

Boundaries of Axilla & Contents of Axilla

Boundaries of Axilla

Apex (Cervicoaxillary Canal)

- Bounded by:
 - **Anteriorly** ? clavicle.
 - **Posteriorly** ? upper border of scapula.
 - **Medially** ? outer border of 1st rib.
 - Provides passage between **neck and axilla**.
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Base (Floor)

- Formed by:
 - **Skin, superficial fascia, and axillary fascia.**
 - Extends between anterior and posterior axillary folds.
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Anterior Wall

- Formed by:
 - **Pectoralis major.**
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- **Pectoralis minor.**
 - **Clavipectoral fascia.**
 - Lower border of pectoralis major forms **anterior axillary fold.**
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Posterior Wall

- Formed by:
 - **Subscapularis (upper part).**
 - **Latissimus dorsi (lower part).**
 - **Teres major (lower part).**
 - Lower margin forms **posterior axillary fold.**
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Medial Wall

- Formed by:
 - **Upper 4–5 ribs** with intercostal muscles.
 - Covered by **serratus anterior.**
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Lateral Wall

- Formed by:
 - **Intertubercular sulcus of humerus.**
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1. Axillary Artery and Branches

- Continuation of subclavian artery.
 - Divided into **3 parts** by pectoralis minor:
 - 1st part ? Superior thoracic artery.
 - 2nd part ? Thoracoacromial artery, Lateral thoracic artery.
 - 3rd part ? Subscapular artery, Anterior circumflex humeral artery, Posterior circumflex humeral artery.
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2. Axillary Vein and Tributaries

- Lies **anteromedial to axillary artery**.
 - Tributaries: cephalic vein, thoracoacromial vein, lateral thoracic vein, subscapular vein, circumflex humeral veins.
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3. Brachial Plexus (Infraclavicular Part)

- **Cords** arranged around axillary artery:
 - Lateral cord ? musculocutaneous nerve, part of median nerve, lateral pectoral nerve.

- Medial cord ? ulnar nerve, part of median nerve, medial cutaneous nerves of arm/forearm, medial pectoral nerve.
 - Posterior cord ? axillary nerve, radial nerve, upper/lower subscapular nerves, thoracodorsal nerve.
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4. Axillary Lymph Nodes

- **5 groups:**

- Pectoral (anterior).
- Subscapular (posterior).
- Humeral (lateral).
- Central.
- Apical.

- Major pathway for **breast carcinoma spread**.
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5. Other Structures

- Long thoracic nerve (serratus anterior).
- Intercostobrachial nerve (sensory to axilla and upper arm).
- Axillary fat and areolar tissue (fills space, allows mobility).