

# Clinical evaluation of fibularis tertius muscle prevalence [Evaluación clínica de la prevalencia del músculo fibular tercero]

Ramirez D.

Gajardo C.

Caballero P.

Zavando D.

Cantín M.

Galdames I.S.

The fibularis tertius muscle (FTM) in man has been developed over time to acquire subsequent bipedal gait. The FTM functions as a crucial contributor in dorsiflexion and eversion, postulated over the years as a stabilizer of the talocrural joint, avoiding forced inversion and protecting the anterior talofibular ligament. The literature describes that FTM is absent in 10% of cases, with no data on Chilean population. A study of surface anatomy in 168 young subjects, 60% female and 40% male students at the Universidad de Talca, Chile, with a mean age of  $20.6 \pm 1.68$  years, was conducted. The presence of FTM was identified following the implementation of a clinical assessment protocol that determines the presence of muscle on the basis of a progression called F1, F2, and F3. The FTM was present in 49.11% of cases. On the right side, 20% ( $n = 37$ ) of the subjects presented the FTM in F2 and 30% ( $n = 50$ ) in F3. On the left side, 1% ( $n = 2$ ) showed the muscle in F1, 21% ( $n = 35$ ) in F2, and 26% ( $n = 44$ ) in F3. Our results contrast with the high prevalence of FTM in the literature and suggest studies of association with lesions of the talocrural region.

Anterior talofibular ligament

Fibularis tertius muscle

Leg

Talocrural joint