

Supernumerary Bones in the Walls of the Bony Orbit

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Abstract:

Occurrence of supernumerary bones in the walls of the orbit especially in the medial wall and the roof has been described in the literature. Studies of the prevalence of supernumerary bones in the bony wall of the orbit are scarce in the literature. Present study was undertaken to find the prevalence of supernumerary bones in the walls of the orbit in a collection of adult Indian skulls. In the present study three hundred and twenty six orbital walls from one hundred and sixty three skulls were examined for the presence of the sutural bones. Their location with reference to the sutures in the walls of the orbit and their size was noted. The supernumerary bones were found in 25 skulls (15.34 %) mainly in the lateral wall (11.04 %) and the roof of the orbit (4.29 %). Prevalence of such supernumerary bones in the walls of the bony orbit is of anthropological interest. Many of the bony ossicles were of sufficiently large size, enough to be visualized on lateral skull X-ray and could easily be mistaken for fracture of the bony wall of the orbit.