

# The clival canal

## O canal clival

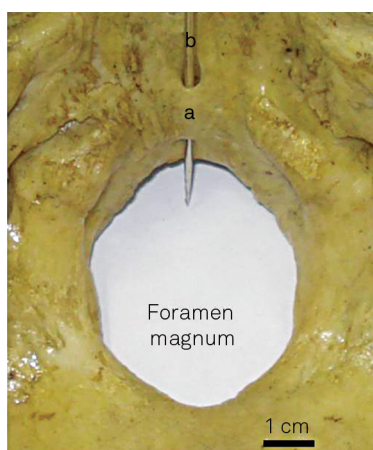
In a skull of an approximately 35-year-old belonging to the didactical collection of the University of Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil, it was noted the clival canal of the occipital portion of the clivus (Figure). According to recent descriptions<sup>1</sup>, a clival canal was identified in 1.6% of skulls and there is limited information on bony canals in the occipital part of the clivus. Moreover, the presence of clival canal hasn't been reported in classic anatomical textbooks.

The finding of a clival canal might interfere with neurosurgical operations in the clival region and possibly provoke symptoms of the basilar artery, as well as of the basilar plexus<sup>2</sup>. In

addition, clinicians and radiologists should take into account this variability when managing cerebral venous disorders or interpreting imaging studies of the skull base<sup>3</sup>.

To our knowledge, there is no evidence in the current literature on the incidence of this variation in the population of our country. Thus, this report will be useful to increase the knowledge about this region that has considerable clinical interest<sup>2,4</sup> (clival tumours had very high mortality and morbidity rates)<sup>5</sup>, and finally to help promoting future studies in this area.

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**Figure.** Internal view of the skull base with the presence of clival canal (a) being crossed by a histological needle (b). The shape is like a channel 9.1 mm in length and 1.9 mm in diameter. The canal was situated 3.5 mm in front the anterior border of the foramen magnum. In our observations we didn't find any indication of associated pathology this anatomical variation.

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