

# Topographic formations of the pelvis

Topographic formations are spaces that are bounded by given anatomical structures and are important for locating other anatomical structures - typically nerves, arteries and veins. More information can be found on the pages of specific structures. In the pelvic area, we describe the following topographic formations:

## Ischioanal fossa

It is located lateral to the rectum. Its contents are the *corpus adiposum fossae ischioanal* and the below mentioned *canalis pudendalis*, or the pudendal canal of Alcock.

## Pudendal canal

Also called Alcock's canal, it is located dorsal to the iliococcygeus muscle and on the medial side of the obturator internus muscle. A nerve runs through the channel, after which the topographical place is named - pudendal nerve. We also mention it in topographic formations of the lower limb.

## Peritoneal processes

### Rectouterine pouch

Also called *space of Douglas*, found only in **women**. This is the deepest point of the peritoneal cavity when standing, so fluid and other pathological contents can accumulate here. The space is palpable during rectal examination.

### Vesicouterine pouch

It is found only in **women**.

### Rectovesical pouch

Also called *Proust's space*, it is only found in **men**. The deepest point of the peritoneal cavity in a man.

## Trigone of the pelvic floor

### Urogenital triangle

**Front** triangle

**Anal** triangle

**Back** triangle

## Organ topographic formations

### Trigone of the urinary bladder

Triangular field on the **dorsal side of the urinary bladder**. The border is formed by the junction between the mouths of the ureters and the urethra.

### Spermatic cord

Although it is not a typical topographic formation, but rather a bundle of anatomical structures, we present it here as well.