

Anatomic variation regarding number of heads of the brachial biceps muscle

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The brachial biceps muscle (m) is located in the anterior portion of the arm. Both origins of the muscle, short and long head, are originated respectively in the coracoid process and in the supraglenoid tubercle of the shoulderblade and have their insertion in the radial tuberosity¹. The brachial biceps muscle is responsible for the flexion and supination of the forearm and also contributes to the arm flexion¹. Occasionally the literature has described brachial biceps muscles (mm) with four heads, being the two supra-numerary named infero-medial, originating by the coracobrachialis muscle and the supero-lateral head, originating by the deltoid and pectoralis major muscles^{2,3}. It has also been described brachial biceps muscles (mm) with three heads, being the supra-numerary head called infero-medial, originating by the coracobrachialis muscle⁴ or the supero-lateral head, originating by the deltoid and pectoralis major muscles^{4,5}. Dissecting the anterior part of two superior members previously fixed in formaldehyde 10%, one of the pieces exhibited one three-headed brachial biceps muscle and the other the same muscle, with four heads. The pieces were already fixed, being impossible to know the causa mortis, as well age or gender. It was detected the presence of one four-headed brachial biceps muscle, with the supra-numeraries in medial and lateral position and another three-headed, the third situated between the usually seen short and long head.

References

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