

"If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces, never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again."

Musculoskeletal Block  
**ANATOMY**  
team 435



COLOR CODES

- **IMPORTANT NOTES**
- **EXTRA NOTES**
- **DEFINITION**

# Objectives:

**At the end of this lecture the students should be able to know:**

- The location, boundaries & contents of the popliteal fossa
- The contents of posterior fascial compartment of Leg.
- The structures hold by retinacula at ankle.
- Layers forming in the sole of foot & bone those form the arches of the foot.



# Popliteal Fossa

Is a diamond-shaped intermuscular space at the back of knee

Boundaries	*Medially	*Laterally
*Above	Semitendinosus (2) Semimembranosus (1)	biceps femoris (6)
*Below	Medial head of gastrocnemius	plantaris Lateral head of gastrocnemius

Plantaris is a very thin muscle (some people may not have it)

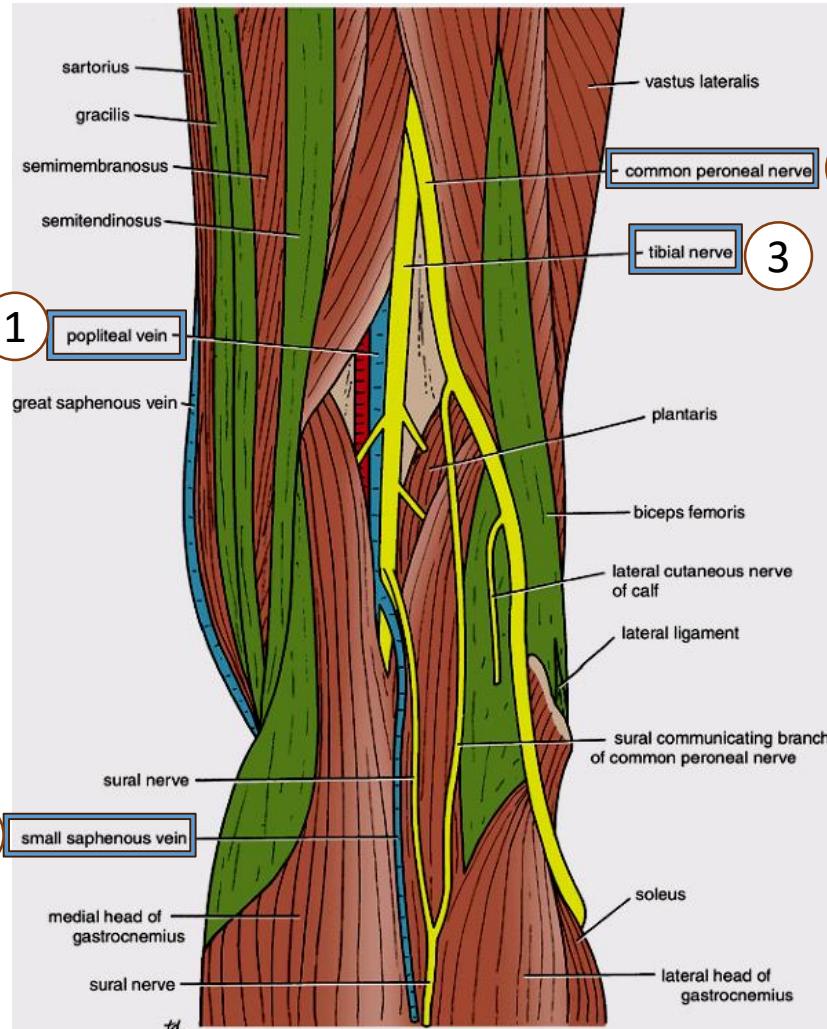
\*Floor: popliteal surface of femur, posterior ligament of knee joint and popliteus muscle.

\*Roof: Skin, superficial and deep fascia of the thigh.



# Content of Popliteal Fossa

Contents of popliteal fossa: 3 vessels (1A 2V) 3 nerves 2 other things



1. Popliteal vessels (vein & artery)

2. Small saphenous vein

3. Tibial nerve.

4. Common peroneal nerve.

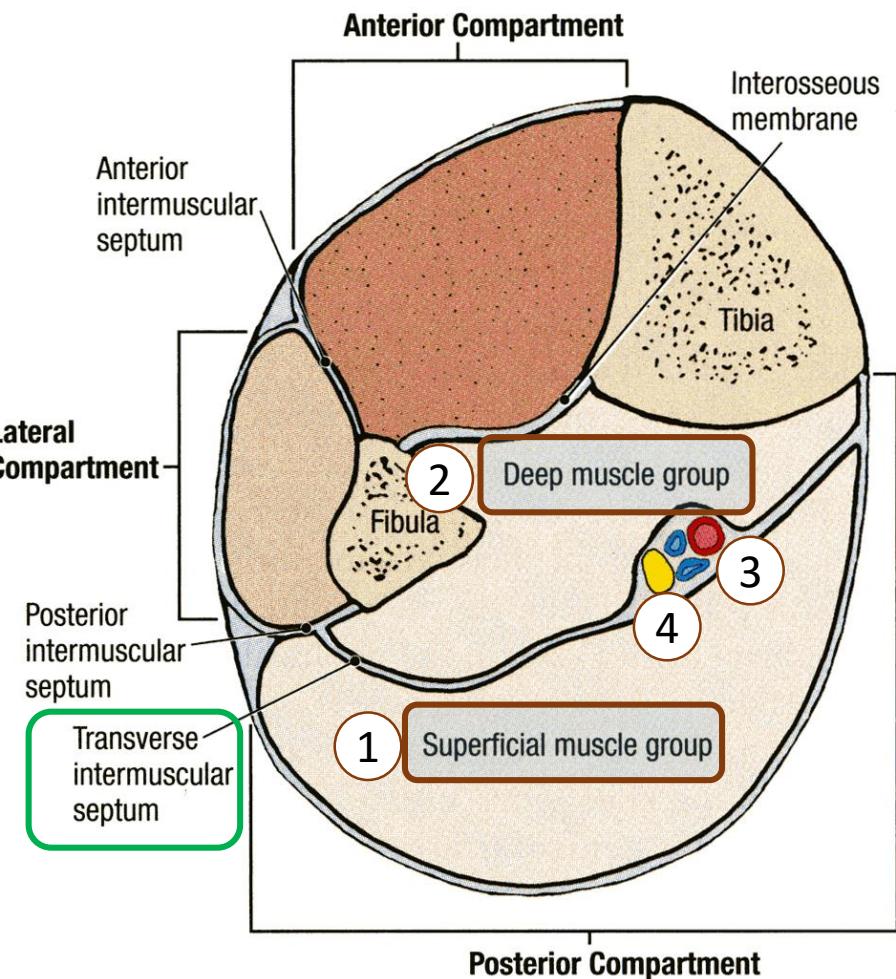
5. Posterior cutaneous nerve of thigh.

6. Connective tissue & popliteal lymph nodes.

The doctor said that they asked about it in the exam

**The deepest structure is popliteal artery.**

# CONTENTS OF THE POSTERIOR FASCIAL COMPARTMENT OF THE LEG



The same as  
“The deep transverse fascia  
of the leg”

**The transverse intermuscular septum of the leg:**  
is a septum divides the muscles of the **posterior compartment** into:  
1- superficial group 2- deep group

Interosseous  
membrane divides the  
leg into anterior and  
posterior  
compartments

## Contents

1/Superficial  
group of  
muscles

2/Deep group  
of muscles

3/Posterior  
tibial artery

4/Tibial nerve



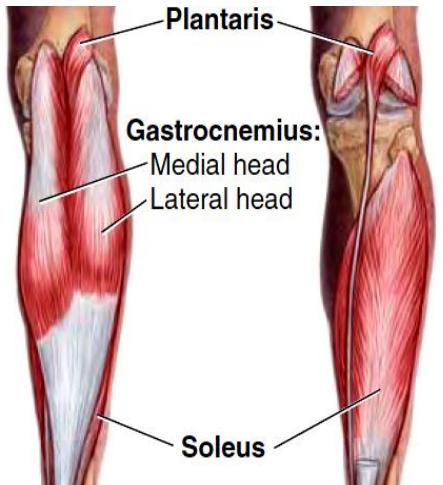
Helping video

## POSTERIOR COMPARTMENT



### SUPERFICIAL GROUP

### DEEP GROUP



Gastrocnemius

plantaris

Soleus

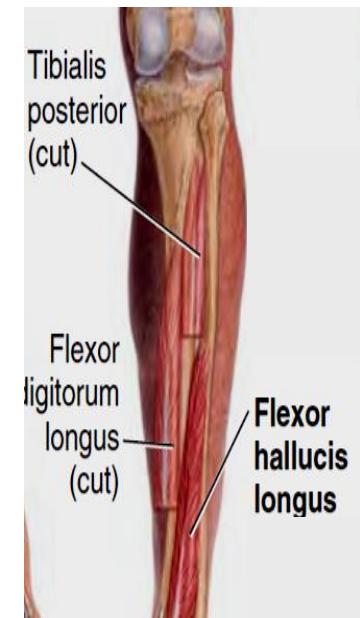
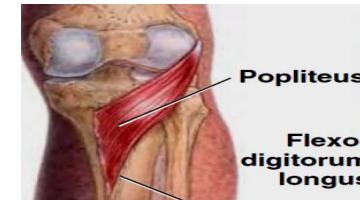
Popliteus

Flexor Digitorum longus

Flexor hallucis longus

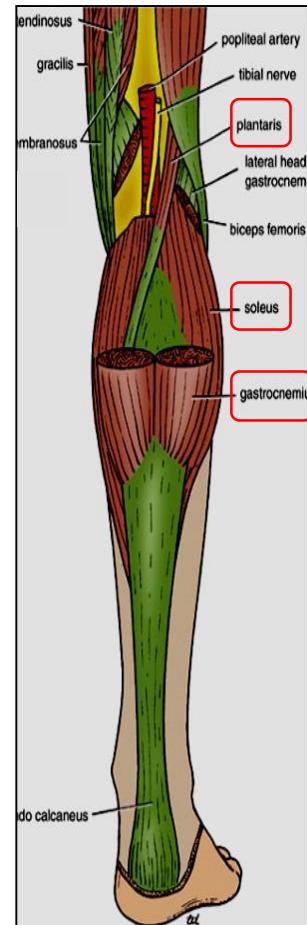
Tibialis posterior

Memorize it as GPS



## SUPERFICIAL GROUP

Plantar flexion of ankle = Plantar flexion of foot



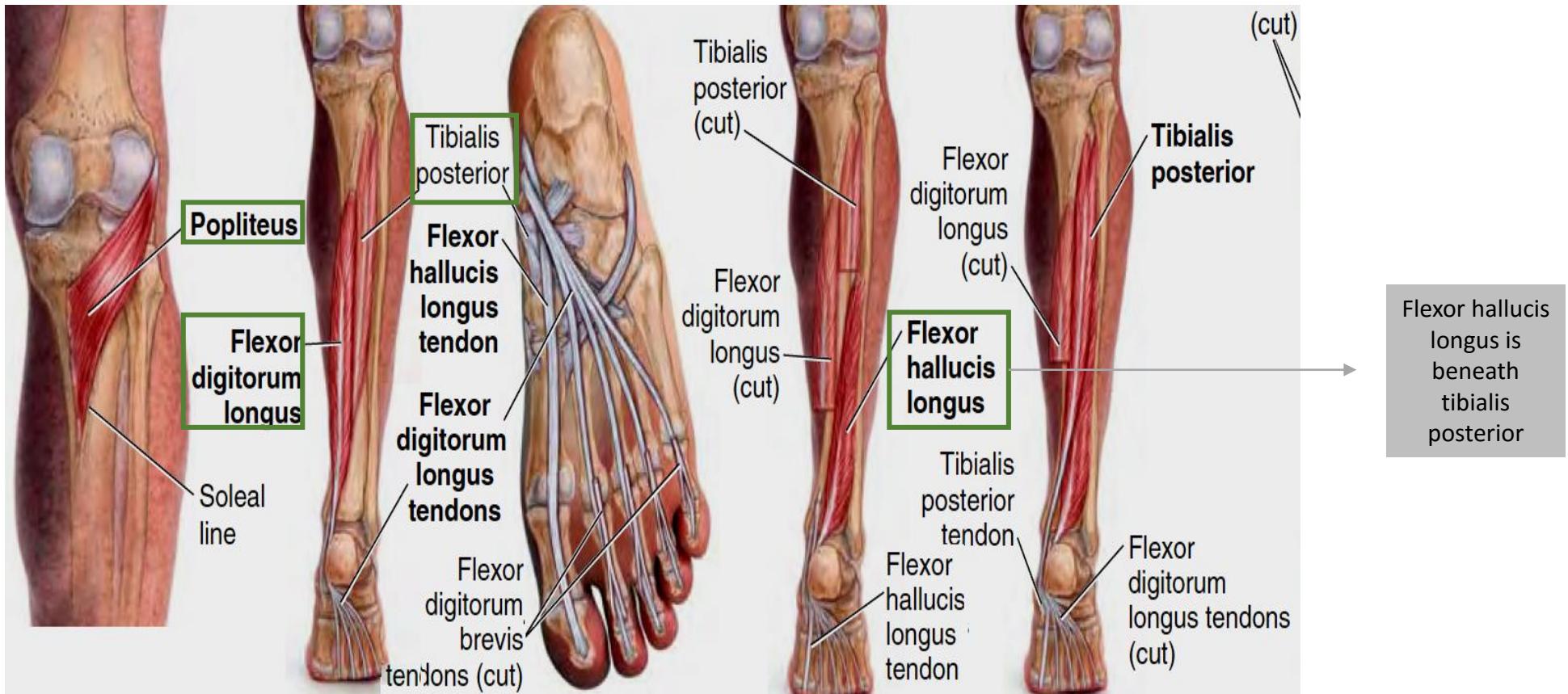
Muscle	Origin	Insertion	Nerve	Action
Gastrocnemius	-Lateral head: from lateral condyle of femur.  -medial head: from above medial condyle of femur.	Posterior surface of calcaneum via tendo calcaneus	Tibial	<p>1- Plantar flexes foot at ankle joint</p> <p>2-flexes knee joint</p>
Plantaris	Lateral supracondylar ridge of femur	Posterior surface of calcaneum	Tibial	
Soleus	Shafts of tibia and fibula	Posterior surface of calcaneum via tendo calcaneus	Tibial	<p>Together with gastrocnemius and plantaris is</p> <p><b>powerful plantar flexor of ankle</b> joint</p> <p>provides main propulsive force in walking and running</p>

Plantar flexion=  
flexion of the  
ankle  
Dorsi flexion=  
extension of  
the ankle

صغيرة جدًا لدرجة  
إن بعض لا تكون  
موجودة فيهم

لا تمر على الركبة  
فما تقدر تصلح لها  
فليكشن بالتالي  
يصير عندها  
حركة وحدة  
Plantar flexion  
للكاحل فتحط  
قوتها في هذه  
الحركة

## DEEP GROUP



## Popliteus

- **Origin:** Groove on Lateral surface of lateral condyle of femur (Intracapsular)
- **Insertion:** Post surface of shaft of tibia above soleal line
- **Nerve:** Tibial
- **Action:** Flexes leg at knee joint, Unlocks knee joint by lateral rotation of femur on tibia



## Flexor digitorum longus

- **Origin:** Posterior surface of shaft of tibia
- **Insertion:** Bases of distal phalanges of lateral four toes
- **Nerve:** Tibial
- **Action:** Flexes distal phalanges of lateral four toes; plantar Flexes foot at ankle joint; Supports medial and lateral longitudinal arches

## Tibialis posterior

- **Origin:** Posterior surface of shafts of tibia and fibula and interosseous membrane.
- **Insertion:** Tuberosity of navicular bone and other neighboring tarsal bones
- **Nerve:** Tibial
- **Action:** Plantar flexes foot at ankle joint; \*inverts foot at \*\*subtalar and transverse tarsal joints; supports medial longitudinal arch

Tibialis anterior and tibialis posterior → inversion of foot  
\*\*Subtalar → beneath the talas

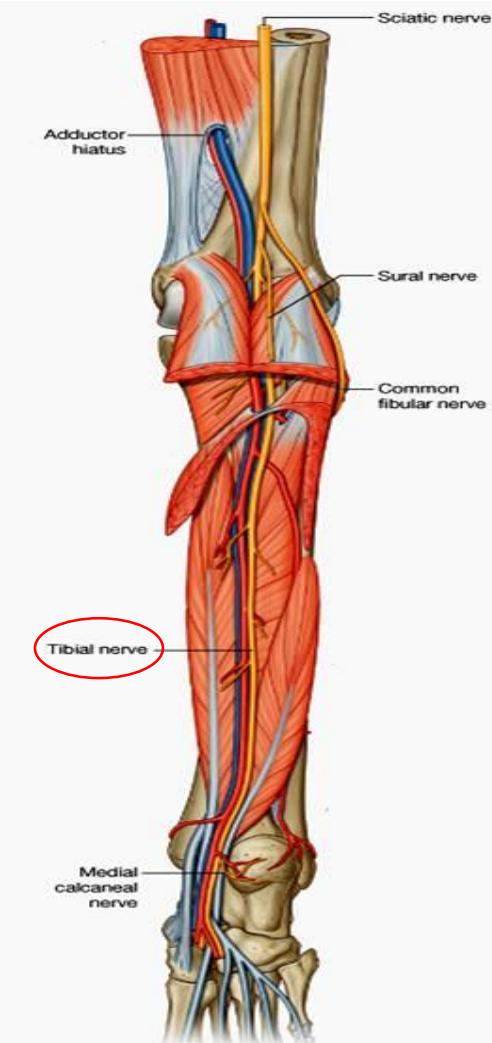
## Flexor hallucis longus

- **Origin:** Posterior surface of shaft of fibula
- **Insertion:** Base of distal phalanx of big toe
- **Nerve:** Tibial
- **Action:** Flexes distal phalanx of big toe; plantar flexes foot at ankle joint; supports medial longitudinal arch



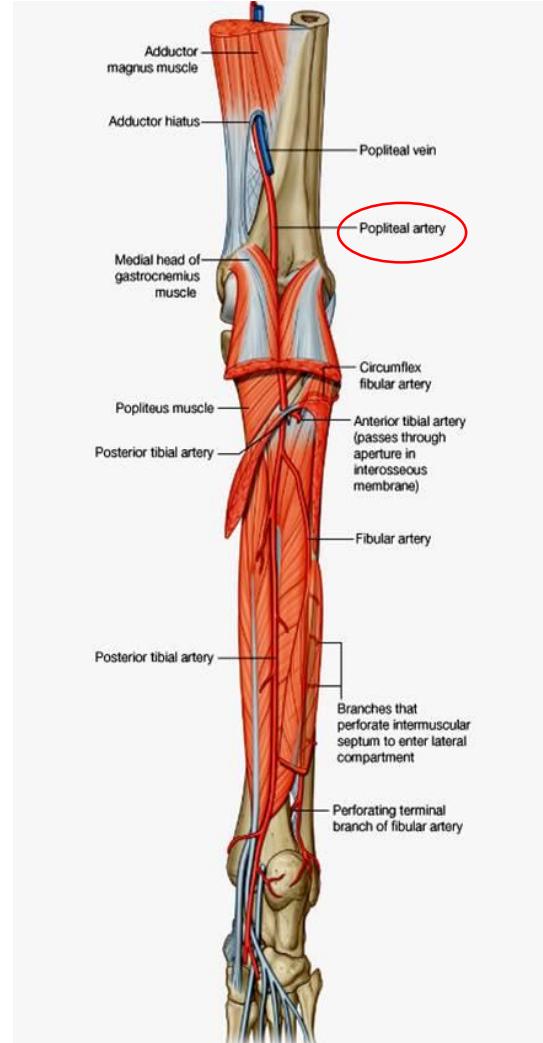
# POSTERIOR TIBIAL ARTERY:

It is one of the **terminal** branches of the **popliteal artery**.



# TIBIAL NERVE :

It is the **larger terminal** branch of the **sciatic nerve** in the **lower 1/3** of the back of the **thigh**



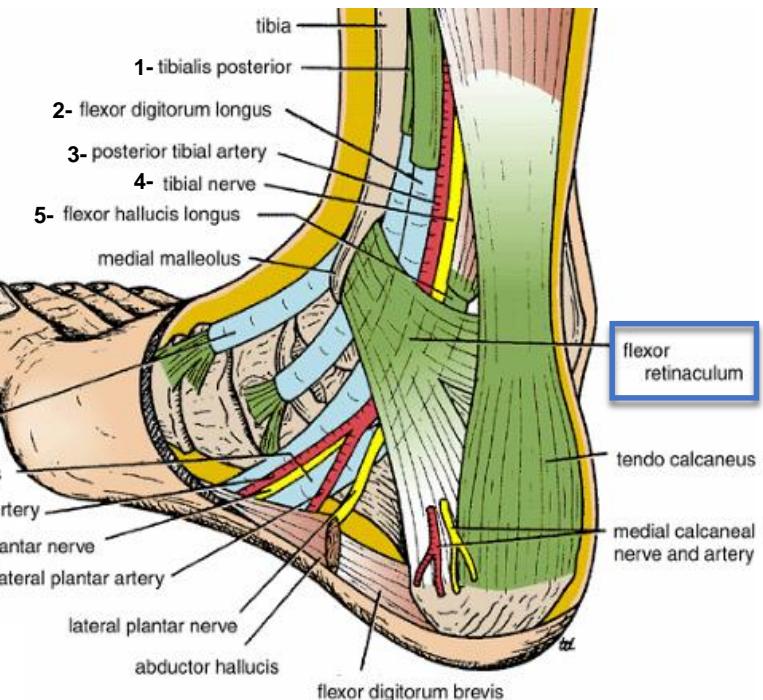
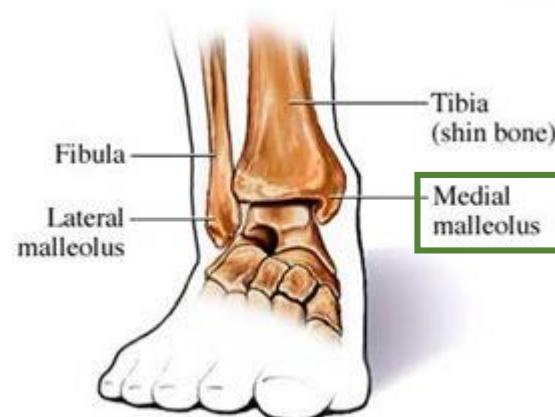
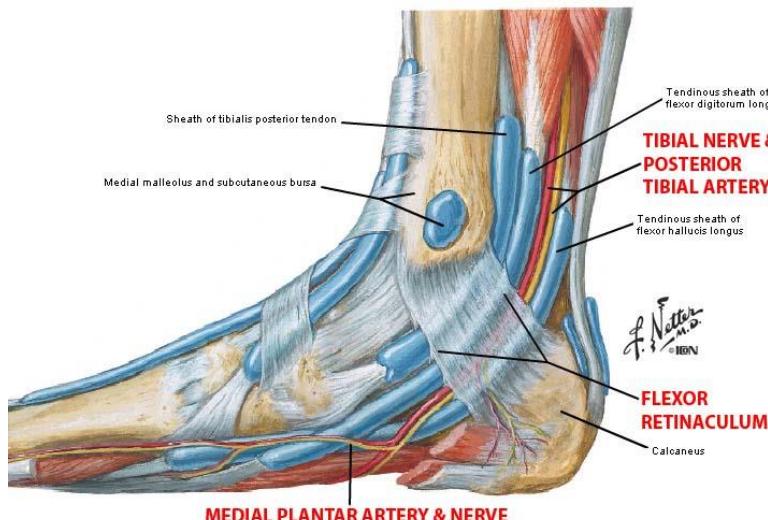
# Flexor Retinaculum

- Extend from the back of medial malleolus of tibia to medial calcaneum .
- **Structures that passing posterior to medial malleolus, deep to flexor retinaculum (Medial to lateral):**



- All the tendons are surrounded by a shiny synovial sheath.

Very important!



Flexor retinaculum "Tall doctors are never hungry": · From anterior to posterior:  
-Tibialis  
-Digitorum  
-Artery  
-Nerve  
-Hallucis

# Sole of the Foot

هذه الجزئية  
غير موجودة  
في درس  
الأولاد

The skin of the sole of the foot is **Thick and Hairless**

The skin of the sole shows a **Few Flexure creases** at site of skin movement.

**Sweat glands are present in large numbers.**



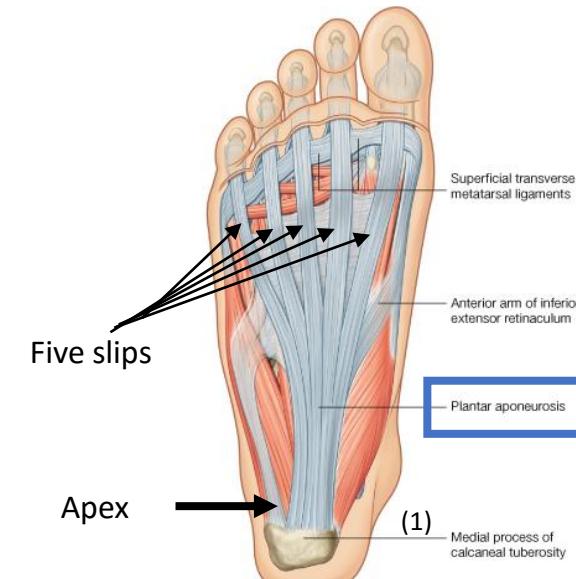
## Deep Fascia

The **Plantar aponeurosis**: is a triangular thickening of the deep fascia that protects the underlying nerves, blood vessels and muscle.

**Planter aponeurosis**

The **APEX** is attached to (1)the medial and lateral tubercle of the **Calcaneum**.

The **BASE** of the aponeurosis divides into **five slips** that pass into the **TOES**.

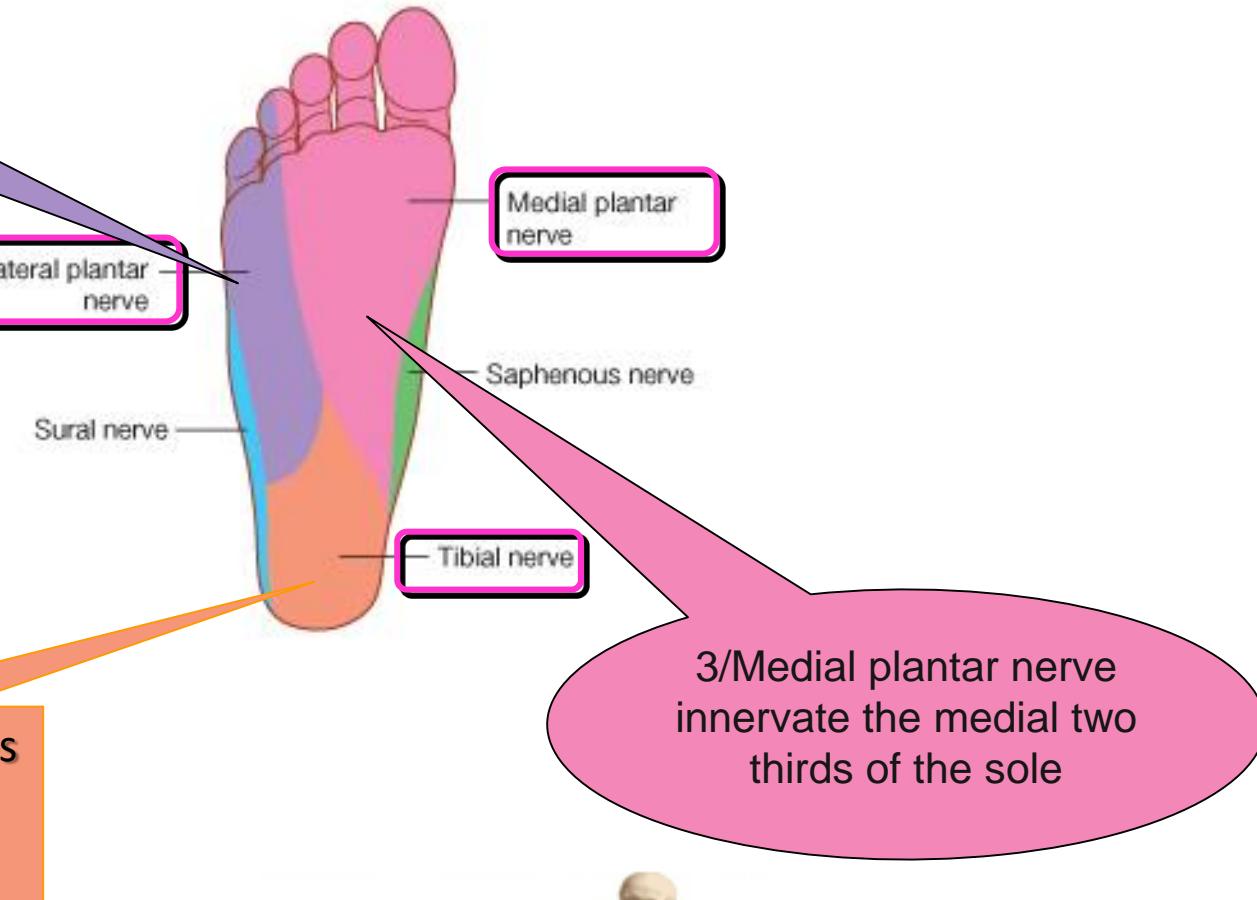


# Sensory Nerve Supply

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غير موجودة  
بدرس البنات

1/Lateral plantar nerve  
innervate the lateral  
third of the sole

The **sensory nerve supply** to the skin of  
the sole of the foot is derived from



2/Tibial nerve innervates  
the medial side of the  
heel

3/Medial plantar nerve  
innervate the medial two  
thirds of the sole

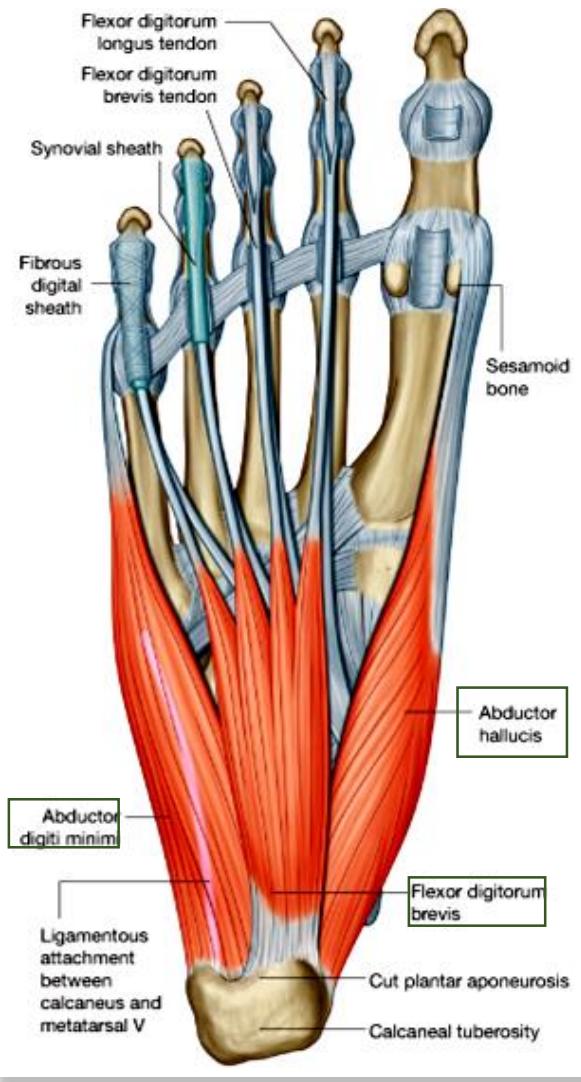
# Muscles of The Sole of The Foot

The muscles of the sole are conveniently described in four layers from superficial to deep:

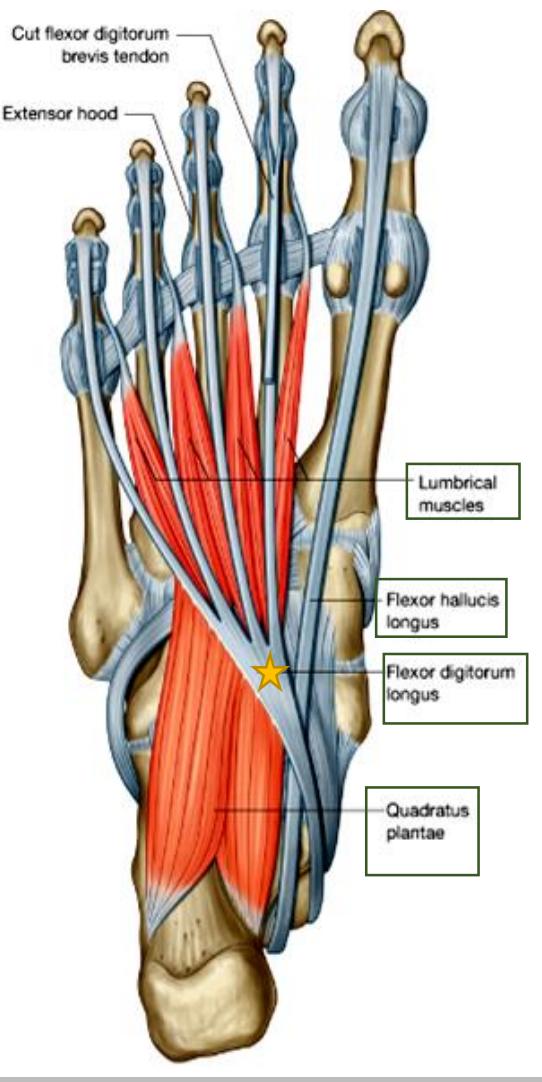
LAYER	MUSCLES
FIRST (Superficial)	1- Abductor Hallucis 2- Flexor Digitorum Brevis 3- Abductor Digiti Minimi
SECOND	1- Quadratus Plantae 2- Lumbricals (4 muscles) 3- Flexor Digitorum Longus Tendon 4- Flexor Hallucis Longus Tendon
THIRD	1- Flexor Hallucis Brevis 2- Adductor Hallucis 3- Flexor Digiti Minimi Brevis
FOURTH (Deep)	1- Interossei (3 planter + 4 dorsal) 2- Peroneus Longus Tendon 3- Tibialis Posterior Tendon

Peroneus longus and brevis  
are the only muscles of  
lateral compartment of leg

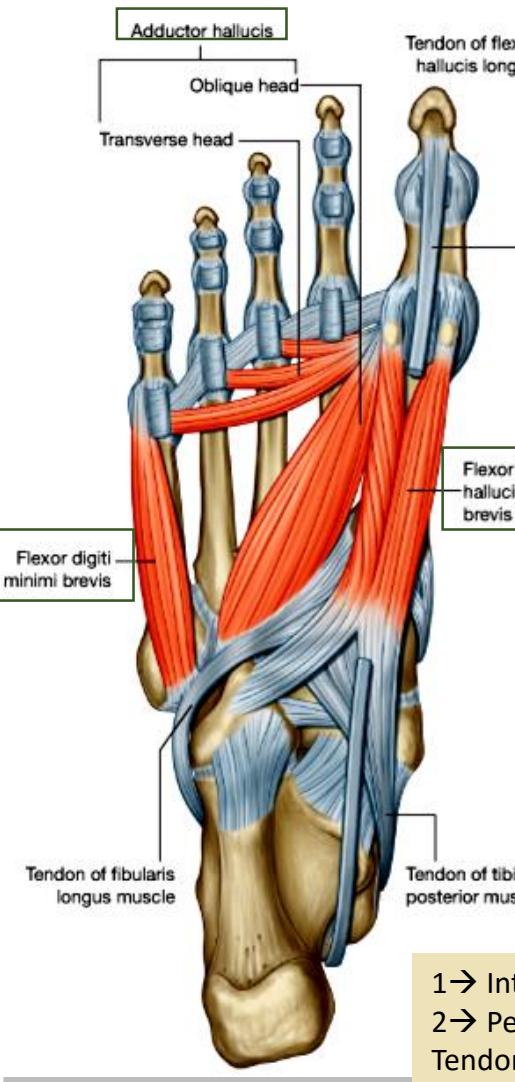




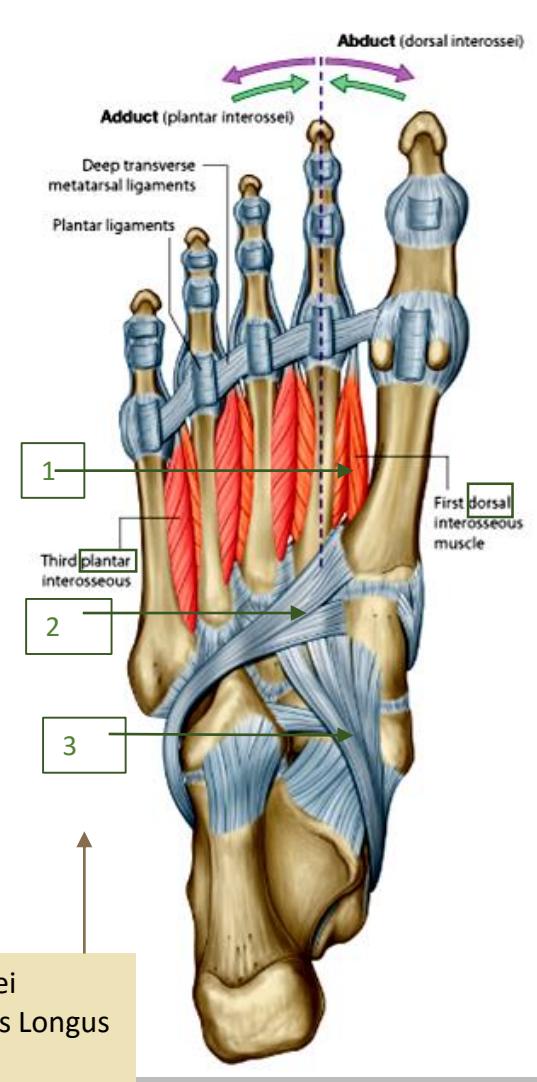
First Layer



Second Layer



Third Layer

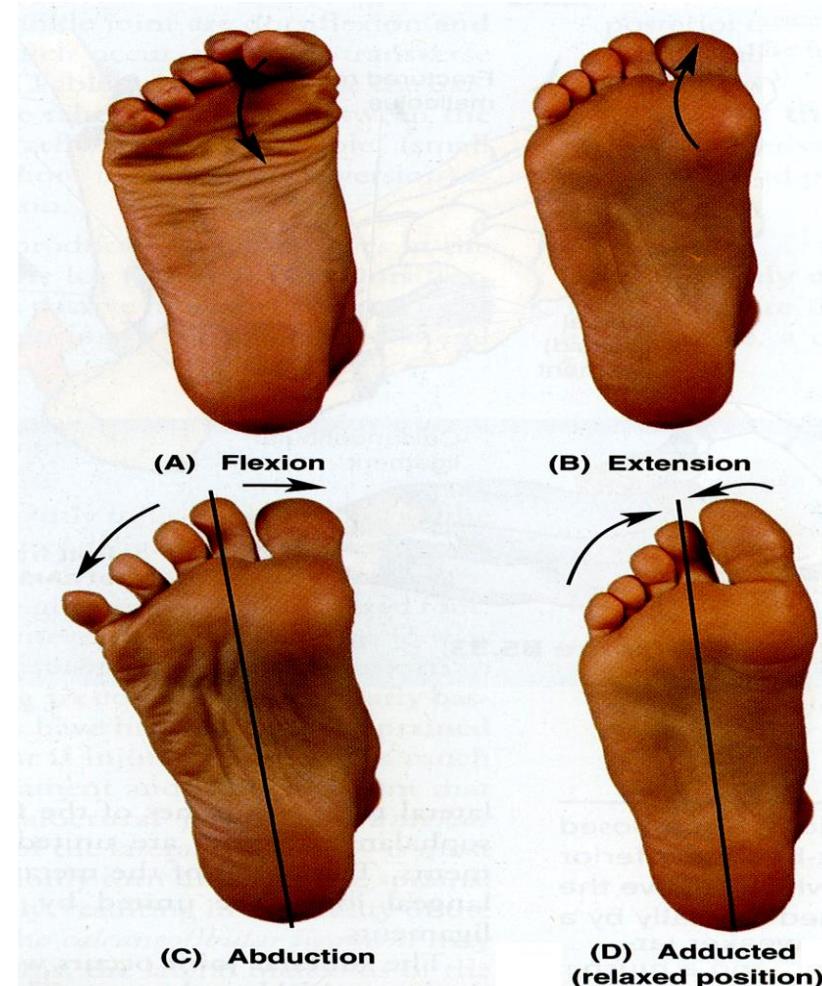


Fourth Layer

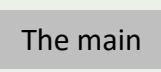
# Function of small muscles of sole of Foot

Unlike the small muscles of the hand, the **sole muscles** have few delicate functions and are chiefly concerned with supporting the arches of the foot.

Although their names would suggest control movements of individual toes, this function is **rarely used** in most people



## Metatarsophalangeal joints

Movement	Muscle
<u>Flexion (A)</u>	<b>Flexor digitorum brevis.</b> <b>Lumbricals.</b>  <b>interossei</b> <b>Flexor hallucis brevis.</b> <b>Flexor hallucis longus.</b> <b>Flexor digiti minimi brevis.</b> <b>Flexor digitorum longus.</b>
<u>Extention (B)</u>	<b>Extensor hallucis longus.</b> <b>Extensor digitorum longus.</b> <b>Extensor digitorum brevis.</b>
<u>Abduction (C)</u>	<b>Abductor hallucis .</b> <b>Abductor digiti minimi.</b> <b>Dorsal interossei.</b>
<u>Adduction (D)</u>	<b>Adductor hallucis.</b> <b>Plantar interossei.</b>

Muscles in **boldface** are chiefly responsible for the movement; the other muscles assist them

[See the picture in the previous slide](#)

## Interphalangeal joints

Movement	Muscle
<u>Flexion (A)</u>	<b>Flexor hallucis longus.</b> <b>Flexor digitorum longus.</b> <b>Flexor digitorum brevis.</b> <b>Quadratus plantae.</b>
<u>Extention (B)</u>	<b>Extensor hallucis longus.</b> <b>Extensor digitorum longus.</b> <b>Extensor digitorum brevis.</b>



# Arches of Foot

✓ Medial longitudinal arch:

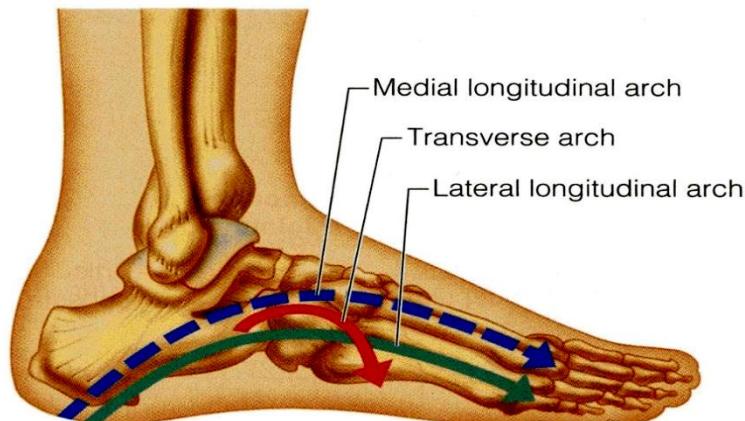
Is formed of: calcaneum, talus, navicular, 3 cuneiform bones & first medial 3 metatarsal bones (bases).

✓ Lateral longitudinal arch:

Is formed of: calcaneum, cuboid & lateral 4th & 5th metatarsal bones (bases).

✓ Transverse arch:

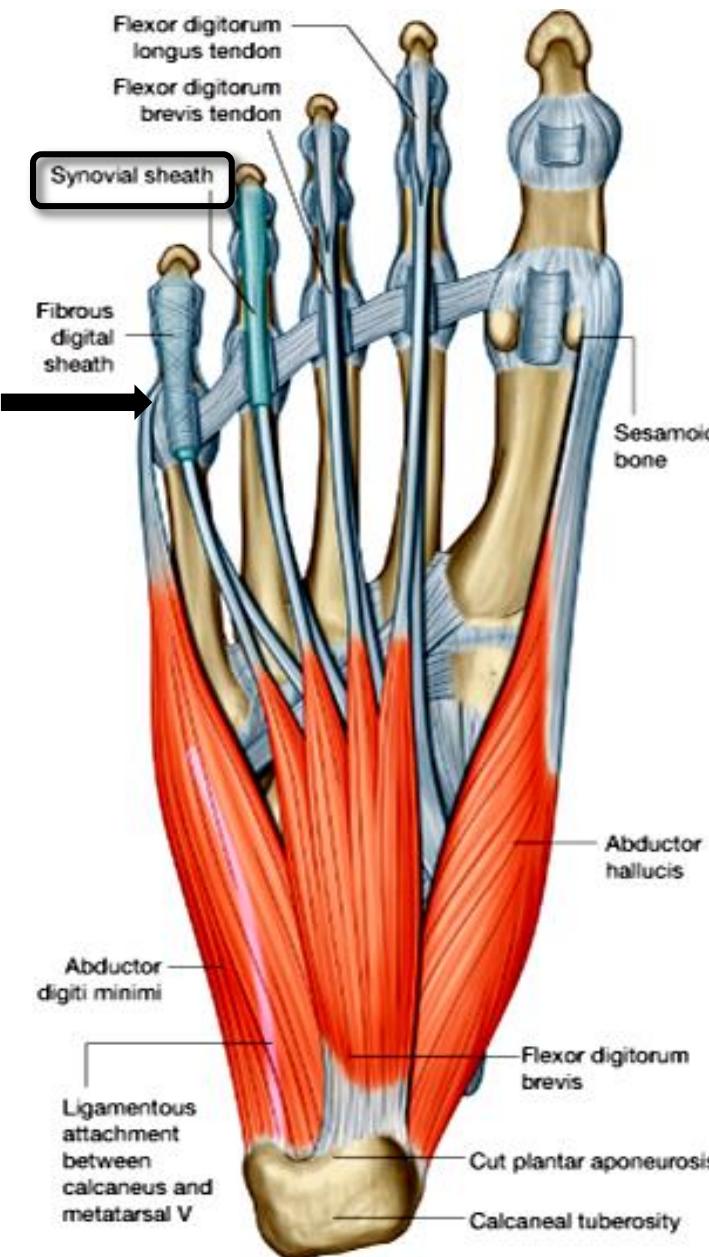
Lies at the level of ***tarso-metatarsal joints***, formed of: bases of metatarsal bones, cuboid & 3 cuneiform bones.



## Function of Arches of the Foot :

1. Weight bearing.
2. Support walking & running.
3. Provide potential space for neurovascular bundle of the sole.
4. Act as shock absorber.

✓ In young child the foot appears to be **flat** **because of presence of** : a large amount of subcutaneous fat on the sole of foot.



## Fibrous Flexor sheath:

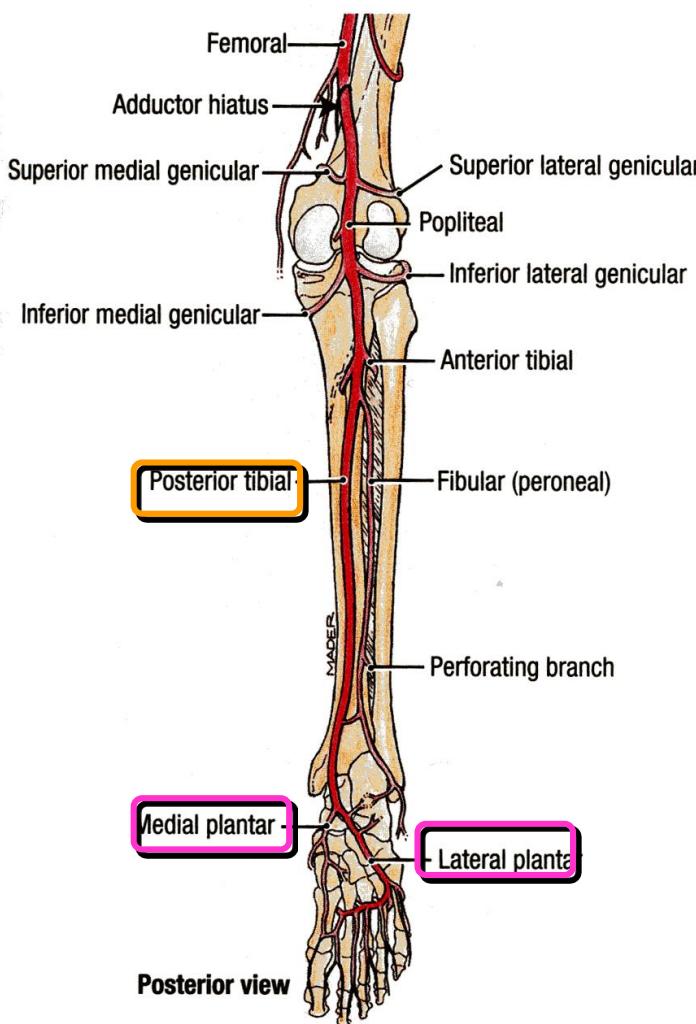
- The inferior surface of each toe, from the head of the metatarsal bone to the base of the distal phalanx, is provided with a **strong fibrous sheath**, which is attached to **the sides of the phalanges**.
- The **fibrous sheath**, together with the **inferior surfaces of the phalanges** and the **interphalangeal joints**, forms a **blind tunnel** in which lie the flexor tendons of the toes (**flexor hallucis longus** and the **flexor digitorum longus**).

## Synovial Flexor sheath:

The tendons of the **flexor hallucis longus** and the **flexor digitorum longus** are surrounded by **synovial sheaths**.

# Medial & Lateral Plantar Arteries

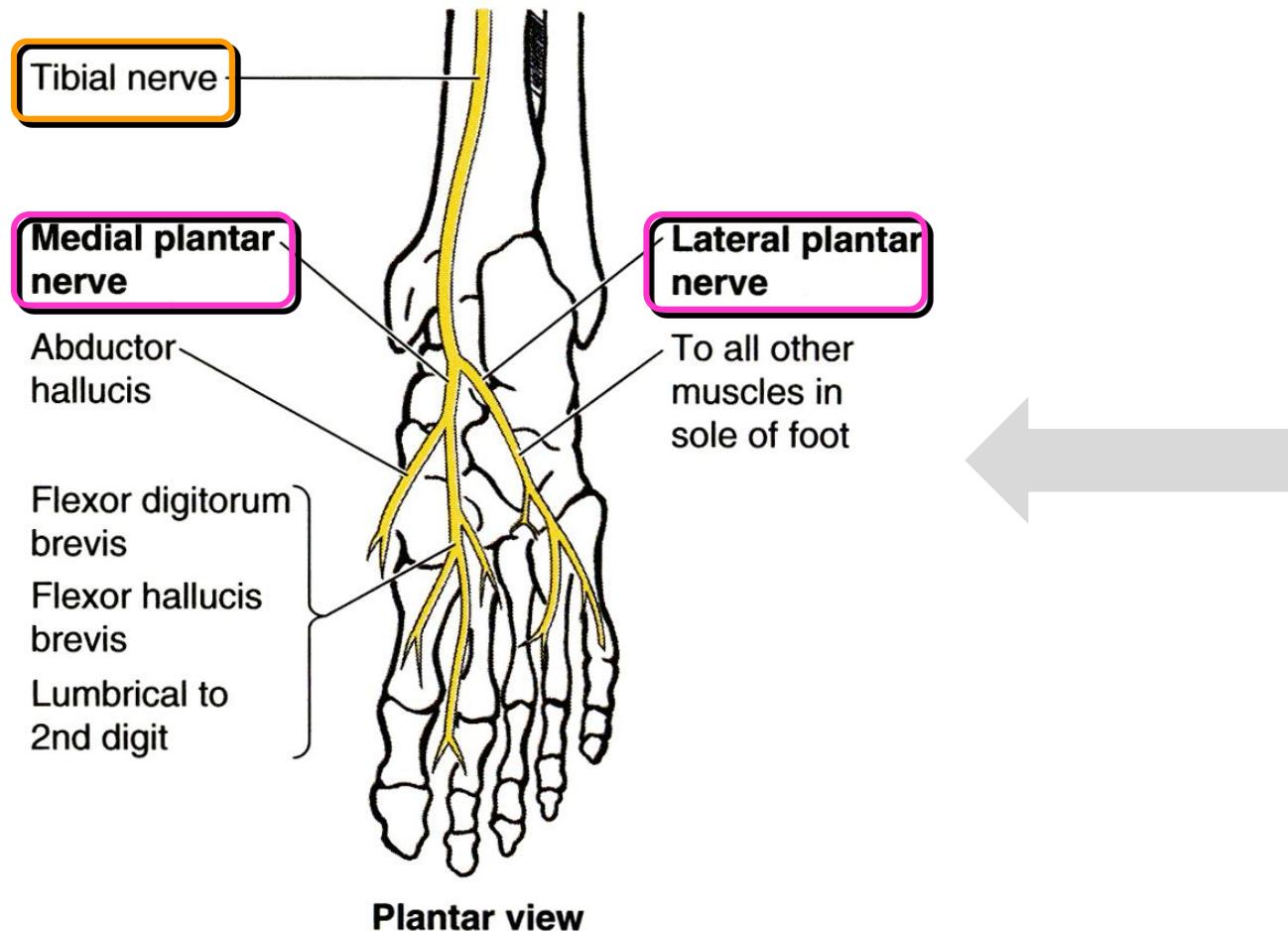
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غير موجودة  
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The **medial plantar artery** is the smaller & **lateral plantar artery** is the larger of the terminal branches of the **posterior tibial artery**

# Medial & Lateral Plantar Nerve

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The **medial plantar nerve** and **lateral plantar nerve** are terminal branches of the **tibial nerve**.

# summary

Popliteal Fossa (diamond-shaped intermuscular space at the back of knee)

Laterally	<u>Above</u> : biceps femoris <u>Below</u> : lateral head of gastrocnemius & plantaris
Medially	<u>above</u> : semitendinosus, semimembranosus <u>Below</u> : medial head of gastrocnemius.
Floor	Skin, superficial fascia and deep fascia of the thigh
Roof	popliteal surface of femur, posterior ligament of knee joint and popliteus muscle.
Contents	Popliteal vessels, small saphenous vein, tibial nerve, common peroneal nerve Posterior cutaneous nerve of thigh, connective tissue & popliteal lymph node * The deepest structure is <u>popliteal artery</u> .

## CONTENTS OF THE POSTERIOR FASCIAL COMPARTMENT OF THE LEG

- superficial and deep groups of muscles “divided by the transverse intermuscular septum”.
- Posterior tibial artery
- Tibial nerve

## POSTERIOR TIBIAL ARTERY

It is one of the terminal branches of the popliteal artery.

## TIBIAL NERVE

It is the larger terminal branch of the sciatic nerve in the lower 1/3 of the back of the thigh.

## Superficial group of muscles

Muscle	Origin	Insertion	Nerve	Action
Gastrocnemius	Lateral head from lateral condyle of femur & medial head from above medial condyle	Posterior surface of calcaneum via tendo calcaneus	Tibial	Plantar flexes foot at ankle joint; flexes knee joint
Plantaris	Lateral supracondylar ridge of femur	Posterior surface of calcaneum	Tibial	Plantar flexes foot at ankle joint; flexes knee joint
Soleus	Shafts of tibia and fibula	Posterior surface of calcaneum via tendo calcaneus	Tibial	Together with gastrocnemius and plantaris is powerful plantar flexor of ankle joint; provides main propulsive force in walking and running

# Deep group of muscles

Muscle	Origin	Insertion	Nerve	Action
Popliteus	Groove on Lateral surface of lateral condyle of femur (Intracapsular)	Post surface of shaft of tibia above soleal line	Tibial	<u>Flexes</u> leg at <u>knee joint</u> , <u>Unlocks knee joint</u> by lateral rotation of femur on tibia
Flexor digitorum longus	Posterior surface of shaft of tibia	Bases of distal phalanges of lateral four toes	Tibial	<u>Flexes</u> distal phalanges of <u>lateral four toes</u> ; plantar Flexes foot at ankle joint; Supports medial and lateral longitudinal arches
Flexor hallucis longus	Posterior surface of shaft of fibula	Base of distal phalanx of big toe	Tibial	<u>Flexes</u> distal phalanx of <u>big toe</u> ; plantar flexes foot at ankle joint; supports medial longitudinal arch
Tibialis posterior	Posterior surface of shafts of tibia and fibula and interosseous membrane	Tuberosity of navicular bone and other neighboring tarsal bones.	Tibial	<u>Plantar flexes</u> foot at ankle joint; inverts foot at subtalar and transverse tarsal joints; supports medial longitudinal arch

## Flexor Retinaculum (Extends from back of medial malleolus of tibia to medial side of calcaneum)

Structures passing posterior to medial malleolus, deep to flexor retinaculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Medial to lateral "tall doctor are never hungry"</li><li>1. <u>Tibialis</u> posterior tendon</li><li>2. <u>Flexor digitorum</u> longus tendon</li><li>3. Posterior tibial <u>artery</u> with venae comitantes</li><li>4. Tibial <u>nerve</u></li><li>5. <u>Flexor hallucis</u> longus tendon</li></ul> <p>* All the tendons are surrounded by a synovial sheath</p>
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### Sole of the foot

Features	thick and hairless skin with <u>few</u> flexure creases and <u>large numbers</u> of sweat glands.
Deep fascia	plantar aponeurosis = triangular <u>thickening of the deep fascia</u> for protection. apex → medial and lateral tubercles of the calcaneum. Base → five slips that pass into the toes.
Muscles	1 <sup>st</sup> Layer Abductor hallucis + flexor digitorum brevis + abductor digiti minimi
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Layer Quadratus plantae + lumbricals + flexor digitorum longus tendon + flexor hallucis longus tendon
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Layer Flexor hallucis brevis + adductor hallucis + flexor digiti minimi brevis
	4 <sup>th</sup> Layer Interossei (3 plantar & 4 dorsal) + peroneus longus tendon + tibialis posterior tendon
Function of small muscles	supporting the arches of the foot

## Metatarsophalangeal joints

movement		Arches of foot	
movement	muscles	Medial longitudinal arch	Calcaneum + talus + navicular + three cuneiform bones + first three medial metatarsal bones
flexion	Lumbricals interossei <u>Flexor hallucis longus</u> <u>Flexor hallucis brevis</u> <u>Flexor digiti minimi brevis</u> <u>Flexor digitorum longus</u> <u>Flexor digitorum brevis</u>	<u>Lateral</u> longitudinal arch	Calcaneum + cuboid + lateral 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> metatarsal bones
extention	<u>Extensor</u> hallucis longus <u>Extensor</u> digitorum longus <u>Extensor</u> digitorum brevis	<u>Transverse</u> arch	at the level of tarso-metatarsal joints, formed of: bases of metatarsal bones + cuboid & 3 cuneiform bones
Abduction	<u>Abductor</u> hallucis <u>Abductor</u> digiti minimi <u>Dorsal</u> interossei	<b>Function of arches of foot</b>	
Adduction	<u>Adductor</u> hallucis <u>Planter</u> interossei	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weight bearing.</li> <li>2. Support walking &amp; running.</li> <li>3. Provide potential space for neurovascular bundle.</li> <li>4. Act as shock absorber.</li> </ol>	
Interphalangeal joints		Fibrous Flexor Sheaths	Synovial Flexor Sheaths
movement	muscles	Around the inferior surface of each toe (from the head of the metatarsal bone to the base of the distal phalanx)	Around the tendons of the flexor hallucis longus + the flexor digitorum longus
flexion	Quadratus plantae <u>Flexor</u> hallucis longus <u>Flexor</u> digitorum longus <u>Flexor</u> digitorum brevis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fibrous sheath + the inferior surfaces of the phalanges + the interphalangeal joints = “ a blind tunnel”</li> <li>• The flexor tendons of the toes lie in that tunnel.</li> </ul>	
extention	<u>Extensor</u> hallucis longus <u>Extensor</u> digitorum longus <u>Extensor</u> digitorum brevis		



<https://www.onlineexambuilder.com/popliteal-fossa-post.-comp-of-leg/exam-53001>

**هذا العمل إجتهاد من طلاب وطالبات**  
**إن أصبنا فمن الله وإن أخطأنا فمن أنفسنا ومن الشيطان**

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