



## HYPOPLASIA OF MEDIAL L HEAD OF GASTROCNEMIUS MUSCLE - AN ANATOMICAL VARIATION

### Anatomy

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### KEYWORDS

Gastrocnemius, Cadaveric Study, Anatomical Variation

#### INTRODUCTION:

Gastrocnemius , being a component of Triceps surae , is the superficial flexor of the leg . It arises by two heads, Medial and lateral. Medial and lateral heads of Gastrocnemius with plantaris and soleus form tendon Achilles inserted at lower part of posterior surface of calcaneum.

#### METHODS:

The study was carried out in the department of Anatomy, Government Medical college, Siddipet during the dissection on 10 cadavers. The variation in the medial head of gastrocnemius muscle was observed and images were captured.

#### RESULT:

Out of 20 limbs, in one limb ( Right leg ) Hypoplastic Medial head of gastrocnemius muscle which is contributing for the incomplete boundary of infero medial aspect of popliteal fossa is seen which is an anatomical variation.

#### DISCUSSION:

Gastrocnemius is the most superficial muscle of the posterior compartment of the leg. It consists of two heads- medial and lateral. The two heads descend and unite at the middle of the leg to form broad thin aponeurotic tendon, which unite with the tendon of soleus, a short distance below the middle of the leg to form a long thick tendon- the tendo calcaneus or tendo achilles, which is inserted to the middle of the posterior surface of calcaneum supplied by the tibial nerve[1]. It is the chief plantar flexor and flexor of the knee joint. The gastrocnemius provides rapid movements of the foot during 1. Walking, 2. Running and 3. Jumping. Hypoplasia of Medial head of Gastrocnemius may lead to gait impairment , limited movements of plantar flexion and flexion of Knee joint .The anatomical variation of GASTROCNEMIUS is clinically important for Surgical intervention around Knee joint .

#### CONCLUSION:

The Knowledge of Variation in Gastrocnemius muscle is useful for Surgeons performing Myocutaneous flaps in Reconstruction surgery of breast after total mastectomy and Limb salvage procedures on large oncogenic resection of soft tissue around Knee joint[2].

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