POPLITEAL FOSSA

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Learning objectives

• By the end of this teaching session all the students must be able to correctly:

• Describe and demonstrate the location of the popliteal fossa

• Enumerate the boundaries, roof and floor of the popliteal fossa

• Enumerate the contents of the popliteal fossa

• Describe the relations of the popliteal fossa

• Draw a labelled diagram of the popliteal fossa

• Describe the applied anatomy of the popliteal fossa
Preface

- Important transition area
- Between thigh and leg
- Passes structure between two
Location

• Diamond shaped space

• Behind knee joint

• Formed between muscles

• Posterior compartment of thigh and leg
Boundaries

- Superolaterally: biceps femoris
- Superomedially: semitendinosus, semimembranosus supplemented: gracilis, sartorius, adductor magnus
- Inferolaterally: lateral head of gastrocnemius, Plantaris
- Inferomedially: medial head of gastrocnemius
Floor

Above downwards

- Popliteal surface of femur
- Capsule of knee joint
- Oblique popliteal ligament
- Popliteal fascia
- Popliteal muscle
Roof

- Deep fascia (popliteal fascia)

- Continue
  Above fascia lata of thigh

Below deep fascia of leg
Superficial Fascia Over Roof

- Short saphenous vein

- Cutaneous nerve
  - Posterior cutaneous nerve of thigh
  - Posterior division of medial cutaneous Nerve of thigh
  - Peroneal (sural) communicating nerve
Content

Popliteal vessels and its branch

Tibial nerve and its branches

Common peroneal nerve and its branches

Genicular branch of obturator nerve

Popliteal lymph nodes

Fat
Relations In Fossa ✨

• Upper part (medial to lateral)
  Artery, vein, nerve

• Middle part (superficial to deep)
  Nerve, vein, artery

• Lower part (medial to lateral)
  Nerve, vein, artery
Popliteal vessels

- Popliteal artery
  Deepest
  Branches: muscular
cutaneous
genicular
- Popliteal vein
  Continues as femoral vein
  Tributaries: small saphenous
vein
Nerve

- Tibial nerve (L4, L5, S1, S2, S3)
  - Branches: genicular, muscular, cutaneous: sural

Common peroneal nerve (L4, L5, S1, S2)
- Branches: cutaneous: peroneal communicating, lat. cut. Nerve of calf
  - Muscular (*may be*)
  - Genicular
Common peroneal nerve
Applied Anatomy

- Pulsation Of Popliteal Artery
- Measurement Of Blood-Pressure
- Popliteal Artery Thrombosis
- Graft
- Aneurysm

Pulse recording

BP Recording
There’s no such thing as useless knowledge. You never know what doors it’s going to open up for you.

Ben Carson