

# Major arteries of the body

## Color index:

- Main text
- **Important**
- **In male's slides only**
- **In female's slides only**
- Extra information, explanation
- **Doctors notes**



Editing file CVS

# Objectives

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**01.**

Define the word 'artery' and understand the general principles of the arterial system.

**02.**

Define arterial anastomosis and describe its significance

**03.**

Define end arteries and give examples

**04.**

Describe the aorta and its divisions & list the branches from each part.

**05.**

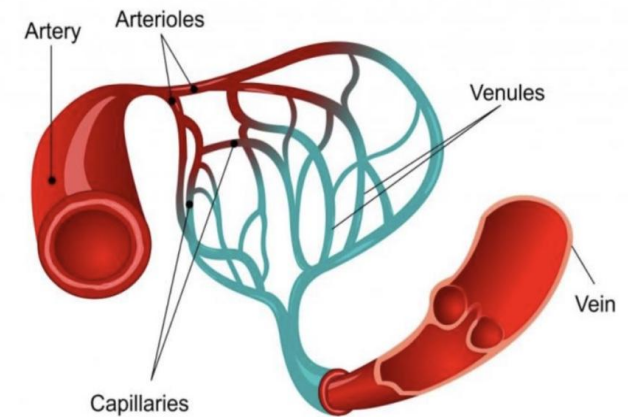
List major arteries and their distribution in the head & neck, thorax, abdomen and upper & lower extremities.

**06.**

List main pulse points

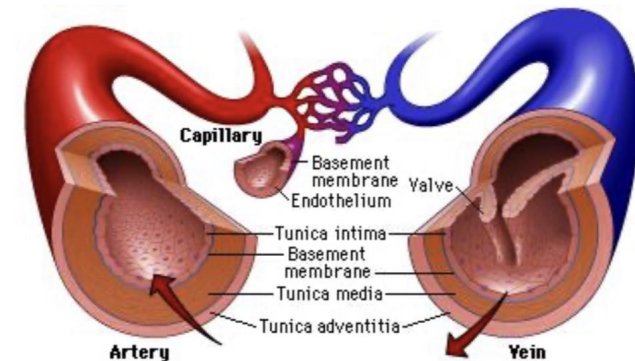
# Introduction

- Blood vessels are the part of the circulatory system that transports blood throughout the human body.
- The word vascular, meaning relating to the blood vessels, is derived from the Latin vas, meaning vessel. Avascular refers to being without (blood) vessels.
- There are three major types of blood vessels:
  1. Arteries: which carry the blood away from the heart.
  2. Capillaries: which enable the actual exchange of water and chemicals between the blood and the tissues.
  3. Veins: which carry blood from the capillaries back toward the heart.



## Microscopic Structure

- The arteries and veins have three layers, but the middle layer is thicker in the arteries than it is in the veins:
  1. **Tunica Intima** (the thinnest layer): a single layer of simple squamous endothelial cells.
  2. **Tunica Media** (the thickest layer in arteries): is made up of smooth muscle cells and elastic tissue.
  3. **Tunica Adventitia** (the thickest layer in veins) entirely made of connective tissue.
- Capillaries consist of little more than a layer of endothelium and occasional connective tissue.



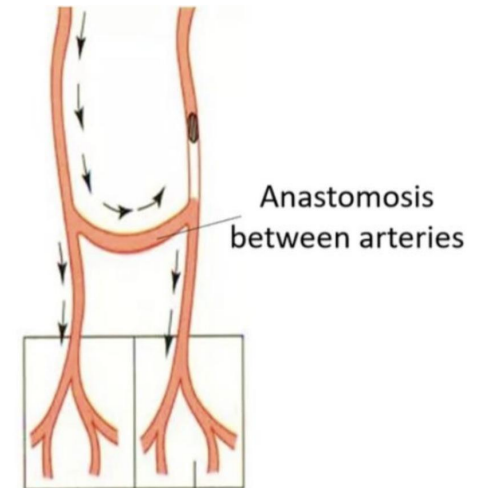
# Arteries and their general principles

- Arteries are blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the body.
- ALL Arteries carry **oxygenated** blood, **EXCEPT** the **PULMONARY** and **umbilical arteries**, carrying **deoxygenated** blood to the lung and to the placenta respectively.
- The flow of blood depends on the pumping action of the heart. (pulsation)
- **Arteries have Elastic Wall** containing **NO** valves  
(because blood in arteries flows with gravity. However, in veins, there are valves because blood flows against gravity)
- **Elasticity decreases with age resulting in atherosclerosis which raises the blood pressure.**

◆ The branches of arteries supplying adjacent areas normally **ANASTOMOSE** with one another freely providing backup routes for blood to flow if one artery is blocked, e.g. **arteries of limbs** , GIT

**Arteries form branches** (تتفرع)

**Veins form tributaries** (تتجمع)



No necrosis

Extra picture:)

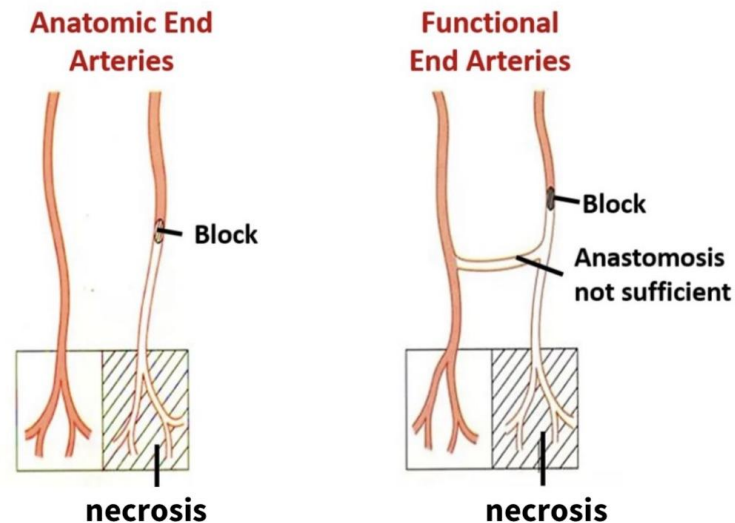
The arteries whose terminal branches do **NOT ANASTOMOSE** with branches of adjacent arteries are called **"END ARTERIES"**.  
it has 2 types:

### Anatomic (True) End Artery

When NO anastomosis exists,  
e.g.

- **artery of the retina.**

this artery is affected frequently in diabetic patients  
If the branch is blocked, there will be no arterial supply which will lead to blindness.



Extra picture:)

### Functional End Artery

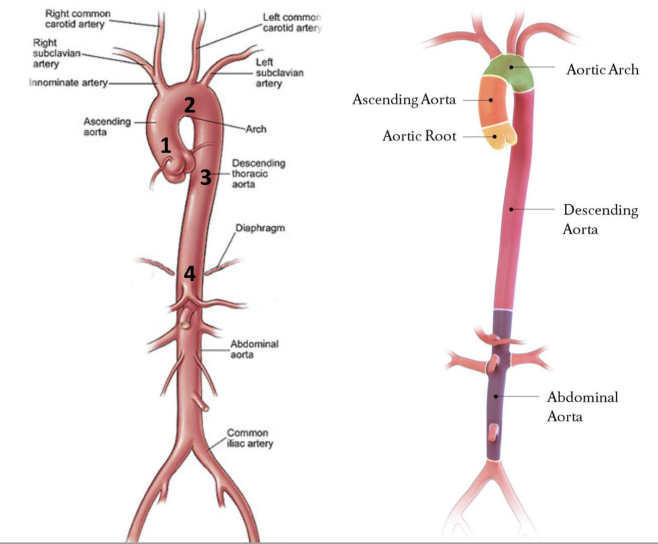
When an anastomosis exists but is incapable of providing a sufficient supply of blood,

e.g.

- **splenic artery**
- **renal artery.**

# Aorta :

- The **largest** artery in the body.
- Carries **oxygenated** blood to all part of the body.
- The Aorta begins in the thorax and ends in the abdomen
- Divided into 4 parts:
  1. Ascending aorta
  2. Arch of aorta
  3. Descending aorta
  4. Abdominal aorta

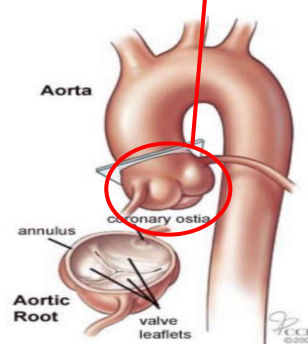
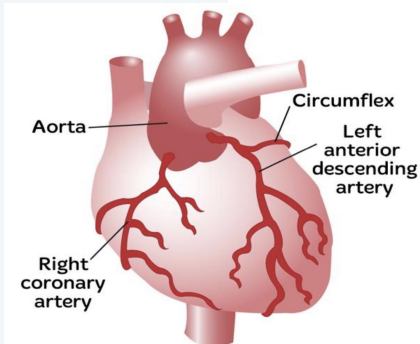


## Ascending aorta

- Originated from **left ventricle** .
- **Ascends upward until sternal angle**.
- Continues as the **arch of aorta** .
- Has 3 dilatations at its base called **aortic sinus** .

❖ Branches :

1. Right coronary arteries
  2. Left coronary arteries
- } supplying heart, arise from aortic sinuses

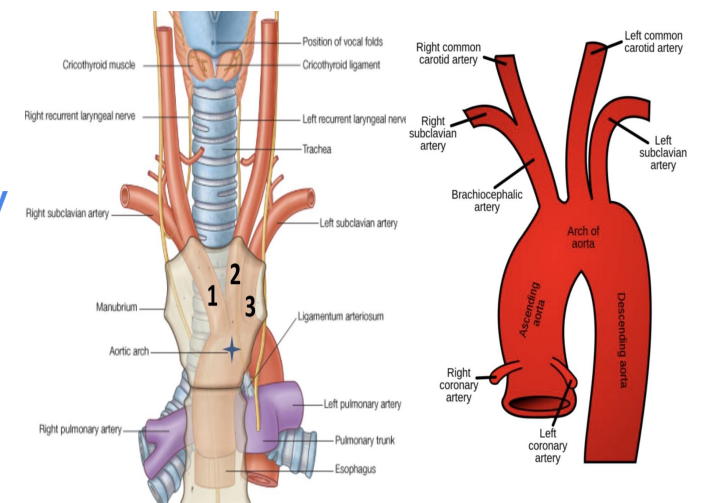


## Arch of aorta

- **Originates from left ventricle**.
- Continuation of the ascending aorta . (at the level of T4)
- Leads to descending aorta .
- located **behind the lower part of manubrium sterni** and on the left side of trachea .

❖ Branches :

1. Brachiocephalic trunk :
  - o Right Subclavian artery
  - o Right Common Carotid artery
2. Left common carotid artery .
3. Left subclavian artery .



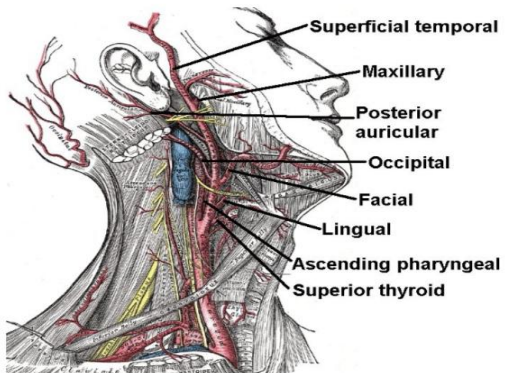
# Common Carotids artery

- **Origin:** ☆ **LEFT** from **aortic arch** ☆ **RIGHT** from **brachiocephalic trunk.**
- carotid divides into two branches:

## External carotid

It divides **behind neck of mandible** into:  
Superficial temporal & maxillary arteries  
It supplies:

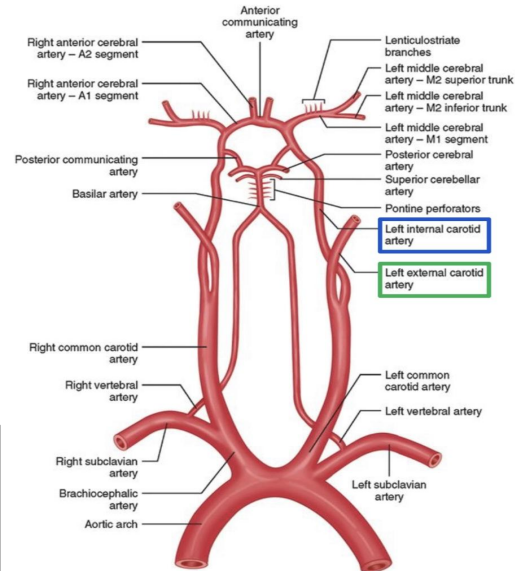
- **Scalp:**
  1. Superficial temporal artery
  2. Occipital artery
  3. posterior auricular arteries
- **Face:** Facial artery
- **Maxilla & mandible:** Maxillary artery
- **Tongue:** Lingual artery
- **Pharynx:** ascending pharyngeal artery
- **Thyroid gland:** Superior thyroid artery



**Mnemonic:** from bottom to top

Some American Ladies Found Our  
Pants So Magnificent

Some Anatomists Like Freaking  
Out Poor Medical Students

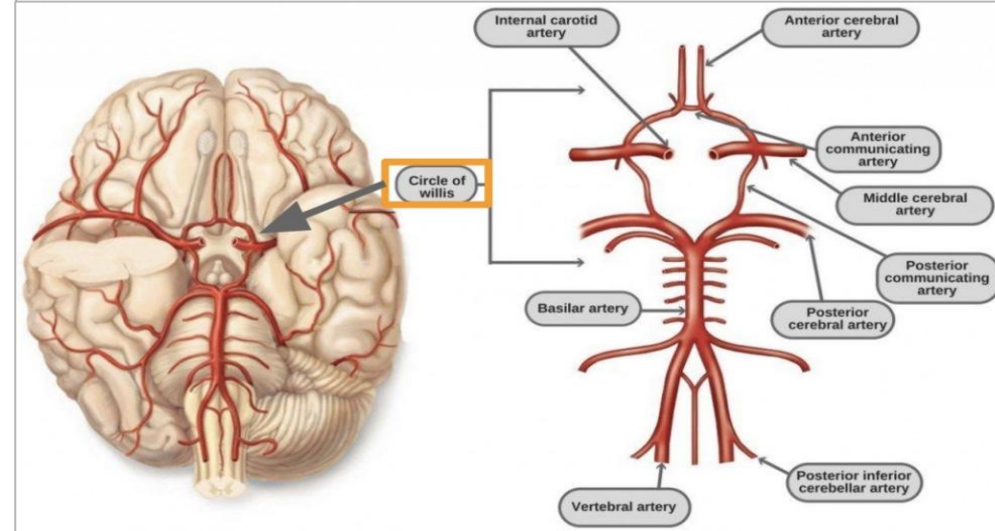


## Internal carotid

- Has **NO** branches in the neck
- Enters the cranial cavity,
- joins the basilar artery (formed by the union of two vertebral arteries) and forms

'arterial circle of Willis' to supply :

1. **brain**
2. **Nose** (anterior and posterior ethmoidal)
3. **Scalp** (supraorbital artery)
4. **Eye** (ophthalmic artery)





# Subclavian Artery (Arteries of the upper limb)

- **Origin:**

**Left:** from arch of aorta.

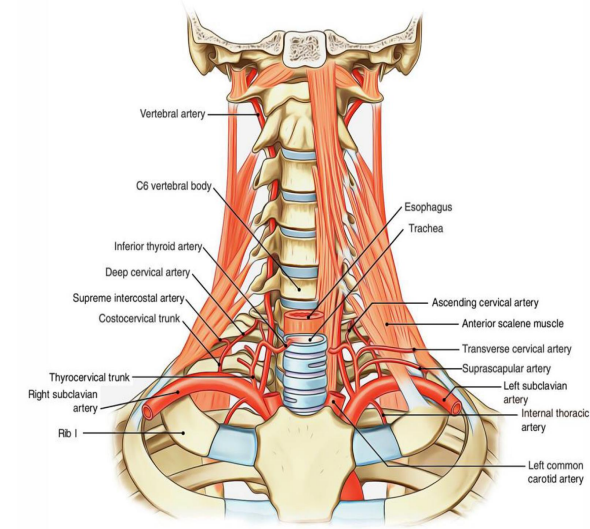
**Right:** from brachiocephalic trunk

- **Main branches of subclavian artery :**

1. **Vertebral artery:** supplies brain and spinal cord

(ascends in vertebral canal through foramen transversarium of cervical vertebra)

2. **Internal thoracic artery:** (also called internal mammary) supplies thoracic wall  
(it's give anterior intercostal arteries )



## Axillary Artery

At lateral border of the first rib, it is continuous in the axilla as the **Axillary artery**

- It is the source of the arterial supply of the upper limb.

**Axillary artery is the continuation of the subclavian artery.**

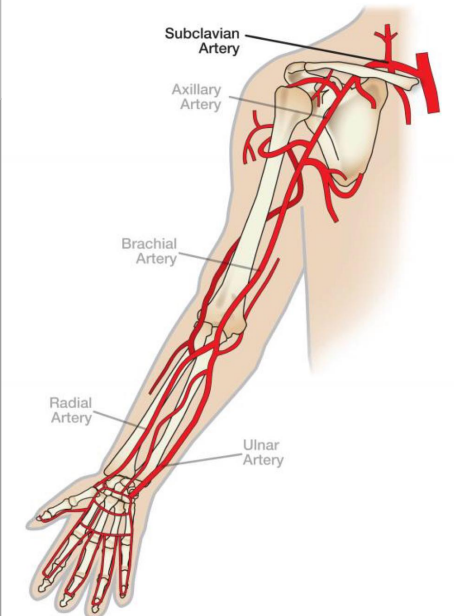
Beyond the lower margin of teres major muscle, the axillary artery become **brachial artery**.

It descends close to the medial side of the humerus to the cubital fossa to divide into:

1. **Radial artery:** The smaller terminal branch

2. **Ulnar artery:** The larger terminal branch

The superficial and deep palmar arches are formed by both ulnar & radial arteries.



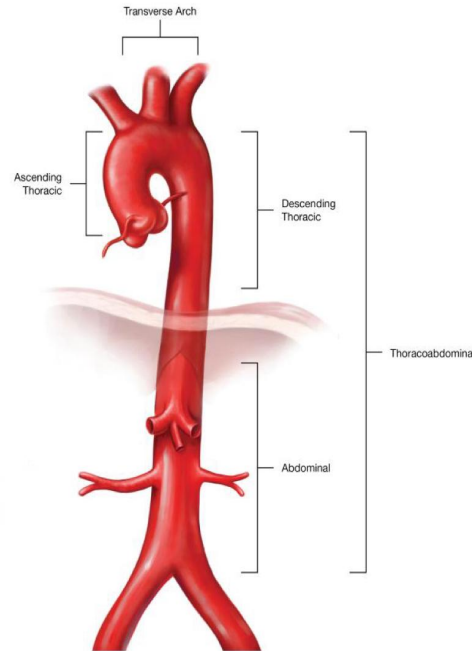
# Descending thoracic and Abdominal aorta

## Descending thoracic aorta:

- It is the continuation of the **aortic arch**
- At the level of the **T12**, it passes through the diaphragm and continues as the **abdominal aorta**
- **Descending thoracic Aorta begins at the sternal angle and ends at T12.**

### Branches:

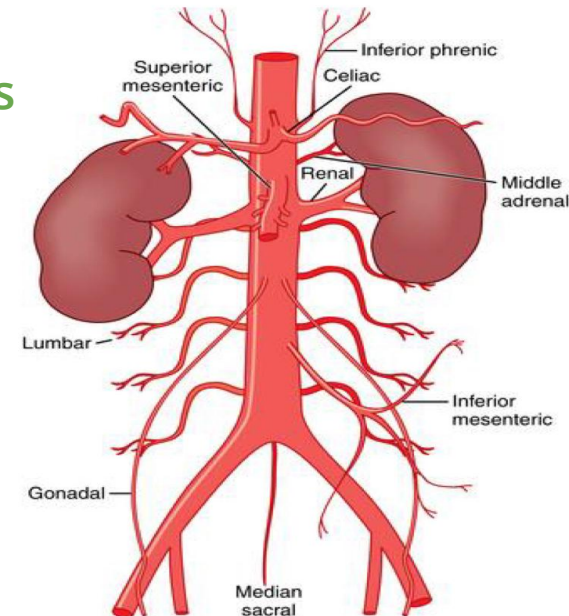
- **Pericardial**
- **Esophageal**
- **Bronchial**
- **Posterior intercostal**
- **Descending thoracic Aorta supplies the whole thorax except the heart.**



## Abdominal Aorta:

- It enters the abdomen through the **aortic opening of diaphragm.**
- **At the level of lower border of L4, it divides into two common Iliac arteries.**
- **Branches:** divided into two groups:
  1. Single Abdominal Branches
  2. Paired Abdominal Branches
- **Abdominal Aorta begins at T12 and ends at L4.**

(Discussed in detail next slide)



# Single and Paired Abdominal Branches

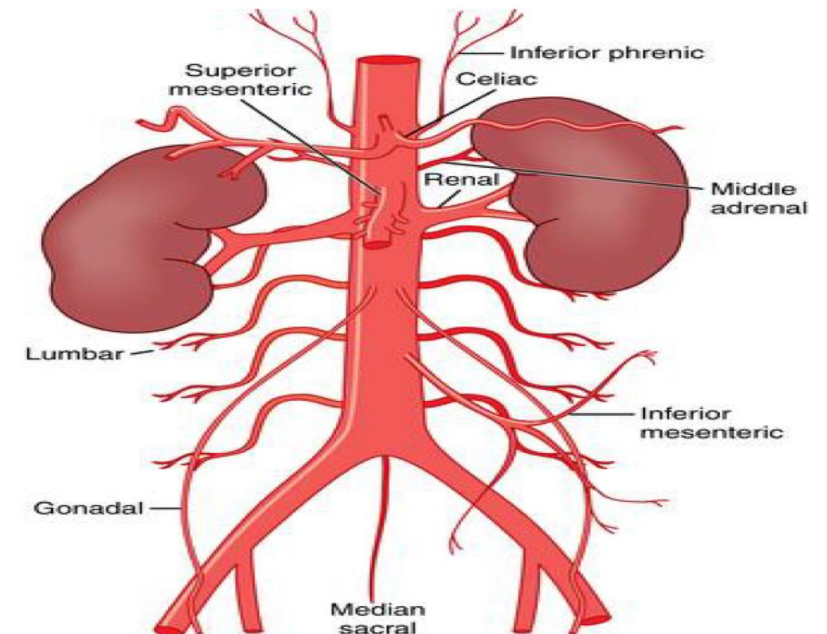
## Single Abdominal Branches:

“SUPPLYING GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT”

- Celiac Trunk at T12
  - Left gastric artery to stomach
  - Hepatic artery to liver and pancreas
  - Splenic artery to spleen
- Superior Mesenteric Artery at L1
  - Pancreas
  - Small and large intestine
  - Right 2/3 of Transverse Colon
- Inferior Mesenteric Artery at L3
  - Large intestine
  - Left 1/3 of transverse colon & descending colon
  - Rectum and anal canal

## Paired Abdominal Branches:

- Gonadal arteries (Testicular and Ovarian)
- Renal arteries
- Suprarenal arteries
- Common Iliac arteries



# Common iliac artery

## BRANCHES OF COMMON ILIAC ARTERY

### Internal Iiac Artery:

It supplies the following organs in pelvic region:

- Uterus
- Vagina
- Pelvic Walls
- Perineum
- Rectum & Anal canal
- Urinary Bladder

### EXTERNAL ILIAC ARTERY:

continues (at midpoint of inguinal ligament) as **femoral artery** the main supply for lower limb.

# Arteries of the lower limb

The text that is in blue color is extra from male's slides

## Femoral Artery

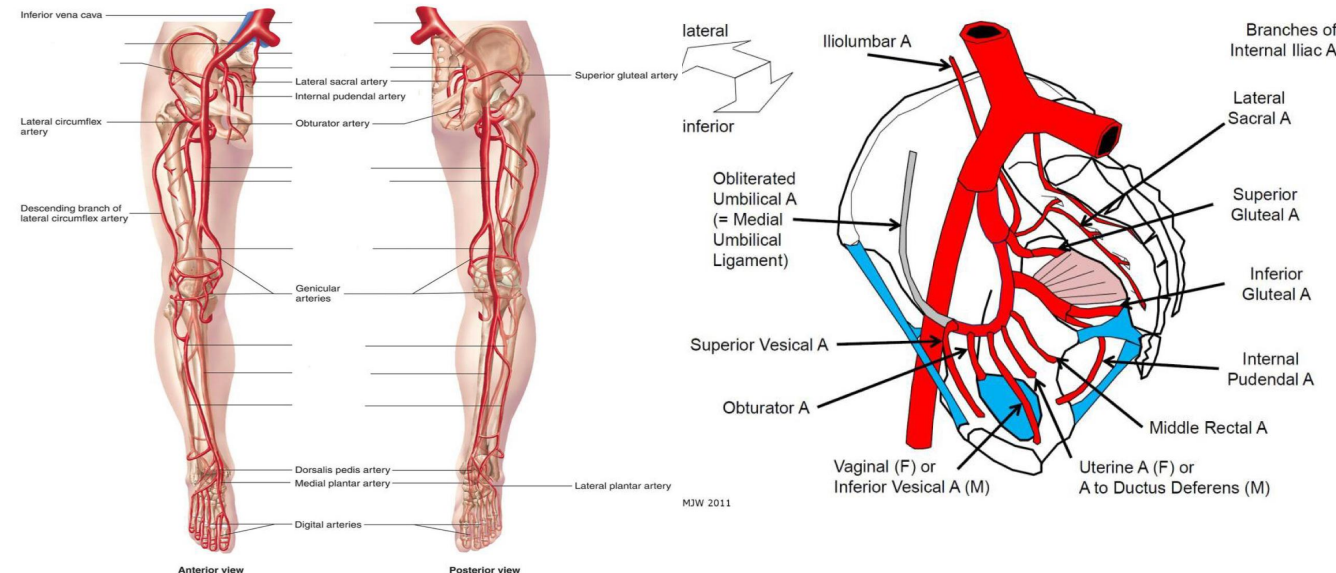
- Is the main arterial supply to lower limb
- Is the continuation of external iliac artery behind the midpoint of the inguinal ligament
  - Passes through adductor hiatus and continues as Popliteal artery.

## Popliteal Artery

- Deeply placed in the popliteal fossa.
- Divides, at lower end of popliteal fossa into:
  - 1-Anterior Tibial Artery forms dorsalis pedis artery
  - 2-Posterior Tibial Artery forms sole of foot

The Abdominal Aorta terminates, at the level of the 4th lumbar vertebra into:

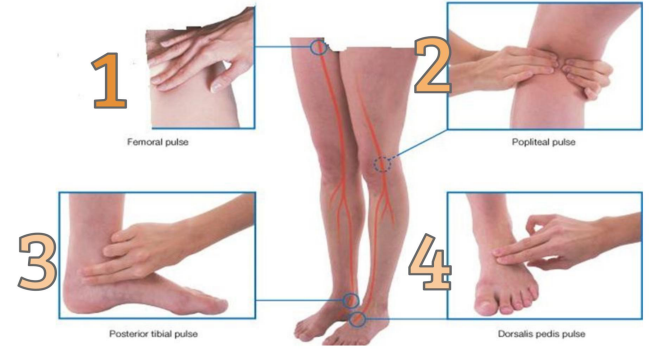
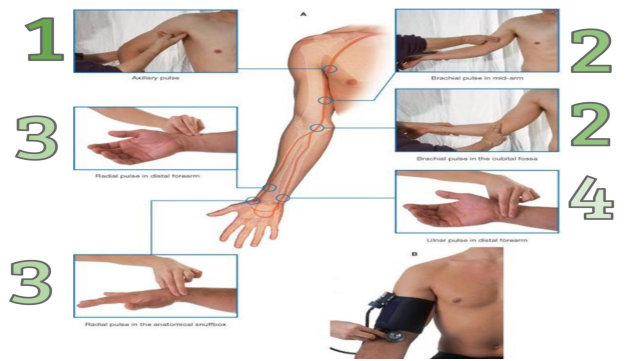
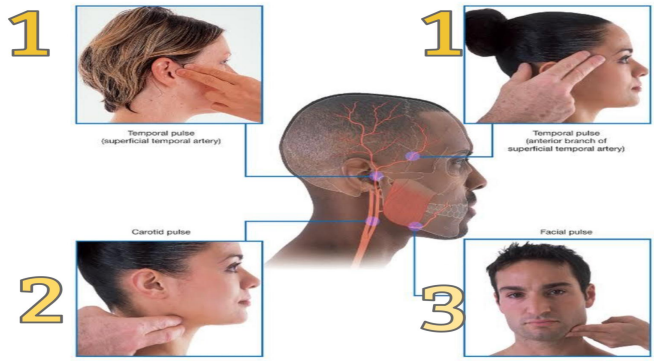
- Right common iliac artery
- Left common iliac artery
  - Each divides into external & internal iliac arteries
- Internal supplies the pelvic region
- External supplies the lower limbs



Extra: Subclavian Pulse  
 ( as it crosses the first rib) found in male slides.

# Main Pulse Point

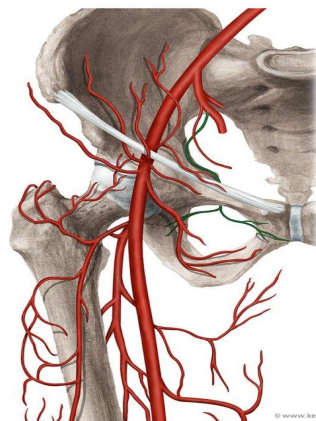
Head and Neck	Upper Limb	Lower limb
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporal pulse                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superficial temporal artery (in front of the ear)</li> <li>• Anterior branch of Superficial temporal artery</li> </ul> </li> <li>Carotid pulse (just below the angle of the mandible)</li> <li>Facial pulse (in front of the masseter muscle)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axillary pulse (lateral wall of the axilla)</li> <li>Brachial pulse in                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mid arm</li> <li>• cubital fossa (medial to the biceps tendon)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Radial pulse in :                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distal forearm (lateral to FCR)</li> <li>• anatomical snuffbox</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ulnar pulse (lateral to FCU in the )</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Femoral pulse (just below the midpoint of the inguinal ligament)</li> <li>Popliteal pulse (center of the popliteal fossa)</li> <li>Posterior tibial (Behind and below the medial malleolus)</li> <li>Dorsalis pedis pulse (Between the 1st and 2nd metatarsal bones, lateral to EHL)</li> </ol>



# Arterial Anastomosis and its Sites

## Arterial Anastomosis:

- Anastomosis is the connection of two structures.
- Arterial anastomosis is the joining of branches of arteries supplying adjacent areas.
- What is the main reason for having an arterial anastomosis?
  - To have multiple supply to a region (so in case one artery is blocked, the distal region is still perfused)
- Anatomic end arteries
- Their terminal branches do not anastomose with branches of adjacent arteries

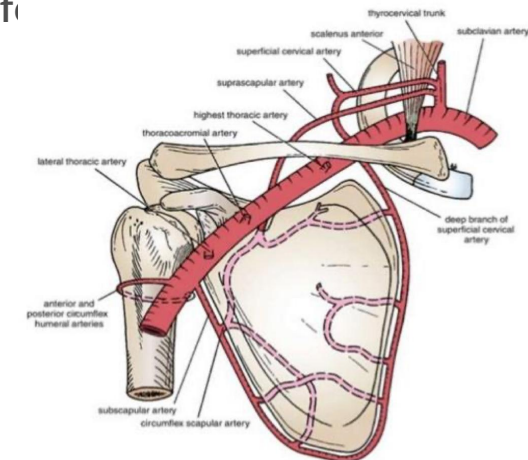


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## Sites of Anastomosis:

- In the upper limb
- Scapular anastomosis between branches of Subclavian and Axillary
  - Around the elbow
- Brachial, Radial and Ulnar
- In the lower limb
- Trochanteric & Cruciate to provide anastomosis between internal iliac and f



# TEST YOURSELF!

Q1: Explain the difference between the types of end arteries. Give examples on each.

A: 1- Anatomical end arteries: no anastomosis exists. Ex: artery of the retina  
2- Functional end arteries: when an anastomosis exists but is incapable of supplying a sufficient supply of blood. Ex: splenic artery, renal artery.

Q2: what is the location of the arch of Aorta? What are its branches?

A: The arch of aorta is located behind the lower part of manubrium sterni and on the left side of trachea.

1- brachiocephalic trunk: -right common carotid artery -right subclavian artery  
2-left common carotid artery  
3-left subclavian artery



# THANK YOU !

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