

# Axillary Artery

The **axillary artery** is a continuation of *the subclavian artery* from the lateral edge of the 1st rib. It then runs through the axilla to the inner side of the *collum chirurgicum humeri*. From there it continues as *the brachial artery*. *The axillary vein* runs parallel to it, ventromedially from it.

*The brachial plexus* runs parallel to the artery, first dorsocranially, gradually surrounding it with its *lateral, posterior and medius trunks*.

It supplies the muscles bordering the *fossa axillaris*, the *infraspinatus muscle*, the *deltoideus muscle*, parts of the first two intercostals, the shoulder joint, the skin and, in women, part of the mammary gland.

## Branches

### Medially from the *pectoralis minor*

**Rr. subscapulares** – individual branches for the *subscapularis muscle*.

**A. thoracica superior** – to the first two intercostals and the upper part of the *serratus anterior muscle*.

**A. thoracoacromialis** – a short trunk emerging ventrally, in the depth of the *trigonum clavipectorale (trigonum deltopectorale)* transmits:

- *R. acromialis* – to the *rete acromiale* and to the shoulder joint.
- *R. deltoideus* – for the *deltoideus muscle*.
- *Rr. pectoralis* – for *pectoralis major* and *pectoralis minor*.
- *R. clavicularis* – for the *subclavius muscle*.

### Behind the *pectoralis minor*

**Lateral thoracic artery** – descends after the *serratus anterior muscle*, which it supplies (descends in front of the correspondingly descending *thoracic longus nerve*), in women it sends *rr. mammari laterales* to the mammary gland.

### Lateral from the *pectoralis minor*

**Subscapular artery** – through the axilla to the triangular space, where it divides into:

- *A. thoracodorsalis* – for the *latissimus dorsi* and *teres major* muscles.
- *A. circumflexa scapulae* – through the *foramen omotricipitale* to the *m. infraspinatus*, where it anastomoses with the *a. suprascapularis* (branch of the *truncus thyrocervicalis arteriae subclaviae*).

**A. circumflexa humeri anterior** – a weaker artery, previously around the *collum chirurgicum humeri* to the shoulder joint and surrounding tendons.

**A. circumflexa humeri posterior** – stronger artery, backwards through the *foramen humerotricipitale*, around the *collum chirurgicum humeri*, for the *deltoideus muscle*, the *triceps brachii muscle* and the shoulder joint. Through the *foramen humerotricipitale* and around the *collum chirurgicum humeri*, it progresses together with the *axillaris nerve*.

## Reference

1. CIHÁK, Radomír. *Anatomy 3*. 2nd ed. Prague: Grada Publishing, 2004. 692 pp. ISBN 978-80-247-1132-4.

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