

Letters to the Editor

Diameter of Suprascapular Nerve in the Suprascapular Notch

TO THE EDITOR:

We read with interest the educational case report of Dr. Harmon and Mr. Hearty about ultrasound-guided suprascapular nerve block technique (1). The authors stated that the suprascapular nerve seen as a round hyperechoic structure at 4 cm depth beneath the transverse scapular ligament in the scapular notch had an approximate diameter of 200 mm. Seeing this size mentioned for the first time in the article, i.e. in the abstract, we thought that it was simply an oversight, but as this was repeated later in the text of the case report we realized that this was not an accidental mistake.

That is why we would like to emphasize two basic facts. The diameter is a length of a straight line that goes from one side of a circle to the other side through the center of the circle and millimeter is a unit measuring length, equal to 0.001 meters (2). So, it is hard to believe that the diameter of the suprascapular nerve in the scapular notch in any human patient, especially the one in Fig. 1 of the case report, could be 200 mm, i.e. 20 cm or 0.2 m.

The ultrasound examination of a suprascapular nerve in the suprascapular notch of a 30-year-old male volunteer, i.e. the first author of this letter, conducted in the same way as Drs. Harmon and Hearty had suggested, revealed an approximate diameter of the nerve to be from 2.1 to 2.9 mm (Fig. 1). Anatomic dissection confirmed the ultrasound findings (Fig. 2).



Fig 1. Transverse view of suprascapular fossa and scapular notch with a Simens Acuson X500 ultrasound system and a 13-5 MHz linear transducer (Simens Medical Solutions USA, Inc., Mountain View, CA, USA); D1-is the distance between the skin and transverse scapular ligament, D2 and D3 are the diameters of suprascapular nerve.

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Fig 2. Suprascapular nerve in the suprascapular fossa held with tweezers at anatomic dissection; the unit of measure is a cm.

REFERENCES

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In Response

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