

# Boundaries of Axilla & Contents of Axilla

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## Boundaries of Axilla

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### 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).