

Axilla

English: *Axilla*

Latin: *Fossa axillaris*



Axilla

The axilla is the area that lies underneath the glenohumeral joint. It serves as a passageway for neurovascular and muscular structures to enter and leave the upper limb.

Boundaries of axilla

The anterior wall - pectorales major and minor.

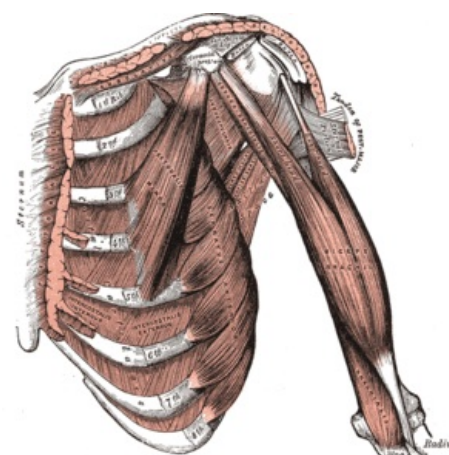
The posterior wall - subscapularis above, the teres major and latissimus dorsi below.

Medial side- first four ribs with their corresponding intercostales, and part of the serratus anterior.

Lateral side- humerus, the coracobrachialis, and the biceps brachii.

Apex (axillary inlet)- it is formed by lateral border of the first rib, superior border of scapula, and the posterior border of the clavicle.

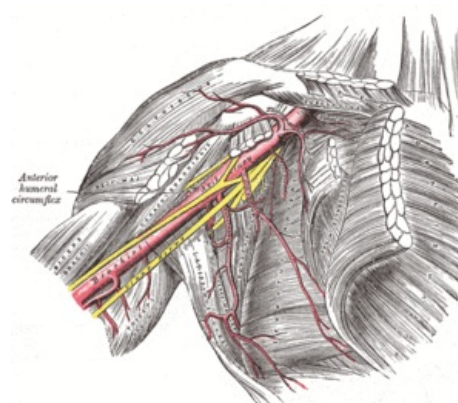
The apex decreases in size when the arm is fully abducted – leaving the contents of the axilla at risk of compression.



Axilla

Contents

- Axillary artery (and branches) – the main artery supplying the upper limb.
- Axillary vein (and tributaries) – the main vein draining the upper limb.
- Brachial plexus (and branches)
- Axillary lymph nodes – drains lymphatic fluid that has drained from the upper limb and pectoral region.
- Biceps brachii (short head) and coracobrachialis



Content of axilla

Links

External links

- lesson3axilla (<http://home.comcast.net/~wnor/lesson3axilla.htm>) at The Anatomy Lesson by Wesley Norman (Georgetown University)
- teachmeanatomy.info/upper-limb/areas/axilla/

Bibliography

- PETROVICKY, Pavel, et al. *Anatomie s topografií a klinickými aplikacemi : Sv. 1, Pohybové ústrojí. 1.* edition. Martin : Osveta, 2001. 463 pp. ISBN 80-8063-046-1.