

## Revision and description of varieties of the muscle abductor pollicis longus

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The muscle Abductor pollicis longus is the most external of the deep plan of the forearm's posterior group. It inserts in the posterior face of the Ulna and Radius, and also in the forearm's interosseous membrane. It obliquely descends above the carpal continuing by a tendon which inserts in the lateral face of the upper limb of the first metacarpal bone. The aim of this paper is to describe and corroborate existing varieties in our field to substantiate the clinical and surgical practices. The design is descriptive type. Thirty one (31) both sex adults upper limbs pieces were used, fixed in formalin 10%. Biometric and dissection techniques were used, using conventional instrumental and optic magnification of 2x and 5x. Panoramic and focalized photograph register was made. All data were statistically analyzed. From the eighteen (18) varieties described by the classic authors we found: a) Classic variety in eleven (11) pieces (35.40%). b) A tendon subdivided in two fascicles, one inserted in the first metacarpal bone and the other in the muscle Abductor pollicis brevis, in eight (8) pieces (25.80%). c) Two tendons inserted in the first metacarpal bone, in six (6) pieces (19.35%). d) A triple tendon: one inserted in the Abductor pollicis brevis, and the other two in the first metacarpal bone, in four (4) pieces (12.90%). e) A double tendon: one inserted in the first metacarpal bone and the other is subdivided into two fascicles inserted in the Abductor pollicis brevis and the Trapezium, in two (2) pieces (6.45%). We think that we have reached our objective and show the great variability of the terminal tendon, also producing basic information material on the way to fundament the clinical-surgical practice. Moreover the number of pieces for teaching purposes was increased.

**Keywords:** upper limb, forearm, muscle, abductor pollicis longus, variations.

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