
AN ANOMALOUS BIFURCATION OF THE INFERIOR VENA CAVA IN A CAT

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Anomalies of the circulatory system are not unusual in the Mammalia. McClure and Huntington (1919) state that deviations from the normal circulatory pattern are found with a greater frequency in the venous than in the arterial system. According to other authorities (Begeret and Masmontell 1920, Lucas 1916) a bifurcation of the inferior vena cava in the cat is of common occurrence.

During a routine dissection on a male cat in the biology laboratory at Oklahoma Baptist University, it was found that the common iliac veins did not anastomose just posterior to the ilio-lumbar veins in the ordinary manner. Instead they continued as right and left rami of the inferior vena cava up to a point near the renal veins where they anastomosed. The rami (Fig. 1) were similar in appearance. The caudal vein branched from the right ramus of the inferior vena cava, and each ramus received the usual internal and external iliac veins. Posteriorly the branches of the vena cava were dorsal to the aorta. In the anterior direction they were observed to run along the left and right sides of the aorta to the region where the ilio-lumbar veins branch off. One inch farther anterior the branches of the vena cava assumed a position ventral to the aorta.

Both kidneys appeared normal. However, the left spermatic vein connected the left kidney with the inferior vena cava. Investigations by this writer do not reveal any previous record of such a situation. Otherwise the entire circulatory system appeared to be normal.

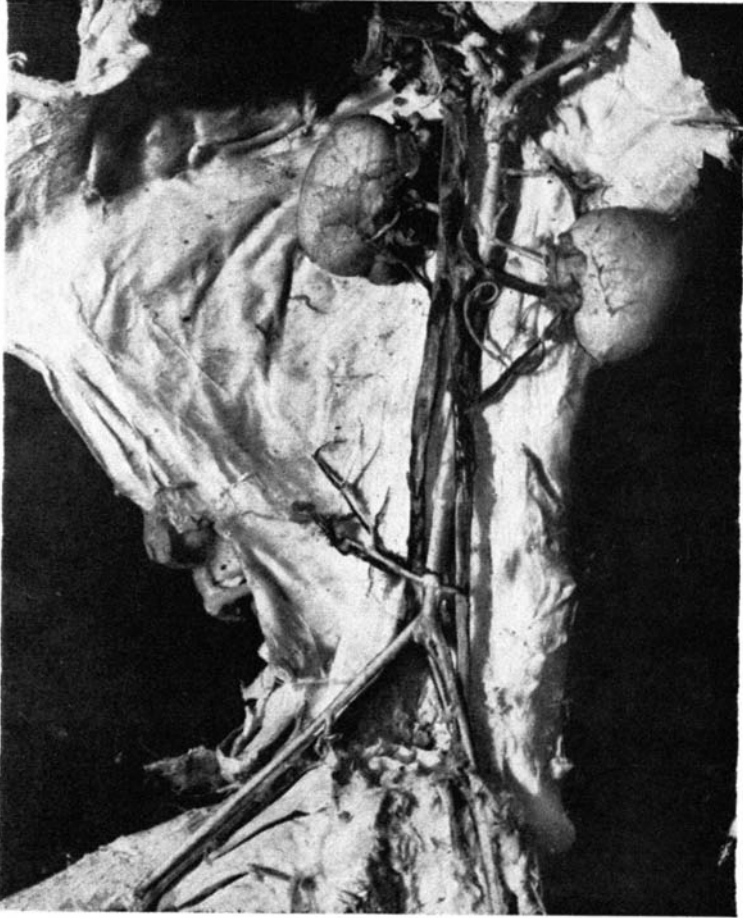


Fig. 1. Anomalous bifurcation of the inferior vena cava in a common cat.

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