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Lakshmisha Rao

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Accessory muscle in the posterior compartment of the leg – a case report

Y Lakshmisha Rao², Padma Priyadarshini R¹, Mangala M. Pai², Prameela MD²

¹Second Semester MBBS student, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka, India, ²Department of Anatomy, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka, India.

Abstract

The flexor compartment of the leg constitutes of two layers of muscles namely , superficial and deep . These muscles are innervated by the tibial nerve and mainly plantarflex and invert the foot and flex the toes. Presence of an accessory muscle in the posterior compartment is of clinical significance as it could be mistaken for a tumor during clinical examination or could lead to the compression of surrounding neurovascular structures. During routine dissection of a cadaver , an accessory muscle was found in the inferomedial region of the posterior compartment of the left leg. It originated with two heads from the middle portion of the soleus muscle and got inserted on to the medial surface of the calcaneum. The muscle is unilateral and is supplied by the tibial nerve. Many a times accessory muscles will be unnoticed when they are asymptomatic. Evidence about these accessory muscles and their location and attachments is useful in making a proper diagnosis and guiding surgical procedures