysal et al, in 35.7% of the cases the IAA arose from the MA before the MMA while in 35.7 % it was given off after the MMA. The IAA and the MMA branched off from the same area of the MA in 14.3 % of the cases while in others, the IAA branched off from the beginning of the MA in 14.3% of the cases (19). To prevent negative influence on blood

supply to the mandible, knowledge of the branching pattern of the IAA is important when performing surgical procedures around this area.

In a study by Uysal et al., while the MMA was present in all cases, the AMA was observed in 57.1% of the cases (19). In this study, the AMA was missing in 3 (6.3%) cadavers on the right side and in 2 (4.4%) cadavers on the left side. Rao et al. described a variation whereby the anterior tympanic and the AMA arose from the MMA (28). In the present study the AMA and the MMA were given off from the MA in the common trunk in 53 (57%) of the hemi-sections. The prevalence of the AMA and MMA being given off from a common trunk from the MA has been reported to have been 18 (64.3%) by Otake et al. (22) and as high as 73 of 76 subjects (96%) by Baumel et al. (40). The limitation of the study was tissue shrinkage especially the soft tissue.

**CONCLUSION:** Based on the findings of this study, the following was concluded:

1. The variations of the MA in this population displayed patterns comparable to other populations.
2. The distance of the MA to selected bony landmarks between the right and left sides was comparable. Remarkably, in this Kenyan sample population, the MA passed significantly further from the articular eminence compared to other populations.
3. Majority of the MAs were within the parotid gland in this population.
4. There was high prevalence of the MA passing lateral to the LPM which was consistent with studies done elsewhere.
5. A branching pattern similar to other studies was observed on the first part of the MA.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of this study, the following is recommended:

1. The closeness of the MA to the subcondylar region of the mandible and its relationship to the TMJ, caution needs to be exercised in procedures involving these regions.
2. Given the distance of the MA from the articular eminence was significantly longer compared with studies done elsewhere, a multicenter cadaveric studies in Kenyan population should be done to ascertain this finding.
3. Another study with a bigger sample size to determine if there are gender variations on the MA since there were few female cadavers in this study.

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## APPENDIX I

### DATA COLLECTION SHEET

Case No.....sex.....

#### 1. Distance of maxillary artery from the following bony landmarks

	Right side	Distance (mm)	Left side	Distance (mm)
i	Inferior most part of mandibular notch		Inferior most part of mandibular notch	
ii	posterior cortex at the centre of condyler neck of the mandible		posterior cortex at the centre of condyler neck of the mandible	
iii	Inferior part of articular eminence		Inferior part of articular eminence	
iv	Inferior part of pterygoid fovea		Inferior part of pterygoid fovea	

#### 2. Course of the maxillary artery

	Forming a loop	Single trunk	Within the parotid gland	Outside the parotid gland	Others (specify)
Right side					
Left side					

#### 3. Relationship of maxillary artery to lateral pterygoid muscle

	Right side	Yes	No	Left side	Yes	No
i	Medial			Medial		
ii	Lateral			Lateral		
iii	Others (specify)			Others (specify)		

#### 4. Branching pattern of the maxillary artery

##### A).The MMA

	Branching before the IAA	Branching after the IAA	Branching from one trunk with AMA	Missing	Others(specify)
Right					
Left					

##### B).The IAA

	Originating directly from the ECA	Branching before the MMA	Originating after the MMA	Others (specify)
Right side				
Left side				

## APPENDIX II

### ETHICAL APPROVAL



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3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

Dr. Timothy M. Warui  
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Dear Dr. Warui



**Revised research proposal: Variations and bony landmarks of the maxillary artery in the Kenya population: A cadaveric study (P660/10/2015)**

This is to inform you that the KNH- UoN Ethics & Research Committee (KNH-UoN ERC) has reviewed and **approved** your above proposal. The approval periods are 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements:

- Only approved documents (informed consents, study instruments, advertising materials etc) will be used.
- All changes (amendments, deviations, violations etc) are submitted for review and approval by KNH-UoN ERC before implementation.
- Death and life threatening problems and serious adverse events (SAEs) or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to the KNH-UoN ERC within 72 hours of notification.
- Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to KNH/UoN ERC within 72 hours.
- Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. (*Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal*).
- Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from KNH/UoN-Ethics & Research Committee for each batch of shipment.
- Submission of an *executive summary* report within 90 days upon completion of the study. This information will form part of the data base that will be consulted in future when processing related research studies so as to minimize chances of study duplication and/or plagiarism.

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For more details consult the KNH/UoN ERC website <http://www.erc.uonbi.ac.ke>

Yours sincerely,



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## APPENDIX III

### PLAGIARISM REPORT

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