

## INTRODUCTION

Fracture of the sesamoid bones of the foot are rare and there have been few reports of fracture of the os peroneum in the literature (Crain, 1989). The os peroneum is a round or oval-shaped accessory juxta-articular ossicle within the substance of the peroneus longus tendon (Sobel et al, 1994) and is found in approximately 25% of feet (Bianchi et al 1991). The sesamoid is frequently divided, without sign of any trauma, into two or more fragments (os bipartitum or os multipartitum) (Minor, 1987). It is always present in an ossified, cartilaginous, or fibrocartilaginous stage. It may remain in a fibrocartilaginous nucleus for life and thus is only visible in 5% of radiographic cases (Sarrafiian, 1983). The os peroneum's articular aspect glides over a cartilage covered facet on the cuboid's tuberosity. It is enclosed within a so called bursa, which could well be termed a joint capsule, for the joint has all the essentials of a synovial joint (Williams et al, 1989).

A fibrous expansion may not only connect the peroneus longus tendon at the level of the cuboidal sesamoid to the base of the 5th metatarsal, but also to the origin of the short flexor of the 5th toe and forms the anterior frenular ligament contained in the mesotenon. Occasionally the anterior ligament may be large and represent an insertion of the principal tendon on the base of the 5th metatarsal. A posterior frenular ligament, sesamocuboid, may also exist (Sarrafiian, 1983). Sobel et al (1994) believe that there are additional strong, soft tissue tethers that anchor the os peroneum to the peroneus brevis tendon and also to the plantar fascia.

---

### Correspondence:

Level 2/6 Bayfield Street  
Bellerive, Tasmania 7018

Ph: +61 3 62459226  
Fax: +61 3 62447951