

## **NASAL SEPTUM MORPHOLOGY IN HUMAN FETUSES IN COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY IMAGES**

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Deviation of the nasal septum (DSN) may be reason of breathing dysfunction. It is observed in its cartilaginous and bony part. The reason of the septal deviation is the developmental anomaly in growth of the elastic septum and its skeleton. Developing septum deforms and becomes S or C shaped in transverse projection. Such type of deviation is called physiological. Some of nasal septum deformities can be inherent and are observed in the families. Some can be a result of the perinatal trauma. Thanks to intensive development of radiological methods and using them in anatomical researches in last years, structure of foetus can be analysed by using of the MRI and CT images. It enables detailed structural analysis without sectioning and destruction of body of fetus. The aim of the work was the analysis of the anatomy of the nasal cavity with a special interest focused on the nasal septum and its deviation. We paid attention on the presence developmental anomalies. The nasal cavity with its bones and septum were analyzed in CT images of 112 human fetuses aged 12 ? 40 week of foetal life. All examinations were performed post mortem by the mean of computed tomography. We measured the size of bones of the face, their growth dynamics and antropological measurements of facial skull. Analysis of the CT images of nasal cavity revealed presence of the septal cartilage displacement in 35 foetuses, deviation of the nasal septum in 40% fetuses. We also observed correlation between growth of the fetus and the dimensions of the middle part of the face. We conclude that the observation of the nasal cavity development enables evaluation of growth and symmetry of the nasal septum and predispositions to disturbances of the upper part of respiratory tract.