

The basis for splenic segmental dearterialization: a post-mortem study

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Abstract The anatomical features of splenic segmental vessels in 102 human spleen autopsy specimens were analyzed. Methods applied were corrosion casting and post-mortem arteriography. The superior terminal splenic branch divided extracapsularly into 2.8 ± 0.9 (range 2–5) and the inferior terminal splenic branch into 2.3 ± 0.75 (range 2–5) branches per sample. The extracapsular lengths of the segmental branches ranged from 4.0 to 16.7 mm and the calibers from 0.4 to 2.2 mm. Superior polar arteries occurred in 31.3% and inferior polar arteries in 20.6% of cases. Their average extracapsular lengths were 39 mm and 31 mm, respectively. In conclusion, segmental splenic arteries have an extrasplenic origin and course, with an average length and caliber that allow surgical access and ligation, in order to achieve segmental dearterialization for hemostasis purposes and splenic preservation.

Keywords Splenic segmentation - Anatomy - Splenic preservation - Splenic dearterialization