

The Abductor Pollicis Longus Tendon as Grafting Material for Reconstructive Surgery of the Hand

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The abductor pollicis longus muscle (APL) is one of the most variable muscles in the hand and often presents with numerous distal tendons, known as accessory or supernumerary tendons. They are an often used source of grafting material for reconstructive hand surgery. The aim of the present study was to examine and describe different variations in the number and morphology of the tendons of the APL and to discuss their possible use as grafting material for reconstructive hand surgery. A total of 30 upper limbs from cadavers were used for the study. We found accessory tendons in 26 of the hands, of which 18 had only one accessory tendon, 6 hands had two, and 2 hands had three accessory tendons. Knowledge of variations in the number of APL tendons is important for successful hand reconstructive surgery, as well as in the context of pathologies, such as De Quervain's syndrome.

Key words: abductor pollicis longus, accessory tendons, grafting material, hand surgery