

## Computerised Tomographic Evaluation of Structural Variations in Sinonasal Region and its Clinical Correlation

Research Article

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** The endonasal as well as paranasal anatomy is highly variable and can encroach upon the osteomeatal complex and narrow the osteomeatal channels.

**Aims And Objectives:** To study on CT scan, the incidence of structural variations in sinonasal region and its correlation with sinusitis.

**Material And Methods:** It's a cross sectional study on 106 cases done over 1 year.

**Results And Observations:** On the basis of clinical diagnosis chronic sinusitis was seen in 90 (84.9%) cases and gross polyposis in 16 (15.1%) cases. CT scan anatomical variations seen were as follows: Concha bullosa 64 (60.37%), agger nasi cell in 58 (54.7%), PMT in 28 (26.41%), Large ethmoidal bulla in 18 (16.98%), uncinata pneumatization in 12 (11.3%), haller cell in 18 (16.98%) and onodi cell in 12 (11.35 %) cases.

Maxillary sinus was most commonly involved in 90 (84.9%) cases and least common involved was sphenoid sinus in 14 (13.2%) cases. Among the 5 different patterns of CRS on CT scan most common was OMC pattern noted in 32 (30.18%) cases followed by infundibular pattern in 31 (29.24%), sporadic or unclassified unit pattern in 25 (23.58%), sinonasal polyposis in 10 (9.43%) cases and SER pattern in 08 (7.54%) cases.

**Conclusion:** Rhinosinusitis commonly affects working population with female preponderance. Anatomical variation is observed to be one of the predominant causes for OMC block as well as sinusitis and CT is the paramount modality to study and analyze them.

**Keywords:** Computed Tomography (CT); Paradoxical Middle Turbinate (PMT); Osteo-Meatal Complex (OMC); Spheno-Ethmoidal Recess (SER).

### Introduction

Human beings are individualistic and this is reflected in their anatomy, which is subject to a large number of anatomical variations. The endonasal as well as paranasal anatomy is highly variable [1] and the variations like septal deviations, concha bullosa, agger nasi, PMT, pneumatized uncinata etc. can encroach upon the OMC and narrow their channels [2]. This leads to impaired drainage and ventilation of the paranasal sinuses which primarily cause sinusitis.

Stammberger and Hawke in 1993 have shown that CT scan

of PNS provide a road map to identify significant anatomic abnormalities, exact location of obstruction and severity of the disease [3]. It has the ability to optimally display bone, soft tissue and air. It provides an accurate description of both anatomy and extent of disease in and around PNS. CT scan is gold standard investigation for CRS diagnosis [4].

### Aims and Objectives

1. To study on CT scan, the incidence of structural variations in sinonasal region.
2. To study the correlation between sinonasal anatomical

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variations and sinusitis.

3. To compare the results of this study with the results of the previous workers.

## Material and Methods

**Study Area:** ENT department, down town Hospital, Guwahati, Assam.

**Study Population:** Patients fulfilling the inclusion criteria and attending the ENT OPD and IPD of downtown hospital were included in the study.

**Study Design:** Cross Sectional Study.

**Sample Size:** 106 cases.

**Sample Period:** 1 year from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016.

### Inclusion Criteria

- Chronic Rhinosinusitis diagnosed as per the criteria by AAO-HNS Task Force 1997
- Patients more than 12 years of age
- Septal pathologies like DNS
- Sinonasal polyposis
- Nasal obstruction due to different causes like anatomical variation
- Headache due to nasal pathology

### Exclusion Criteria

- Acute and Subacute Rhinosinusitis
- Patients less than 12 years age
- Septal pathologies like abscess, hematoma and perforation
- Facial trauma and fracture nasal bone
- Sinonasal malignancies
- Previous nasal surgeries
- Granulomatous nasal conditions
- Fungal nasal diseases
- Complicated sinusitis
- Known disorder of ciliary motility like immotile ciliary syndrome, Kartagener's syndrome, Down syndrome and cystic fibrosis
- Those not willing for CT scan

### Methodology

During a 1-year period, a total of 106 cases were evaluated who had attended the OPD or IPD of ENT, downtown hospital, Guwahati, Assam. The patient's clinical features were noted as per AAO-HNS Taskforce 1997 parameters into major and minor. 2 major factors or 1 major factor and 2 minor factors constitute a strong history for CRS.

A thorough clinical examination was done and the diagnosis of rhinosinusitis was established. All the patients in acute phase of the disease were treated conservatively with a course of antibiotics, topical and oral decongestants, antihistaminics and steroids. The patients who returned for follow up were again clinically evaluated for subjective relief in symptoms and objectively by thorough

clinical examination. The patients with persistent symptoms and signs were counseled regarding imaging of nose and PNS by CT scan and also about the need for further endoscopic evaluation and surgery.

Written informed consent was taken and data regarding the patient was collected in a case proforma as per annexure.

### Technique of doing CT Scan

Before undergoing CT scan, the patient was instructed to clean their noses by blowing out any secretions and/or suction clearance of the nose and PNS was done. CT scan was done using a 16 slice CT machine.

### Patient Position

Supine position with head extended. In patients in whom head extension was contraindicated due to cervical spondylosis, gantry tilt was suitably adjusted.

### Angulations

In the coronal study, taking hard palate as reference axis, the plane of section was perpendicular to this structure. Direct scans 3 mm in thickness were made, from the anterior walls of the frontal sinuses (nasion) to the posterior wall of the sphenoid sinus. 0.6 mm high resolution coronal and axial scans were then reconstructed and reviewed.

### Exposures

120 kV, 80 mA with 23 second scan time, window width of 2500 to 3000 HU.

Pattern of disease on CT scan was noted as described by Sonken et al., (1991) and includes:

1. Infundibular pattern
2. Osteomeatal complex pattern
3. Sphenoethmoid recess pattern
4. Sinonasal polyposis pattern
5. Sporadic (unclassifiable) pattern

The data was processed using Microsoft Excel software. For statistical analysis of the data showing relationship of anatomical variation and presence of sinusitis,  $\chi^2$  test was used as tests for significance. The statistical analysis was done using SPSS-16 software.

## Results and Observations

Present study included 106 patients of which 90 (84.9%) cases were of chronic rhinosinusitis and 16 (15.1%) of gross polyposis on clinical examination. Maximum patients i.e. 42 (39.62%) cases were of 21-30 years age group followed by 28 (26.4%) cases between 31-40 years. Youngest patient was 13 years old and eldest was 68 years old. We found a female preponderance with a ratio of 1.52:1.

Various clinical features presented by all patients were categorized

into major and minor factors as per task force 1997. Among major factors, most common was nasal obstruction seen in 96(86.7%) cases, followed by nasal discharge in 84(79.2%) cases, least common was hyposmia or anosmia seen in 16(15.09%) cases. In minor factors, headache was the most common presenting factor seen in 74(69.81%) cases, followed by fatigue in 34(32%) cases and fever in 24(22.6%) cases. Least common among the minor factors was halitosis seen in 14(13.2%) cases.

In present study most common septal variation was septal deviation seen in 88 (83%) cases and more towards left side in 52 (62.5%) cases. Severe type of septal deviation was most common, seen in 46 (43.3%) cases of which 24 (22.6%) were to left and 22 (20.7%) to right followed by moderate septal deviation in 30 (28.3%) cases and mild in 12 (11.3%) cases. Septal deviation with spur is seen in 40 cases (37.73%) of which 24 were on left side and 16 on right side. Septal pneumatization is seen in 50 (47.1%) cases. (Table 1)

In present study we noted presence of agger nasi cells in 58 (54.7%) cases, of which 20 (18.8%) were on right side & 38 (35.8%) had bilateral. Concha bullosa was seen in 64 (60.37%) cases. It was bilateral in 30 (28.3%) cases, on right side in 22 (20.75 %) cases and on left side in 12 (11.3 %) cases.

Paradoxically curved middle turbinate was reported in 28 (26.41%) cases which included 20 (18.8%) cases on the left side, 4 (3.7%) cases on the right side and bilaterally in 4(3.7%) cases. Uncinate pneumatization was seen in 12 (11.3%) cases, 10 (9.43%) cases of which were bilateral and only 2 (1.89%) cases were to right side.

Ethmoid bulla was seen to be enlarged in 18 (16.98%) cases. It was encountered bilaterally in 10 (9.4%) cases, on the left side in 06 (5.6%) cases and on the right side in 02 (1.89%) cases. Haller cells were found in 18 (16.98%) cases, mainly on left side in 08 (7.5%) cases followed by 06 (5.66%) cases on right side and 04 (3.7%) cases on both sides. Onodi cells were seen in 12 (11.35%) cases of which 08 (7.5%) cases had it on left side and 04 cases had it on right side.

In present study we found concha bullosa in 64 (60.3%) cases of which most common was lamellar type seen in 40 (37.73%) cases that was bilateral in 18 (16.98%) cases and unilateral in 22 (20.75%) cases. This was followed by bulbous and extensive type seen in 12 (11.32%) cases each and both types were bilateral in 06 (5.67%) cases and unilateral in 06 (5.67%) cases.

In present study we found superior attachment of UP mainly to

lamina papyracea in 70 (66%) cases on left side and 48 (45.2%) on right side. This was followed by attachment to middle turbinate in 40 (37.2%) cases on right and 28 (26.4%) cases on left. Attachment to skull base was seen in 18 (16.9%) cases on right and 08 (7.54%) cases on left.

In present study, frontal cells were seen in 30(28.30%) cases where type I is most commonly seen in 16 (53.3%) cases followed by type II in 8 (26.6%) cases, type III in 04 (13.3%) cases and least common type IV in only 02 (6.6%) cases.

In present study, we found sinus opacification as most common in maxillary sinuses in 90 (84.9%) cases followed by anterior ethmoidal air cells in 54 (50.94%) cases and frontal sinus in 20 (18.9%). Posterior ethmoid sinuses were opacified in 16 (15.09%) cases and sphenoid sinus in 14 (13.2%) cases being the least common. (Figure 1, Table 2)

In present study of 106 patients we have noted different patterns of disease on CT imaging as described by Sonken et al., (1991). OMC pattern of disease was most commonly noted in 32 (30.18%) cases followed by Infundibular pattern in 31 (29.24%) cases and sporadic/unclassified in 25 (23.58%) cases, sinonasal polyposis pattern was seen in 10 (9.43%) cases and least common was SER pattern noted in 08 (7.54%). (Figure 2, Table 3)

In present study we found infundibular pattern was associated with septal deviation on same side of disease in 21 (67.74%) cases, concha bullosa in 18 (58.06%) cases and PMT in 14 (45.16%) cases.

In OMC pattern, septal deviation was noted in 12 (37.5%), concha bullosa in 21 (65.62%) and PMT in 6 (18.75%) cases on same side of disease. In SER pattern, septal deviation was seen in 2 (25%) and PMT in 5 (62.5%) cases on same side of disease. In sinonasal polyposis pattern, septal deviation was seen in 4 (40%) and concha bullosa in 6 (60%) cases on same side of disease. Sporadic pattern of disease was associated with septal deviation in 14 (56%), concha bullosa in 6 (24%) and PMT in 4 (16%) cases on same side of disease.

In present study, we found left sided septal deviation was associated with right sided concha bullosa in 14 cases and right side septal deviation with left sided concha bullosa in 7 cases. Septal deviation with concha bullosa on same side was found in 9 cases. But there was no significant association between side of septal deviation and presence of concha bullosa on contralateral side [P = 0.25 which is not significant because P > 0.05].

**Table 1. Distribution Of Cases According To The Anatomical Variation Detected On CT Imaging.**

Anatomical Variation	Right	Left	Bilateral
Agger nasi cells	20 (18.8%)	-	38 (35.8%)
Concha bullosa	22 (20.75%)	12 (11.3%)	30 (28.3%)
Paradoxically curved middle turbinate	04 (3.7%)	20 (18.8%)	04 (3.7%)
Pneumatized Uncinate Process	02 (1.89%)	-	10 (9.43%)
Large Ethmoidal bulla	02 (1.89%)	06 (5.66%)	10 (9.43%)
Haller cells	06 (5.66%)	08 (7.5%)	04 (3.7%)
Onodi cells	04 (3.7%)	08 (7.5%)	-

Figure 1. Bilateral haller cell (downward arrow) with right sided maxillary sinusitis (star).



Table 2. Distribution Of Cases According To The Pattern Of Diseases On CT Scan.

Pattern of disease	Number of nasal cavities (2 in each patient)			
	Right	Left	Bilateral	Total
Infundibular pattern	07 (6.60%)	16 (15.09%)	08 (7.54%)	31 (29.24%)
OMC pattern	05 (4.71%)	09 (8.49%)	18 (16.98%)	32 (30.18%)
SER Pattern	02 (1.89%)	02 (1.89%)	04 (3.77%)	08 (7.54%)
Sinonasal polyposis pattern	02 (1.89%)	07 (6.60%)	01 (0.94%)	10 (9.43%)
Sporadic/unclassified pattern	08 (7.54%)	09 (8.47%)	08 (7.54%)	25 (23.58%)

Figure 2. Left sided Osteomeatal pattern sinusitis.



Table 3. Distribution Of Cases According To Radiological Pattern Of Disease And Its Association With Anatomical Variations.

Pattern of Disease	Number of Patients	Anatomical Variation on Side of Disease *		
		DNS	CB	PMT
Infundibular pattern	31 (29.24%)	21	18	14
OMC unit pattern	32 (30.18%)	12	21	06
SER pattern	08 (7.54%)	02	-	05
Sinonasal polyposis pattern	10 (9.43%)	04	06	-
Sporadic pattern	25 (23.58%)	14	06	04

\*Anatomical variation on the side of sinusitis was consider in ipsilateral disease and in bilateral disease both sides were considered.

In present study we found septal deviation in 88 (83%) cases where moderate septal deviation was more frequently associated with sinusitis on same side in 21 (70%) cases. Among severe septal deviations, we found sinusitis on the same side in 26 (56.52%) cases and among mild septal deviations in 6 (50%) cases. We found significant association of moderate septal deviation with

sinusitis [chi-square test  $\chi^2 = 4.8$ , DF= 1, P = 0.02].

In this study, we found concha bullosa in 64 (60.3%) cases of which 40 (37.73%) were lamellar and 25 (62.5%) of those were seen on side of disease. Bulbous and extensive types were seen in 12 (11.32%) cases each. 5 cases in the bulbous concha and 8 cases in extensive concha were associated with sinusitis on same side.

There was no significant association between the type of concha bullosa and sinusitis on same side of disease [P > 0.05] (Figure 3).

**Discussion**

In present study out of 106 cases, maximum patients were between the age group of 21- 30 years i.e. 42 (39.62%) cases followed by 28 (26.4%) cases in 31-40 year age group. The findings in the present study correlate well with the other studies listed below having most of their presentation in the same age group. This is the most active age group and comprises the most productive age group of society (Table 4).

In present study we found female preponderance in cases of CRS with ratio of 1.52:1 which correlate well with the other studies listed below. It was reported that female dominance was due to hormonal changes that occurs during puberty, pregnancy, menstruation and sexual excitement due to vasomotor imbalance leading to frequent sinusitis. (Table 5)

Present study included 106 patients where 90 (84.9%) chronic sinusitis and 16 (15.1%) gross polyposis cases found on clinical examination, while study conducted by Jones et al., (1997) had 75% CRS and 25% diffuse polyposis [13].

The most common major symptom seen in the present study is nasal obstruction in 96 (86.7%) cases, followed by nasal discharge/post nasal drip in 84 (79.2%) cases. Least common presenting symptom was hyposmia or anosmia seen in 16 (15.09%) cases. In minor symptoms, most common was headache seen in 74 (69.81%) cases, followed by fatigue in 34 (32%) cases and fever in 24 (22.6%) cases. Least common symptom among the minor factors was halitosis in 14 (13.2%) cases.

Rohit Saxena et al., (2010) studied 60 patients of CRS and reported post nasal drip as most common major symptom seen in 46 (76.7%) cases followed by nasal obstruction in 43 (71.7%) cases. Among minor symptoms headache was seen in 36 (60%) cases followed by cough in 20 (33.3%) and earache in 8 (13.3%) cases [14]. In present study most common septal variation was septal deviation seen in 88 (83%) cases, more common on left side 52 (62.5%) cases and right side seen in 36 (33.96%) cases. Mamatha in 2010 in his study showed the prevalence of DNS ranging from 14.1% to 80% [15] as reported by other workers: Dutra and Marchiori 14.1%; Kinusi et al., 23.3%; Arslan et al., 36%; Asruddin 38% ; Earwaker 44%; Maru 55.7% and Pinas P et al., 80%. In other studies, these findings are Zinreich SJ et al., (1988) [16] 21%, Bolger WE et al., (1991) [5] 18.8%, Jarconcharri

**Figure 3. Bilateral concha bullosa (downward arrow) with right maxillary sinusitis (star) and left septate maxilla (side arrow).**



**Table 4. Reported Age Groups / Mean Age For Presentation Of CRS By Various Authors.**

Name of authors	Year of study	Most common age group/mean age
Bolger WE et al., [5]	1991	37.1 years
Basic N et al., [6]	1999	42 years
Joe JK et al., [7]	2000	37 years
Talaiepour AR et al., [8]	2005	35.2 years
Baradaranfar MH et al., [9]	2007	34.46 years
Saha et al., [10]	2008	21- 40 years
Sheetal D et al., [11]	2011	20 – 40 years
In present study	2015-2016	21-30 years

**Table 5. Authors Reporting Female Preponderance In Their Studies.**

Name of author	Year of study	Percentage of females
Basic N et al., [6]	1999	63.20%
Mahajan et al., [12]	2003	56.45%
Talaiepour AR et al., [8]	2005	51.70%
In present study	2015-2016	60.37%

et al., (1999) [17] 72.33% cases and Talaiepour AR et al., (2005) [8] 63% cases. Our results of septal deviation are comparable to higher range reported.

In present study we have classified septal deviation depending upon the severity of deviation as mild, moderate and severe [18]. We found severe type of septal deviation as most common in 46 (43.3%) cases, moderate in 30 (28.3%) cases and mild in 12 (11.3%) cases. Septal deviation with spur is seen in 40 cases of which 24 were on left side and 16 on right side. The prevalence of septal spur in our study was 37.73% and as reported by Danese et al., [19] is 33% and by Jareoncharsri et al., [17] is 25.3%. In present study septal pneumatization is seen in 50 (47.1%) cases which are higher than those reported by Wang RG et al., (2003) in 18% cases [20] and Chao TK (2005) in 2% cases [21].

Aggernasi cells were seen in total 58 (54.7%) cases of which 20 (18.8%) had prominent aggernasi on right side & 38 (35.8%) had bilateral aggernasi. These findings correlates with studies of Talaiepour AR et al., (2005) [8] and Baradaranfar MH et al., (2006) [9] which reported the prevalence as 56 % and 36% respectively.

In present study, concha bullosa was seen in 64 (60.37%) cases that was bilateral in 30 (28.3), only right side in 22 (20.75%) and only left side in 12 (11.3%). The prevalence in our study correlates well with those reported by Bolger WE et al., [5] (1991) as 53%, John Earwaker (1993) [22] as 55% and Perez P et al., (2000) 73% [23].

Paradoxically curved middle turbinate was reported in 28 (26.41%) cases which included 20 (18.8%) cases on left side and 4 (3.7%) cases each on right side and bilaterally. These correlated well with study conducted by Bolger WE et al., (1991) who reported PMT in 26.1 % cases 5; Hosemann WG et al., (2000) [24] in 24% and Rohit Saxena et al (2010) 14 in 32%.

In our study, uncinate pneumatization was seen in 12 (11.3%) cases of which 10 (9.43%) were bilateral and only 02 (1.89%) were on the right side. These findings correlated to Lloyd GAS et al., (1991) who reported 16 % cases of uncinate pneumatization [25].

Ethmoid bulla was seen to be enlarged in 18 (16.98%) cases where it was bilateral in 10 (9.4%), only left side in 6 (5.6%) and only right side in 2 (1.89%). Incidence in present study correlated with the study of Lloyd GAS et al., [25] (1991) who reported enlarged ethmoid bulla in 18% and Rohit Saxena et al., [14] (2009) in 16%. (Table 6)

Haller cells were found in 18 (16.98%) cases. These findings correlated with other studies such as 10% in Zinreich SJ et al., (1988) [16], 8% in Pinas P et al., (2000) [23], 7% in Hosemann WG et al (2000)24 and 9% in Jones NS et al., (2002) [28].

Onodi cells were seen in 12 (11.35%) cases which correlated well with other studies. Pinas P et al., in 2000 studied CT of 110 patients suspected of inflammatory disease and reported onodi cells in 11% cases [23].

In present study, superior attachment of UP found mainly to lamina papyracea in 70 (66%) cases on left side and 48 (45.2%) on right side. This was followed by attachment to middle turbinate seen in 40 (37.2%) cases on right and 28 (26.4%) on left. Attachment to skull base was seen in 18 (16.9%) cases on right and 08 (7.54%) on left.

Sheetal D et al., (2011) also reported superior attachment of UP most commonly to lamina papyracea (70% on right side and 66% on left side) followed by the middle turbinate (24% on right and 31% on left side) [11].

In present study we have found the most common appearance of frontal cell type I seen in 16 (15.9%) cases followed by type II in 8 (7.5%) cases, type III in 4 (3.7%) and type IV in only 2 (1.8%) cases.

Meyer TK et al., studied 768 scans and found type I frontal cells in 14.9% cases, type II in 1.3%, type III in 1.7% and type IV in 2.1% [30]. Del Gaudio JM et al., (2005) studied 106 CT PNS and found type I frontal cells most common in 18.1% followed by type III in 6.1%, type IV in 2.4% and type II in 1.4% cases [31]. Finding of

**Table 6. Incidence Of Anatomical Variations On CT Scan In Patients Of CRS By Various Authors And Its Correlation With Present Study.**

Name of Author	AN	CB	PMT	PUP	EEB	Haller	Onodi
Zinreich SJ et al., [16] in 1988	Nearly all	36%	15%	0.4%	8%	10%	-
Lloyd GA et al., [26] in 1990	3%	14%	17%	16%	18%	2%	-
Bolger WE et al., [5] in 1991	98.50%	53%	26.10%	2.50%	-	45.10%	-
Lloyd GAS & Lund VJ [25] in 1991	14%	24%	15%	-	-	15%	-
Milczuk HA et al., [27] in 1993	-	9.60%	4.40%	-	-	5.30%	-
John Earwaker [22] in 1993	96%	55%	16.80%	-	-	20%	-
Pinas P et al., [23] in 2000	Nearly all	73%	10%	4.5%	-	8%	11%
Hosemann WG et al., [25] in 2000	15%	30%	24%	-	-	7%	-
Jones NS et al., [28] in 2002	96.50%	20%	11.50%	1.5%	8.50%	9%	8%
Talaiepour AR. et al., [8] in 2005	56%	35%	-	-	-	3.50%	-
Baradaranfar MH et al., [9] 2006	36%	12.50%	1.67%	-	-	4.17%	-
Rohit Saxena et al., [14] in 2010	7%	21%	32%	33%	16%	-	-
Vijay Bajaj et al., [29] in 2015	72.50%	30%	8.75%	2.5%	21.25%	3.75%	22.50%
Present study (2015-2016)	54.70%	60.30%	26.40%	11.3%	16.90%	16.90%	11.30%

our study correlated well with those studies.

### Severity of Concha Bullosa on CT imaging

In present study, we found 94 concha bullosa in 64 (60.3%) cases. Lamellar concha was most commonly seen in 40 (37.73%) cases, bulbous and extensive concha bullosa seen in 12 (11.32%) cases each. In 1991, Bolger WE et al., studied 202 patients and found lamellar concha in 46.2% cases, bulbous concha in 31.2% cases and extensive i.e. true concha bullosa in 15.7% cases [5]. Uygur T et al., in 2003 studied 100 consecutive patients of chronic sinusitis and found lamellar concha 55.3%, bulbous in 33.97% and extensive in 10.8% cases [32].

Keles et al., in 2010 studied 90 patients of concha bullosa and found lamellar concha in 14.3% cases, 30% cases of bulbous concha and 44.4% cases were extensive or true concha bullosa [33]. The incidence of appearance of lamellar concha in present study correlated with Bolger WE et al., (1991) and Uygur et al., (2003).

### Septal Deviation and its Relation to Concha Bullosa

In present study we found septal deviation and concha bullosa related to each other in its appearance. Concha bullosa with septal deviation on opposite side was found in 21 cases and on same side was found in 9 cases. But there was no significant association between side of septal deviation and presence of concha bullosa on contralateral side [ $P = 0.25$  which is not significant because  $P > 0.05$ ].

The study conducted by Stallman et al., (2002) found significant association between the septal deviation and concha bullosa. They found that in patients with left sided unilateral, concha 117 (70%) cases had right sided nasal septal deviation, 11 (7%) cases had left sided nasal septal deviation and 38 (23%) cases had no septal deviation [34].

Keles et al., (2010) evaluated relationship between nasal septal deviation and concha bullosa and reported that concha occurs more frequently on the opposite side of septal deviation (50%) than to the side of septal deviation (17.8%) cases [33]. Thus our findings correlates well with finding reported by Stallman et al. and Keles et al.,

### Involvement of Sinus on CT Imaging

In present study we found most common sinus involved was maxillary, seen in 90 (84.9%) cases followed by anterior ethmoids in 54 (50.94%), frontal in 20 (18.9%) and posterior ethmoids in 16 (15.09%). Least common involved sinus was sphenoid in 14 (13.2%) cases.

Calhoun et al., (1991) studied coronal CT sinus of 82 patients and found maxillary to be most commonly involved in 43% cases followed by anterior ethmoids in 34% and frontal sinus least [35].

Rohit Saxena et al., (2010) in his study of 60 cases found anterior ethmoids most commonly involved in 31 (51.7%) followed by maxillary in 29 (48.3%) cases [14]. Our findings correlated with Calhoun et al and Rohit Saxena et al in involvement of sinuses.

### Pattern of disease on CT Imaging

In present study, OMC pattern was most commonly noted in 32 (30.18%) cases followed by infundibular pattern in 31 (29.24%), sporadic or unclassified unit pattern in 25 (23.58%), sinonasal polyposis in 10 (9.43%) and SER pattern in 8 (7.54%) cases.

Sonkens et al., (1991) in 500 patients reported 26% infundibular pattern, 25% OMC pattern, 6% SER pattern, 10% sinonasal polyposis and in 24% cases, sporadic pattern [36].

Lerdlum S et al., in 2005 evaluated screening sinus CT of 133 patients with inflammatory sinus disease and found that pattern I to be most common pattern of inflammatory disease (33.1%) followed by pattern II in 25.6%, pattern III in 24.4%, pattern IV in 10.5% and pattern V in 19.9% [37].

Naimi M et al., in 2006 studied 200 coronal CT scans and reported OMC pattern as most common in 34% cases followed by sporadic pattern in 32%, SER pattern in 24%, sinonasal polyposis pattern 16% and least common infundibular pattern in 6% [38].

Eggesbo in 2006 studied patients undergoing sinonasal CT for suspected inflammatory sinonasal disease and reported infundibular and OMC patterns as most common (25% each). The SER and sinonasal polyposis patterns are less common, and each is found in less than 10%. The sporadic pattern is reported in 24% [39]. Our findings correlates well with these studies.

### Radiological Pattern of Disease and its Association with Anatomical Variation

In the present study in bilateral cases of sinusitis presence of anatomical variation on each side was considered separately. OMC pattern was seen in 32 (30.18%) cases which was associated with nasal septal deviation seen in 12, concha bullosa in 21 and PMT in 6 cases on same side of disease.

Infundibular pattern was seen in 31 (29.24%) cases which were associated with deviated nasal septum in 21, concha bullosa in 18 and PMT in 14 cases on same side of disease. Out of 25 (23.58%) cases of sporadic pattern, 14 cases were associated with nasal septal deviation, 6 cases with concha bullosa and 4 cases with PMT on same side of disease.

In 10 (9.43%) cases of sinonasal polyposis pattern, we found septal deviation in 4 cases and concha bullosa in 6 cases, on same side of disease. In least common sphenoidal recess pattern, we found 2 cases of septal deviation and 5 cases of PMT on same side of disease. OMC, infundibular and sporadic pattern were frequently associated with anatomical variation on same side.

Lerdlum S et al., (2005) studied 133 patients with inflammatory sinus disease and found that OMC pattern was associated with concha bullosa in 10 cases, infundibular pattern was associated with haller cells while agger nasi cells was associated with nasofrontal duct pattern [37].

### Types of Septal Deviation and its Relation with Sinusitis

Out of 12 cases of mild septal deviation, 6 (50%) cases were associated with sinusitis on same side. Out of 30 cases of

moderate septal deviation, 21 (70%) cases were associated with sinusitis on same side. Severe septal deviation was seen in 46 cases and in 26 (56.52%) cases, it was associated with sinusitis on same side. The finding in this study shows strong association between moderate septal deviation and sinusitis on same side which was statistically significant [Chi-square test  $\chi^2 = 4.8$ , DF= 1, P < 0.02].

### Type of Concha Bullosa and its Relation with Sinusitis

In present study we found lamellar concha bullosa in 40 (37.73%) cases, bulbous concha bullosa in 12 (11.32%) cases and extensive concha bullosa in 12 (11.32%) cases. 62.5% (25 out of 40) cases of lamellar concha, 41% (5 out of 12) cases of bulbous concha and 66.66% (8 out of 12) cases of extensive concha were associated with disease on the side of concha. There was no significant association between the type of concha bullosa and sinusitis on same side of disease [P > 0.05].

In 2005, Hatipoglu et al., found no significant difference between the type of concha and association of sinusitis on same side. They found sinusitis on same side in 58.34% lamellar concha, 81% extensive concha and 37% bulbous concha [40].

### Conclusion

Rhinosinusitis commonly affects the working population with female preponderance. Anatomical variation is observed to be one of the predominant etiologies for osteomeatal complex block as well as sinusitis. Computed tomography is the paramount modality to study and analyze these anatomical variations.

There is a significant association of moderate septal deviation with sinusitis and no association of any single type of concha with sinusitis. Though anatomical variations are important in pathogenesis of sinusitis, their association could not be statistically proven.

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