

ANATOMY OF THE THIGH

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1- Lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh

I) Skin of the thigh
Anterior view

2- Femoral branch of the genitofemoral nerve

1, 2 and 3 are From the *lumber plexus*

5- Intermediate cutaneous nerve of the thigh

3- Ilioinguinal nerve

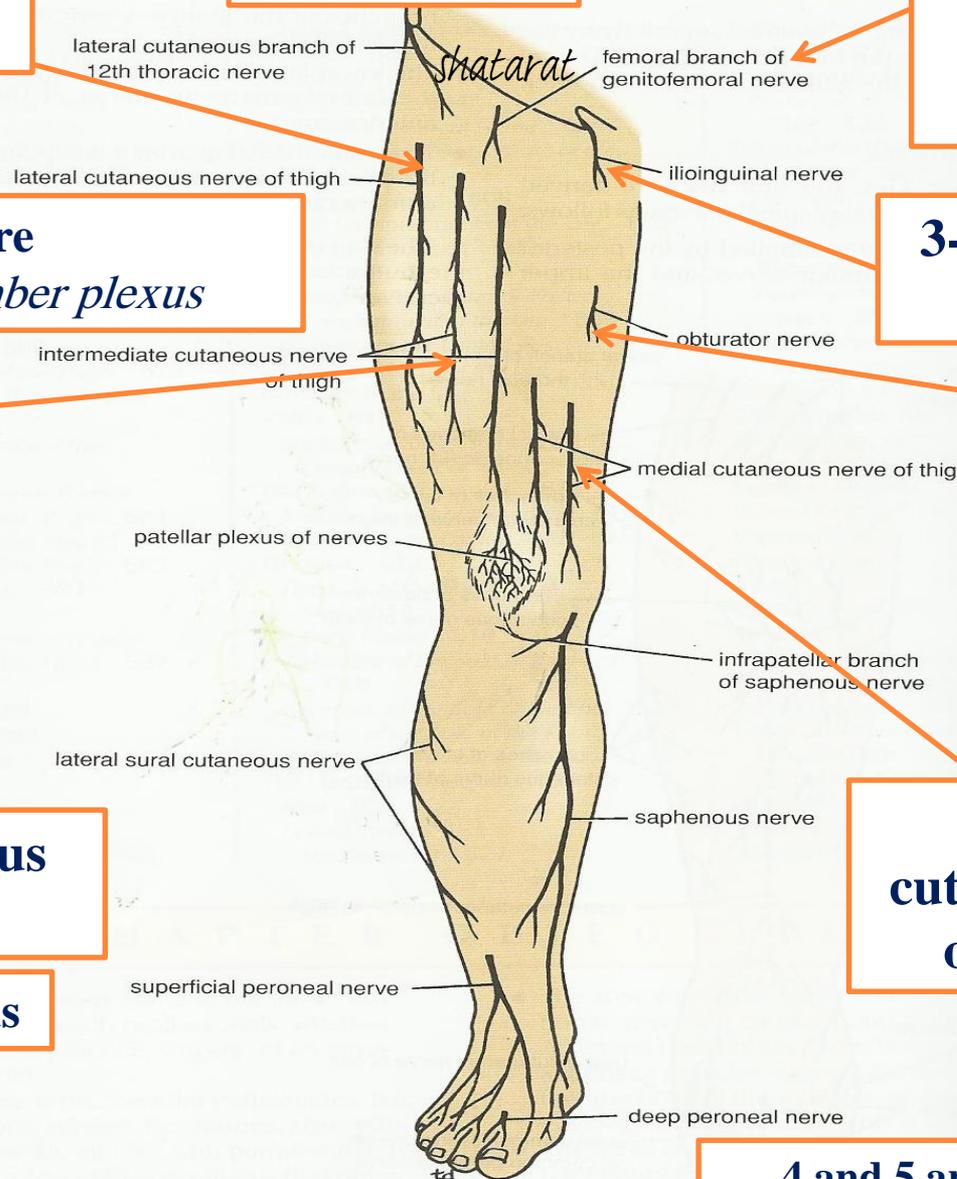
6- Branches from the obturator nerve

7- Posterior cutaneous nerve of the thigh

from the Sacral plexus

4- Medial cutaneous nerve of the thigh

4 and 5 are branches from the *femoral nerve*



Cutaneous nerves of the anterior surface of the

Femoral Nerve and Lateral Cutaneous Nerve of Thigh Cutaneous Innervation

The Lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh

**Intermediate cutaneous
nerve of the thigh**

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Infrapatellar branch
of saphenous nerve

Medial cutaneous nerves of leg
(branches of saphenous nerve)



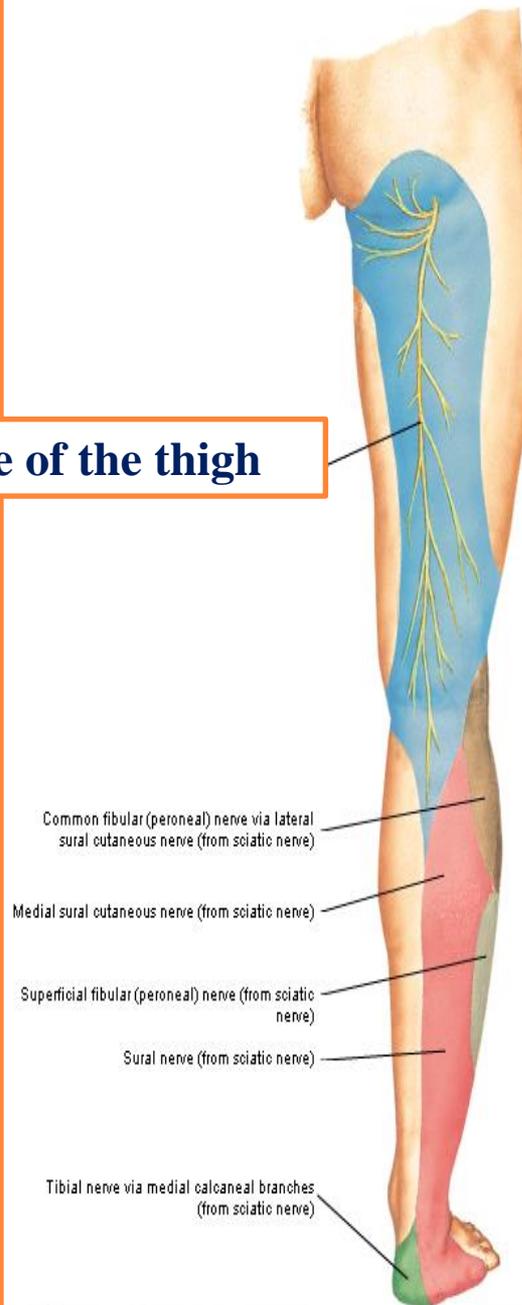
Obturator Nerve Cutaneous Innervation



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Branches from the obturator nerve

Sciatic Nerve and Posterior Cutaneous Nerve of Thigh Cutaneous Innervation

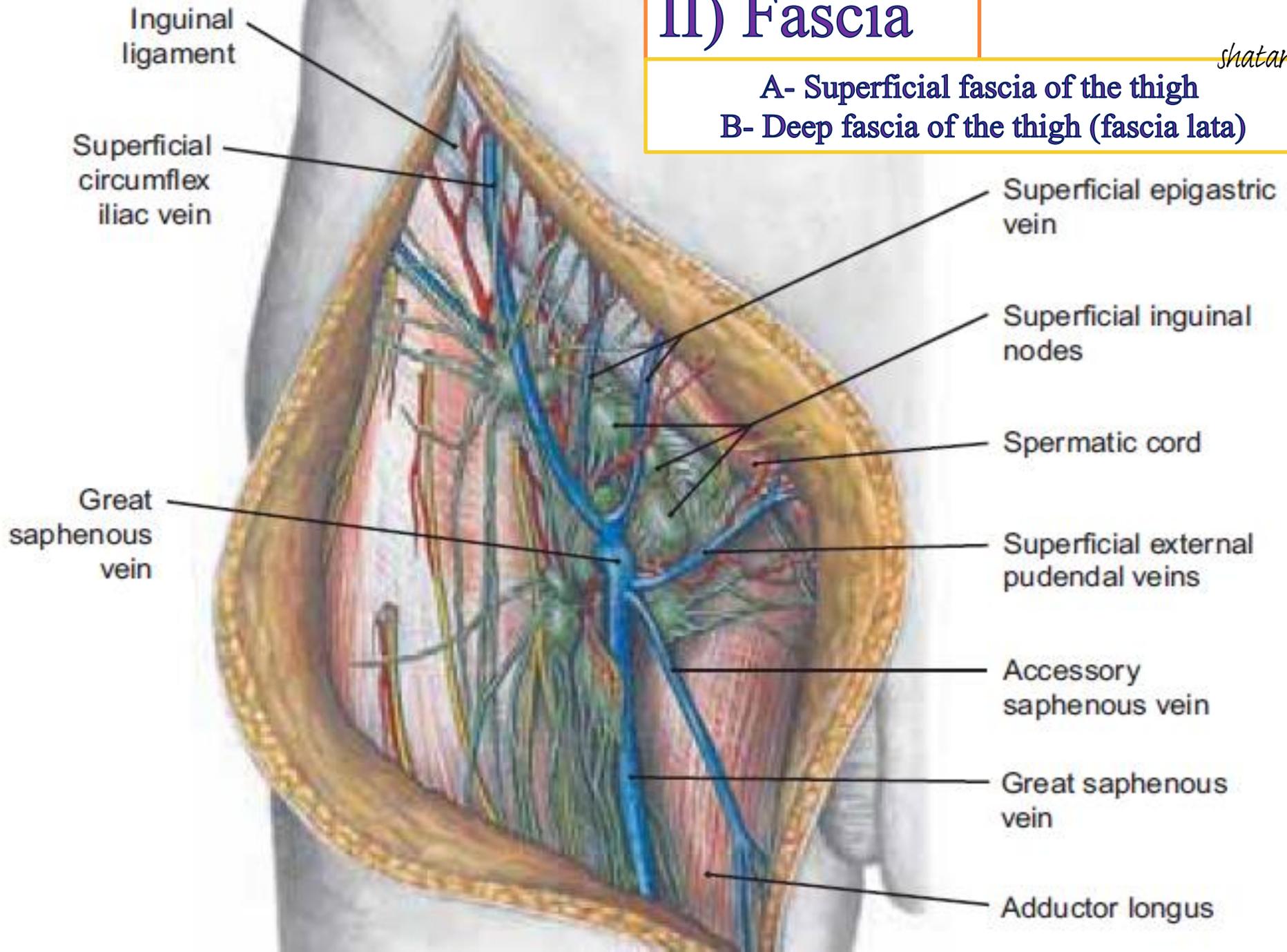
Posterior cutaneous nerve of the thigh



II) Fascia

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- A- Superficial fascia of the thigh
- B- Deep fascia of the thigh (fascia lata)



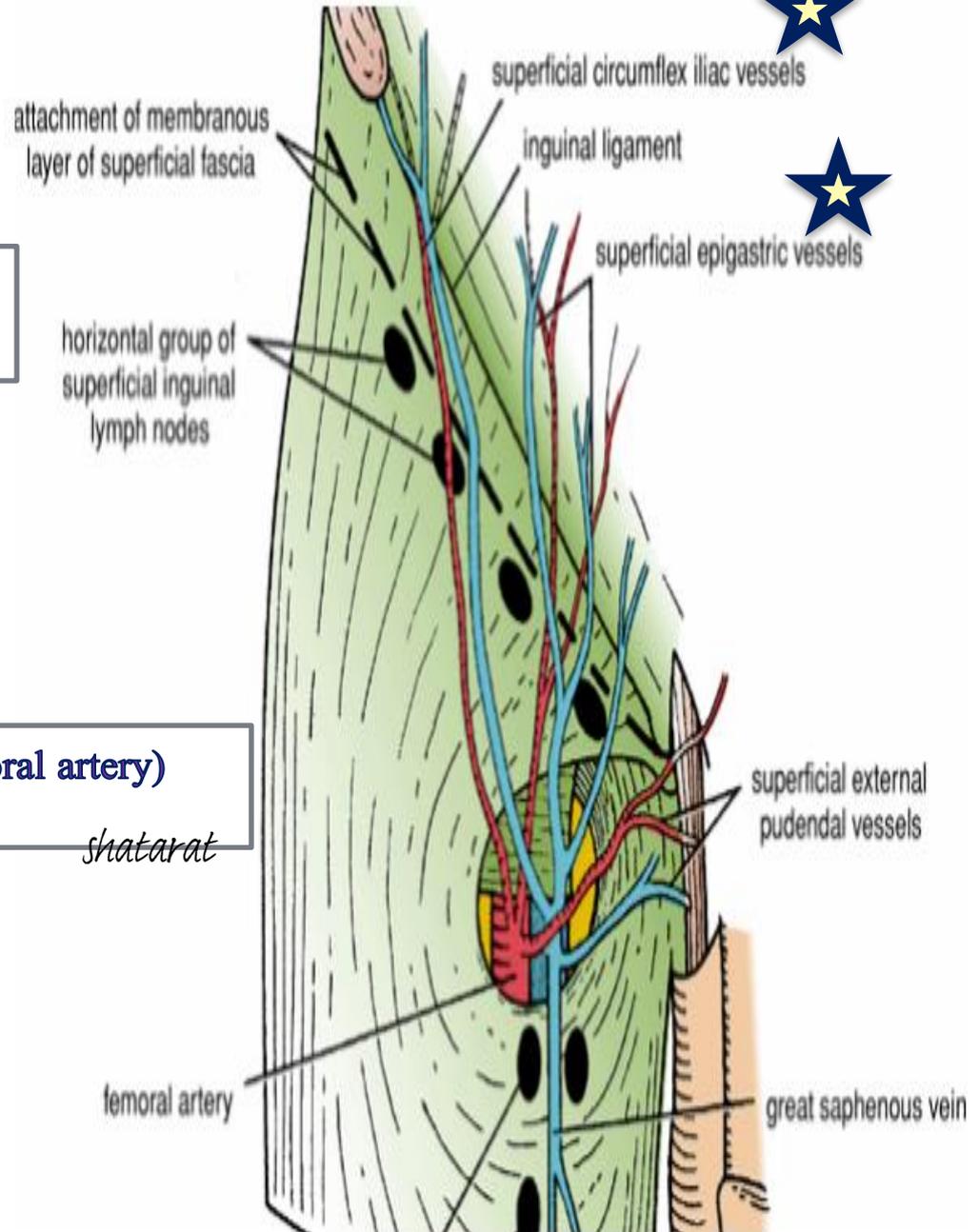
A-The superficial fascia of the thigh

1- Cutaneous nerves

all nerves that have been mentioned above.

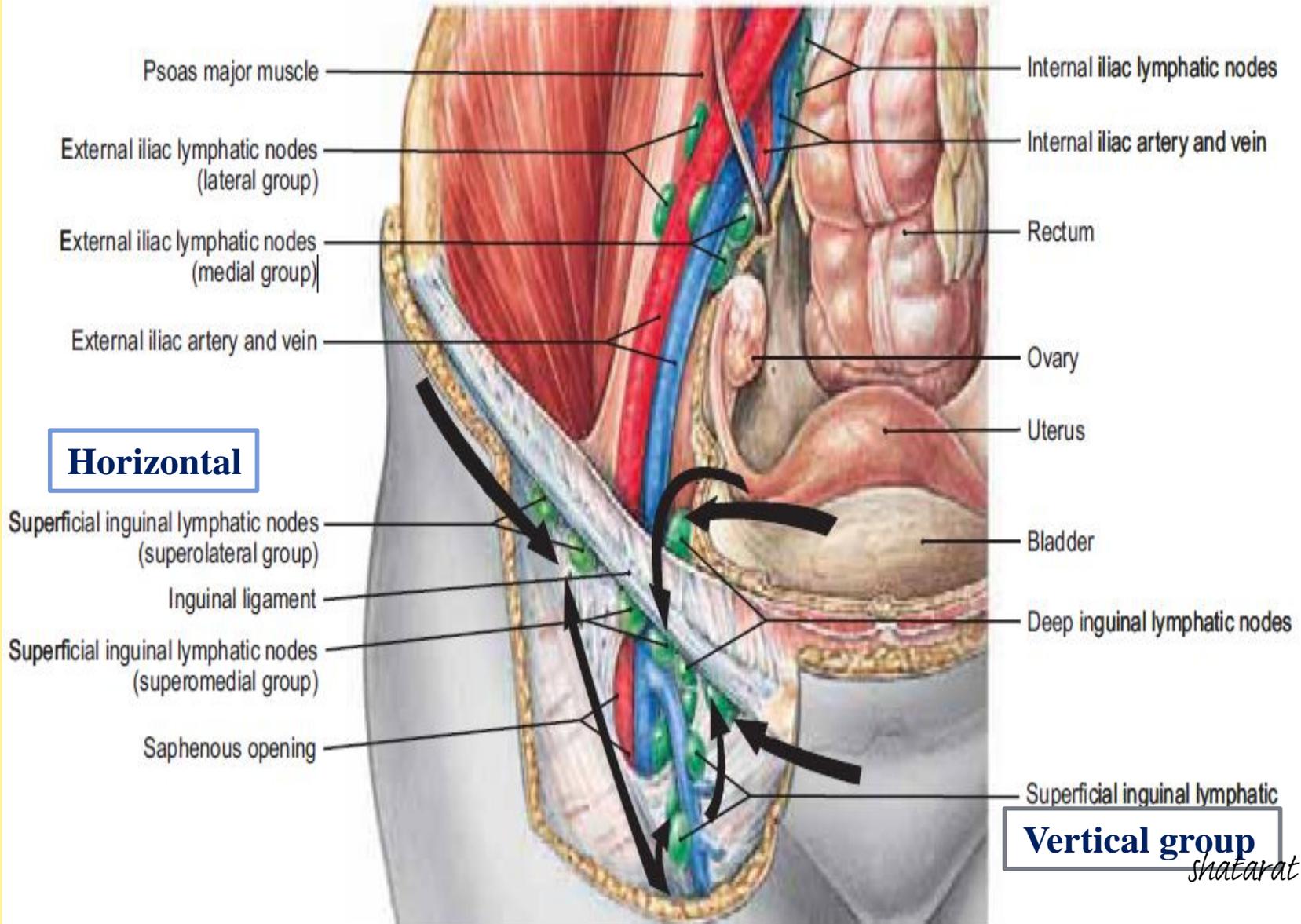
2- Superficial arteries (branches from the femoral artery) that emerge through the Saphenous opening

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3- Superficial inguinal lymph nodes

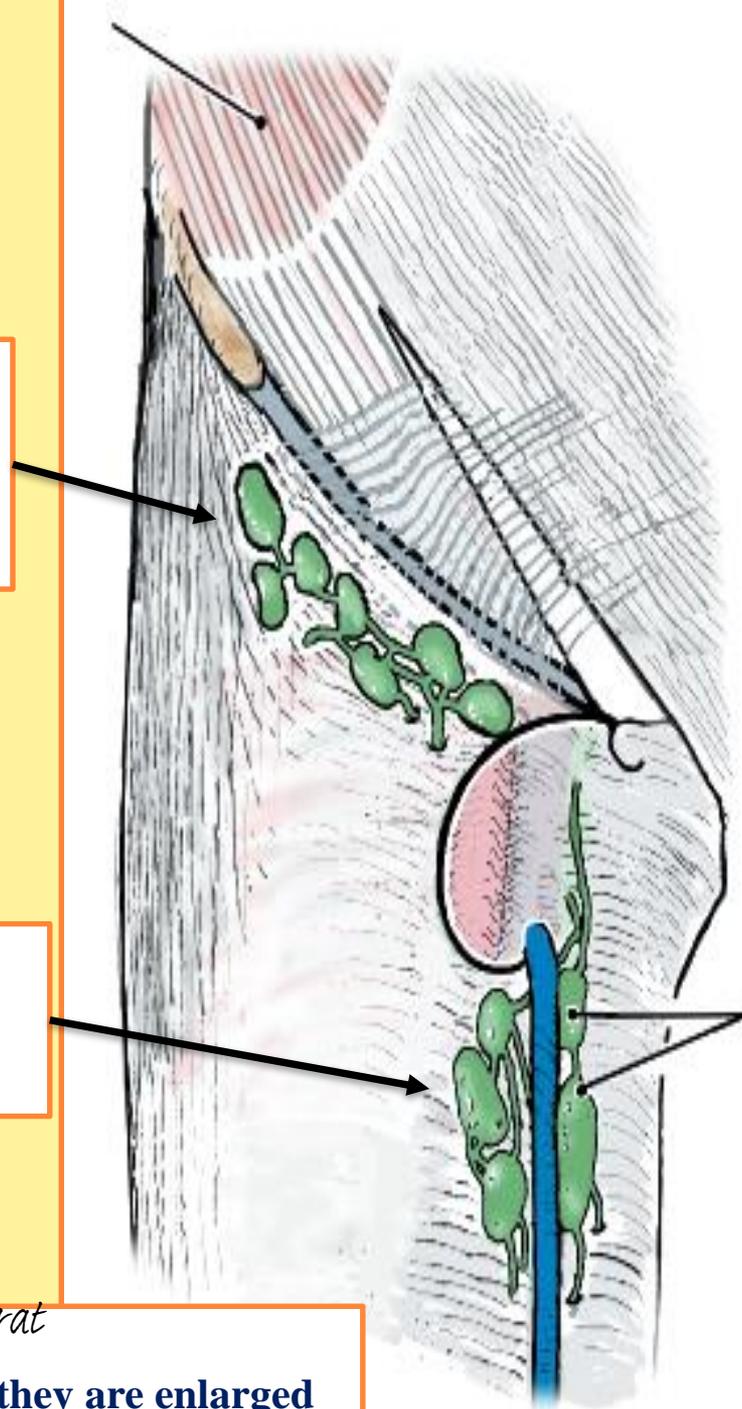
➤ *Divided into two groups; horizontal and vertical.*



A-The horizontal group lies below and parallel to the *inguinal ligament*.

It divides into medial and lateral groups

B-The vertical group lies along the terminal part of *Saphenous vein*.



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Note:
Lymph nodes cannot be palpated or seen unless they are enlarged

The medial members of the horizontal group

receive superficial lymph vessels from:

1-The anterior abdominal wall below the level of the umbilicus

2-The perineum

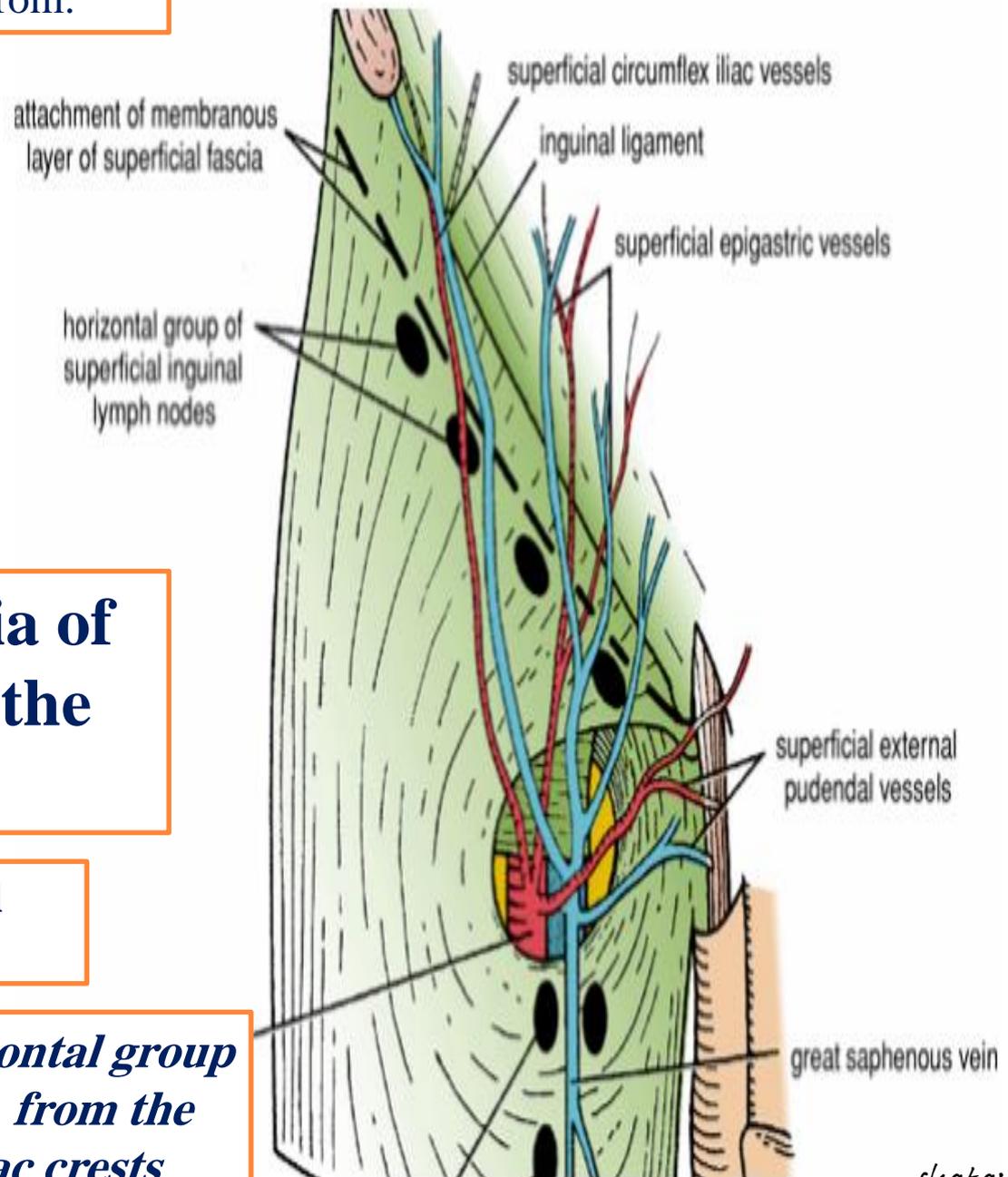
3-The urethra

4-The external genitalia of both sexes (EXCEPT the testes)?!!!!

5-The lower half of the anal canal

6- The lower third of the vagina

The lateral members of the horizontal group receive superficial lymph vessels from the back below the level of the iliac crests

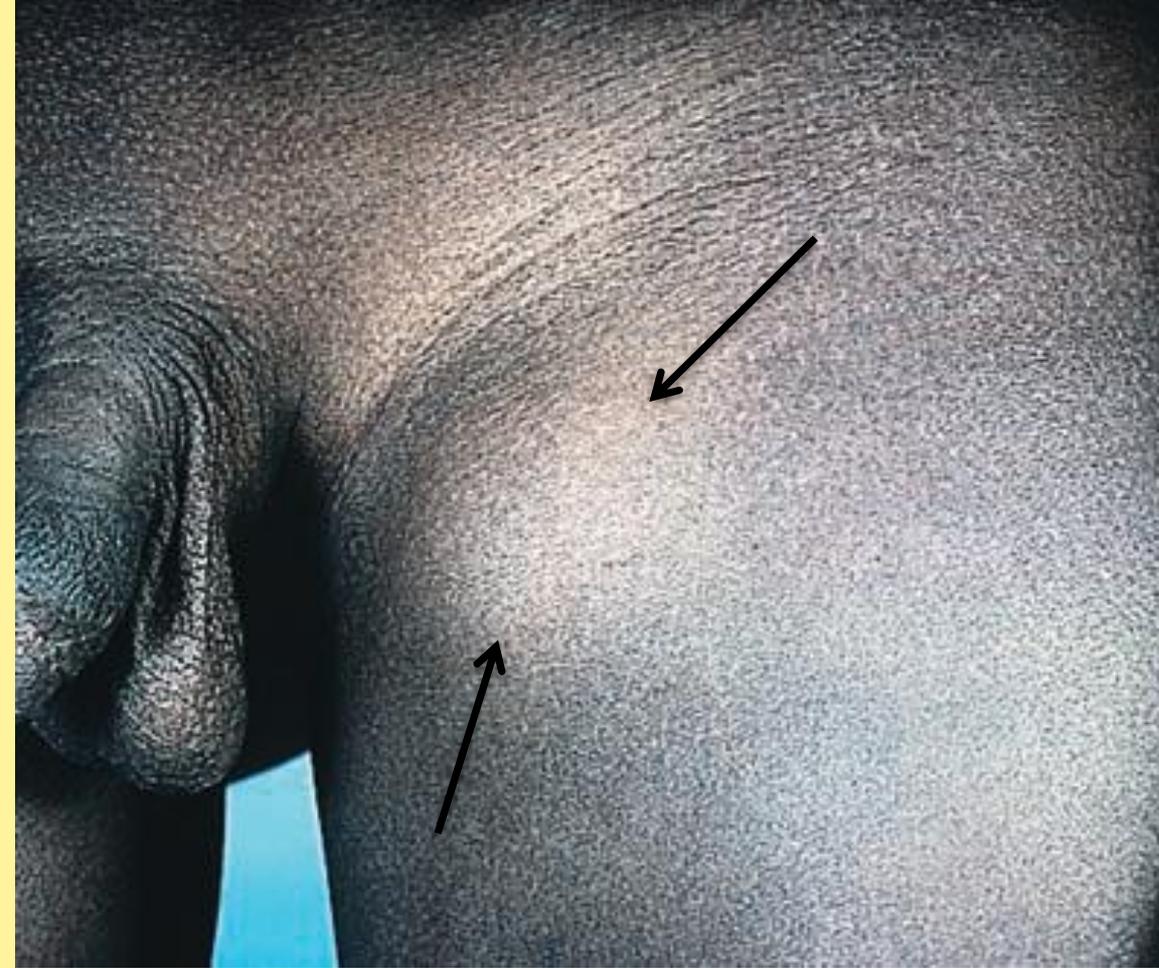


The vertical group receives most of the superficial lymph vessels of the lower limbs

They are located around **the saphenous opening** and receives lymph from **the horizontal group** and the skin of the **thigh and the medial leg and foot.** Its efferent vessels drain through the saphenous opening to the **deep inguinal.**

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Enlarged inguinal lymph nodes from a foot infection (arrows)



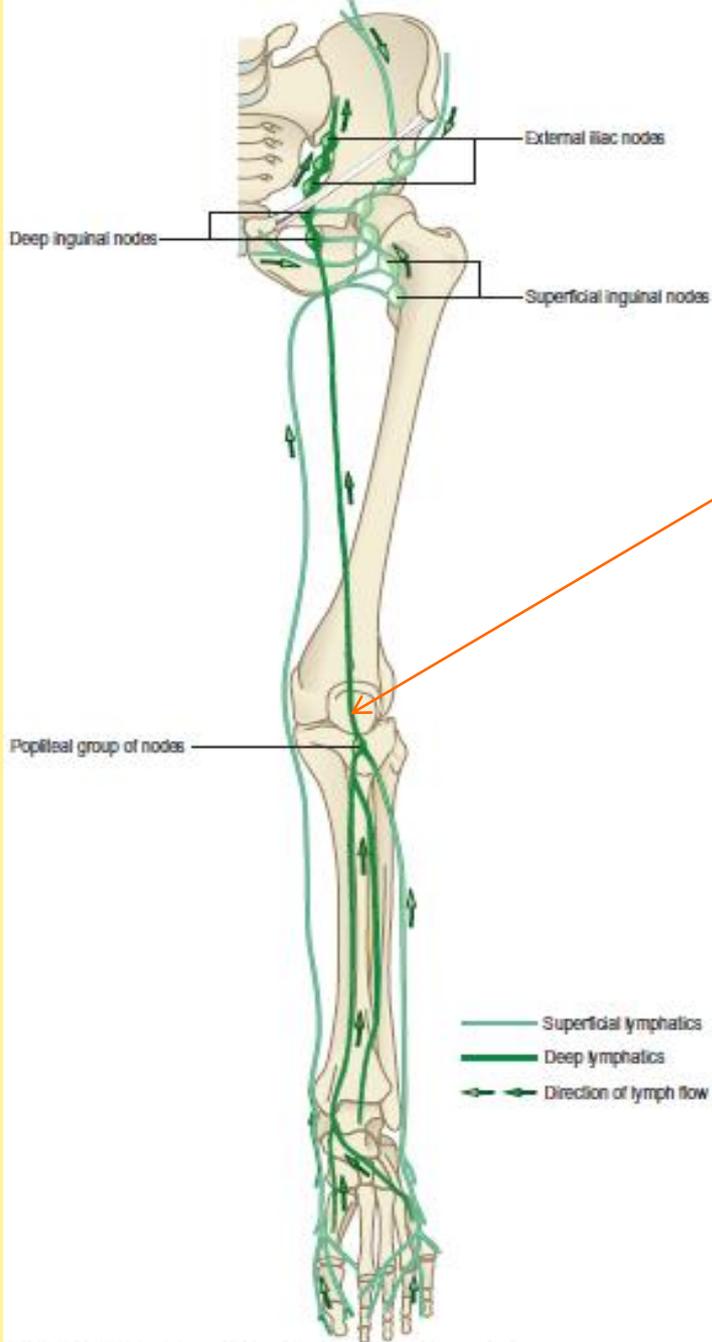


Fig. 79.10 Overview of lymphatics of the lower limb.

It is important to understand that the lateral side of the foot, calf and the deep tissues of the leg are drained to The **popliteal group**, a **small group**, lies in the popliteal fossa around

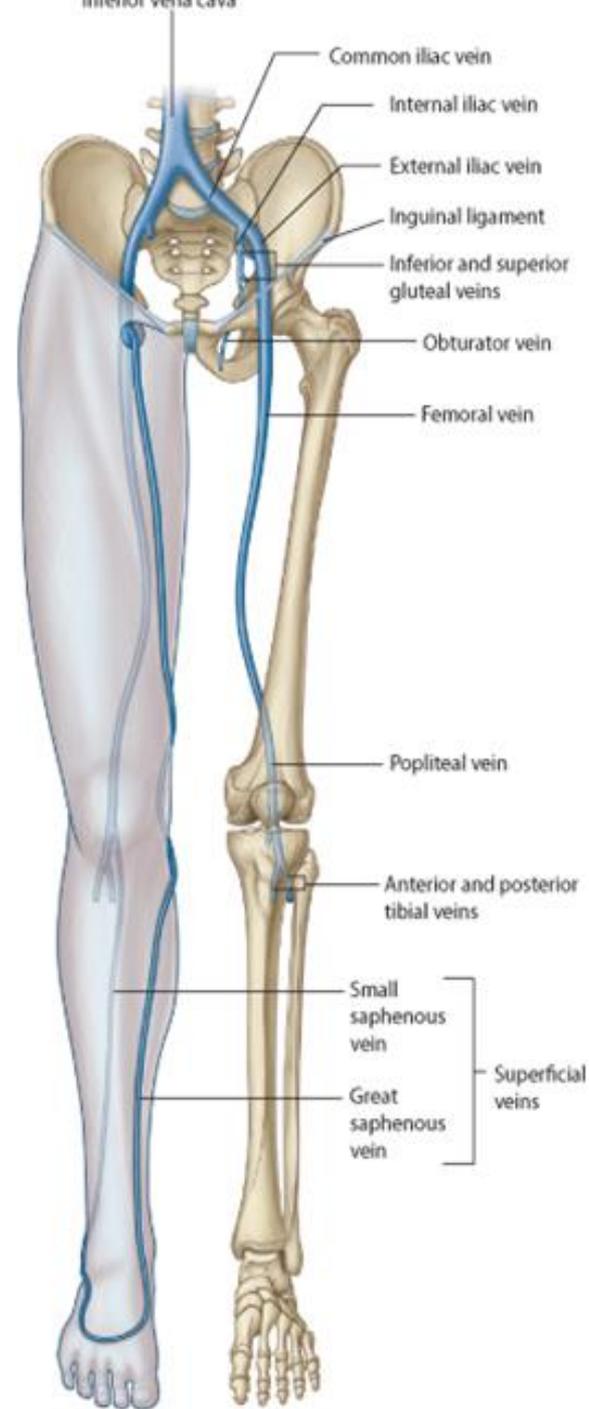
Remember that if the patient presented to you with an enlarged superficial inguinal lymph nodes you should ask about and check the above mentioned areas

4- Superficial veins

The most important superficial veins are the

Great Saphenous vein

Small saphenous vein



Great Saphenous vein

5-pierces the *Saphenous opening* and then joins the *femoral vein* about 4cm below and lateral to the *pubic tubercle*.

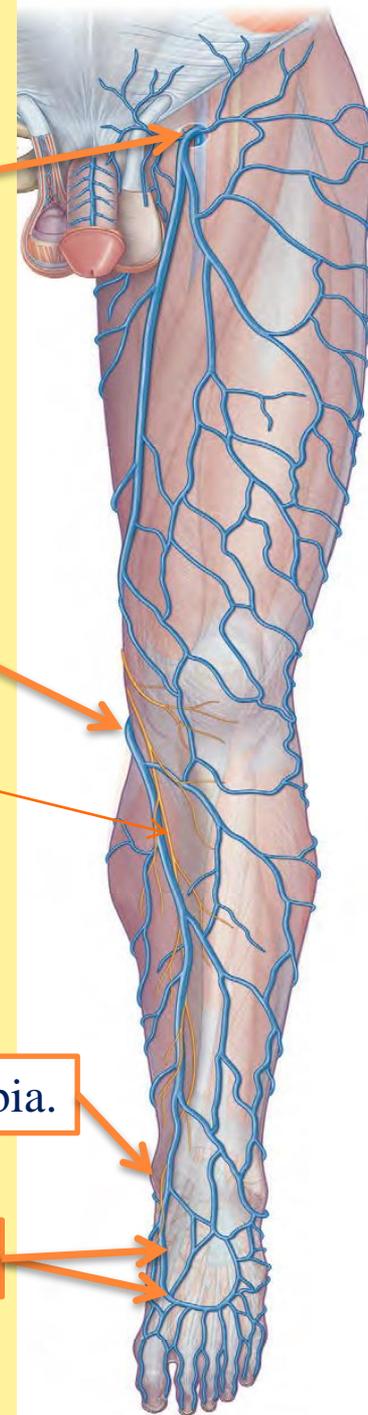
4-passes *behind the knee* and then curves around the *medial side of the thigh*.

3-ascends in a company with *the Saphenous nerve* in the superficial fascia *over the medial side of the leg*.

2-passes *directly in front* of *the medial malleolus* of the tibia.

1-drains *the medial end* of the *dorsal venous arch*

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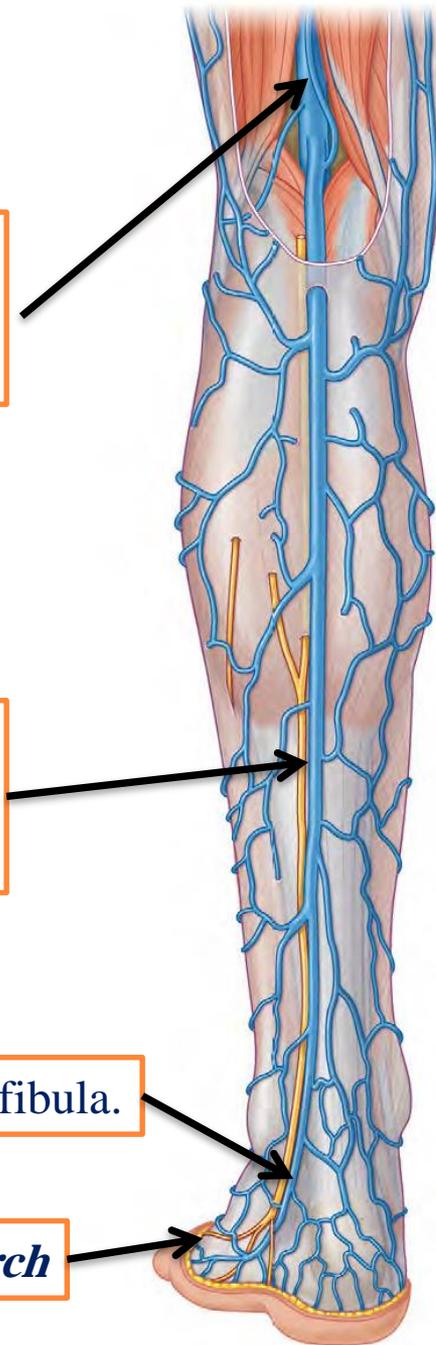
Small Saphenous vein

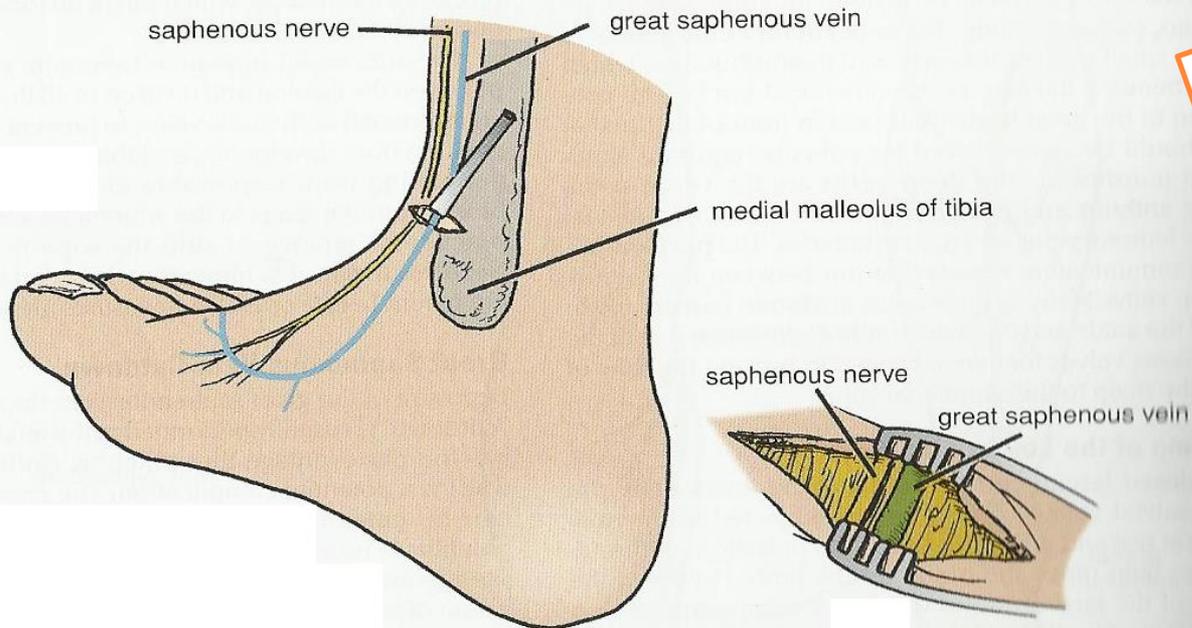
4-passes *behind the knee and pierces the deep fascia of the popliteal fossa where it joins the popliteal vein*

3-ascends in a company with *the Sural nerve.* in the superficial fascia

2-passes *directly behind of the lateral malleolus* of the fibula.

1-drains *the lateral end* of the *dorsal venous arch*





**Great Saphenous vein
cutdown at the ankle?
When we need this
procedure?**

Just anterior and superior to the medial malleolus the great saphenous vein can readily be located and is frequently used for an emergency venous 'cutdown'. The great saphenous vein is also commonly used to bypass blocked coronary arteries in a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) operation – known as a 'cabbage' procedure. It is reversed so that its valves do not obstruct the arterial blood flow.

B- Deep fascia of the thigh (fascia lata)

❖ Forms on the antero-medial side of the thigh the *Saphenous opening (fossa ovalis)*.

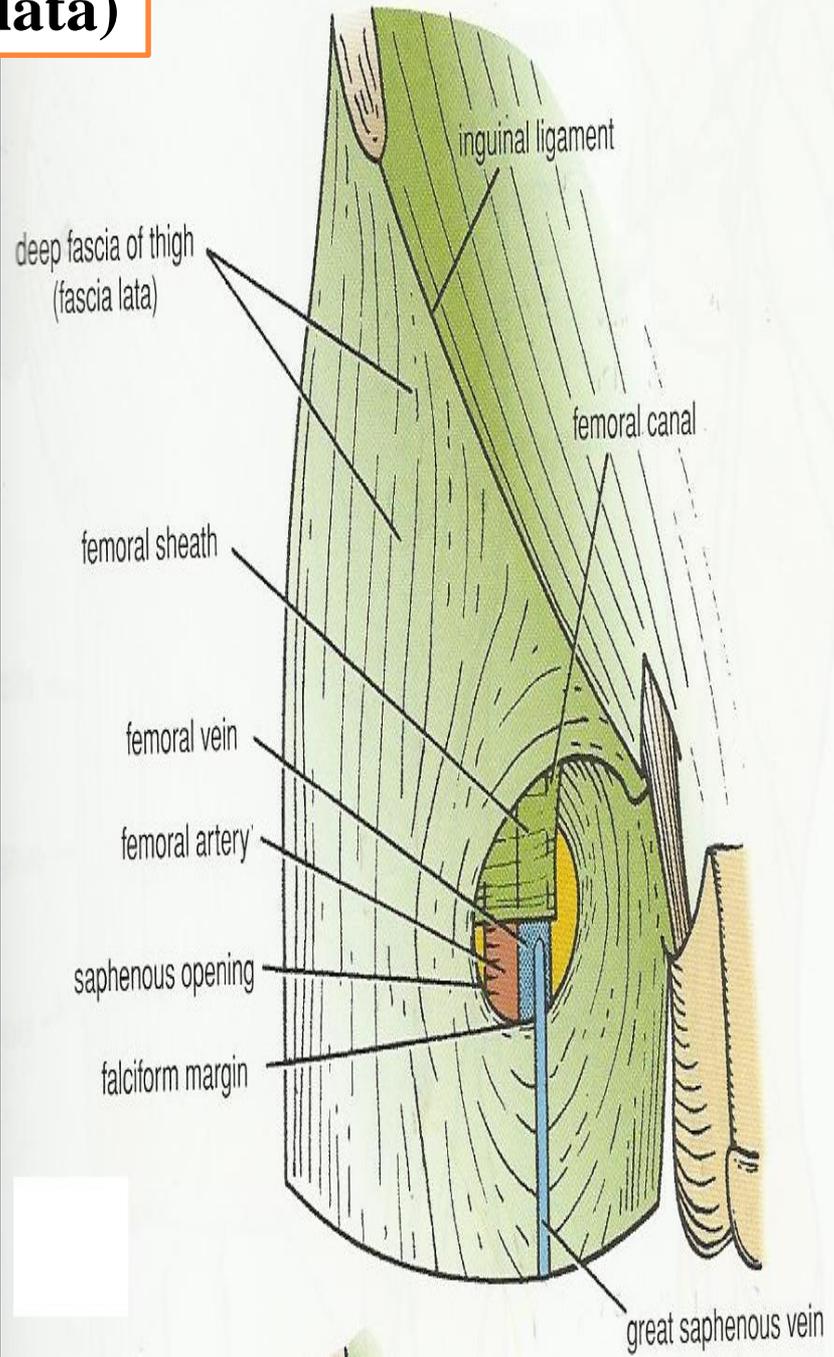
Saphenous opening (fossa ovalis) is a gap in the fascia lata which is covered by loose connective tissue called cribriform fascia.

The cribriform fascia is pierced by:

1- Great Saphenous vein

❖ **superficial branches of the femoral artery**

3- Lymphatics.

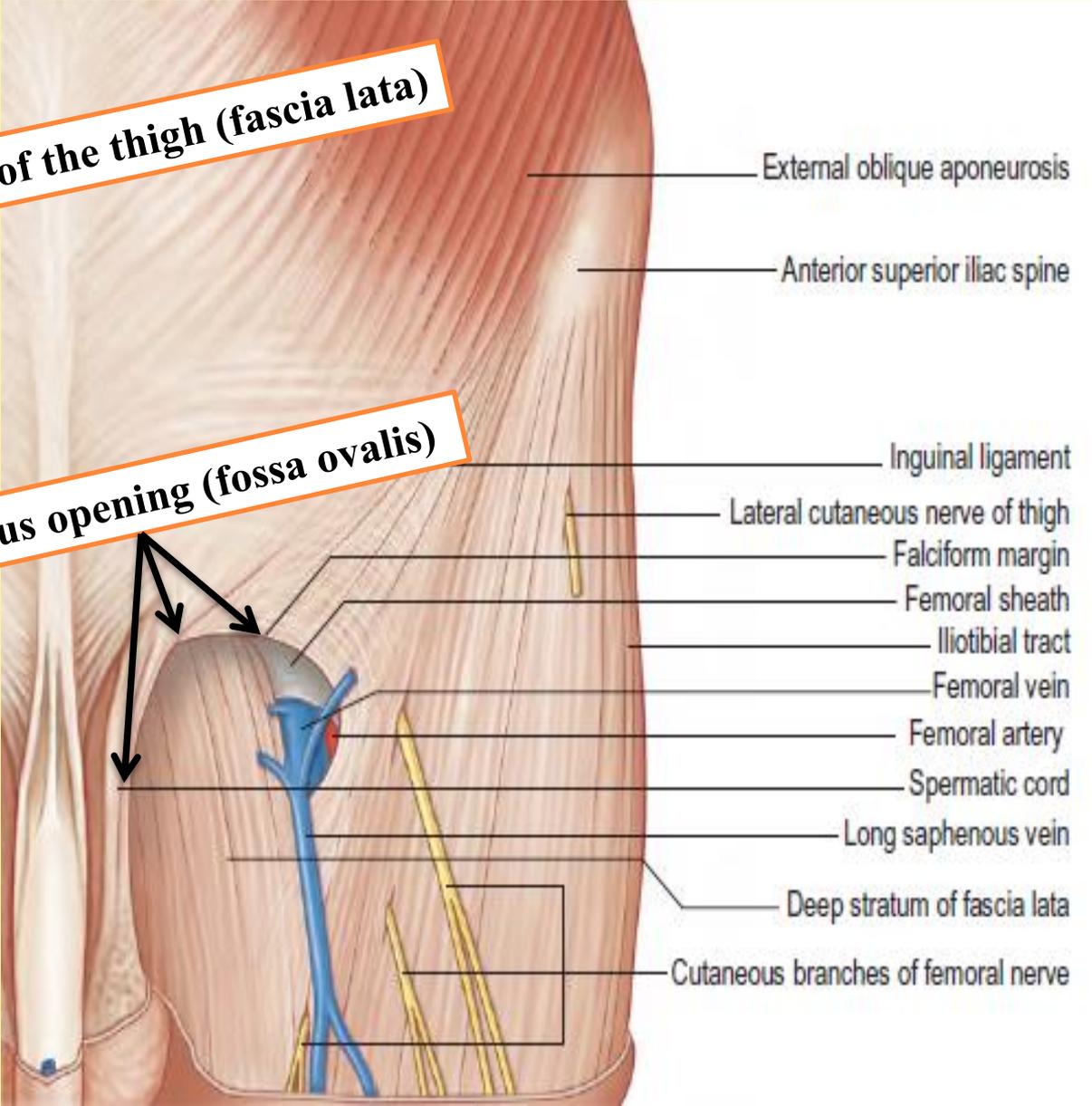




Saphenous opening (fossa ovalis)

Deep fascia of the thigh (fascia lata)

Saphenous opening (fossa ovalis)



External oblique aponeurosis

Anterior superior iliac spine

Inguinal ligament

Lateral cutaneous nerve of thigh

Falciform margin

Femoral sheath

Iliotibial tract

Femoral vein

Femoral artery

Spermatic cord

Long saphenous vein

Deep stratum of fascia lata

Cutaneous branches of femoral nerve

❖ Fascia lata is connected to the
linea aspera by

three intermuscular septa;

1- Medial intermuscular septum

*2- Lateral intermuscular
septum*

*3- Posterior intermuscular
septum*

Thus the deep fascia and septa
divide the thigh into three
compartment;

Anterior

Posterior

Medial.

