

# Boundaries of Axilla & Contents of Axilla

---

## Boundaries of Axilla

---

### Apex (Cervicoaxillary Canal)

- Bounded by:
  - **Anteriorly** ? clavicle.
  - **Posteriorly** ? upper border of scapula.
  - **Medially** ? outer border of 1st rib.
- Provides passage between **neck and axilla**.

---

### Base (Floor)

- Formed by:
  - **Skin, superficial fascia, and axillary fascia.**
- Extends between anterior and posterior axillary folds.

---

### Anterior Wall

- Formed by:
  - **Pectoralis major.**

- **Pectoralis minor.**
- **Clavipectoral fascia.**
- Lower border of pectoralis major forms **anterior axillary fold.**

---

## Posterior Wall

- Formed by:
  - **Subscapularis (upper part).**
  - **Latissimus dorsi (lower part).**
  - **Teres major (lower part).**
- Lower margin forms **posterior axillary fold.**

---

## Medial Wall

- Formed by:
  - **Upper 4–5 ribs** with intercostal muscles.
  - Covered by **serratus anterior.**

---

## Lateral Wall

- Formed by:
  - **Intertubercular sulcus of humerus.**

---

## Contents of Axilla

---

### 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.

---

### 2. Axillary Vein and Tributaries

- Lies **anteromedial to axillary artery**.
- Tributaries: cephalic vein, thoracoacromial vein, lateral thoracic vein, subscapular vein, circumflex humeral veins.

---

### 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.

---

#### 4. Axillary Lymph Nodes

- 5 groups:
  - Pectoral (anterior).
  - Subscapular (posterior).
  - Humeral (lateral).
  - Central.
  - Apical.
- Major pathway for **breast carcinoma spread**.

---

#### 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).