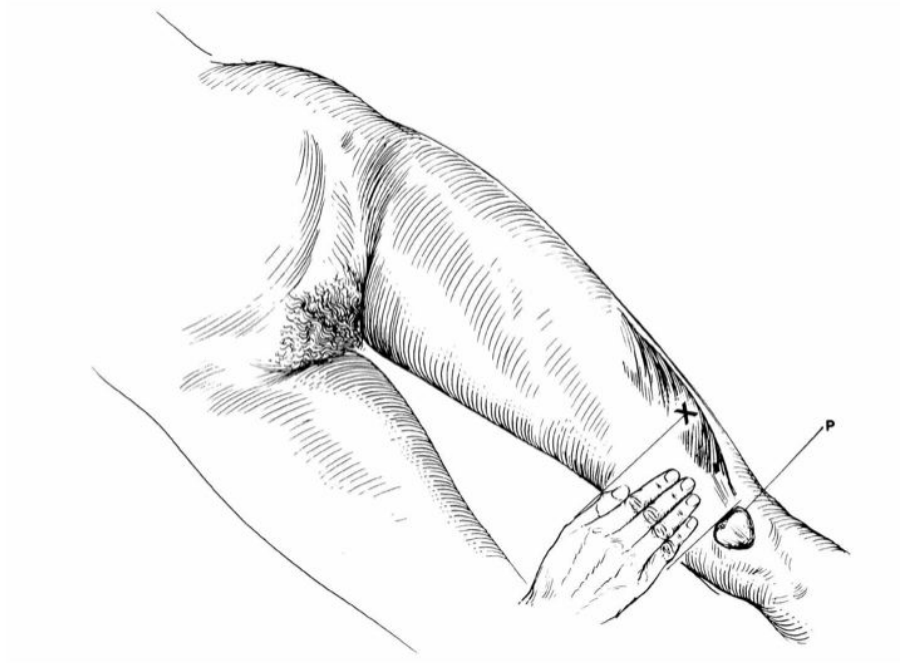


VASTUS LATERALIS



Innervation

Femoral Nerve, Posterior Division Lumbar Plexus, L2, *LS*, *L4*.

Origin

From the intertrochanteric line, the linea aspera and the medial supracondylar line.

Insertion

Through the quadriceps tendon onto the tibial tubercle.

Position

The patient supine.

Electrode Insertion (X)

Over the lateral aspect of the thigh, one handbreadth above the patella.

Test Maneuver

Patient to lift heel from plinth with knee extended.

Pitfalls

If the electrode is inserted too posteriorly it will be in the biceps femoris; if inserted too medially it will be in the rectus femoris.

Comments

- (a) Involved in lesions of:
 - 1. Femoral nerve (entrapment) at the inguinal ligament level
 - 2. Femoral nerve proximal to the inguinal ligament
 - 3. Posterior division of the lumbar plexus
 - 4. L2, L3, L4 roots.
- (b) The main function of this muscle is to extend the knee. When this muscle gets paralyzed, the patient loses the force that keeps the knee in extension. Therefore, the patient develops the feeling that the knee will collapse when loaded during walking for which he tends to support it by placing one hand at the end of the thigh or by forcefully sending his knee into recurvatum which will produce the same effect.

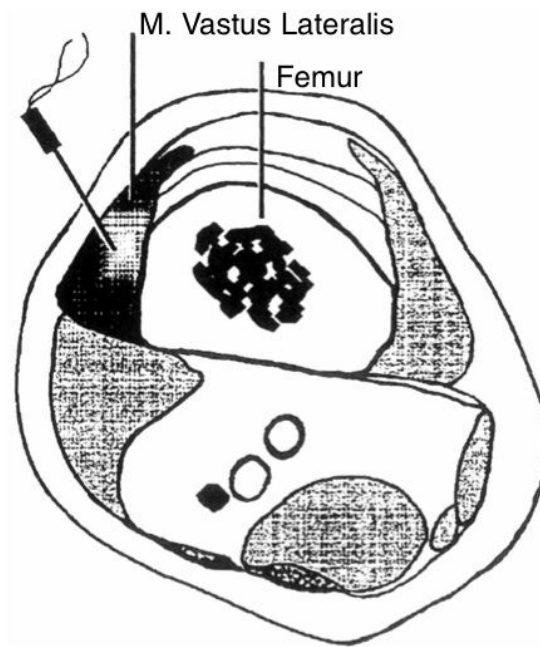


Figure 80. Cross section of the thigh just proximal to the patella.