**Peroneus Tertius: A Review of its Evolution, Variability, and Clinical Significance**

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**Purpose**
The peroneus tertius (PT) muscle, located in the anterior compartment of the leg, was once thought to be unique to humans, allowing bipedal gait, until its discovery in gorillas and later, monkeys. Our goal in this paper is to review the evolutionary history of the peroneus tertius, its variability, and clinical as well as functional importance.

**Methods**
A current review of the literature was conducted to identify studies in the context of clinical significance. The electronic databases on google scholar, Research Gate, and NCBI were explored with various search terms related to peroneus tertius. Cadaver images were taken under WesternU IRB protocol #14/rfd/006.

**Results**
Numerous origin and insertional variants of PT have been identified as well as the doubling and absence of PT. Literature states that PT functions in dorsiflexion, eversion, extension of the foot in weight phase of gait and supporting our erect bipedal posture. However, recent studies have found that there is no significant difference in the strength of dorsiflexion or eversion, or ROM when comparing patients with and without PT.

**Conclusions**
Studies show that patients without PT have no decrease in ROM or strength during dorsiflexion and eversion of gait and no increase in ankle ligament injury when compared to those with a PT. These results are likely due to the recruitment of neighboring muscles. This raises the possibility that clinicians can surgically remove the PT to treat various ankle injuries without compromising a patient's gait.