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Langer's axillary arch, a rare variant, and prevalence among Caucasians: a case study

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During the dissection of a 79-year-old Caucasian female cadaver, a variant of Langer's axillary arch was found unilaterally in the left axilla. While Langer's axillary arches are not uncommon, this particular variant, attaching to the biceps brachii, is much rarer with a reported prevalence of only 0.25%. The case reported here, however, is only the third example of a Langer's axillary arch that has been found in the last 14 years in the Dissecting Room at St George's, University of London, giving it an overall prevalence of approximately 1.0% amongst a population of around 280 Caucasian cadavers, much lower than the reported frequency of 7%. Langer's axillary arches can be completely asymptomatic in life, but may also cause a variety of issues both clinically and surgically.