

ARTERIES OF THE HUMAN BODY

Artery/Arteries	Origin	Course	Branches/Description
Abdominal aorta	Continuation of thoracic aorta	Runs on anterior aspect of bodies of lumbar vertebrae	Visceral branches: celiac, superior and inferior mesenteric, renal, middle suprarenal, gonadal Parietal branches: lumbar, median sacral
Angular	Terminal branch of facial artery	Passes to medial angle (canthus) of eye	Superior part of cheek and lower eyelid
Anterior cerebral	Terminal branch (with middle cerebral) of internal carotid artery	Passes anteriorly, loops around genu of corpus callosum, then passes posteriorly in interhemispheric fissure	A1 segment: thalamus and corpus striatum A2 segment: cortex of medial aspects of frontal and parietal lobes
Anterior ciliary	Muscular (rectus) branches of ophthalmic artery	Pierces sclera at attachments of rectus muscles and forms network in iris and ciliary body	Iris and ciliary body
Anterior communicating	Anterior cerebral artery	Connects anterior cerebral arteries in prechiasmatic to complete cerebral arterial circle	Anteromedial central perforating arteries
Anterior division of internal iliac	Internal iliac	Passes anteriorly along lateral wall of lesser pelvis in hypogastric sheath and divides into visceral and parietal branches	Parietal branch: obturator artery Visceral branches: umbilical artery, inferior vesical, uterine, vaginal, middle rectal, and pudendal branches
Anterior ethmoidal	Ophthalmic artery	Passes through anterior ethmoidal foramen to anterior cranial fossa and into nasal cavity, sending branches to skin of nose	Supplies anterior and middle ethmoidal cells, dura of anterior cranial fossa, anterosuperior nasal cavity, and skin on dorsum of nose
Anterior inferior cerebellar	Lower (initial) part of basilar artery	Runs posterolaterally, often looping in and out of internal acoustic meatus	Supplies inferior aspect of lateral lobes of cerebellum, inferolateral pons, and choroid plexus in cerebellopontine angle; usually gives rise to labyrinthine artery
Anterior intercostal (branches)	Internal thoracic (intercostal spaces 1–6) and musculophrenic arteries (intercostal spaces 7–9)	Pass between internal and innermost intercostal muscles	Intercostal muscles, overlying skin, underlying parietal pleura
Anterior interventricular (branch)	Left coronary artery	Passes along anterior interventricular groove to apex of heart	Walls of right and left ventricles including most of interventricular septum and contained atrioventricular bundle and branches (conducting tissue)
Anterior spinal	Superiorly, by a merger of intracranial branches, one from each vertebral artery; it is continued inferiorly by bifurcations of anterior segmental medullary arteries at various levels	Forms a continuous anastomotic chain that descends length of spinal cord in entrance to anterior median fissure	Supplies anterior portion of spinal cord by means of sulcal branches, which extend into anterior median fissure, and pial plexus, which ramifies over surface of cord
Anterior superior alveolar	Infraorbital artery	Arises within infraorbital canal and ascends through anterior alveolar canals	Supplies mucosa of maxillary sinus, maxillary superior incisor, and canine teeth
Anterior tibial	Terminal branch (with posterior tibial) of popliteal artery	Passes between tibia and fibula into anterior compartment through gap in superior part of interosseous membrane and descends on this membrane between tibialis anterior and extensor digitorum longus	Anterior compartment of leg
Appendicular	Ileocolic artery	Passes between layers of mesoappendix	Vermiform appendix
Arch of aorta	Continuation of ascending aorta	Arches posteriorly on left side of trachea and esophagus and superiorly to root of left lung	Brachiocephalic, left common carotid, and left subclavian
Arcuate (of foot)	Continuation of dorsalis pedis	Passes laterally, dorsal to bases of metatarsals	2nd, 3rd, and 4th dorsal metatarsal arteries
Artery of bulb of penis or vestibule of vagina	Internal pudendal artery	Pierces perineal membrane to reach bulb of penis or vestibule of vagina	Supplies bulb of penis or vestibule and bulbourethral gland (male) and greater vestibular gland (female)
Artery to ductus deferens	Inferior (or superior) vesical	Runs retroperitoneally to ductus deferens	Ductus deferens
Artery of pterygoid canal	3rd part of maxillary artery, or from greater palatine	Passes posteriorly through pterygoid canal	Mucosa of uppermost pharynx (pharyngeal recess), pharyngotympanic (auditory) tube, and tympanic cavity
Ascending aorta	Aortic orifice of left ventricle	Ascends approximately 5 cm to level of sternal angle where it becomes arch of aorta	Right and left coronary arteries

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Ascending cervical	Terminal branch (with inferior thyroid artery) of thyrocervical trunk	Ascends on prevertebral fascia	Supplies anterior prevertebral muscles; anastomoses widely with other arteries of neck
Ascending palatine	Facial artery	Ascends next to and crosses over superior border of superior constrictor of pharynx to reach soft palate and tonsillar fossa	Supplies lateral wall of pharynx, tonsils, pharyngotympanic (auditory) tube, and soft palate
Ascending pharyngeal	Medial aspect of external carotid artery	Ascends between internal carotid artery and pharynx to cranial base, sending branches through jugular foramen and hypoglossal canal	Supplies pharyngeal wall, palatine tonsil, soft palate, and dura of posterior cranial fossa
Atrioventricular nodal (branch)	Right coronary artery near origin of posterior interventricular artery	Runs anteriorly in uppermost part of interventricular septum to atrioventricular node	Atrioventricular node
Axillary	Continuation of subclavian artery after crossing 1st rib	Runs inferolaterally through axillary fossa, changing to brachial artery when it crosses inferior border of teres major; parts are medial (1st), posterior (2nd), and lateral (3rd) to pectoralis minor	1st part: superior thoracic 2nd part: thoracoacromial and lateral thoracic arteries 3rd part: subclavian and anterior and posterior circumflex humeral arteries
Basilar	Formed by intracranial union of vertebral arteries	Ascends clivus in pontine cistern; terminates by bifurcating into posterior cerebral arteries	Branches: anterior inferior cerebellar, labyrinthine, pontine, mesencephalic, and superior cerebellar arteries
Brachial	Continuation of axillary artery past inferior border of teres major	Courses in medial intermuscular septum with median nerve; ends by bifurcating into radial and ulnar arteries in cubital fossa	Main artery of arm branches: deep artery of arm, muscular and nutrient branches, superior and inferior ulnar collateral
Brachiocephalic (trunk)	1st and largest branch of arch of aorta	Ascends posterolaterally to right, running anterior and then to right of trachea; deep to sternoclavicular joint, it bifurcates into terminal branches	Right common carotid and right subclavian arteries
Bronchial (1–2 branches)	Anterior aspect of 1st part of thoracic aorta or 3rd right posterior intercostal	Run on posterior aspects of primary bronchi and follow tracheobronchial tree	Bronchial and peribronchial tissue, visceral pleura
Buccal	Maxillary artery	Runs anterolaterally with buccal nerve, emerging from beneath anterior border of ramus of mandible	Supplies buccinator muscle, overlying skin, and underlying oral mucosa; anastomoses with branches of facial and infraorbital arteries
Carpal branches, dorsal and palmar	Radial and ulnar arteries at level of wrist	Anastomose with corresponding branches of counterpart artery (ulnar or to form dorsal and palmar carpal arches)	Provide collateral circulation at wrist
Celiac trunk	Abdominal aorta just distal to aortic hiatus of diaphragm	Runs a short course (1.25 cm), giving rise to left gastric, and bifurcating into splenic and common hepatic arteries	Supplies inferiormost esophagus, stomach, duodenum (proximal to bile duct), liver and biliary apparatus, and pancreas
Central artery of retina	Ophthalmic artery	Runs in dural sheath of optic nerve and pierces nerve near eyeball; ramifying from center of optic disc into retinal arterioles	Supplies optic retina (except cones and rods); branches: macular, nasal and temporal retinal arterioles
Circumflex (branch)	Left coronary artery	Passes to left in atrioventricular groove and runs to posterior surface of heart	Primarily left atrium and left ventricle branches: left ventricular, atrial, and marginal
Circumflex humeral, anterior and posterior	3rd part of axillary artery, typically opposite origin of subscapular artery	Arteries anastomose to form a circle around surgical neck of humerus; larger posterior circumflex humeral artery passes through quadrangular space with axillary nerve	Supply shoulder joint and muscles of proximal arm: deltoid, teres major and minor, and long and lateral heads of triceps
Circumflex scapular artery	Terminal branch (with thoracodorsal artery) of subscapular artery	Curves around axillary border of scapula and enters infraspinous fossa	Supplies subscapular and infraspinatus muscles; joins collateral anastomosis of shoulder around scapula
Common carotid, left and right	Left: 2nd branch of arch of aorta Right: terminal branch (with right subclavian) of brachiocephalic artery	Ascend from/pass deep to sternoclavicular joint in carotid sheath under cover of sternocleidomastoid to level of C4 vertebra (or hyoid bone)	Terminal branches: internal and external carotid arteries
Common hepatic	Terminal branch (with splenic artery) of celiac artery (trunk)	Passes to right along superior border of pancreas, running anterior to portal vein	Terminal branches: hepatic artery proper and gastroduodenal artery
Common iliac, left and right	Terminal branches of abdominal aorta	Begin anterior to L4 vertebral body, diverging as they descend to terminate at L5-S1 level, anterior to sacroiliac joints	Terminal branches: external and internal iliac arteries

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Common interosseous	Ulnar artery, just distal to bifurcation of brachial artery in cubital fossa	Passes deep to bifurcate into after a short course	Terminal branches: anterior and posterior interosseous arteries
Common palmar digital	Superficial palmar arch	Pass distally anterior to lumbricals to bifurcate proximal to webbings between digits	Receive palmar metacarpal arteries from deep palmar arch Terminal branches: proper palmar digital arteries
Common plantar digital	Terminal portions of plantar metatarsal	Short segments distal to transverse head of adductor hallucis proximal to webs between toes	Terminal branches: plantar digital arteries proper
Costocervical (trunk)	2nd part of subclavian artery	Short artery passes posteriorly superior to cervical pleura to neck of 1st rib and bifurcates into terminal branches	Terminal branches: supreme intercostal and deep cervical arteries
Cremasteric	Inferior epigastric	Accompanies spermatic cord through inguinal canal and into scrotal sac	Supplies cremaster muscle and other coverings of cord in males; round ligament in females
Cystic	Right hepatic artery	Arises within hepatoduodenal ligament	Gallbladder and cystic duct
Deep artery of penis or clitoris	Terminal branch of internal pudendal artery	Pierces perineal membrane to reach erectile bodies of clitoris or penis (corpora cavernosa)	Terminations (helicine arteries) uncoil to engorge erectile sinuses with arterial blood
Deep artery of thigh	Femoral artery in femoral triangle (about 4 cm distal to inguinal ligament)	Passes inferiorly on medial intermuscular septum, deep to adductor longus	Perforating branches pass through adductor magnus muscle to posterior and lateral part of anterior compartments of thigh
Deep auricular	1st part of maxillary artery	Ascends in parotid gland posterior to temporomandibular joint, piercing wall of external acoustic meatus	Supplies temporomandibular joint and skin of external acoustic meatus and tympanic membrane
Deep cervical	Costocervical trunk	Passes posteriorly between transverse process of C7 and neck of 1st rib and ascends between semispinalis cervicis and capitis to C2 level	Supplies deep posterior muscles of neck and anastomoses with descending branch of occipital artery and branches of vertebral artery
Deep circumflex iliac	External iliac artery	Runs on deep aspect of anterior abdominal wall, parallel to inguinal ligament	Supplies iliacus muscle and inferior part of anterolateral abdominal wall
Deep lingual	Continuation (3rd part of) lingual artery	Turns superiorly near anterior border of hyoglossus and flanking, then passes anteriorly frenulum just deep to mucosa	Supplies genioglossus, inferior longitudinal muscle, and mucosa of underside of tongue, and of the tongue tip
Deep palmar arch	Direct continuation of radial artery, completed on medial side by deep branch of ulnar artery	Curves medially, deep to long flexor tendons in contact with bases of metacarpals	Branches: palmar metacarpal arteries
Deep plantar arch	Continuation of lateral plantar artery	Courses anteromedially, between 3rd and 4th layers of muscles of sole of foot; anastomoses with dorsalis pedis through deep plantar artery between 1st and 2nd metatarsal bases	Branches: plantar metatarsal arteries
Deep temporal, anterior and posterior	2nd part of maxillary artery	Ascend between temporalis and bone of temporal fossa bone	Supplies temporalis muscle, periosteum, and
Descending genicular	Femoral artery, in adductor canal	Descends in vastus medialis, just anterior to tendon of adductor magnus to anastomose with superior medial genicular artery	Branches: saphenous branch, accompanying saphenous nerve to medial skin of leg; muscular branches to vastus medialis and adductor magnus
Descending palatine	3rd part of maxillary artery	Arises in pterygopalatine fossa; descends in palatine canal	Branches: greater and lesser palatine arteries
Dorsal artery of penis or clitoris	Terminal branch of internal pudendal artery	Pierces perineal membrane and passes through suspensory ligament of penis or clitoris to run on dorsum of penis or clitoris	Skin of penis and erectile issue of penis or clitoris
Dorsal carpal arch	Radial and ulnar arteries	Arches within fascia on dorsum of hand	Branches: dorsal metacarpal arteries
Dorsal digital arteries (of fingers)	Dorsal metacarpal arteries	Run distally on the posterolateral aspects of the proximal 1-1/2 phalanges	Supply dorsal aspects of proximal 1-1/2 phalanges of fingers
Dorsal digital arteries (of toes)	Dorsal metatarsal arteries	Run distally on posterolateral aspects of proximal 1-1/2 phalanges of toes	Supply dorsal aspects of proximal 1-1/2 phalanges of toes
Dorsal metacarpal	Dorsal carpal arch	Run on 2nd–4th dorsal interossei	Bifurcate into dorsal digital arteries; supply skin, muscle, and bone of dorsum of hand and fingers to center of middle phalanx

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Dorsal metatarsal	1st: termination of dorsalis pedis; 2nd, 3rd and 4th: arcuate artery	Run distally on the superficial aspect of the corresponding dorsal interosseous muscles	Branches: dorsal digital arteries (of toes)
Dorsal nasal	Ophthalmic artery	Courses along dorsal aspect of nose and supplies its surface	Courses along dorsal aspect of nose and supplies its surface
Dorsal pancreatic	Splenic artery	Descends posterior to pancreas, dividing into right and left branches	Supplies middle portion of pancreas
Dorsal scapular (variation: in 1 of 3 cases, it is replaced by a deep branch of the transverse cervical artery)	3rd (or 2nd) part of subclavian artery	Passes laterally through brachial plexus then deep to levator scapulae; joins dorsal scapular nerve running along vertebral border of scapula, deep to rhomboid muscles	Supplies branches to trapezius, rhomboids, latissimus dorsi; participates in anastomoses around scapula (shoulder)
Dorsalis pedis	Continuation of anterior tibial artery distal to inferior extensor retinaculum	Descends anteromedially to 1st interosseous space and divides into plantar and arcuate arteries	Muscles on dorsum of foot; pierces 1st dorsal interosseous muscle as deep plantar artery to contribute to formation of plantar arch
Esophageal (4–5 branches)	Anterior aspect of thoracic aorta	Run anteriorly to esophagus	Esophagus
External carotid	Common carotid artery at superior border of thyroid cartilage	Ascends slightly anteriorly and then inclines posteriorly and laterally, I passing between mastoid process and mandible; enters substance of parotid gland, bifurcating into terminal branches deep to neck of mandible	Anterior branches: superior thyroid, facial and lingual arteries Posterior branches: occipital and posterior auricular arteries Medial branch: ascending pharyngeal Terminal branches: maxillary and superficial temporal arteries
External pudendal, superficial, and deep branches	Femoral artery	Pass medially across thigh to reach scrotum or labia majora	Skin of mons pubis and anterior labia (female) or root of penis and anterior scrotum (male)
Facial	External carotid artery	Ascends deep to submandibular gland, winds around inferior border of mandible and enters face, ascending obliquely across cheek and side of nose to medial angle of eye	Branches: ascending palatine, tonsillar, glandular, submental, inferior and superior labial, and lateral nasal. Terminal branch (continuation): angular artery
Femoral	Continuation of external iliac artery distal to inguinal ligament	Descends through femoral triangle, traverses adductor canal, and changes name to "popliteal" at adductor hiatus	Supplies anterior and anteromedial surfaces of thigh
Gastrooduodenal	Hepatic artery	Descends retroperitoneally, posterior to gastroduodenal junction	Stomach, pancreas, 1st part of duodenum, and distal part of bile duct
Gastroepiploic	Gastrooduodenal artery	Passes between layers of greater omentum to greater curvature of stomach	Right portion of greater curvature of stomach
Genicular (superior lateral and medial, inferior lateral, medial, and middle)	Popliteal	Arise and run to "four corners" of knee joint (viewed anteriorly) around the patella and femoral and tibial condyles; middle genicular pierces oblique popliteal ligament in posterior center of joint capsule	Form, with participation also of descending genicular, descending branch of lateral circumflex femoral, circumflex fibular and recurrent tibial arteries, and the genicular articular anastomosis
Greater pancreatic	Splenic artery	Penetrates left portion of pancreas, splitting into right and left branches, which parallel pancreatic duct	Anastomoses with other pancreatic branches; supplies primarily tail of pancreas and contained duct
Hepatic artery proper	Celiac trunk	Passes retroperitoneally to reach hepatoduodenal ligament and passes between its layers to porta hepatis; bifurcates into right and left hepatic arteries	Branches: right gastric, supraduodenal, right and left hepatic arteries; supplies liver and gallbladder, stomach, pancreas, duodenum
Ileocolic	Terminal branch of superior mesenteric artery	Runs along root of mesentery and divides into ileal and colic branches	Ileum, cecum, and ascending colon
Iliolumbar	Posterior division of internal iliac	Ascends anterior to sacroiliac joint and posterior to common iliac vessels and psoas major	Psoas major, iliacus, and quadratus lumborum muscles and cauda equina in vertebral canal
Inferior alveolar	1st part of maxillary artery	Descends posterior to inferior alveolar nerve between ramus of mandible to enter mandibular canal through mandibular foramen	Branches: mylohyoid branch, dental branches, mental medial pterygoid and branch. Supplies muscles of floor of mouth, mandible and lower teeth and soft tissue of chin
Inferior epigastric	External iliac artery	Runs superiorly and enters rectus sheath; runs deep to rectus abdominis	Rectus abdominis and medial part of anterolateral abdominal wall

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Inferior gluteal	Anterior division of internal iliac	Exits pelvis to enter gluteal region through greater sciatic foramen inferior to piriformis and descends on medial side of sciatic nerve; anastomoses with superior gluteal artery and participates in cruciate anastomosis of thigh, involving 1st perforating artery of deep femoral and medial and lateral circumflex femoral arteries	Pelvic diaphragm (coccygeus and levator ani), piriformis, quadratus femoris, uppermost hamstrings, gluteus maximus, and sciatic nerve
Inferior labial	Facial artery near angle of mouth	Runs medially in lower lip	Lower lip and chin
Inferior mesenteric	Abdominal aorta	Descends retroperitoneally to left of abdominal aorta	Supplies part of gastrointestinal tract derived from hindgut
Inferior pancreaticoduodenal, anterior and posterior	Superior mesenteric artery	Ascends retroperitoneally on head of pancreas	Distal portion of duodenum and inferior head and uncinete process of pancreas
Inferior phrenic	As 1st branches of abdominal aorta (sometimes through a common stem or from celiac trunk)	Ascend crus to underside of domes; medial branches anastomoses with each other and pericardiophrenic arteries; lateral branches approach thoracic wall, anastomose with posterior intercostal and musculophrenic arteries	Branches: superior suprarenal arteries Supplies: diaphragm, inferior vena cava (right (right branch), esophagus (left branch), suprarenal glands
Inferior rectal	Internal pudendal artery	Leaves pudendal canal and crosses ischioanal fossa to anal canal	Distal portion of anal canal (mainly inferior to pectinate line)
Inferior suprarenal	Renal	Ascends vertically to gland	Posterior and inferior of aspects suprarenal gland
Inferior thyroid	Terminal branch (with ascending cervical artery) of thyrocervical trunk	Ascends anteriorly to anterior scalene, turns medially passing between vertebral vessels and carotid sheath, then descends on longus colli lower border of thyroid gland	Branches: inferior laryngeal artery, pharyngeal, tracheal, esophageal, and inferior and ascending glandular (latter to parathyroid to glands); main visceral artery of neck
Inferior vesicle (male)	Anterior division of internal iliac	Passes retroperitoneally to inferior aspect of male urinary bladder	Inferior aspect of urinary bladder, ductus deferens, seminal vesicle, and prostate
Infraorbital	3rd part of maxillary artery	Passes along infraorbital groove and foramen to face	Supplies inferior rectus and oblique muscles, inferior eyelid, lacrimal sac, maxillary sinus, maxillary incisor and canine teeth, and anterior cheek
Internal carotid	Common carotid artery at superior border of thyroid cartilage	Ascends vertically in neck to enter carotid canal, becomes horizontal and runs anteromedially through cavernous sinus, makes a 180-degree turn under anterior clinoid process, bifurcates into anterior and middle cerebral arteries	Gives branches to walls of cavernous sinus, pituitary gland, and trigeminal ganglion; provides primary blood supply to the orbit/eyeball, upper nasal cavity/nose, and brain
Internal iliac	Common iliac	Passes over pelvic brim to reach pelvic cavity	Main blood supply to pelvic organs, gluteal muscles, and perineum
Internal pudendal	Anterior division of internal iliac	Leaves pelvis through greater sciatic foramen; hooks around ischial spine and enters perineum by way of lesser sciatic foramen and runs in pudendal canal to urogenital triangle	Main artery to perineum, including muscles and skin of anal and urogenital triangles; erectile bodies (does not supply branches to gluteal region)
Internal thoracic	Inferior surface of subclavian artery	Descends, inclining anteromedially, posterior to sternal end of clavicle and costal cartilages, lateral to sternum, and anterior to slips of transversus thoracis; divides at level of 6th costal cartilage into superior epigastric and musculophrenic arteries	Sternum and skin anterior to it by way of anterior intercostal arteries to 1st to 6th intercostal spaces by way of perforating arteries, to medial aspect of breast
Interosseous, anterior and posterior	Common interosseous artery	Pass to anterior and posterior sides of interosseous membrane	Anterior and posterior compartments of forearm; anterior interosseous artery supplies both anterior and posterior compartments in distal forearm; posterior interosseous artery gives off recurrent interosseous artery, which participates in arterial anastomoses around the elbow

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Ileal and jejunal (<i>n</i> = 15–18)	Superior mesenteric artery	Passes between two layers of mesentery	Jejunum and ileum
Labyrinthine	Basilar or through a common trunk with anterior inferior cerebellar	Exits cranial cavity through internal acoustic meatus; enters bony labyrinth	Membranous labyrinth
Lacrimal	Ophthalmic artery	Passes along superior border of lateral rectus muscle to supply lacrimal gland, conjunctiva, and eyelids	Passes along superior border of lateral rectus muscle to supply lacrimal gland, conjunctiva, and eyelids
Lateral circumflex femoral	Deep artery of thigh; may arise from femoral artery	Passes laterally deep to sartorius and rectus femoris and divides into three branches	Ascending branch supplies anterior part of gluteal region; transverse branch winds around femur; descending branch descends to knee and joins genicular anastomoses
Lateral nasal branch (facial)	Facial artery as it ascends alongside nose	Passes to ala of nose	Skin on ala and dorsum of nose
Lateral plantar	Terminal branch (with medial plantar artery) of posterior tibial artery	Forms medially to calcaneus, courses anterolaterally between 1st and 2nd muscle layers of sole of foot to base of 5th metatarsal, then passes and 4th layers as deep plantar arch	Branches: muscular, to muscles of 1st and 2nd layers; superficial, to skin and subcutaneous tissue of lateral sole; anastomotic, with lateral tarsal and arcuate arteries; calcaneal, to calcaneus
Lateral sacral, superior and inferior	Posterior division of internal iliac	Runs on anteromedial aspect of piriformis to send branches into pelvic sacral foramina	Piriformis, structures in sacral canal, erector spinae and overlying skin
Lateral thoracic	2nd part of axillary artery	Descends along axillary border of pectoralis minor and follows it onto	Lateral chest wall (pectoral muscles, serratus anterior, intercostals) and breast thoracic wall
Left colic	Inferior mesenteric artery	Passes leftward retroperitoneally to descending colon	Descending colon
Left coronary	Left aortic sinus	Runs in atrioventricular groove and gives off anterior interventricular and circumflex branches	Most of left atrium and ventricle, interventricular septum, and atrioventricular bundles; may supply atrioventricular node
Left gastric	Celiac trunk	Ascends retroperitoneally to esophageal hiatus, where it passes between layers of hepatogastric ligament	Distal portion of esophagus and lesser curvature of stomach
Left gastroepiploic (gastroepiploic)	Splenic artery in hilum of spleen	Passes between layers of gastrosplenic ligament to greater curvature of stomach	Left portion of greater curvature of stomach
Left marginal (branch)	Circumflex branch	Follows left border of heart	Left ventricle
Left pulmonary	Pulmonary trunk	Joins left bronchus and pulmonary veins to form root of left lung; descends in lung	Supplies left lung. Branches: (ductus arteriosus in fetus), superior and inferior lobar arteries (in turn give rise to segmental arteries)
Lesser palatine	Descending palatine	Descend inferoposteriorly through lesser palatine foramen	Supply soft palate
Lingual	External carotid artery	Loops over greater horn of hyoid, passes hyoglossus medially, and ascends to run along side of tongue	Branches: suprahyoid branch, dorsal lingual arteries and sublingual artery; continues as deep lingual artery
Lingular, inferior and superior	Superior lobar artery (of left lung), in oblique fissure	Descends anteriorly to lingula	Lingular division (superior [S4] and inferior [S5] bronchopulmonary segments) of left lung
Long posterior ciliaries	Ophthalmic artery	Pierce sclera to supply ciliary body and iris	Pierce sclera to supply ciliary body and iris
Lumbar	Abdominal aorta	Run in horizontal courses posteriorly around sides of lumbar vertebrae and then laterally on posterior abdominal wall	Branches: dorsal, to deep muscles of back and overlying skin; spinal, to vertebrae, contents of vertebral canal, roots, and some (as segmented medullary arteries) to spinal cord
Marginal artery (of colon)	Formed by anastomoses (arcades) between right, middle, and left colic and sigmoid arteries	Rarely interrupted anastomotic channel parallels colon at its mesenteric border	Branches passing to anterior and posterior aspect of colon
Masseteric	2nd part of maxillary artery	Passes posterior to temporalis tendon accompanying masseteric nerve through mandibular notch	Supplies masseter and temporomandibular joint; anastomoses with facial and transverse facial arteries
Maxillary	Terminal branch (with superficial temporal artery) of external carotid	Passes posterior and medial to neck of mandible (1st part), superficial or deep to inferior head of lateral pterygoid (2nd part), and into pterygo-palatine fossa (3rd part)	1st part: deep auricular, anterior tympanic, middle meningeal, accessory meningeal, inferior alveolar; 2nd part: deep temporal, pterygoid (branches), masseteric, buccal; 3rd part: posterior superior alveolar, descending palatine, artery of pterygoid canal, pharyngeal, sphenopalatine, infraorbital
Medial circumflex femoral	Deep artery of thigh; may arise from femoral artery	Passes medially and posteriorly between pectineus and iliopsoas, enters gluteal region, and bifurcates	Supplies most blood to head and neck of femur; transverse branch takes part in cruciate anastomosis of thigh; ascending branch joins inferior gluteal artery

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Medial plantar	Terminal branch (with lateral plantar artery) of posterior tibial artery	Arises medial to calcaneus, passes distally along medial side of foot between 1st and 2nd layers of plantar muscles	Branches: muscular, to flexor hallucis brevis and abductor hallucis; superficial, to skin and subcutaneous tissue of medial sole; superficial digital, that join 1st–3rd plantar metatarsals
Median sacral	Posterior aspect of abdominal aorta	Descends in median line over L4 and L5 vertebrae, sacrum, and coccyx	Lower lumbar vertebrae, sacrum, and coccyx
Mental (branch) of inferior alveolar artery	Terminal branch of inferior alveolar artery	Emerges from mental foramen and passes to chin	Facial muscles and skin of chin
Middle cerebral	Larger terminal branch (with anterior cerebral artery) of internal carotid artery	Runs in lateral cerebral sulcus, then posterosuperiorly on insula	Insula and most of lateral surface of cerebral hemispheres
Middle colic	Superior mesenteric artery	Ascends retroperitoneally and passes between layers of transverse mesocolon	Transverse colon
Middle collateral	Deep artery of arm	Descends to anastomose with recurrent interosseous artery	Part of collateral pathway around elbow; supplies lateral and medial heads of triceps
Middle meningeal	1st part of maxillary artery	Ascends vertically through foramen spinosum into middle cranial fossa; runs laterally, dividing into frontal and parietal branches, which in turn ramify, ascending lateral walls in cranial dura mater	Branches: ganglionic branches, petrosal branches, superior tympanic artery, temporal branches, anastomotic branch to lacrimal artery; most blood is distributed to perisoteum, bone, and red bone marrow
Middle rectal	Anterior division of internal iliac	Descends in pelvis to lower part of rectum	Seminal vesicles and lower part of rectum
Middle suprarenal	Abdominal aorta	Arise at level of superior mesenteric artery; run very short course over crura of diaphragm	Supply suprarenal glands; anastomose with suprarenal branches of inferior phrenic and renal arteries
Musculophrenic	Terminal branch (with superior epigastric) of internal thoracic artery	Arising in 6th intercostal space descends inferolaterally, paralleling costal margin	Branches: anterior intercostal arteries of 7th–9th intercostal spaces; also supplies upper abdominal muscles and pericardium
Mylohyoid (branch)	Inferior alveolar (before it enters mandibular foramen)	Pierces sphenomandibular ligament to run anteroinferiorly with nerve in groove on medial aspect of ramus of mandible	Muscles of floor of mouth; anastomoses with submental artery
Obturator	Anterior division of internal iliac	Runs anteroinferiorly on lateral pelvic wall to exit pelvis through obturator canal	Pelvic muscles, nutrient artery to ilium, head of femur, muscles of medial compartment of thigh
Occipital	External carotid artery	Passes medially to posterior belly of digastric and mastoid process; accompanies occipital nerve in occipital region	Scalp of back of head, as far as vertex
Ophthalmic	Internal carotid artery	Traverses optic foramen to reach orbital cavity	Traverses optic foramen to reach orbital cavity
Ovarian	Abdominal aorta, inferior to renal arteries	Run inferolaterally on psoas major, then pass medially to cross pelvic brim and descend in suspensory ligament of ovary	Branches: ureteric, tubal (to uterine tubes) and ovarian; latter 2 anastomose branches of uterine artery of same name
Palmar metacarpal	Deep palmar arch (from radial artery)	Run distally on plane between adductor pollicis and interosseus muscle	Anastomose distally with common palmar digital arteries
Pericardiophrenic	Internal thoracic artery	Descends parallel to phrenic nerve between mediastinal parietal pleura and pericardium	Supplies mediastinal parietal pleura and pericardium; anastomoses with phrenic and musculophrenic arteries
Perineal	Internal pudendal artery	Leaves pudendal canal and enters superficial perineal space	Supplies superficial perineal muscles and scrotum or labia
Peroneal	Posterior tibial	Descends in posterior compartment adjacent to posterior intermuscular septum	Posterior compartment of leg; perforating branches supply lateral compartment of leg
Plantar metatarsal	1st: junction between lateral plantar and dorsalis pedis arteries; 2nd–4th: deep plantar arch	Extend distally between metatarsal bones on plantar aspect of digital arteries interosseous muscles	Branches: perforating branches, common plantar
Popliteal	Continuation of femoral artery at adductor hiatus in adductor magnus	Passes through popliteal fossa to leg; ends at lower border of popliteus muscle by dividing into anterior and posterior tibial arteries	Superior, middle, and inferior genicular arteries to both lateral and medial aspects of knee
Posterior auricular	External carotid artery	Passes posteriorly, deep to parotid, along styloid process between mastoid process and ear	Branches: auricular, occipital, stylo mastoid; to middle ear, mastoid cells, auricle, parotid gland

Artery/Arteries	Origin	Course	Branches/Description
Posterior cerebral	Terminal branch of basilar artery	Passes laterally, winding around cerebral peduncle to reach tentorial cerebral surface	Inferior aspect of temporal lobe and occipital lobe of cerebrum
Posterior communicating	Anastomosis between internal carotid and posterior cerebral arteries	Passes superior to oculomotor nerve (CN III)	Optic tract, cerebral peduncle, internal capsule, and thalamus
Posterior division of iliac	Internal iliac	Passes posteriorly and gives rise to parietal branches	Pelvic wall and gluteal region
Posterior ethmoidal	Ophthalmic artery	Passes through posterior ethmoidal foramen to posterior ethmoidal cells	Passes through posterior ethmoidal foramen to posterior ethmoidal cells
Posterior gastric	Splenic artery	Ascends retroperitoneally (in posterior wall of omental bursa) to pass to gastric fundus through gastrophrenic fold (ligament)	Posterior wall of stomach
Posterior inferior cerebellar	Intracranial portion of vertebral artery	Passes posteriorly around side of medulla to reach inferior aspect of cerebellum	Supplies medial portion of inferior aspect of cerebellum (cerebellar tonsil and dentate nucleus), posterolateral medulla oblongata and choroid plexus of 4th ventricle
Posterior intercostal	Posterior aspect of thoracic aorta	Pass laterally, then anteriorly parallel to ribs	Lateral and anterior cutaneous branches
Posterior intercostals	Superior intercostal artery (intercostal spaces 1 and 2) and thoracic aorta (remaining intercostal spaces)	Pass between internal and innermost intercostal muscles	Intercostal muscles and overlying skin, parietal pleura
Posterior interventricular	Right coronary artery	Runs from posterior IV groove to apex of heart	Right and left ventricles and IV septum
Posterior lateral nasal	Sphenopalatine artery	Ramify over conchae and meatuses; anastomoses with nasal branches of ethmoidal and greater palatine arteries	Supplies lateral walls of posteroinferior nasal cavity, contributing also to supply of ethmoidal cells and maxillary and sphenoidal paranasal sinuses
Posterior scrotal or labial	Terminal branches of perineal artery	Runs in superficial fascia of posterior scrotum or labium majus	Skin of scrotum or labium majus
Posterior septal	Sphenopalatine artery	Crosses inferior surface of body of sphenoid to reach nasal septum, courses anteroinferiorly on vomer to incisive canals	Supplies nasal septum; anastomoses with greater palatine artery and septal branch of superior labial artery
Posterior spinal	Superiorly from an intracranial branch of vertebral artery; continued inferiorly by bifurcations of posterior segmental medullary arteries at various levels	Forms continuous anastomotic chain that descends length of spinal cord in posterolateral sulcus, adjacent to emerging dorsal roots (rootlets) of spinal nerves	Supplies posterolateral aspect of spinal cord, through pial plexus and its peripheral branches
Posterior superior alveolar	3rd part of maxillary artery	Exits from pterygopalatine fossa through pterygomaxillary fissure; ramifies and penetrates infratemporal surface of maxilla, with some branches entering alveolar canals and others continuing over alveolar process	Supplies mucosa of maxillary sinus, maxillary molar and premolar teeth, adjacent gingiva
Posterior tibial	Popliteal	Passes through posterior compartment of leg, terminates distal to flexor retinaculum by dividing into medial and lateral plantar arteries	Posterior and lateral compartments of leg; circumflex fibular branch joins anastomoses around knee; nutrient artery passes to tibia
Princeps pollicis	Radial artery as it turns into palm	Descends on palmar aspect of 1st metacarpal, divides at the base of proximal phalanx into 2 branches that run along sides of thumb	Thumb
Profunda brachii	Brachial artery near its origin	Accompanies radial nerve through radial groove in humerus; terminal branches take part in anastomosis	Branches: deltoid, muscular (to head of triceps) and nutrient (to humerus) Terminal branches: middle around elbow joint and radial collateral arteries
Proper palmar digitals	Common palmar digital arteries	Run along sides of digits 2-5; at base of middle phalanx, gives rise to dorsal branch, which replaces dorsal digital arteries	All of palmar and distal part (including nail beds) of dorsal aspect of fingers
Prostatic (branches)	Inferior vesical artery	Descends on posterolateral aspect of prostate	Prostate

Artery/Arteries	Origin	Course	Branches/Description
Radial	Smaller terminal division (with ulnar artery) of brachial artery in cubital fossa	Runs inferolaterally under cover of brachioradialis and distally lies lateral to flexor carpi radialis tendon; winds around lateral aspect of radius and of crosses floor of anatomic snuffbox to pierce fascia; ends by forming deep palmar arch	Supplies muscles of lateral portions of both anterior and posterior compartments of forearm, lateral aspect of wrist, skin of dorsum hand and proximal portions of digits, deep muscles of palm
Radial collateral	Terminal branch (with middle collateral artery) of deep artery of arm	Perforates lateral intermuscular septum with radial nerve, runs between brachialis and brachioradialis to anastomose with radial recurrent, anterior to lateral epicondyle of humerus	Forms part of cubital anastomosis; supplies upper brachialis and brachioradialis, and anterolateral aspect of elbow joint
Radial recurrent	Lateral side of radial artery, just distal to its origin	Ascends on supinator and then passes between brachioradialis and brachialis to anastomose with radial collateral, anterior to lateral epicondyle of humerus	Forms part of cubital anastomosis; supplies supinator, lower brachialis and brachioradialis, and anterolateral aspect of elbow joint
Radialis indicis	Radial artery, but may arise from princeps pollicis artery	Passes along lateral side of index finger to its distal end	Entire lateral palmar and distal part (including nail bed) of dorsal aspect of index finger
Radicular, anterior and posterior	Spinal branches of segmental arteries (vertebral, posterior intercostal, lumbar and sacral arteries)	Course along anterior and posterior roots of spinal nerves, exhausting before reaching the longitudinal anterior and posterior spinal arteries	Supply anterior and posterior roots of spinal nerves and coverings (dural sheaths and arachnoid)
Renal, left and right	Posterolateral aspect of abdominal aorta, usually at L2 vertebral level	Run horizontally and laterally across crura of diaphragm and psoas major, lying posterior to renal vein, bifurcating into anterior and posterior divisions or ramifying into segmental arteries near renal hilus	Source of blood to kidneys Branches: inferior suprarenal, capsular branches, an anterior division giving rise to superior, anterior superior, anterior inferior, and inferior segmental arteries; posterior division becomes posterior segmental artery
Retroduodenal	Gastroduodenal artery	Arise and run posteriorly to 1st part of duodenum	Supply 1st part of duodenum, (common) bile duct, and head of pancreas
Right colic	Superior mesenteric artery	Passes retroperitoneally to reach ascending colon	Ascending colon
Right coronary	Right aortic sinus	Follows coronary (AV) groove between atria and ventricles	Right atrium, sinuatrial and atrioventricular nodes, and posterior part of interventricular septum
Right gastric	Hepatic artery	Runs between layers of hepatogastric ligament	Right portion of lesser curvature of stomach
Right marginal	Right coronary artery	Passes to inferior margin of heart and apex	Right ventricle and apex of heart
Right pulmonary	Pulmonary trunk	Passes beneath arch of aorta to join right bronchus and pulmonary veins to form root of right lung; descends in lung	Supplies right lung Branches: superior, middle, and inferior lobar arteries (in turn give rise to segmental arteries)
Segmental arteries of kidney (superior, anterior superior, anterior inferior, inferior, and posterior)	Anterior and posterior divisions (or directly from) renal arteries	Arise at hilum, course through perirenal fat of renal sinus around renal pelvis to reach renal segment	Renal segment (segmental arteries are end arteries; no significant anastomoses occur between segments)
Segmental arteries of liver (right anterior, right posterior, left medial, and left lateral)	Left and right branches of hepatic artery proper	Arise within liver; right and left branches course horizontally, right branch giving rise to anterior and posterior segmental arteries, left to medial and lateral segmental arteries	Each segmental artery serves a division of liver that, except for medial division, is further subdivided into 2 hepatic segments; both right and left branches of hepatic artery send an artery to caudate lobe
Segmental arteries of lung	Lobar arteries	Arise within lung as tertiary branches of right and left pulmonary arteries	Each segmental artery serves a bronchopulmonary segment of lung
Segmental medullary, anterior and posterior	Spinal branches of segmental arteries (vertebral, posterior intercostal, lumbar, and sacral arteries)	Course along anterior and posterior roots of spinal nerves, continue medially to anastomose with longitudinal anterior and posterior spinal arteries	Dorsal and ventral roots of certain spinal nerves and spinal cord; major anterior segmental medullary artery is largest, occurring at lower thoracic, upper lumbar level, on left side about 65% of time
Short gastric ($n = 4-5$)	Splenic artery in hilum of spleen	Passes between layers of gastrosplenic ligament to fundus of stomach	Fundus of stomach
Short posterior ciliaries	Ophthalmic artery	Pierce sclera at periphery of optic nerve to supply choroid, which in turn supplies cones and rods of optic retina	Pierce sclera at periphery of optic nerve to supply choroid, which in turn supplies cones and rods of optic retina

Artery/Arteries	Origin	Course	Branches/Description
Sigmoid ($n = 3-4$)	Inferior mesenteric artery	Passes retroperitoneally toward left to descending colon	Descending and sigmoid colon
Sinuatrial nodal	Right coronary artery near its origin (in 60%); circumflex branch of left coronary (in 40%)	Winds around right (60%) or left (40%) side of ascending aorta and ascends to sinuatrial node	Left atrium and sinuatrial node
Sphenopalatine	3rd part of maxillary artery	Passes medially through sphenopalatine foramen, dividing immediately into septal and posterior lateral nasal arteries	Mucosa of posteroinferior half of nasal cavity, ethmoidal cells, and maxillary and sphenoidal paranasal sinuses
Splenic	Celiac trunk	Runs retroperitoneally along superior border of pancreas; then passes between layers of splenorenal ligament to hilum of spleen	Body of pancreas, spleen, greater curvature of stomach
Stylomastoid	Posterior auricular	Enters stylomastoid foramen and ascends facial canal, running with (and supplying) facial nerve	Branches: posterior tympanic artery (to tympanic membrane); mastoid (to mastoid cells) and stapedial (to stapedius, stapes, and secondary tympanic membrane) branches
Subclavian	Left: aortic arch Right: brachiocephalic trunk	Arises or passes posterior to sternoclavicular joint, arches over cervical pleura anterior to apex of lung, crosses 1st rib posterior to anterior scalene, becoming axillary artery at rib's outer edge	Branches: 1st part: vertebral, internal thoracic, thyrocervical (and costocervical on right side); 2nd part: dorsal scapular (and costocervical on left side) [parts: medial (1st), posterior (2nd), and lateral (3rd) to scalenus anterior muscle]
Subcostal	Thoracic aorta	Courses along inferior border of 12th rib	Muscles of anterolateral abdominal wall
Sublingual	Terminal branch (with deep lingual artery) of lingual artery	Runs on genioglossus muscle superiorly to mylohyoid	Supplies muscles and mucous membrane of floor of mouth, and anterior lingual gingiva
Submental	Facial artery, distal to submandibular gland in submental triangle	Courses along inferior aspect of mylohyoid, adjacent to attachment to mandible, to mandibular symphysis	Supplies mylohyoid, anterior belly of digastric, submental lymph nodes and, through its anastomoses with inferior labial and mental arteries, lower lip
Subscapular	3rd part of axillary artery	Largest (but short—4 cm) branch of axillary artery, it descends along lateral border of subscapularis and axillary border of scapula to bifurcate at level of inferior angle	Through its terminal branches, circumflex scapular and thoracodorsal arteries, it supplies muscles on both sides of scapula, latissimus dorsi, and posterior chest wall
Superficial cervical (variant, replacing superficial branch of transverse cervical artery)	Thyrocervical trunk	Passes laterally between sternocleidomastoid and anterior scalene, across brachial plexus and posterior triangle of neck, to bifurcate and run with accessory nerve on deep aspect of trapezius	Anterior scapene, sternocleidomastoid, brachial plexus, muscles of posterior triangle of neck, and (primarily) the trapezius
Superficial circumflex iliac	Femoral artery	Runs in superficial fascia along inguinal ligament	Subcutaneous tissue and skin over inferior part of anterolateral abdominal wall
Superficial epigastric	Femoral artery	Runs in superficial fascia toward umbilicus	Subcutaneous tissue and skin over suprapubic region
Superficial palmar arch	Direct continuation of ulnar artery; completed on lateral side by superficial branch of radial artery or another of its branches	Curves laterally deep to palmar aponeurosis and superficially to long flexor tendons; curve of arch lies across palm at level of distal border of extended thumb	Branches: 3 common palmar digital arteries
Superficial temporal	Smaller terminal branch of external carotid artery	Ascends anterior to ear to temporal region and ends in scalp	Facial muscles and skin of frontal and temporal regions
Superior cerebellar	Upper (terminal) part of basilar artery	Curves around cerebral peduncle	Supplies superior aspect of cerebellum, colliculi and most cerebellar nuclei; pons; pineal body; superior medullary velum; and choroid plexus of 3rd ventricle
Superior epigastric	Internal thoracic artery	Descends in rectus sheath deep to rectus abdominis	Rectus abdominis and superior part of anterolateral abdominal wall
Superior gluteal	Posterior division of internal iliac	Enters gluteal region through greater sciatic foramen superior to piriformis and divides into superficial and deep branches; anastomoses with inferior gluteal and medial circumflex femoral arteries	Piriformis muscle. Superficial branch: supplies gluteus maximus Deep branch: runs between gluteus medius and minimus muscles, supplying both, as well as tensor of fascia lata
Superior labial	Facial artery near angle of mouth	Runs medially in upper lip	Upper lip and ala (side) and septum of nose

ARTERIES OF THE HUMAN BODY

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Artery/Arteries	Origin	Course	Branches/Description
Superior laryngeal	Superior thyroid	Runs deep to thyrohyoid to pierce thyrohyoid membrane with internal laryngeal nerve	Supplies larynx
Superior mesenteric	Abdominal aorta	Runs in root of mesentery to ileocecal junction	Part of gastrointestinal tract derived from midgut
Superior pancreaticoduodenal, anterior and posterior	Gastroduodenal artery	Descends on head of pancreas	Proximal portion of duodenum and head of pancreas
Superior phrenic (vary in number)	Anterior aspects of thoracic aorta	Arise at aortic hiatus and pass to superior aspect of diaphragm	Supply diaphragm and diaphragmatic parts of pericardium and parietal pleura
Superior rectal	Terminal branch (continuation of) inferior mesenteric artery	Crosses left common iliac vessels and descends into pelvis between layers of sigmoid mesocolon	Upper part of rectum; anastomoses with middle and inferior rectal arteries
Superior suprarenal	Inferior phrenic	Short, multiple branches arising from trunks of inferior phrenic arteries as they ascend diaphragmatic crura, running along superomedial aspect of gland	Superior part of suprarenal glands
Superior thoracic	Only branch of 1st part of axillary artery	Runs anteromedially along superior border of pectoralis minor, then passes between it and pectoralis major to thoracic wall	Helps to supply 1st and 2nd intercostal spaces and superior part of serratus anterior
Superior thyroid	1st branch from anterior aspect of external carotid artery	Passes inferomedially deep to infrahyoid muscles to superior pole of thyroid gland; anastomosis with inferior thyroid artery provides an important collateral pathway between external carotid and subclavian arteries	Branches: superior laryngeal artery, infrahyoid, sternocleidomastoid, cricothyroid, and anterior, posterior, and lateral glandular branches
Superior vesical	Patent (proximal) part of umbilical	Usually multiple, pass to superior aspect of urinary bladder	Superior aspect of urinary bladder, pelvic portion of ureter
Supraduodenal	Gastroduodenal, hepatic, right gastric, or retroduodenal arteries	Often double, pass(es) superiorly to 1st part of duodenum	Supplies upper proximal portion of superior part of duodenum
Supraorbital	Terminal branch of ophthalmic artery	Passes superiorly and posteriorly from supraorbital foramen to forehead and scalp	Supplies muscles and skin of most of forehead and anterior scalp (to vertex)
Suprascapular	Thyrocervical trunk	Passes inferolaterally over anterior scalene muscle and phrenic nerve, crosses subclavian artery and brachial plexus, runs laterally posterior and parallel to clavicle, then passes superiorly to transverse scapular ligament into supraspinous fossa, then under acromion to infraspinous fossa	Supplies supraspinatus and infraspinatus muscles and participates in anastomosis around scapula
Supratrochlear	Terminal branch (with supraorbital artery) of ophthalmic artery	Passes from supratrochlear notch to medial forehead and anterior scalp	Skin and muscles of medial part of forehead and adjacent scalp
Supreme intercostal	Costocervical trunk	Descends between pleura and necks of first 2 ribs; anastomoses with 3rd posterior intercostal artery	Branches: 1st and 2nd posterior intercostal arteries, to muscles of and ribs bounding 1st and 2nd intercostal spaces
Sural, right and left	Popliteal	Large branches arise at level of femoral condyles and pass directly to heads of gastrocnemius, sending branches on to soleus	Supply medial and lateral heads of gastrocnemius, plantaris, and soleus muscles
Testicular	Abdominal aorta, inferior to renal arteries	Descend inferolaterally across psoas muscles, pass through inguinal canal as part of spermatic cord, reach testes in scrotum	Abdominal part provides branches and arterial blood to ureters, iliac lymph nodes; inguinal and scrotal part supplies cremaster and other coverings of cord and testes
Thoracic aorta	Continuation of arch of aorta	Descends in posterior mediastinum to left of vertebral column; gradually shifts to right to lie in median plane at aortic hiatus	Posterior intercostal arteries, subcostal, some phrenic arteries and visceral branches (tracheal and esophageal)
Thoracoacromial	2nd part of axillary artery deep to pectoralis minor	Curls around superomedial border of pectoralis minor, pierces clavipectoral fascia and divides into 4 branches	Branches: acromial, clavicular, pectoral, and deltoid
Thoracodorsal	Subscapular artery	Continues course of subscapular artery; accompanies thoracodorsal nerve to latissimus dorsi	Latissimus dorsi

Artery/Arteries	Origin	Course	Branches/Description
Thyrocervical trunk	Anterior aspect of 1st part of subclavian artery	Ascends as a short, wide trunk near medial border of anterior scalene and posterior to carotid sheath	Branches from trunk: transverse cervical (or superficial cervical) and suprascapular Terminal branches: ascending cervical and inferior thyroid arteries
Thyroid ima	Brachiocephalic trunk or arch of aorta	Ascends on anterior aspect of trachea to thyroid gland	Supplies medial aspect of both lobes of thyroid
Transverse cervical (variant: may be replaced by superficial cervical and dorsal scapular arteries)	Thyrocervical trunk	Runs across anterior scalene, brachial plexus, and posterior triangle of neck and passes deep to trapezius, dividing into deep and superficial branches	Superficial branch bifurcates into ascending and descending branches that run with accessory nerve on underside of trapezius; deep branch runs with dorsal scapular nerve, deep to rhomboids
Transverse facial	Superficial temporal artery within parotid gland	Crosses face superficial to and inferior to zygomatic arch	Parotid gland and duct, muscles, and skin of face
Ulnar	Larger terminal branch of brachial artery in cubital fossa	Passes inferomedially and then directly inferiorly, deep to pronator teres, palmaris longus, and flexor digitorum superficialis to reach medial side of forearm; passes superficial to flexor retinaculum at wrist and gives a deep palmar branch to deep arch and continues as superficial palmar arch	Supplies medial (ulnar) part of anterior compartment of forearm, wrist, and hand; supplies superficial structures of central palm, and most of palmar and distal dorsal aspects of fingers
Ulnar collateral (superior and inferior)	Superior ulnar collateral arises from brachial near middle of arm; inferior ulnar collateral arises from brachial just superior to elbow	Superior ulnar collateral accompanies ulnar nerve to posterior aspect of elbow; inferior ulnar collateral divides into anterior and posterior branches; both ulnar collateral arteries take part in anastomosis around elbow joint	Anastomose distally with anterior and posterior ulnar recurrent arteries
Ulnar recurrent, anterior and posterior	Ulnar artery, just distal to elbow joint	Anterior ulnar recurrent passes superiorly and posterior ulnar collateral passes posteriorly	Anastomose with anterior and posterior ulnar collateral
Umbilical	Anterior division of internal iliac	Obliterates becoming medial umbilical ligament after running a short pelvic course during which it gives rise to superior vesical	Superior aspect of urinary bladder (through superior vesical arteries); occasionally artery to ductus deferens (males)
Uterine	Anterior division of internal iliac	Runs medially in base of broad ligament superior to cardinal ligament, crossing superior to ureter, to sides of uterus	Uterus, ligaments of uterus, uterine tube, and vagina
Vaginal	Uterine artery	Arises lateral to ureter and descends inferior to it to lateral aspect of vagina	Vagina; branches to inferior part of urinary bladder and termination of ureter
Vertebral	1st part of subclavian artery	Ascends vertically through the transverse foramina of vertebrae C6–C2, passes laterally to traverse that of C1, then runs horizontal and medial to enter foramen magnum; intracranially, merges with contralateral artery to form basilar artery	Cervical branches: spinal (giving rise to radicular and segmental medullary arteries) and muscular (to suboccipital muscles) Intracranial branches: meningeal, anterior, and posterior spinal, posterior inferior cerebellar, medial and lateral medullary