

## **Parotid gland with double duct: an anatomic variation description**

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The parotid is the largest salivary gland in humans producing an essentially serous secretion, which normally reaches the oral cavity through a sole duct (the parotid duct) after the latter making its way through the buccinator muscle to reach the mucosa lining the mouth at the level of the cheek. The purpose of the present study was to report on a rare case of anatomic variation of the parotid duct. During a routine cadaver dissection in the anatomy laboratory performed as part of the instruction of students taking the odontology program, the occurrence of a double parotid duct was observed in the right aspect of the face of a 46-year-old white male individual. The superior (D1) and inferior (D2) ducts were 26,49 and 37.25 mm long, respectively. Based on the diameter of both ducts (D1 and D2) taken in the posterior (3.05 and 2.84 mm, respectively) and mid (2.84 and 2.68 mm, respectively) thirds, as well as on the histological findings, both ducts were considered to be main parotid ducts. These two ducts merged at the level of the anterior third forming one sole opening into the oral cavity. The data hereby reported are relevant to the various clinical and surgical procedures involving the parotid gland.