

Upscaling Facial Nerve Injections: Ultrasound Guidance to Avoid “Minimal Complications”

To the Editor: We read with interest the recently published article “Study of topography of stylomastoid foramen with respect to nearby landmarks to carry out facial nerve block with minimum complications” by Singh.¹ We would like to congratulate the author for examining the techniques of facial nerve blocks with respect to nearby landmarks. However, we have an alternative technique using ultrasound (US) guidance for facial nerve injections.

Initially, we highlight that US imaging has become one of the most useful modalities to assess peripheral nerve disorders—precisely/also aiding nerve blocks.² Visualizing the facial nerve, US is argued to be a useful tool for evaluating the main trunk as it may provide evidence of nerve edema (spreading distally from the site of facial nerve damage).³ Further, some studies reported its prognostic value in such conditions as well.⁴

Next, we need to mention that injecting without seeing might devalue the procedure to a suboptimal level. Needless to say, avoiding collateral injury is at least as important as appropriate targeting for any intervention. For example, in terms of precision and safety, US guidance should be perceived as both hitting the target and not hitting (or injuring or endangering) the other neurovascular structures nearby.⁵ In this sense, anatomical variability of the facial nerve route would also be noteworthy.⁴ Herein, we introduce a technique for US imaging of the facial nerve (in the long axis view) as it exits through the stylomastoid foramen (Fig. 1). With this method, we advocate US/direct evaluation of the facial nerve for diagnosis and (safer) interventions alike.

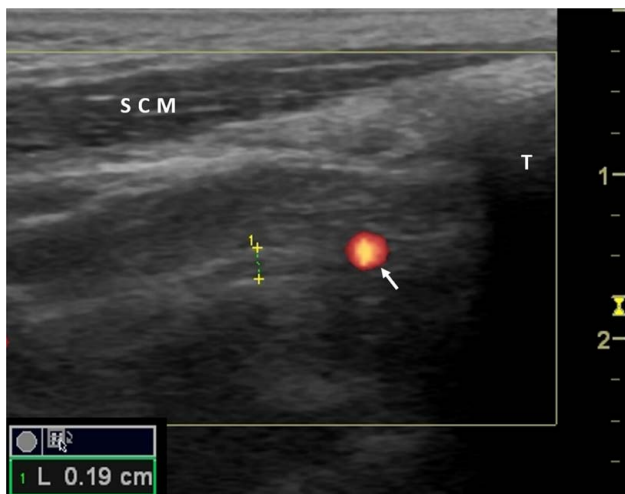


FIGURE 1. US imaging/measurement (longitudinal view) of the facial nerve as it exits the stylomastoid foramen. Arrow indicates the posterior auricular artery. SCM indicates sternocleidomastoid muscle; T, temporal bone; US, ultrasound.

Ahmad J. Abdulsalam, MD,*†
Mahmud Fazıl Aksakal, MD,* Murat Kara, MD,* and
Levent Özçakar, MD*

*Department of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, Hacettepe
University Medical School, Ankara, Turkey

†Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mubarak
Alkabeer Hospital, Jabriya, Kuwait
The authors report no conflicts of interest.

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Understanding the Impact of Current Trends, Challenges, and Technological Advances on Scholarly Publications

To the Editor: In the rapidly changing world of scientific publication, the new system is complex, and there are many changes.¹ Many variables, such as current trends, challenges, and technological developments, lead to various changes in the processes or contents of scientific publications. Understanding these changes is crucial for academic productivity. In contrast, some of these changes may have positive effects, while others may have negative effects.

In this context, in this letter, we wanted to emphasize the need to have an idea about the impact on academic processes and the many changes we face and are likely to face in the future.

The first, perhaps the best known, is open-access publishing and preprint servers. In the literature, the impact of open-access publishing and preprint servers has long been debated. The general consensus is that both situations have positive effects.^{2,3} In contrast, predatory journals and their negative effects, which are associated with the misuse of the open-access publishing system and that exploit the author-pay model, are another important topic of discussion.^{4,5} Another situation that may be encountered is clone journals. These are fake copies of real journals that deceive authors with identical names, logos, and designs.⁵ Thus, technological developments allow for positive effects, such as open-access publishing and preprint servers, but also negative effects, such as predatory or clone journals.

Another issue is the impact of challenging conditions on academic publications. Major global events can often have a

dramatic impact on science.⁶ Undoubtedly, the most prominent example of this is the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has severely affected academic productivity and the content of articles. Although the quarantine processes slowed down the research and experimentation phases of scientific studies, academic adaptation began to be achieved with the use of online communication platforms, which increased in effectiveness around the same time.⁶

In the same time period, it is known that there is an increasing trend in studies that do not require ethics committee approval and do not require experimentation, such as bibliometric⁷, altmetric analyses⁸, assessing the quality and reliability of the YouTube videos^{9,10}, etc., where web-based information analysis is performed. Alternative solutions are, therefore, possible even in challenging conditions on a scale that will affect the world.

Another important example is artificial intelligence tools, one of the most prestigious topics of recent times. As in every field, artificial intelligence tools have had very important effects in the academic field, especially in the last year, and it is thought that these effects will continue for a long time. Thanks to these tools, it is possible to produce academic publications in a shorter time and with higher quality. In contrast, the use of artificial intelligence tools has also raised ethical issues such as data security, patient privacy, scientific accuracy, scientific responsibility, or the acceptance of false information as truth.^{11,12}

In conclusion, it is possible to encounter different and even unique situations in every period of academic productivity. In addition, these situations can have both positive and negative aspects. One of the most important tricks for an ideal academic is to understand the situation well, adapt quickly, take advantage of the positives, and avoid the negatives.

Yusuf Muhammed Durna, MD,*
Mustafa Said Tekin, MD,[†] and İlhan Bahşi, MD, PhD[‡]
*Ear Nose and Throat Specialist, Private Practice

[†]Department of Otolaryngology, Medipol Mega Hospital,
Medipol University

[‡]Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine,
Gaziantep University, Gaziantep, Turkey
The authors report no conflicts of interest.

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ERRATUM

Frontal Endoscopic Myotomies for Chronic Headache: Erratum

In the article “Frontal Endoscopic Myotomies for Chronic Headache” by Raposio and Caruana, published in the May 2015 issue of *Journal of Craniofacial Surgery* (26[3]:e201–e203; 10.1097/SCS.0000000000001353), the authors’ given names and surnames were erroneously transposed. The full, correct author names are as follows:

Edoardo Raposio, MD, PhD

Giorgia Caruana, MD