

# Popliteal fossa, back of leg & Sole of foot

## Musculoskeletal block- Anatomy-lecture 16

Editing file



# Objectives

By the end of the lecture, students should be able to:

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

## Color guide :

Only in boys slides in **Blue**

Only in girls slides in **Purple**

important in **Red**

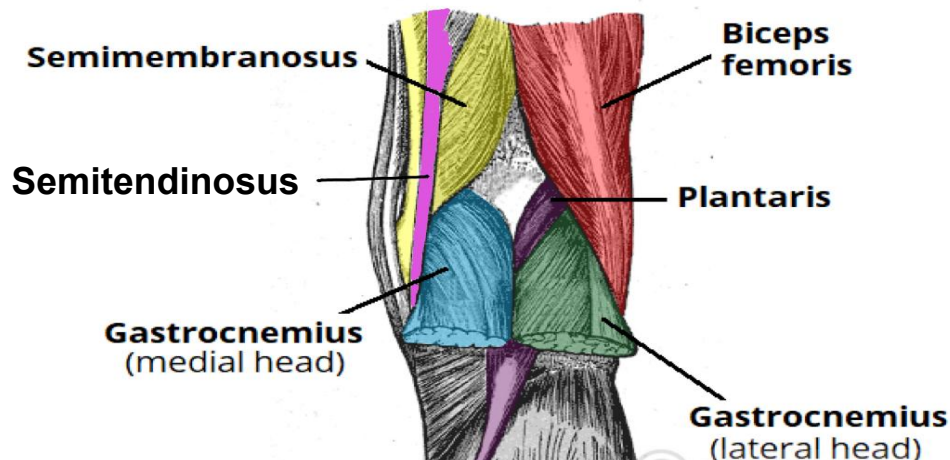
Doctor note in **Green**

Extra information in **Grey**

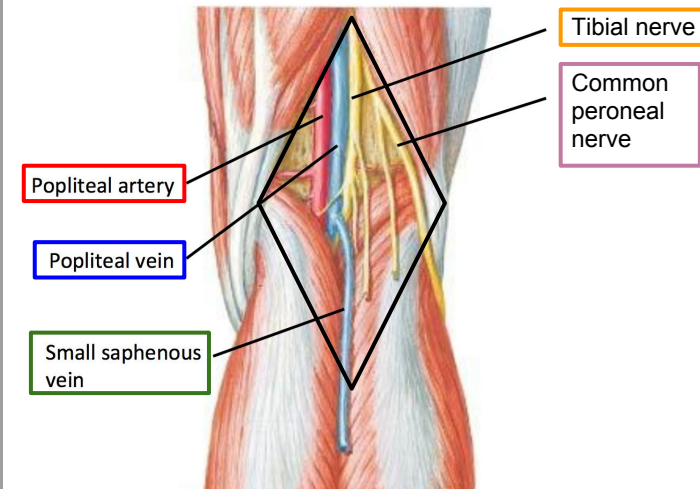
# Popliteal Fossa

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

## Boundaries



## Contents



Laterally	Medially	Roof	Floor	From medial to lateral
<p>(above) <b>biceps femoris.</b></p> <p>(Below) <b>Lateral head of gastrocnemius &amp; plantaris</b></p>	<p>(above) <b>semimembranosus &amp; semitendinosus</b></p> <p>(Below) <b>Medial head of gastrocnemius</b></p>	<p>1.Skin 2.<u>superficial</u> fascia &amp; <u>deep</u> fascia of the thigh.</p>	<p>1.popliteal surface of femur 2.posterior ligament of knee joint 3.<b>popliteus muscle.</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Popliteal vessels</b> (artery/vein) 2. <b>Small saphenous vein</b> 3. <b>Tibial nerve</b> 4. <b>Common peroneal nerve.</b> 5. Posterior cut. nerve of thigh 6. Connective tissue &amp; popliteal <b>lymph nodes.</b></p> <p><b>The deepest structure is popliteal artery.* (VERY IMPORTANT)</b></p>

# CONTENTS OF THE POSTERIOR FASCIAL COMPARTMENT OF THE LEG

The **transverse intermuscular septum** of the leg is a septum divides the muscles of the posterior compartment into superficial and deep groups.

## Contents

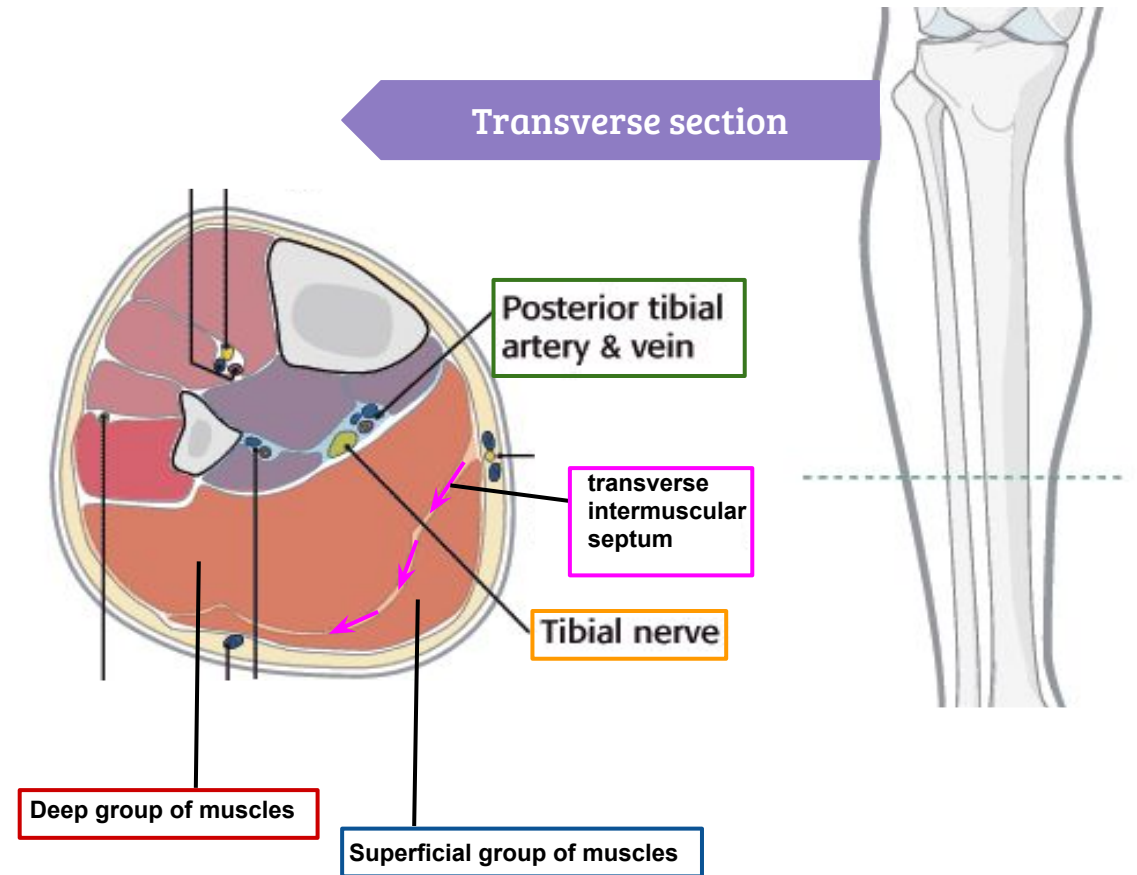
1. Superficial group of muscles
2. Deep group of muscles
3. Posterior tibial artery
4. Tibial nerve

### Superficial group



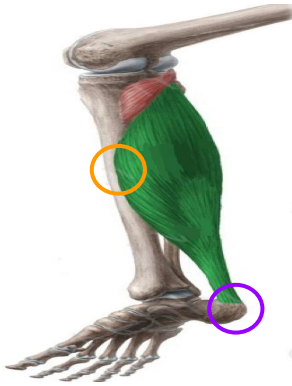
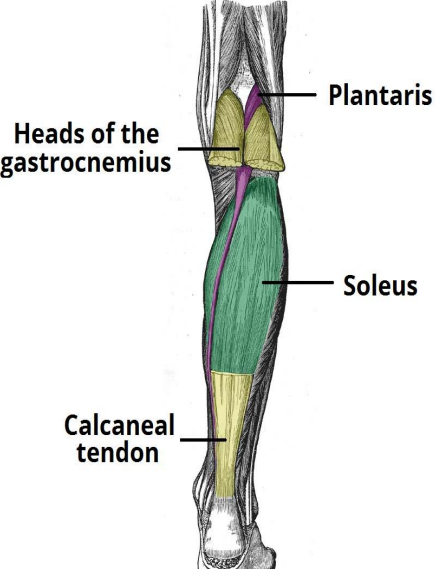
1. Gastrocnemius
2. Plantaris
3. Soleus

### Deep group





1. Popliteus
2. Flexor digitorum longus
3. Tibialis posterior
4. Flexor hallucis longus

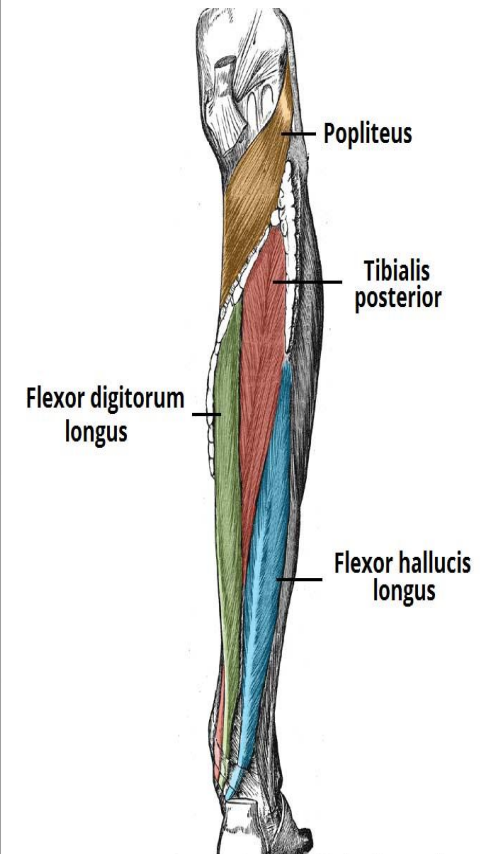


# Superficial Group Muscles

	Gastrocnemius	Plantaris	Soleus	
Muscle				
Origin	-Lateral head from lateral condyle of femur -Medial head from above medial condyle	Lateral supracondylar ridge of femur	Shafts of tibia and fibula	
Insertion	Posterior surface of calcaneum via <u>tendo calcaneus</u>	Posterior surface of calcaneum	Posterior surface of calcaneum via <u>tendo calcaneus</u>	
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plantar flexes foot at ankle joint</li> <li>flexes knee joint</li> </ul>		Together with gastrocnemius and plantaris is powerful plantar flexor of ankle joint; provides main propulsive force in <u>walking</u> and <u>running</u>	NOTE: We can't see the "Soleus muscle" until we remove the "Gastrocnemius muscle" which lays above it.
Nerve	Tibial nerve			

# Deep Group Muscles

	Popliteus	Flexor digitorum longus	Flexor hallucis longus	Tibialis posterior
Muscle				
Origin	Groove on <b>Lateral</b> surface of <b>lateral condyle</b> of femur (Intracapsular)	Posterior surface of shaft of <b>tibia</b>	Posterior surface of shaft of <b>fibula</b>	Posterior surface of shafts of <b>tibia</b> and <b>fibula</b> and interosseous membrane
Insertion	Post surface of shaft of <b>tibia</b> above soleal line	Bases of distal phalanges of <u>lateral 4 toes</u>	Base of distal phalanx of <u>big toe</u>	Tuberosity of navicular bone and other neighboring <b>tarsal bones</b> . (except talus)
Action	Flexes <b>knee joint</b> : Unlocks <b>knee joint</b> by lateral rotation of femur on <b>tibia</b> (or slight medial rotation of leg which accompanies the flexion)	Flexes distal phalanges of <b>lateral four toes</b> ; <b>plantar</b> Flexes foot at <b>ankle joint</b> ; <u>Supports <b>medial</b> and <b>lateral</b> longitudinal arches</u>	Flexes distal phalanx of <b>big toe</b> ; plantar flexes foot at ankle joint; <u>supports <b>medial</b> longitudinal arch</u>	<b>Plantar flexes</b> foot at <b>ankle joint</b> ; inverts foot at subtalar and transverse tarsal joints; <u>supports <b>medial</b> longitudinal arch</u>
Nerve	<b>Tibial nerve</b>			



# Flexor Retinaculum:

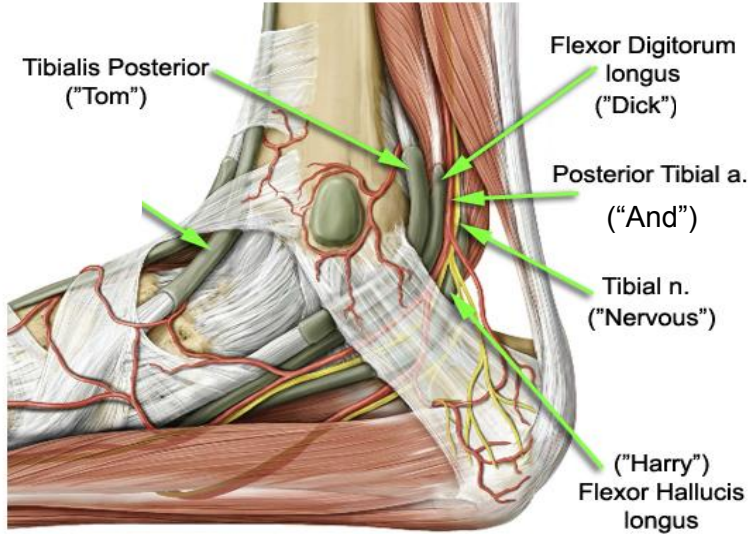
Extends from back of **medial malleolus of tibia** to **medial side of calcaneum**

**Structures passing posterior to medial malleolus, deep to flexor retinaculum:**

**Medial to lateral:** “Tom, Does A very nice head” -**IMPORTANT-**

- I. Tibialis posterior tendon
- II. Flexor digitorum longus tendon
- III. Posterior tibial artery with venae comitantes
- IV. Tibial nerve
- V. Flexor hallucis longus tendon

**(All the tendons are surrounded by a synovial sheath)**



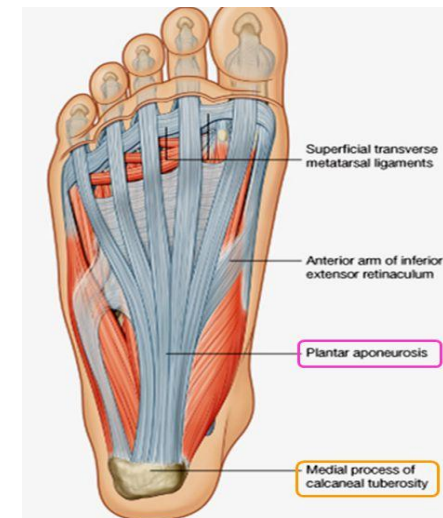
<h2>Posterior tibial artery</h2>	<h2>Tibial nerve</h2>	
<p>It is one of the terminal branches of the <u>popliteal artery</u>.</p>	<p>It is the <b>larger</b> terminal branch of the <u>sciatic nerve</u> in the lower 1/3 of the <u>back of the thigh</u></p>	

## Sole of the foot:

- The skin of the sole of the foot is **thick** and **hairless**.
- It shows a **few** flexure **creases** at the sites of skin movement.
- **Sweat glands** are present in large numbers.

# Deep fascia:

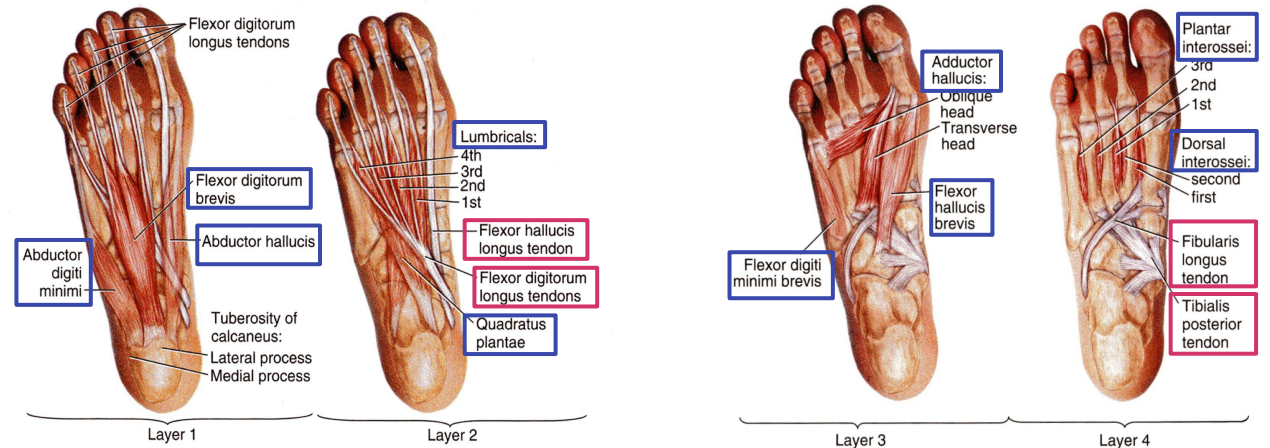
- The **plantar aponeurosis** is a triangular thickening of the deep fascia that protects the underlying nerves, blood vessels, and muscles.
- Its **apex** is attached to the **medial** and **lateral** tubercles of the **calcaneum**.
- The **base** of the aponeurosis divides into five slips that pass into the toes.



# 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**.
- They control **movements of individual toes**, this function is rarely used in most people.

(usually we don't hold anything by our foot so no need for this function)



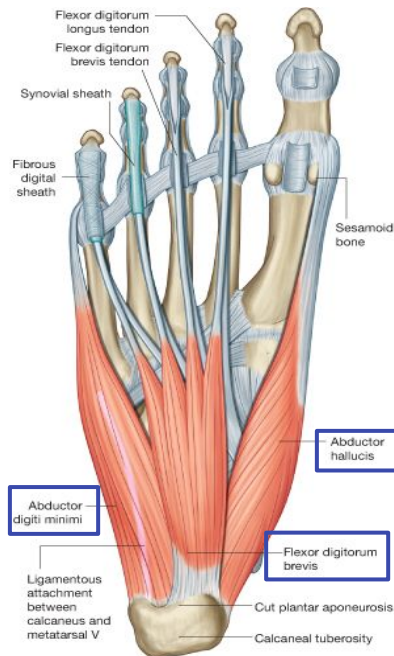


# Muscles of the sole of the foot

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

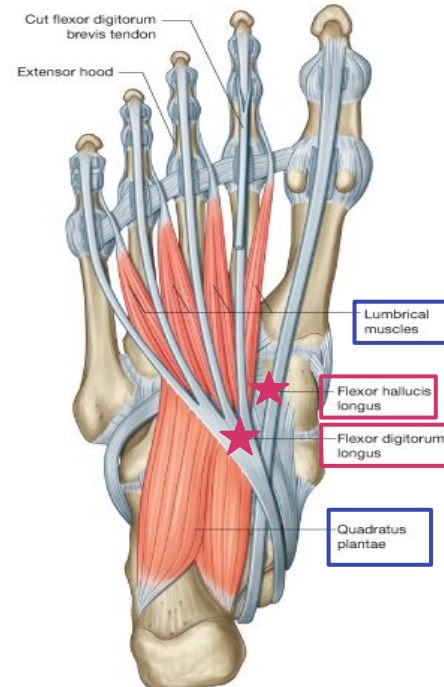
## First layer

1. **Abductor hallucis.**
2. **Flexor digitorum brevis.**
3. **Abductor digiti minimi**



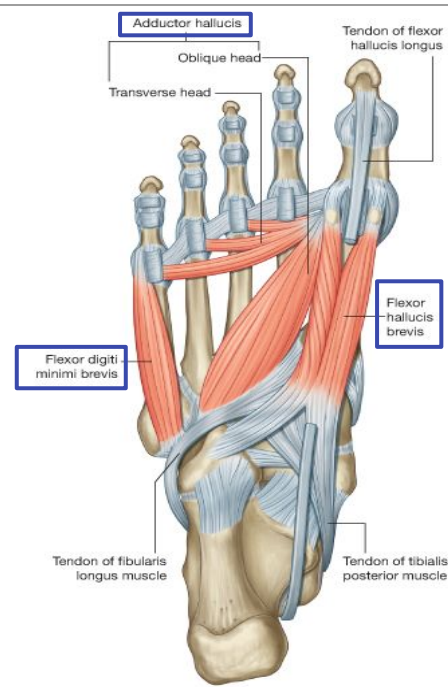
## Second layer

1. **Quadratus plantae.**
2. **Lumbricals.**
3. **Flexor digitorum longus tendon.**
4. **Flexor hallucis longus tendon.**



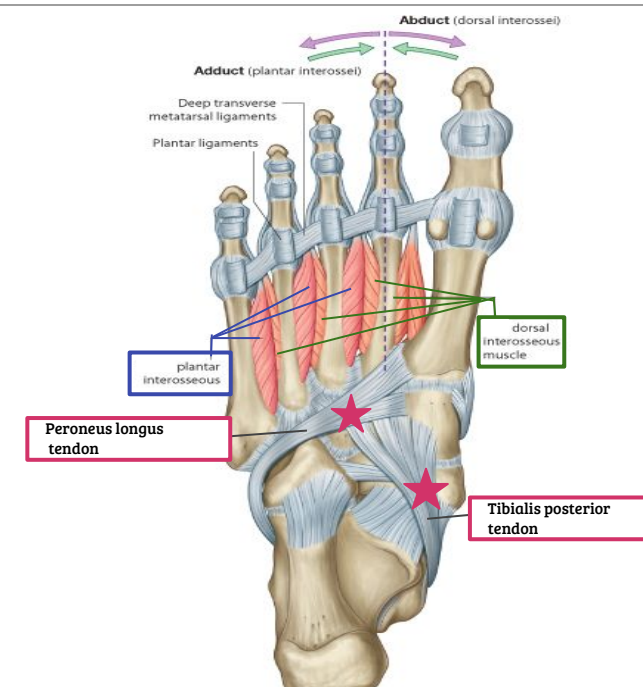
## Third layer

1. **Flexor hallucis brevis.**
2. **Adductor hallucis.**
3. **Flexor digiti minimi brevis**



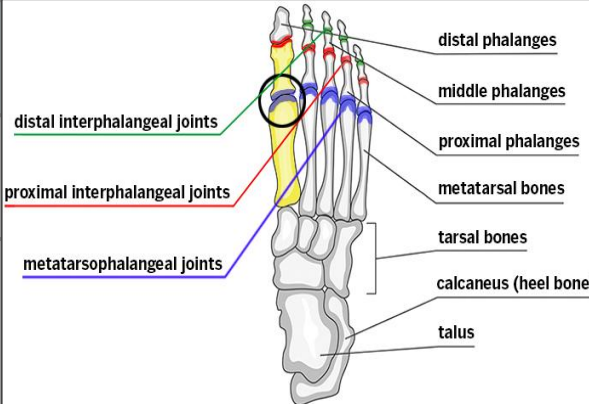
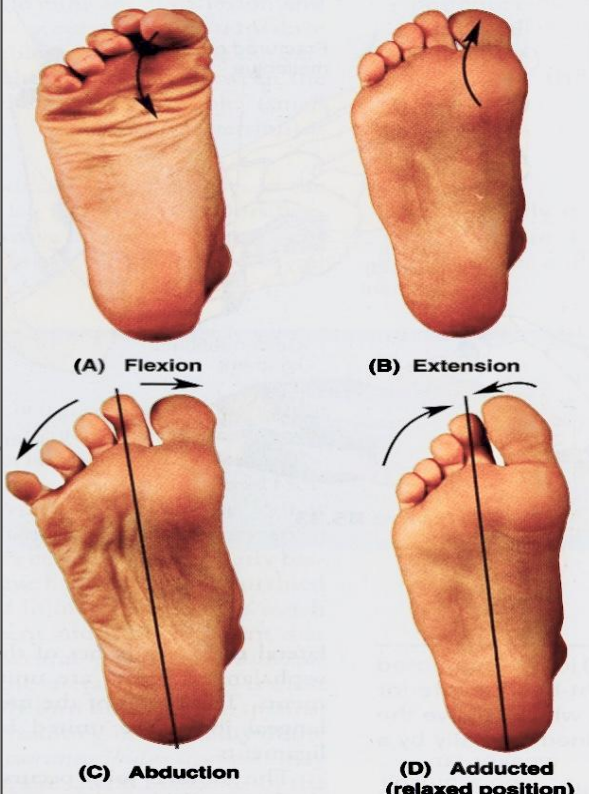
## Fourth layer

1. **Interossei;**  
**(3 plantar + 4 dorsal).**
2. **Peroneus longus tendon.**
3. **Tibialis posterior tendon.**




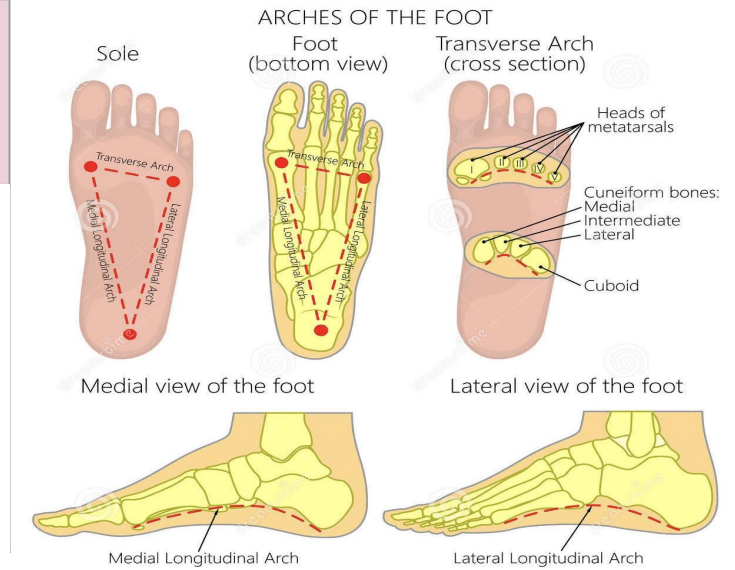
# Function of small muscles of sole of foot

\*Muscles in bold are chiefly responsible for the movement, others assist them.

<b>Metatarsophalangeal joints</b>			<b>Interphalangeal joints</b>	
<b>Movement</b>	<b>Muscles*</b>		<b>Movement</b>	<b>Muscles*</b>
<b>Flexion</b> (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Flexor digitorum brevis.</b></li> <li>● <b>Lumbricals.</b></li> <li>● <b>Interossei.</b></li> <li>● <b>Flexor hallucis brevis.</b></li> <li>● <b>Flexor hallucis longus.</b></li> <li>● Flexor digiti minimi brevis.</li> <li>● Flexor digitorum longus.</li> </ul>		<b>Flexion</b> (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Flexor hallucis longus.</b></li> <li>● <b>Flexor digitorum longus.</b></li> <li>● <b>Flexor digitorum brevis.</b></li> <li>● Quadratus plantae.</li> </ul>
<b>Extension</b> (B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Extensor hallucis longus.</b></li> <li>● <b>Extensor digitorum longus.</b></li> <li>● <b>Extensor digitorum brevis.</b></li> </ul>		<b>Extension</b> (B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Extensor hallucis longus.</b></li> <li>● <b>Extensor digitorum longus.</b></li> <li>● <b>Extensor digitorum brevis.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Abduction</b> (C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Abductor hallucis.</b></li> <li>● <b>Abductor digiti minimi.</b></li> <li>● <b>Dorsal interossei.</b></li> </ul>		<b>Abduction</b> (C)	
<b>Adduction</b> (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Adductor hallucis.</b></li> <li>● <b>Plantar interossei.</b></li> </ul>		<b>Adducted (relaxed position)</b> (D)	

# Arches of foot

Medial longitudinal arches	Lateral longitudinal arch	Transverse arch	
<p>Is formed of <u>calcaneum</u>, <u>talus</u>, <u>navicular</u>, <b>3 cuneiform bones</b>, and <b>3 medial metatarsal bones</b>.</p>	<p>Is formed of <u>calcaneum</u>, <u>cuboid</u> &amp; <u>lateral 4th &amp; 5th metatarsal bones</u>.</p>	<p>Lies at the level of <b>tarso-metatarsal joints</b>, formed of <b>bases of metatarsal bones</b>, <b>cuboid</b> &amp; <b>3 cuneiform bones</b>.</p>	

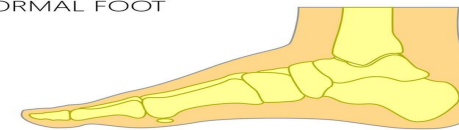


## Function of the arches:

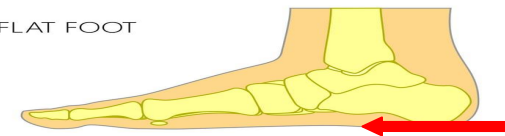
- 1. Weight bearing.**
- 2. Support walking & running.**
- 3. Provide potential space for neurovascular bundle of the sole.**
- 4. Act as shock absorber.**

**In young child, the foot appears to be flat because of presence of a large amount of subcutaneous fat on the sole of foot. (flat foot of adults is abnormal)**

NORMAL FOOT



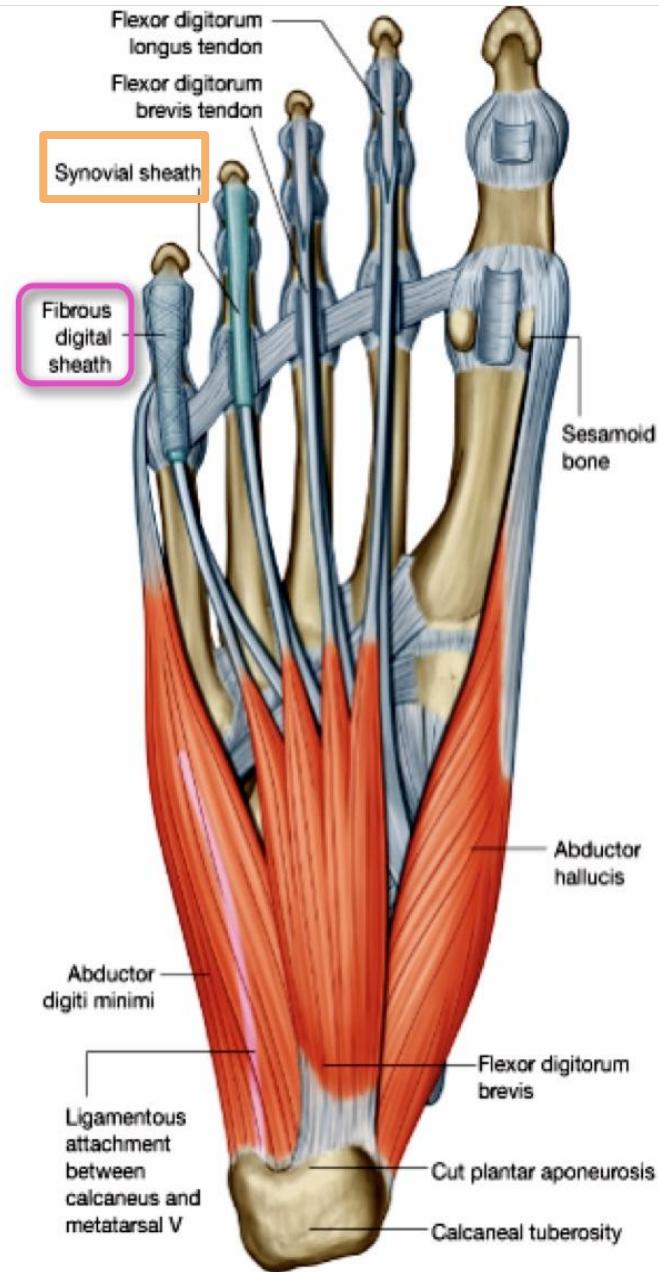
FLAT FOOT



## Fibrous flexor sheaths

Strong fibrous sheath that provide the **inferior** surface of each toes (sole), from the **head of the metatarsal bone** to the **base of the distal phalanx**. It is **attached to the sides of the phalanges**.

The fibrous sheath together with the **inferior surface of phalanges** and the **interphalangeal joints**, forms a **blind tunnel** in which lies the **flexor tendons of the toes**. (these tendons pass under the sheath)



## Synovial flexor sheaths

Surround the tendons of the **flexor hallucis longus** and the **flexor digitorum longus**.

# MCQs

**Question 1:** what is the lateral border of popliteal fossa is?

- A. Superficial fascia and deep fascia of the thigh.
- B. Biceps femoris and plantaris.
- C. Semimembranosus and semitendinosus
- D. Popliteal surface of femur.

**Question 2:** which of the following is the origin of the Plantaris muscle?

- A. Posterior surface of shaft of tibia.
- B. Shafts of tibia and fibula
- C. Lateral supracondylar ridge of femur.
- D. Groove on Lateral surface of lateral condyle of femur.

**Question 3:** Tibialis posterior is inserted in all tarsal bones except talus:

- A. True
- B. False

**Question 4:** which one of the following muscles originate from posterior surface of shaft of fibula?

- A. Popliteus
- B. Flexor hallucis longus
- C. Flexor digitorum longus
- D. Tibialis posterior

**Question 5:** flexor digiti minimi brevis is found in which layer of muscles of the sole of the foot?

- A. Third layer
- B. First layer
- C. Fourth layer
- D. Second layer

**Question 6:** The chief function of the small muscles of the foot is to:

- A. Help thicken the skin of the sole.
- B. Support the arches of the foot.
- C. fix the toes in place.
- D. Support sweat glands.

**Question 7:** Transverse arch is lies at the level of:

- A. Tarso-metatarsal joints
- B. Metatarsophalangeal joints
- C. Interphalangeal joints
- D. intermetatarsal joints

**Question 8:** plantar interossei muscle responsible for:

- A. flexion
- B. Adduction
- C. Extension
- D. abduction

# Team members

## Boys team:

- Khalid AL-Dossari
- Naif Al-Dossari
- Faisal Alqifari
- Salman Alagla
- Ziyad Al-jofan
- Suhail Basuhail
- Ali Aldawood
- Khalid Nagshabandi
- Mohammed Al-huqbani
- Jehad Alorainy
- Khalid AlKhani
- Omar Alammari

## Team leaders

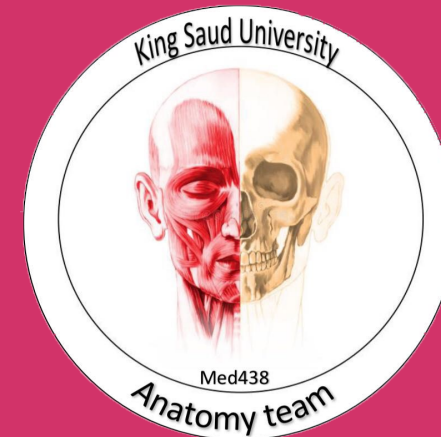
- Abdulrahman Shadid
  - Ateen Almutairi

★ =This lecture done by

## Girls team :

- ★ Ajeed Al Rashoud
- ★ Taif Alotaibi
- ★ Noura Al Turki
- Amirah Al-Zahrani
- ★ Alhanouf Al-haluli
- Sara Al-Abdulkarem
- Rawan Al Zayed
- Reema Al Masoud
- Renad Al Haqbani
- ★ Nouf Al Humaidhi
- Fay Al Buqami
- Jude Al Khalifah
- Nouf Al Hussaini
- Alwateen Al Balawi
- Rahaf Al Shabri
- Danah Al Halees
- Haifa Al Waily
- Rema Al Mutawa
- Amirah Al Dakhilallah
- Maha Al Nahdi
- Renad Al Mutawa
- Ghaida Al Braithen
- Reham Yousef

Special thank for  
Anatomy team 436



Good luck

Give us your feedback:

