

Double superior vena cava: Two cases in Thai cadavers

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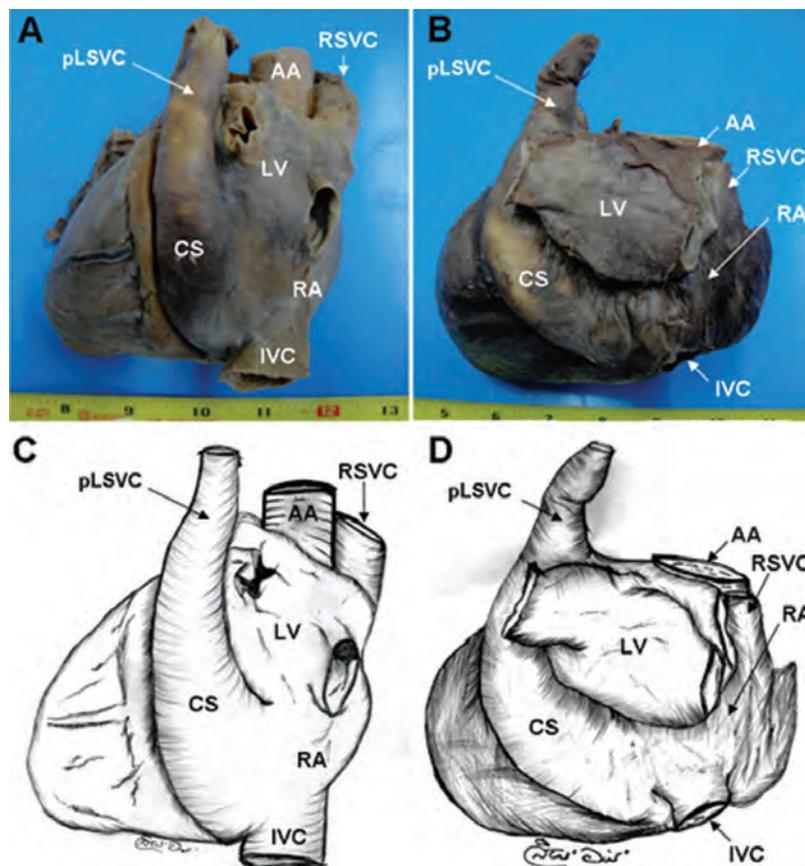


Figure 1 Photographs (A; case 1 and B; case 2) and illustrations of Figure 1A (C) and Figure 1B (D) showing double superior vena cava: right connected to right atrium and left to the coronary sinus. pLSVC: persistent left superior vena cava; RSVC: right superior vena cava; CS: coronary sinus; LV: left ventricle; RA: right atrium; AA: ascending aorta; IVC: inferior vena cava. In both cases, the venous drainage pattern was similar as shown in Figure 2. It was investigated that the right or left brachiocephalic vein drained into its own superior vena cava, i.e. RSVC or pLSVC (Figure 2). Additionally, RSVC joined with an azygos vein and drained into the right atrium directly. No defects of inferior vena cava and/or venous connections between RSVC and pLSVC were observed in either case.

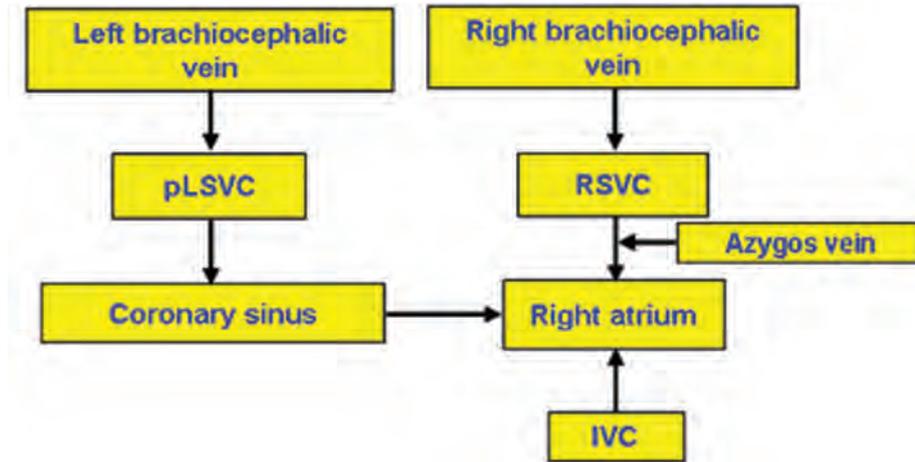


Figure 2 Flowchart showing the venous drainage pattern of double superior vena cava (posterior view) in the present report (pLSVC: persistent left superior vena cava; RSVC: right superior vena cava; IVC: inferior vena cava). Note: right or left brachiocephalic veins drain into individual-sided SVC and pLSVC drains into right atrium via coronary sinus while RSVC including azygos vein is connected to the right atrium directly. As previously described (3), the two cases demonstrated in this report are of Type I-R. To our knowledge, this is the first report demonstrating the DSVC in the Thai population (0.42%; 2 found cases from 480).

The coexistence of persistent left superior vena cava (pLSVC) and right superior vena cava (RSVC) is also called “double superior vena cava (DSVC)”. Although some cases of DSVC have been reported in many populations (1-3), the DSVC in Thais is very rare. We report two cases of DSVC observed in 480 Thai cadavers. We found two cases of DSVC: in a 18 year-old cadaver, death by driving (Figure 1A) and in a 75 year-old cadaver, death by heart failure (Figure 1B).

Key words: Double superior vena cava, Persistent left superior vena cava, Right superior vena cava, Coronary sinus, Right atrium.

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