

**CVS....** 

#### Lecture (10)

# Arteries & veins in the lower limb region

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# ILOs

- 1. To describe the course, relations and branches of the femoral& the profundafemoris arteries.
- 2. To describe the course, relations and branches of the popliteal artery.
- 3. To describe the cruciate and trochanteric anastomosis.
- 4. To describe the course, relations and branches of the anterior tibial artery.
- 5. To describe the course, relations and branches of the posterior tibial artery.
- 6. To describe the anastomosis around the knee joint.
- 7. To describe the course, relations and branches of the dorsalispedis, medial plantar and lateral plantar arteries.
- 8. To describe the location and branches of the plantar arch.
- 9. To describe veins of lower limb.



# **Femoral Artery**

# **Origin:**

- It is a **continuation of** the external iliac artery.
- It begins behind the inguinal ligament, midway between the anterior superior iliac spine and the pubic symphysis.



# **Course of the femoral artery:**

- It descends along the anteromedial part of the thigh in the **femoral triangle**.
- Then it enters and passes through the adductor (sub-sartorial) canal.



#### **End of the femoral artery:**

 It becomes the popliteal artery as it passes through an opening in adductor magnus muscle (adductor hiatus).



# **Relations of the femoral Artery:**

At the femoral triangle:

- Anteriorly: Skin& fascia.
- **Posteriorly**: From above downward,
- **Iliopsoas muscle;** separate the artery from the hip joint.
- Pectineus muscle.
- Adductor longus.
- Lateral to the artery: Femoral nerve.
- Medial to the artery: Femoral vein.



#### **Femoral artery within the adductor canal:**

- It is **covered** by skin, fasciae& Sartorius muscle.
- It is **anterior to** adductor longus& magnus muscles.
- Femoral vein is posterior to the femoral artery in this canal.



#### **Compression of the femoral artery:**

- It is most effective just distal to the inguinal ligament, where it is superficial and separated from the bone (iliopubic eminence) only by the iliopsoas tendon.
- But arterial injury proximal to the inguinal ligament, such as laceration by a knife, cannot be controlled simply by compression.



# **Branches of femoral artery:**

# **Superficial branches:**

- **1- Superficial circumflex iliac artery:**
- Anastomosing around ASIS.
- **2-Superficial epigastric artery:**
- Supplies skin of the anterior abdominal wall.
- **3-Superficial external pudendal artery:**
- Supply the penile, scrotal or labial skin.

# **Deep branches:**

# **1-Deep external pudendal artery:**

Supply the skin of the perineum and scrotal or labial skin.

# **2-Descending genicular artery:**

• Share in anastomosis around knee.

# **3-Profunda femoris artery.**



# **Profunda femoris artery:**

#### **Origin:**

• From the lateral aspect of the femoral artery.

#### **Course:**

 It spirals posterior to the femoral vessels to reach the medial side of the femur.

#### End:

 As it pierces the adductor magnus muscle as the fourth perforating artery.



# **Branches of profunda femoris artery:**

# **<u>1-Muscular branches:</u>**

• For muscles of the thigh.

# **<u>2- Lateral circumflex femoral artery:</u>**

- It divides into;
- Ascending branch.
- Transverse branch.
- **Descending branch;** Share in anastomosing around knee



#### **<u>3- Medial circumflex femoral artery</u>**

- Dividing into;
- Ascending branch.
- Transverse branch.

# **<u>4- Perforating arteries</u>**

- Three perforating, **perforate the adductor magnus** to reach the flexor aspect of the thigh.
- They anastomose forming longitudinal chain of anastomosis.



#### **Trochanteric anastomosis**

It is an **anastomosis between;** 

- Ascending branches of the **medial**& **lateral circumflex femoral artery**.
- Descending branch of the **superior** gluteal artery.

It is the main blood supply to the head &neck of the femur.



### **Cruciate anastomosis**

### It is an **anastomosis between;**

- Transverse branches of the **medial and** lateral circumflex femoral arteries.
- Ascending branch from the **first perforating artery**
- Descending branch of the **inferior** gluteal artery.

# **Function:**

- It is anastomosis between branches of internal iliac artery & femoral artery.
- So it provide an alternative route for the blood supply of the lower limb when there is a blockage of the blood flow between the external iliac and femoral arteries.



# **Popliteal Artery**

It is the main blood supply to the knee, leg and foot.

#### **Origin:**

It is the continuation of the femoral artery. It begins at the adductor hiatus.

#### **Course:**

 It descends as the most deepest structure in the popliteal fossa.

# Ends:

• It ends at the lower border of the popliteus muscle by dividing into the anterior and posterior tibial arteries.



### **Relations of the popliteal artery:**

### **Anterior relations (deep):**

# From above downwards;

- Popliteal surface of femur.
- Capsule of knee joint.
- Popliteus muscle.

# **Posterior relations (superficial):**

- Semimembranosus muscle.
- Gastrocnemius muscle.
- It crossed superficially by popliteal vein & tibial nerve.



# **Branches of Popliteal Artery: 1-Muscular branches:**

### 2-Genicular branches (five) see the figure:

• To the knee joint & share in anastomosis around it.

### **3-Terminal branches:**

- Anterior tibial artery.
- Posterior tibial artery.

### Arteries share in anastomosis around knee:

- Descending genicular (femoral)
- Branch of lateral circumflex femoral (profunda femoris)
- Five genicular branches (popliteal)
- Tibial recurrent (ant. tibial).



# **Anterior Tibial Artery**

#### **Course& relations:**

- At first it is in the posterior compartment of the leg.
- It **passes through** aperture in the interosseous membrane, medial to the fibular neck, to reach anterior compartment of leg.
- It **descends on** the anterior aspect of the interosseous membrane, then it lies anterior to distal part of the tibia.



#### **End of the anterior tibial artery:**

• At the ankle, midway between the two

malleoli as it become dorsalis pedis artery.



#### **Branches of the Anterior Tibial Artery:**

- **1- Tibial recurrent arteries:**
- Shares in anastomosis around knee.

# **2-Muscular branches:**

• For muscles of anterior compartment of leg.

# **3-Malleolar arteries:**

• Share in anastomosis around ankle.



# **Dorsalis Pedis Artery**

# **Origin:**

 It begins midway between two malleoli as a continuation of the anterior tibial artery.

#### **Course & relation:**

- It **runs** forward on the dorsum of the foot.
- Then run downward between the two heads of 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal interosseous to enter the sole of the foot.

#### End:

• It ends in the sole of the foot as it anastomose with the plantar arch.



#### **Branches of the dorsalis pedis artery:**

**1- Arcuate artery:** 

- It passes laterally.
- It gives 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> dorsal metatarsal arteries.
- 2-1<sup>st</sup> dorsal metatarsal artery.



# **Posterior Tibial Artery**

#### **Course& relations:**

 It descends in the posterior compartment of leg, between soleus & tibialis posterior muscles.

#### End:

 It ends deep to flexor retinaculum, behind medial malleolus (its pulsation felt) by giving medial & lateral plantar arteries.



### **Branches of posterior tibial artery:**

# **1-Peroneal artery (fibular).**

Supplies muscles of posterior & lateral compartments of leg.

### **2-Muscular branches:**

• For the muscles of posterior compartments of leg.

# **3- Calcaneal & malleolar branches:**

Anastomosis around ankle.

### **4-Terminal branches:**

- Medial plantar artery.
- Lateral plantar artery.



Posterior view with foot plantar flexed

# **Medial Plantar Artery**

#### **Course:**

 It passes forward in plantar aspect of the foot along the medial side of the foot &big toe.

#### End:

• by diminishing in size.



# **Lateral Plantar Artery**

#### **Course:**

- It passes in the plantar aspect of the foot forward& laterally.
- Then it curve medially to form the plantar arch.

#### End:

• At the 1<sup>st</sup> intermetatarsal space as it anastomose with the end of dorsalis pedis artery.

#### **Branches:**

- 1- Cutaneous, muscular & articular branches.
- 2- Plantar arch give: four plantar metatarsal arteries.



# **Superficial Veins of the Lower Limb**

### **Great saphenous vein:**

- It arises from medial end of the dorsal venous arch.
- It ascends along medial side of leg and thigh.
- It ends in femoral vein.

### **Small saphenous vein:**

- It arises from the lateral end of the dorsal venous arch.
- It ascends along back of leg & ends in the popliteal vein.





# **Deep Veins of the Lower Limb**

### **Femoral vein:**

- It is the continuation of popliteal vein.
- Ends behind inguinal ligament, where it becomes the external iliac vein.



# Quiz

Which of the following arteries of the lower limb is correctly matching with its point of origin?

- A) Femoral artery --- Anterior superior iliac spine
- B) Popliteal Artery --- Popliteal surface of femur
- C) Anterior tibial artery --- Distal border of popliteus.
- D) Dorsalis pedis artery --- First metatarsal base.
- E) Lateral plantar artery --- Behind lateral malleolus.

Damage to which of the following arteries cause ischemia to the extensor muscles of the leg?

- (A) Profunda femoris.
- (B) Anterior tibial
- (C) Posterior tibial
- (D) Peroneal
- (E) Lateral plantar.

