

## **Relationship between the recurrent Laryngeal Nerve and the inferior Thyroid Artery in Sri Lankans**

The anatomical relationship between the recurrent laryngeal nerve and the thyroid artery in Sri Lankans is not documented. A preliminary study of the anatomy of the recurrent laryngeal nerve and the inferior thyroid artery was made on 25 sides of the necks of 10 Sri Lankan male and 4 Sri Lankan female fixed dissecting room cadavers. On the right side, the nerve passed posterior to the artery in 38.5% anterior to it in 23.1% and between the branches of the artery in 38.5% anterior to it in 8.3% and between the branches in 33.3%. There was a difference in the percentage distribution of the three types between the right and left sides. The side difference in the relationship could be attributed to the difference in the relationship could be attributed to the difference in the course of the recurrent laryngeal nerve between the two sides. The fact that the relationship of the recurrent laryngeal nerve to the inferior thyroid artery not following a constant anatomical pattern could be the cause of mistakes even for the most experienced surgeons.

The present study revealed that the relationship between the nerve and the artery in Sri Lankans was similar to those in Americans, Europeans and Japanese reported in other previous studies.