

# WALLS OF AXILLA

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## Introduction

- Axilla (Armpit) is a pyramidal-shaped space between the upper part of the arm and the chest wall.
- It is disposed obliquely.

## Shape & Orientation

- Resembles a 4-sided pyramid
  - Apex → Directed upwards & medially toward root of neck
  - Base → Directed downwards
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## Components of Axilla

The axilla has:

1. Apex

2. Base (Floor)

3. Four Walls

- Anterior
- Posterior
- Medial
- Lateral

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▲ APEX OF AXILLA

◆ Shape

- Triangular

◆ Direction

- Upwards and medially toward root of neck

◆ Boundaries

Boundary	Structure
Anterior	Clavicle

Posterior	Superior border of scapula
Medial	Outer border of 1st rib

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## Cervicoaxillary Canal

The boundaries of the apex form a passage called the → Cervicoaxillary canal

## Function

Provides communication between:

Root of neck



Axilla

## Structures Passing Through Cervicoaxillary Canal

Root of neck



Cervicoaxillary canal



Axilla



- Axillary artery
- Brachial plexus

 Exam Point:

Axillary artery is a continuation of the subclavian artery at the lateral border of the 1st rib — this transition occurs at the apex.

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## ▼ BASE (FLOOR) OF AXILLA

### ◆ Direction

- Downwards

### ◆ Formed by

- Skin
- Superficial fascia
- Axillary fascia

◆ Axillary Folds (Important Viva Point 🎯)

Fold	Formed By
Anterior axillary fold	Pectoralis major
Posterior axillary fold	Latissimus dorsi

👩‍⚕️ Clinically, these folds are visible landmarks.

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 WALLS OF AXILLA

The axilla has four walls:

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1) Anterior Wall

- ◆ Formed by:
  - Pectoralis major (in front)

- Clavipectoral fascia (behind)

The clavipectoral fascia encloses:

- Pectoralis minor
- Subclavius

### Functional Significance

Forms the anterior axillary fold.

### High-yield:

Pectoralis minor divides the axillary artery into three parts.

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## 2 Posterior Wall

- ◆ Formed by:

Upper Part	Lower Part
Subscapularis	Teres major

	Latissimus dorsi
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 Memory Trick:

“Subscapularis Sits Superiorly”

 Clinical Relevance

Posterior wall forms the posterior axillary fold.

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### 3) Medial Wall

◆ Formed by:

- Upper 4 ribs
- Intercostal muscles
- Upper part of serratus anterior

 Important Concept

Thoracic wall



Covered by serratus anterior



Forms medial wall of axilla

 Clinical Correlation:

Long thoracic nerve runs on serratus anterior → Injury

→ Winged scapula.

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#### 4) Lateral Wall

- ◆ Narrowest wall
- ◆ Formed by:
  - Upper part of shaft of humerus
  - Coracobrachialis
  - Short head of biceps brachii

 Key Landmark

Intertubercular sulcus of humerus.

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## Summary Table - Walls of Axilla

Wall	Structures Forming It	Clinical Importance
Anterior	Pectoralis major, clavipectoral fascia	Divides axillary artery
Posterior	Subscapularis, teres major, latissimus dorsi	Forms posterior fold
Medial	Upper 4 ribs, intercostals, serratus anterior	Long thoracic nerve
Lateral	Humerus, coracobrachialis, short head of biceps	Surgical landmark



## Summary Table - Borders of Axilla

Border	Structure
Lateral border	Intertubercular sulcus

Anterior border	Pectoralis major & minor
Medial border	Serratus anterior & thoracic wall
Posterior border	Subscapularis, teres major, latissimus dorsi

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### Exam Points

- Axilla is a pyramidal space.
  - Apex communicates with root of neck via cervicoaxillary canal.
  - Axillary artery & brachial plexus enter through apex.
  - Anterior fold → Pectoralis major.
  - Posterior fold → Latissimus dorsi.
  - Long thoracic nerve runs on medial wall.
  - Lateral wall is the narrowest.
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Resources:

- Snell's Clinical Anatomy by Regions (Book by Lawrence E. Wineski)
  - BD Chaurasia's Human Anatomy: Regional and Applied Dissection and Clinical
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