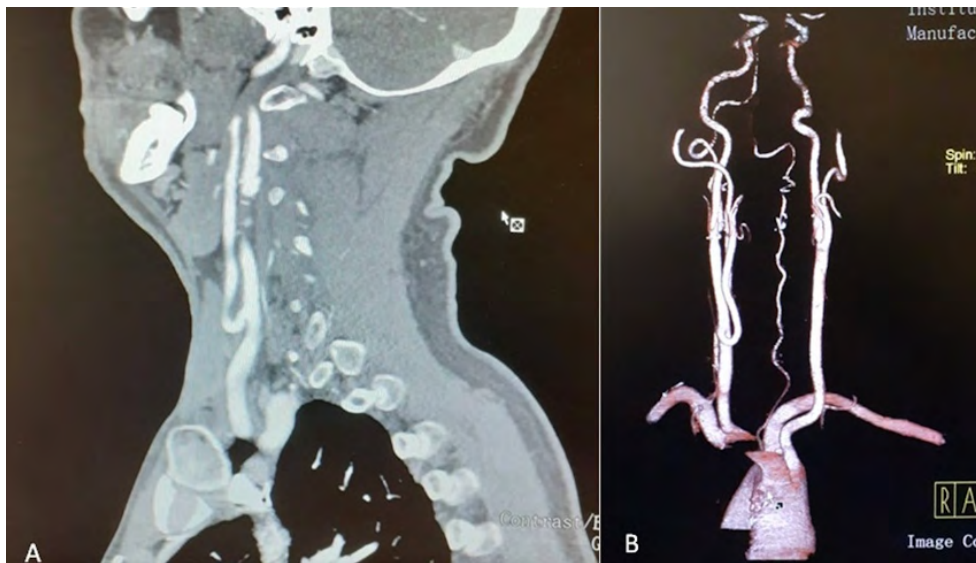


Anatomical variation of the carotid bifurcation

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The level of the carotid bifurcation may be variable but is usually situated between the upper horn of the thyroid cartilage and the 4th cervical vertebra. In the Klippel-Feil anomaly, it may be located at an intrathoracic level. Ethnic variations, with the carotid bifurcation being more cephalic in African-Americans and Asians compared to Caucasians have also been described. Individually, differences in carotid bifurcation also arise, with a higher level on the right side. A 61-year-old male patient proposed for kidney transplant

underwent Doppler ultrasound to exclude obstructive disease, followed by computed tomography angiography. An abnormally low, tortuous and asymmetrical right carotid bifurcation was identified associated with tortuosity of the external carotid emergence (A). A marked asymmetry, with a high left carotid bifurcation, was noted (B).

Keywords: Carotid Artery Bifurcation; Anatomic Variations

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