Guido Guidi’s Short Biography And His Eponyms
(The Vidian Artery, Nerve and Canal)

Çağatay Üstün*

*Ege Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, Tıp Tarihi ve Tıp Etiği AD, İzmir

Guido Guidi (Vidianus) was Professor of Medicine at College of France and physician to Francis I. In 1548 he returned to Italy and appointed Professor of Phyllosophy and Medicine at the University of Pisa where remained for 20 years. Today he is remembered in part by having given his name to the pterygoid canal or Vidian Canal and the artery and nerve of the pterygoid canal-the Vidian Artery and the Vidian Nerve.

Key Words: Guido Guidi, Eponyms (The Vidian Artery, Nerve and Canal)

Guido Guidi’nin Kısa Biyografisi ve eponimleri (Vidian Arter, Sınır ve Kanal)


Anahtar Kelimeler: Guido Guidi, Eponimler (Vidian Arter, Sınır ve Kanal)

Guido Guidi (Vidianus) was a physician from a family of physicians. (Picture 1)

Videus was Professor of Medicine at the College of France and physician to Francis I. He carried out important anatomical investigations at Pisa after 1548, recorded in a manuscript, Anatomia, which was composed around 1560. His name is attached to the canalis vidianus of the sphenoid bone and to the nerve that traverses this canal. He also made original studies of the mechanism of articulation in the human body resulting from its vertical position in relation to the mechanism of quadruped articulations.

Guidi was the author of a book on surgery that he translated from the Greek (of Hippocrates, Galen, and Oribasius— from a manuscript that Cardinal Ridolfi furnished to him) and to which he added a commentary of his own.

Guidi’s Ars medicalis, in three volumes, was essentially complete at the time of Guidi’s death; it was published finally in 1596.

He also made original studies of the mechanism of articulation in the human body resulting from its vertical position in relation to the mechanism of quadruped articulations. It also appears that Guidi elaborated and improved upon various devices in Hippocrates for setting fractures and reducing dislocations. After becoming a doctor of medicine, he practiced in Rome and Florence. In 1542 he went to Paris, where he was named royal physician and became the first professor of medicine at the College Royal. In his Chirurgia of 1544 Guidi presents himself above all as a humanist anxious for the faithful restoration of classical knowledge. On the other hand, the Anatomia is the work of a scientist fully conscious of the Vesalian revolution and seeking his inspiration from nature. Unfortunately, this treatise was printed, under the title De anatome corporis humani, in a posthumous edition with hideous illustrations and maladroit additions by Guido Guidi, Jr., Guidi’s nephew. This explains the negative judgments of several historians of medicine and their claims that Guidi plagiarized Vesalius and Falloppio. In his writing on practical medicine Guidi remained within classical Galenism. Nevertheless, this conservatism did not prevent him
from describing a new childhood disease (chickenpox) or from inventing an original method for tracheotomy

Guido Guidi, discovered the Vidian nerve, the Vidian canal, and the Vidian artery. The above was edited by his nephew.

Another important description of an anatomical theater appeared in Vidius Vidius's treatise on anatomy, which was published posthumously in 1611 (Picture 2). Its instructions provide important details on construction, and the book recognized the need for adequate lighting.

He is remembered in part by having given his name to the pterygoid canal, or Vidian Canal, which traverses the greater wing of the sphenoid, and the artery and nerve of the pterygoid canal - the Vidian Artery and Vidian Nerve. The Vidian Artery is a small branch of the intrapetrous internal carotid artery. The Vidian Artery has peripheral anastomoses with the external carotid artery via branches of the internal maxillary artery. He also made original studies of the mechanism of articulation in the human body resulting from its vertical position in relation to the mechanism of quadruped articulations.

The Vidian Canal (Pterygoid canal) traverses the greater wing of the sphenoid bone. It transmits the Vidian (pterygoid) Nerve and Artery and runs anteriorly from the anterior border of the foramen lacerum, to end in the pterygopalatine fossa. The Vidian Nerve (nerve of the pterygoid [Vidian]) canal transmits parasympathetic fibers of the greater petrosal nerve, itself a branch of the facial nerve (VII), to the pterygopalatine ganglion. Sympathetic
fibers from the internal carotid artery sympathetic neural plexus, initially transmitted within the deep petrosal nerve, and the Vidian Artery (artery of the pterygoid canal), a branch of the distal internal carotid artery, also traverses the Vidian Canal. The parasympathetic fibers will subsequently join the palatine, nasopalatine and pharyngeal nerves, themselves branches of the maxillary nerve (V-2), as secretomotor fibers of the mucosa of the nasal passageways, palate, pharynx and the lacrimal gland. The sympathetic fiber supply the same mucosal areas as well as the lacrimal gland.  

2,3 (Picture 3, 4)  

**Picture 3.** CT image showing the Vidian Canal.  

**Picture 4.** Lateral internal carotid angiogram demonstrating a juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma. The vidian artery is seen to originate from the petrous internal carotid and supply the mass. (http://bubbasoft.org/carotid_collaterals/Maxillary_ICA.htm)  

**REFERENCES**  
2. Historic Davidge Hall [http://www.medicalalumni.org/history/early_anatom.html]  
3. Le débuts de la chirurgie [http://gallica.bnf.fr/ddd/so0122h.html]  
5. Garrison HF. An Introduction to the History of Medicine, W.B. Saunders Company, 1967; 223.  

**Yazıma Adresi:**  
Yrd. Doç. Dr. Çağatay ÜSTÜN  
Ege Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi  
Tıp Tarihi ve Tıp Etiği AD  
35100 Bornova, İzmir  
E-mail : custun@med.ege.edu.tr