**Original article:**

**Variations of the Sural Nerve in the Leg – A Fetal Study**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Sural nerve is important clinically, as it is commonly used for nerve conduction studies, nerve biopsies and as a source for nerve grafting. As per the regular description, sural nerve is formed by the direct continuation of medial sural cutaneous nerve (MSCN), a branch of tibial nerve or as the union between MSCN and peroneal communicating branch (PCB) of common peroneal nerve. Numerous variations of sural nerve are described, but the literature from India is scanty, so the present study was done.

**Material and methods:** The study was carried out in 50 embalmed fetuses of Indian origin. The mode and level of formation of sural nerve, its course in the leg, bilateral symmetry and sex difference was noted. The data was analyzed statistically.

**Results:** Type A sural nerve is more common (67%) followed by type B (30%) and type C (3%) respectively. The formation of sural nerve is symmetrical in 68% cases. Asymmetry is more common in females compared to males. In type A, the common site of union of the components of sural nerve is in the lower 1/3rd of leg.

**Conclusion:** Study of variations of sural nerve are clinically important as it is commonly used for nerve biopsies and nerve conduction studies.

**Keywords:** Sural nerve variation, fetus