

Introduction

The blood supply to the inferior and superior para thyroid glands is mainly from the inferior thyroid artery. The superior thyroid gland may also be supplied by tributaries from the superior thyroid artery.

It has been suggested, but not conclusively documented that truncal ligation of both superior and inferior thyroid arteries may cause devascularization of the parathyroid glands.

In an effort to reduce the hypoparathyroidism which result from the truncal ligation of the inferior thyroid artery which is the sole blood supply of the parathyroid glands.

Block and Co-workers modify the technique for subtotal thyroidectomy the basic component of the technique involves capsular ligation of the branches of the inferior thyroid artery.

Halsted specifically avoided lateral ligation of the inferior thyroid artery near the carotid artery to prevent parathyroid ischaemia.

This work aims to study the effect of ligation of the inferior thyroid artery on parathyroid function in order to standardise the safest anatomical and physiological technique.