

## Dissection and review of the variations of extensor digitalis longus muscle

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The Extensor digitalis longus is a muscle, its tendon is divided into four terminal expansions, which are directed to the last four toes. The objective of this study consists on the revision and description of the analysis unit and of its more important variables, so that in future surgical approaches and reconstructive are kept in mind, due to the frequency of lesions that they take place in the lower limb. The design work is descriptive, 40 cadaverous pieces were used, of adults of both sexes, fixed with Formaldehyde to 10%. Dissection techniques, biometrics with conventional instruments, optics magnification 2x and 5x and panoramic and focused photographic record were used. We performed statistical analysis and tabulation of data. The empirical analysis of the material shows: Classical variety: 7 pieces (31.82%). Variety II: A special belly for each tendon: 3 pieces (13.64%). Variety III: A slip from the tendon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> toe for the extensor digitalis brevis: 2 pieces (9.09%). Variety IV: A double tendon for the little toe: 1 piece (4.54%). Variety V: The tendon of the 5<sup>th</sup> toe emits a fibrous slip for the peroneo tertio; for the dorsal side of the body of the 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsal, and another, thinner, for the capsule of the 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsus-phalange articulation: 1 piece (4.54%). Variety VI: The tendon of the 5<sup>th</sup> toe emits a slip that is lost inside the capsule of the metatarsus-phalange articulation: 1 piece (4.54%). Variety VII: The tendon is divided before moving below the retinaculum of the extensor muscles: 7 pieces (31.82%). Variety VIII: The unique tendon is divided in one external and other internal. The internal tendon gives the tendon for the 2<sup>nd</sup> toe, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> toe and an internal root for the tendon of the 4<sup>th</sup> toe. The external tendon gives an external root for the tendon of the 4<sup>th</sup> toe and the tendon for the 5<sup>th</sup> toe: 1 piece (4.54%). Variety IX: The tendon of the 5<sup>th</sup> toe is divided in three: 1 piece (4.54%). Variety X: The tendon of the 5<sup>th</sup> toe emits expansions for the peroneus tertius: 1 piece (4.54%). Variety XI: the tendon of the 4<sup>th</sup> toe emits a slip (proximal) which then binds to the same tendon (at its distal portion): 1 piece (4.54%). Variety XII: the tendon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> toe emits an expansion for the capsule of the 2<sup>nd</sup> metatarsus-phalange articulation: 1 piece (4.54%). The seven latest varieties are not described by classical authors. The results reflect a wide variability of muscle to be kept in mind in medical practices. Cadaverous material was produced for teaching purposes of the chair.

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