

E-Pearl of the Week

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Pop quiz: Cranial neuropathies in dissection

Pop quiz: What is the only cranial nerve injury that has not been reported with carotid artery dissection?

Answer: Cranial nerve 1 (olfactory). All other cranial nerves may be affected by carotid dissections. They all either travel close to the internal carotid artery and may suffer compression from the mass-like intramural hematoma, or they can be affected by occlusion of their vascular supply (for example CN2, which may suffer injury due to anterior ischemic optic neuropathy from posterior ciliary artery occlusion).

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