

# *Clinical Anatomy of the Anterior Abdominal Wall in its Relation to Hernia*

Handout download:

<http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/dbms-witmer/gs-rpac.htm>

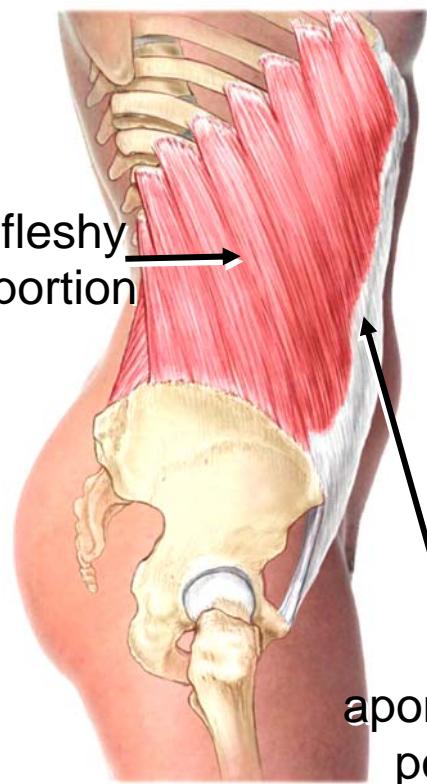
24 April 2007

**Lawrence M. Witmer, PhD**  
Professor of Anatomy  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Ohio University  
Athens, Ohio 45701 [witmerL@ohio.edu](mailto:witmerL@ohio.edu)

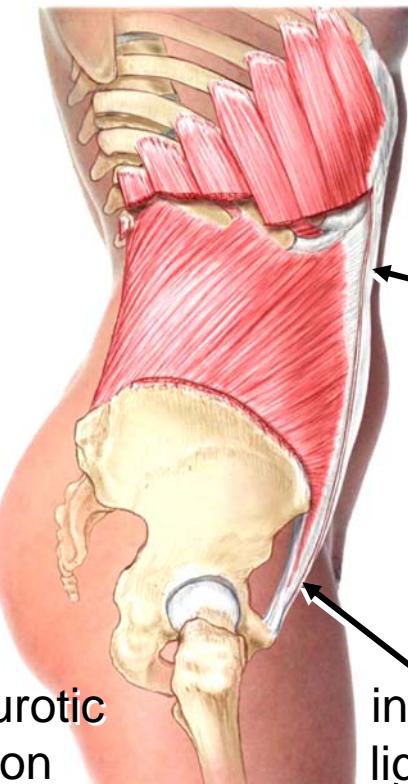


# Anatomical Overview

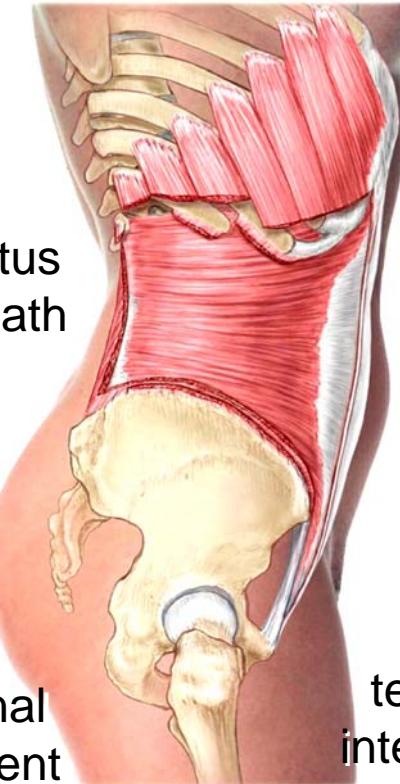
External oblique



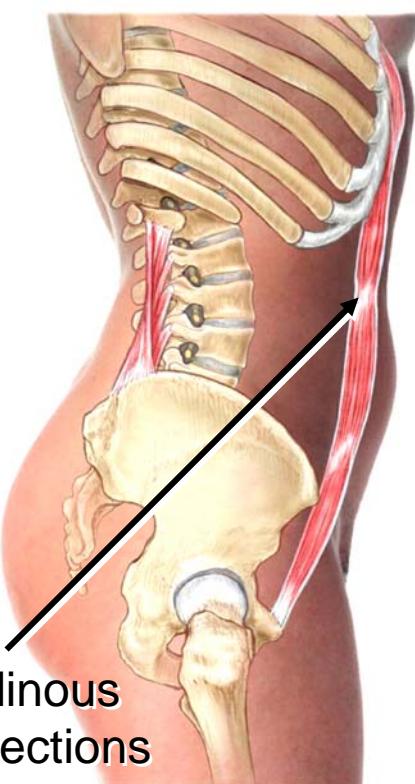
Internal oblique



Transversus abdominis



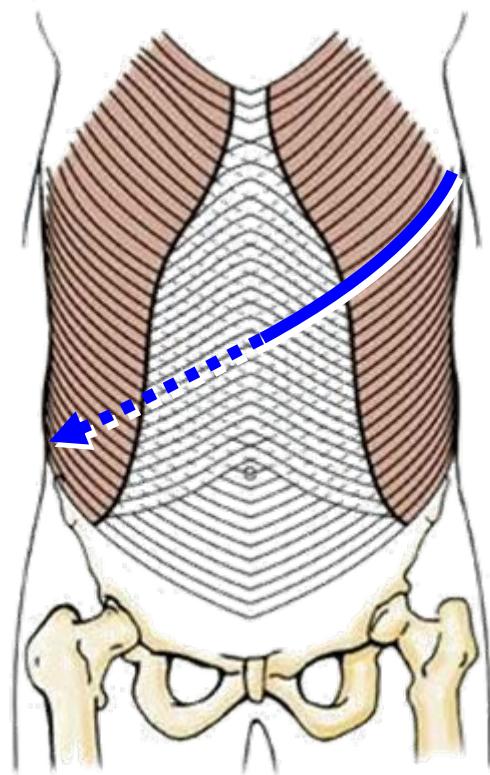
Rectus abdominis



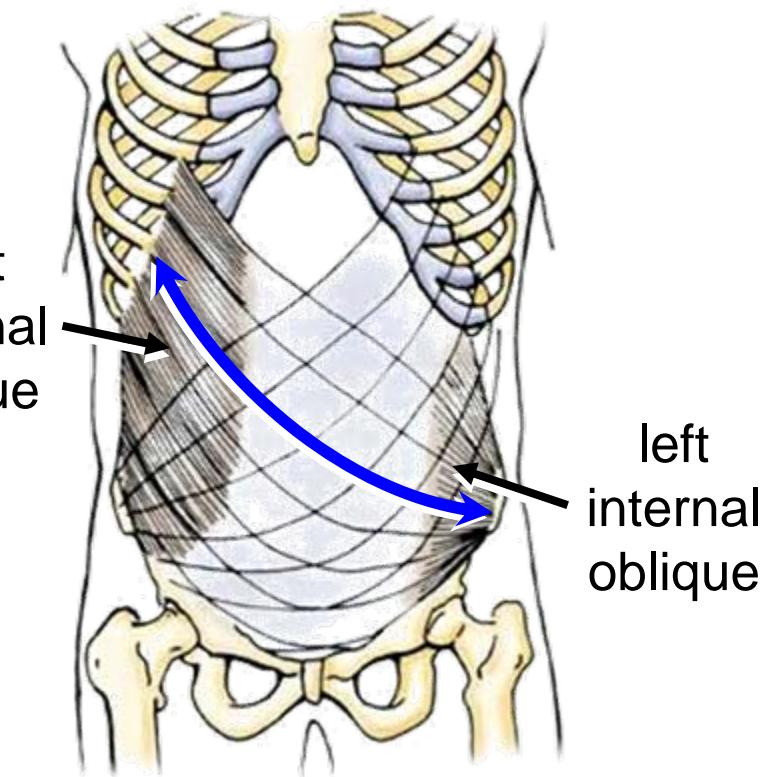
- Three flat abdominals: attach to trunk skeleton, inguinal lig., linea alba, etc.; fleshy laterally and aponeurotic medially, forming rectus sheath medially
- Two vertical abdominals: rectus abdominis and pyramidalis (not shown)

# Anatomical Overview

intramuscular exchange of  
contralateral external oblique fibers



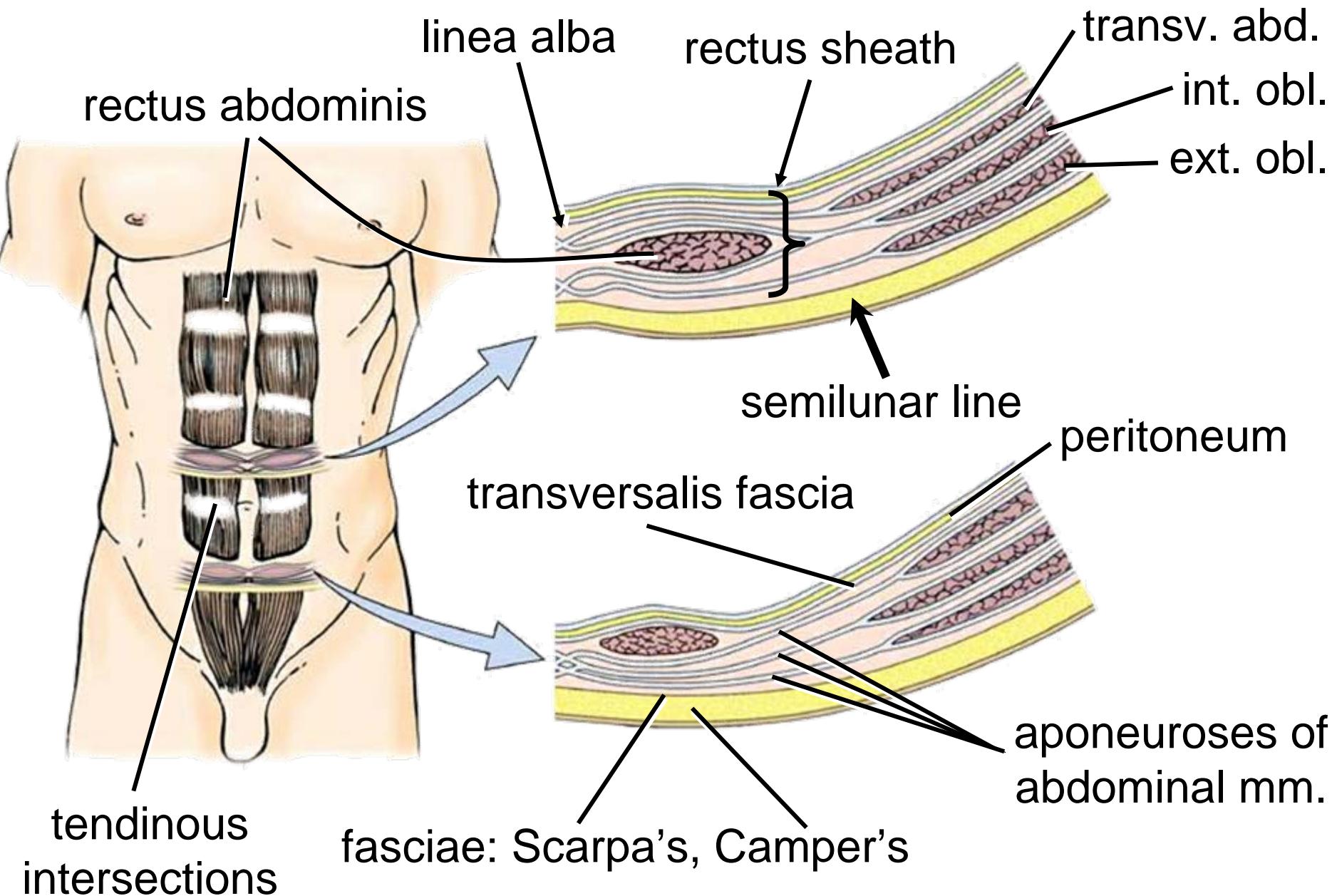
intermuscular exchange of  
contralateral external & internal oblique



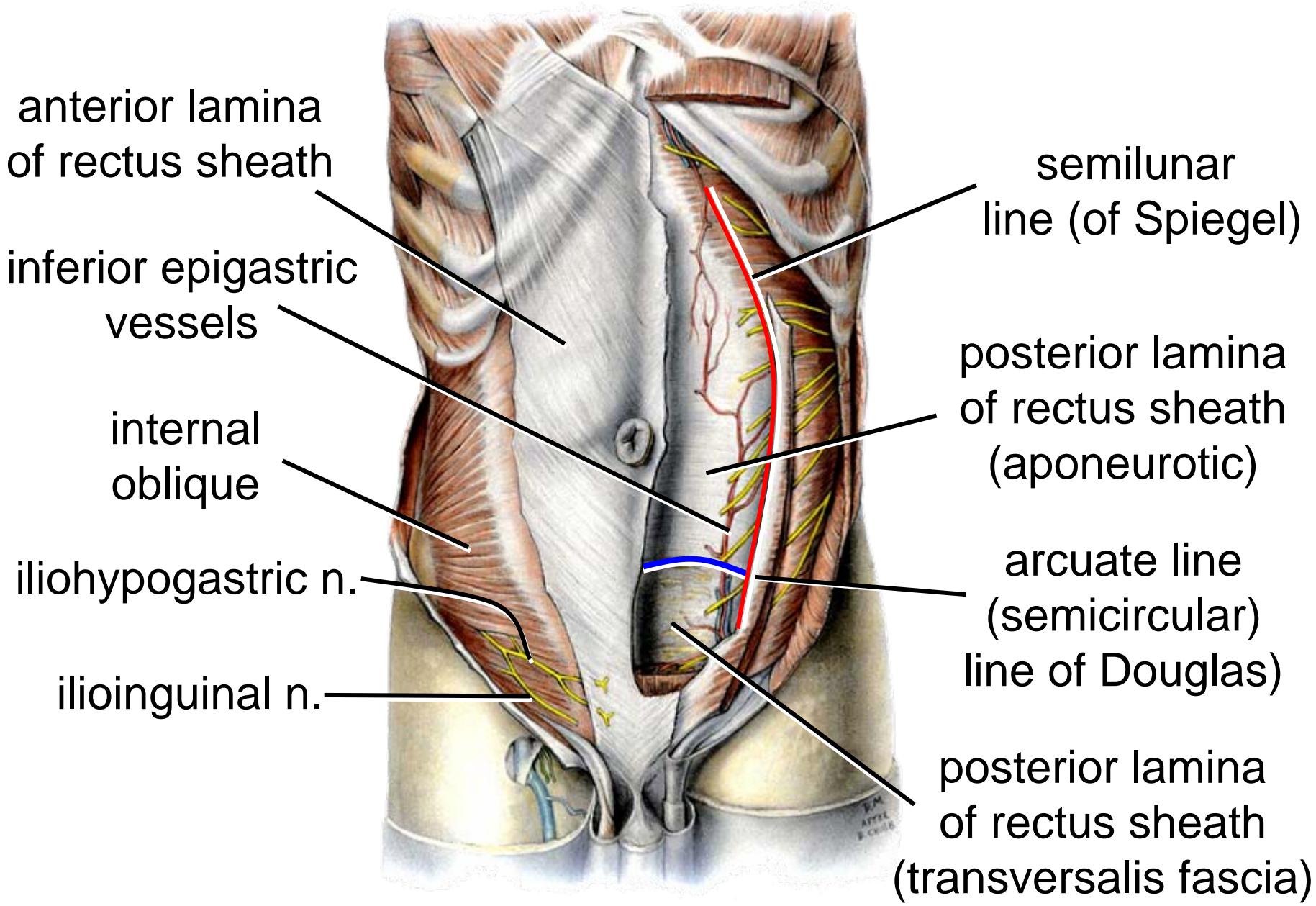
- continuity of external oblique fibers across midline
- blending of superficial & deep fibers on opposite side

- continuity of fibers across midline
- “digastric” muscle with central tendon
- torsion of trunk

# Anatomical Overview

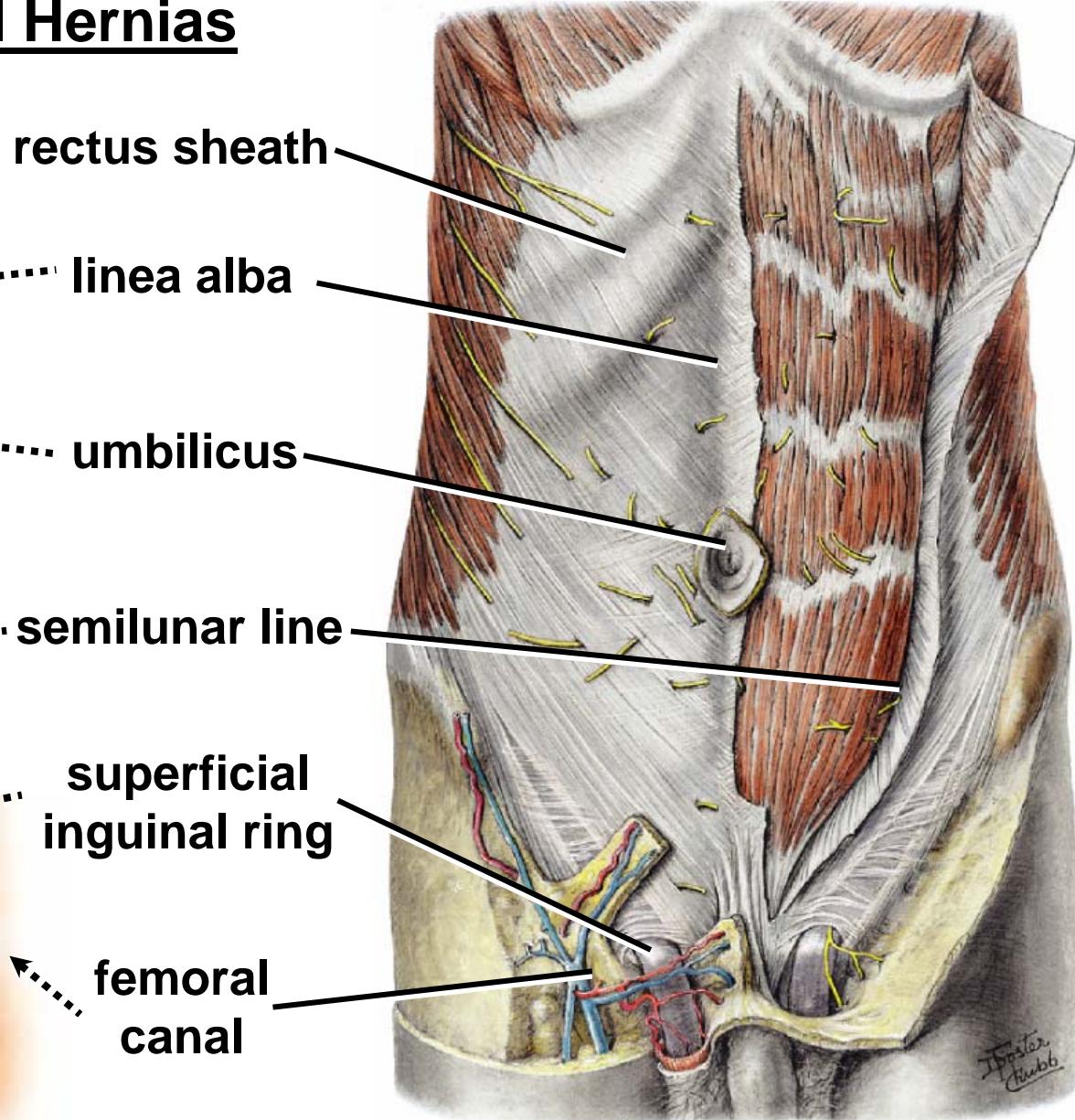
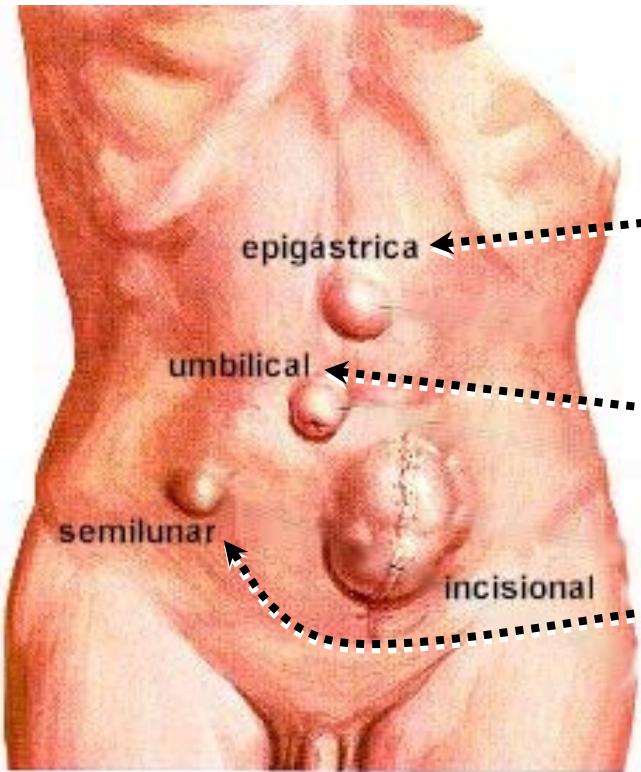


# Anatomical Overview



# Anatomical Overview

## Anterior Abdominal Hernias



# *Epigastric (Ventral) Hernia*

[thachers.org/images/epigastric\\_hernia.jpg](http://thachers.org/images/epigastric_hernia.jpg)

[thachers.org/images/hernia\\_repair.jpg](http://thachers.org/images/hernia_repair.jpg)

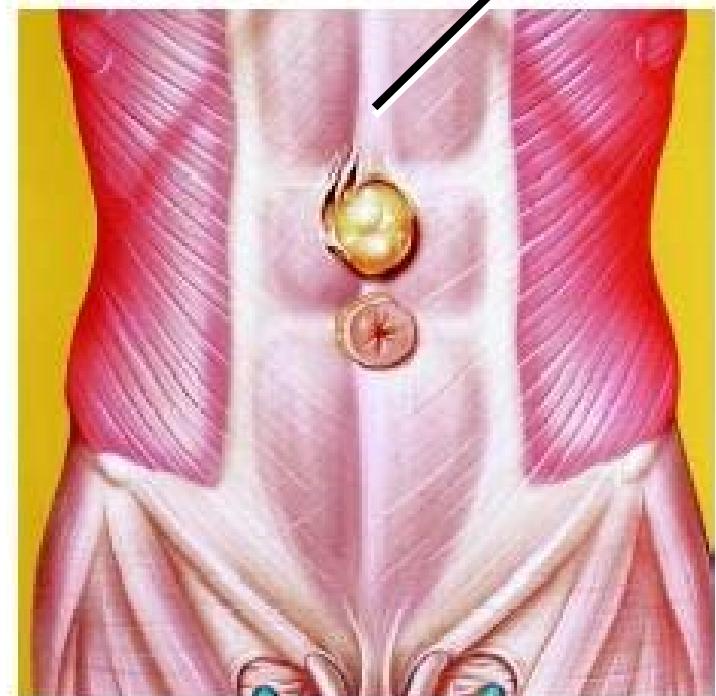


**hernial sac**



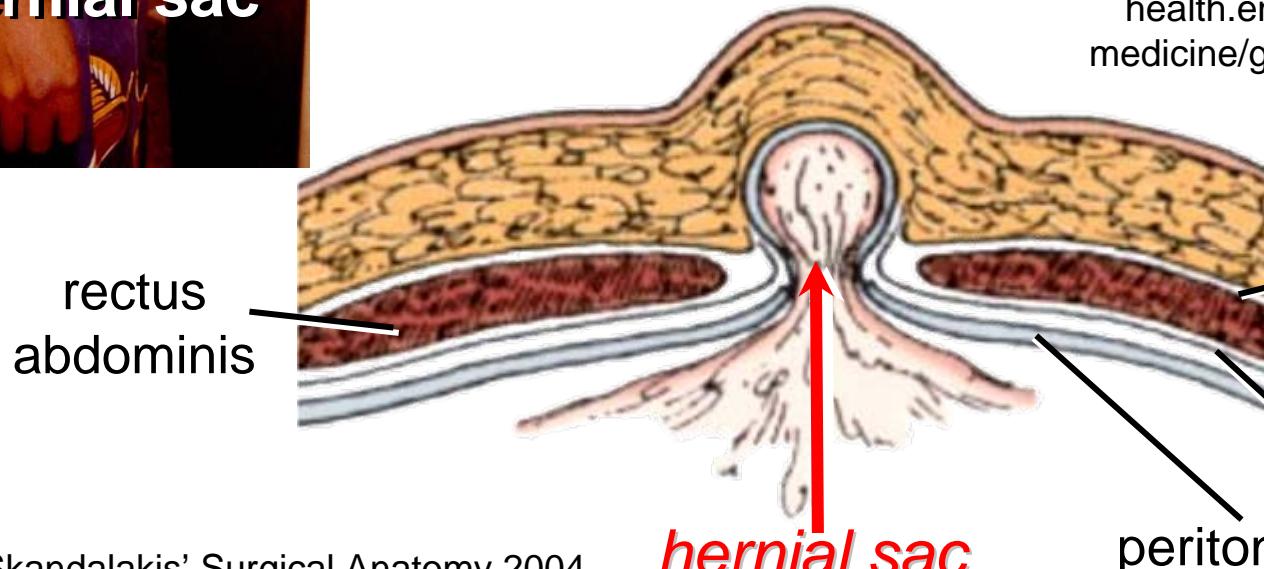
**scar**

**repaired hernia**



**linea alba**

[health.enotes.com/images/medicine/gem\\_03\\_img0340.jpg](http://health.enotes.com/images/medicine/gem_03_img0340.jpg)



**rectus  
abdominis**

**anterior rectus  
sheath**

**posterior rectus  
sheath**

**peritoneum**

**hernial sac**

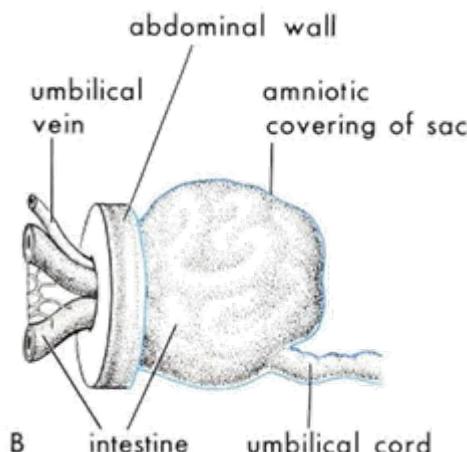
# ***Umbilical (Para-umbilical) Hernia***

## **Congenital Umbilical Hernia**



- incomplete closure of umbilical ring

## **Omphalocele**

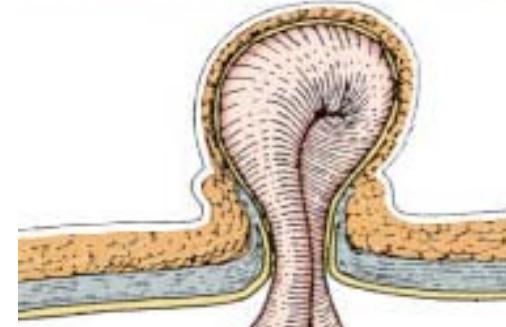
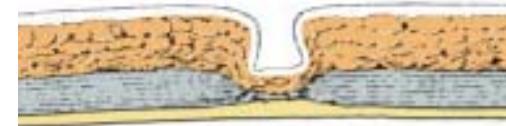


1988 Moore *Developing Human* 4<sup>th</sup> edition

A.

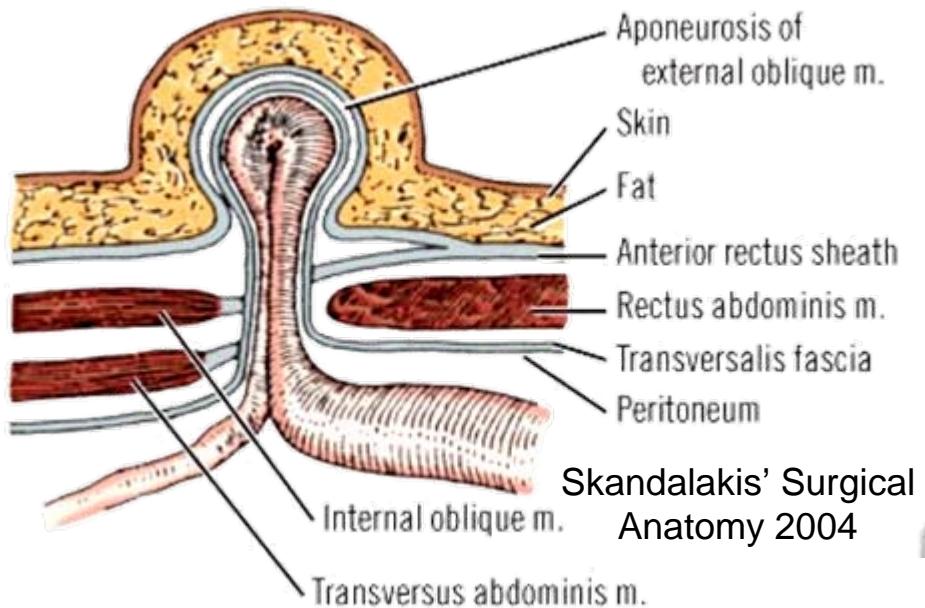
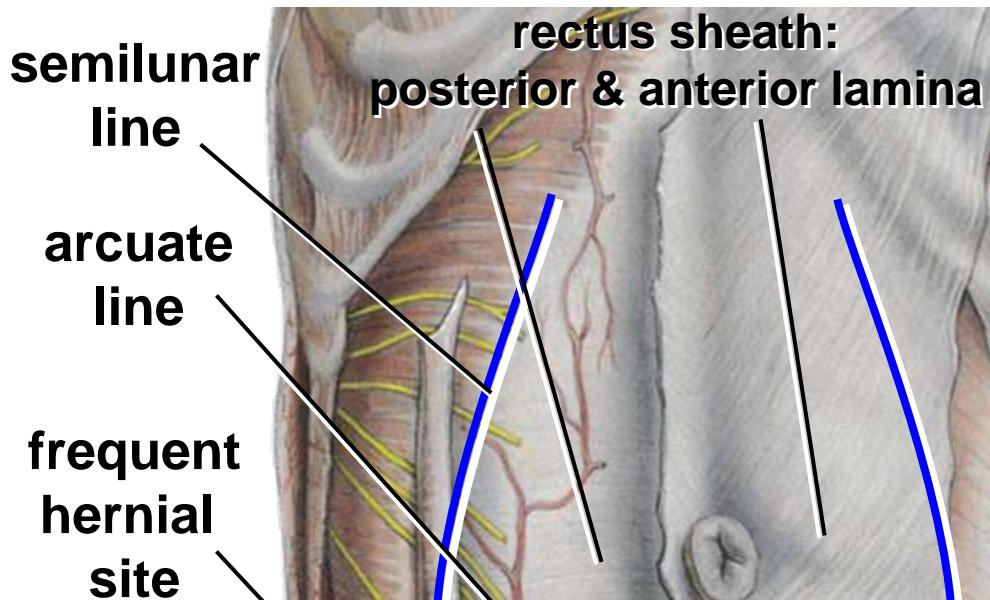
## **Acquired Umbilical Hernia**

- occur after closure of umbilical ring
- 2° to obesity, pregnancy, cirrhosis, ascites, masses



Skandalakis' Surgical Anatomy 2004

# *Spigelian (Lateral Ventral) Hernia*



Moore & Dalley 2006

## ***Case Presentation***

A 3-year-old boy presents with a walnut-sized bulge in his left groin, particularly when he stands, strains, or cries. With the patient horizontal, the lump disappears. When the skin of the scrotum is invaginated by a little finger, a definite impact is felt on coughing. The diagnosis of hernia is made. How would this hernia be best characterized?



*at rest*



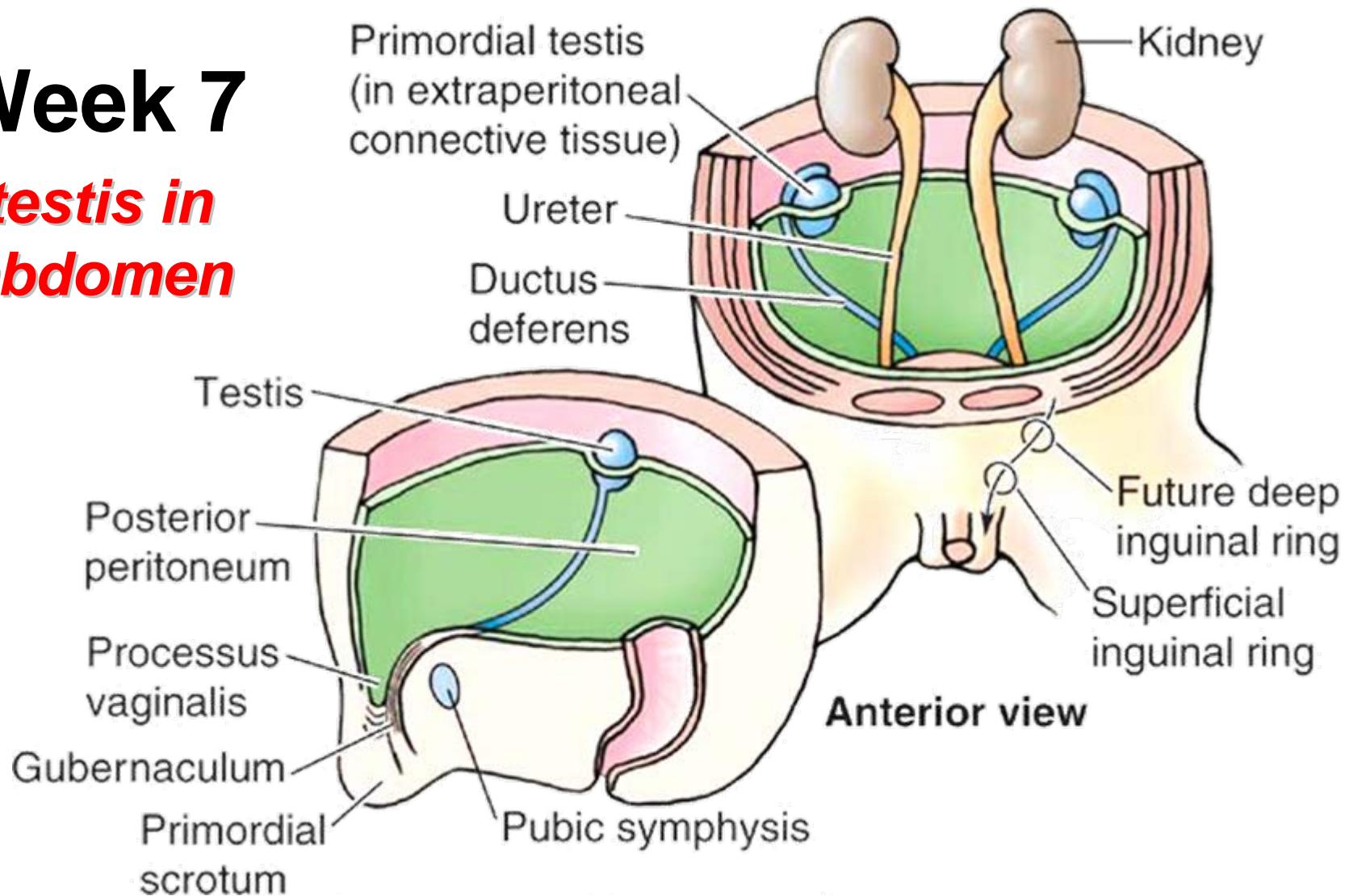
*upon straining*

***reducible, congenital, indirect inguinal hernia***

# **Embryological Basis of Indirect Inguinal hernia**

## **Week 7**

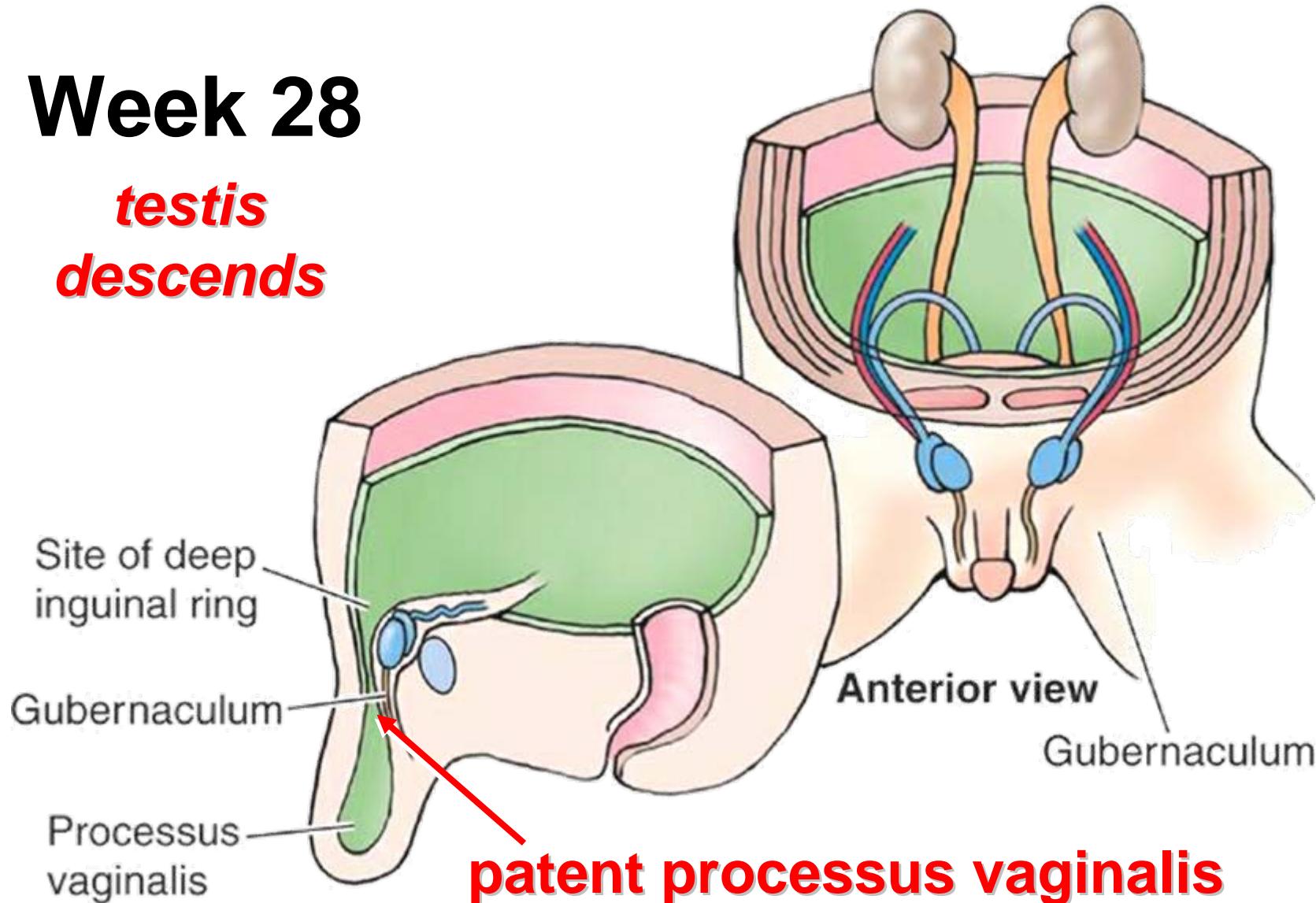
***testis in abdomen***



# **Embryological Basis of Indirect Inguinal hernia**

## **Week 28**

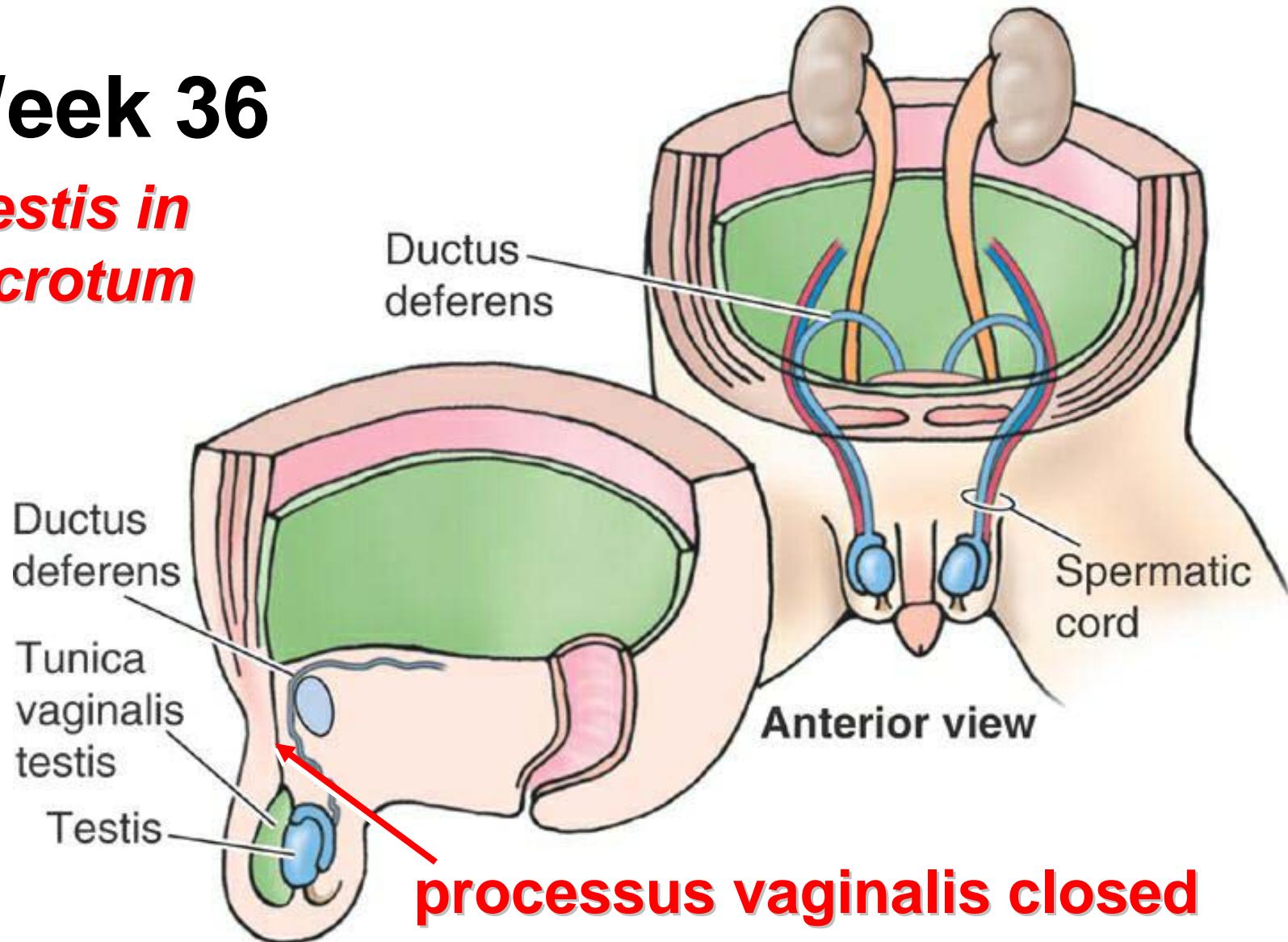
**testis  
descends**



# **Embryological Basis of Indirect Inguinal hernia**

## **Week 36**

***testis in scrotum***



# **Embryological Basis of Indirect Inguinal hernia**

transversalis fascia  
& peritoneum

abdominal  
muscles

**partially  
obliterated  
processus  
vaginalis**

tunica  
vaginalis

**hernial sac  
within  
spermatic  
cord**

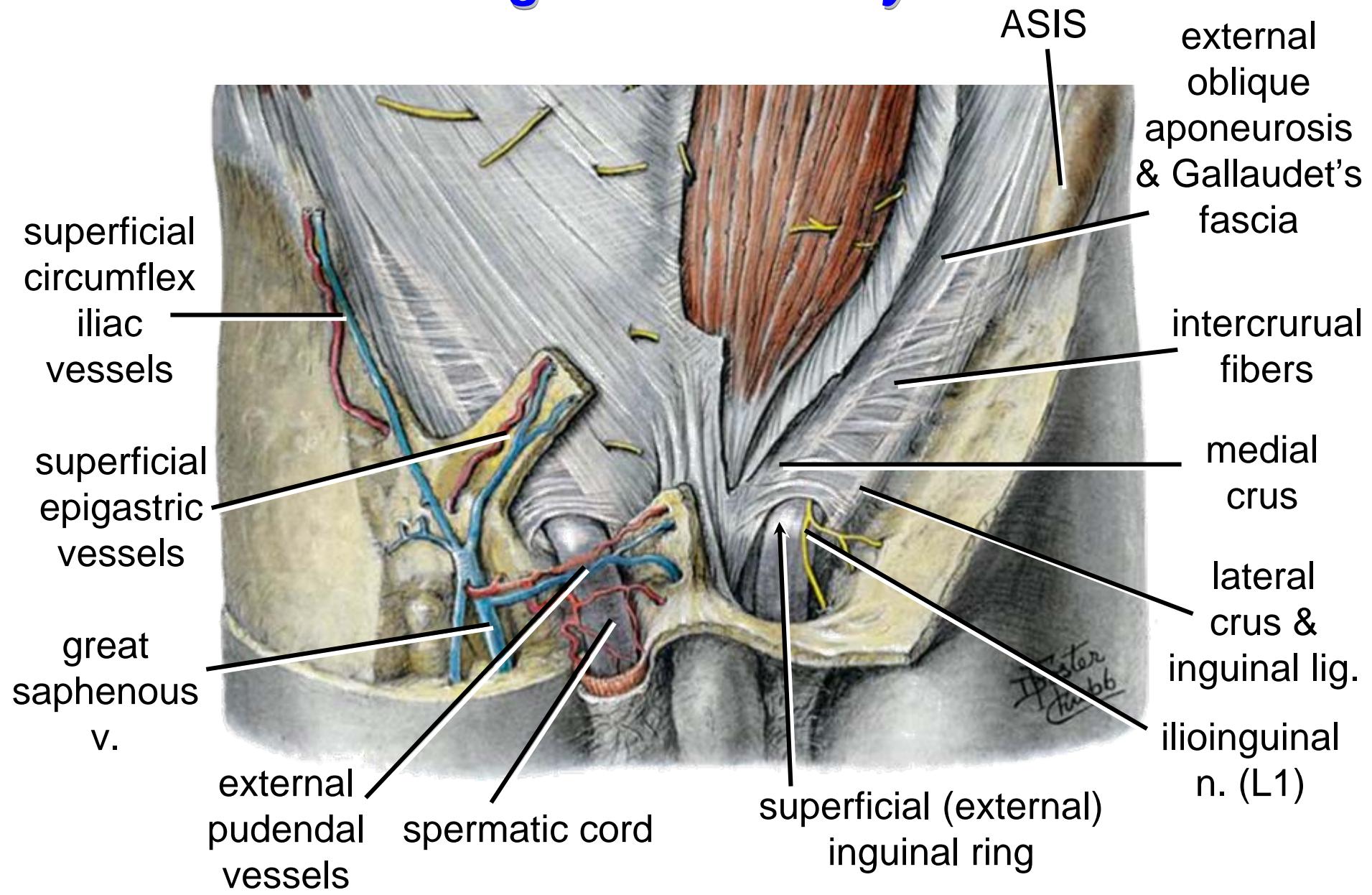
vas deferens

pampiniform  
plexus

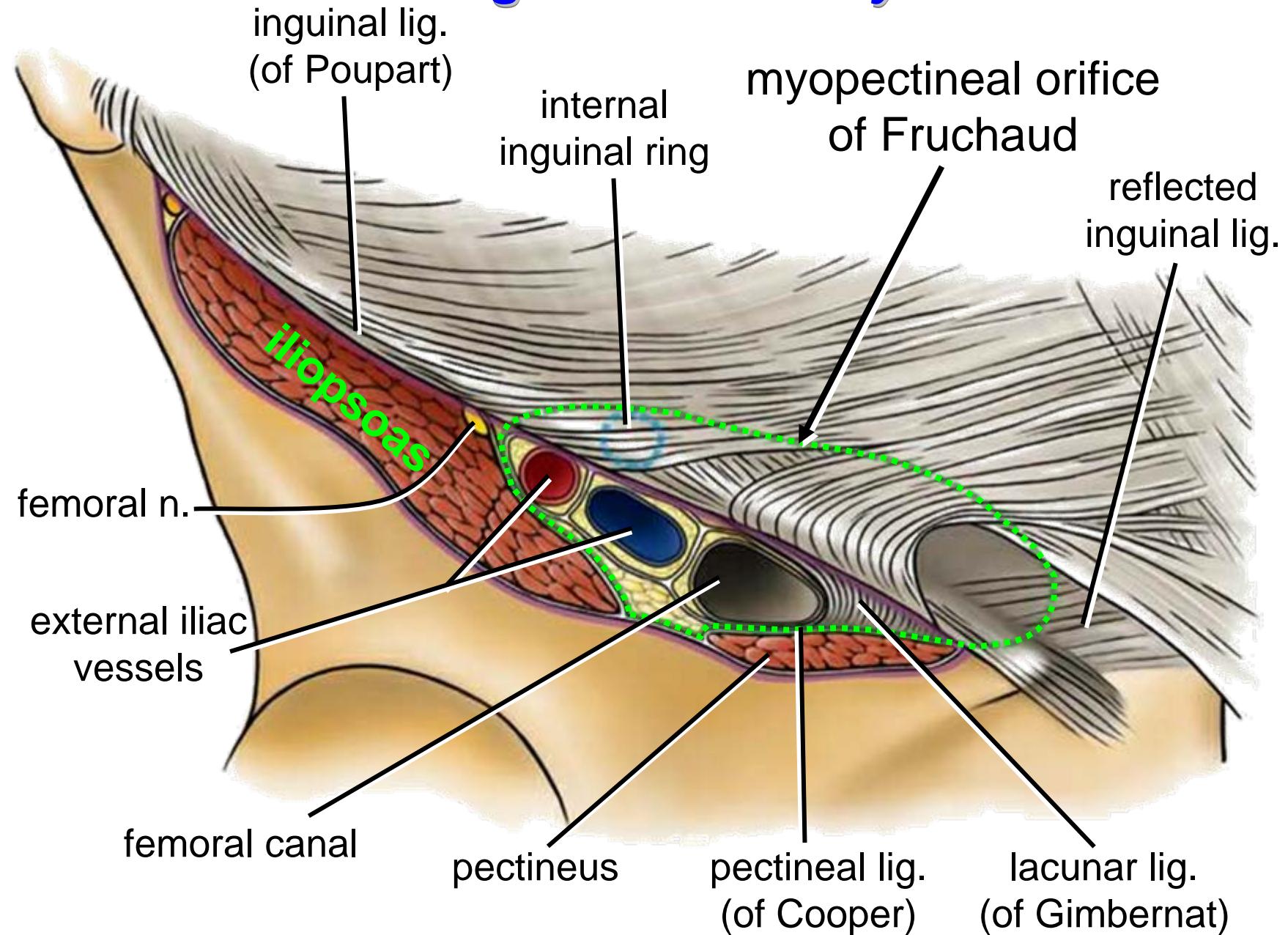
epididymis

testis

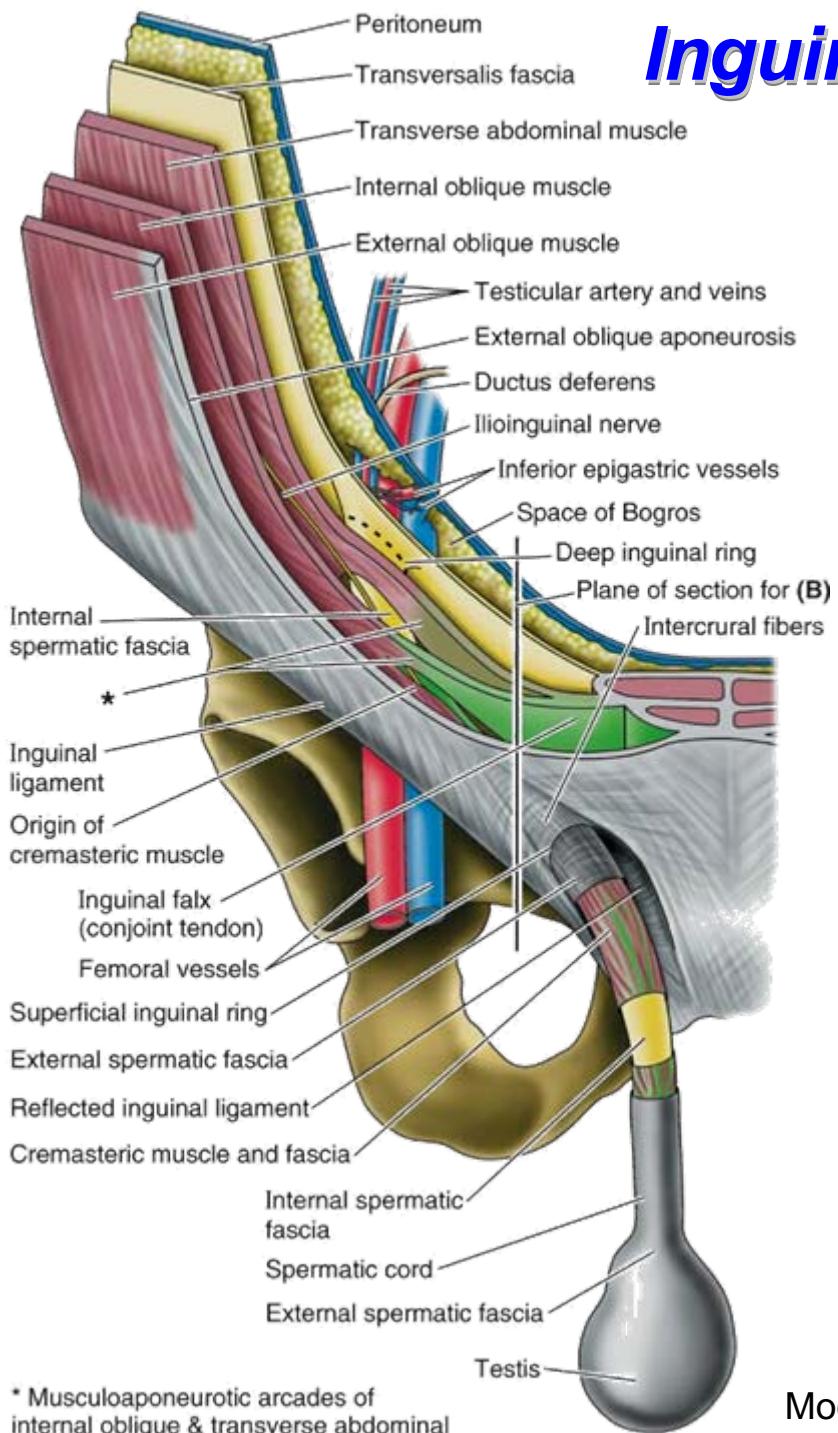
# Inguinal Anatomy



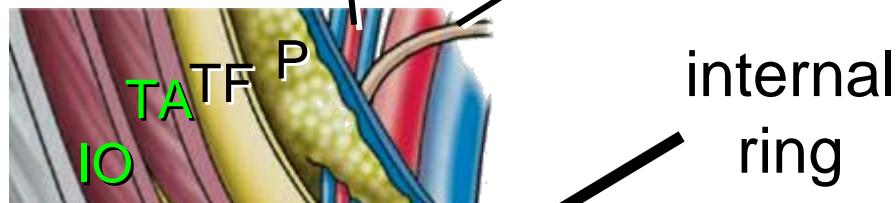
# Inguinal Anatomy



# Inguinal Anatomy



testicular vessels

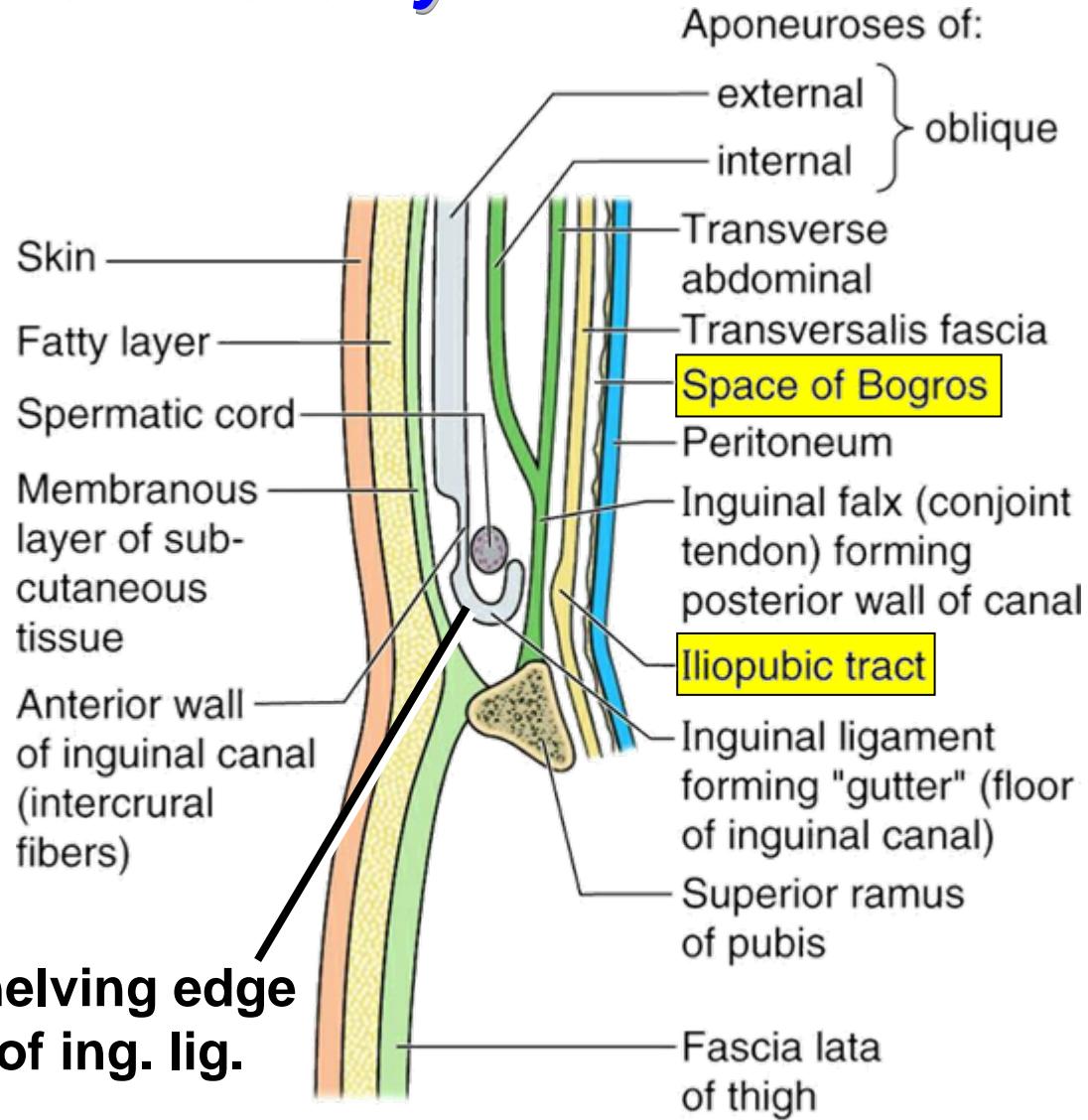
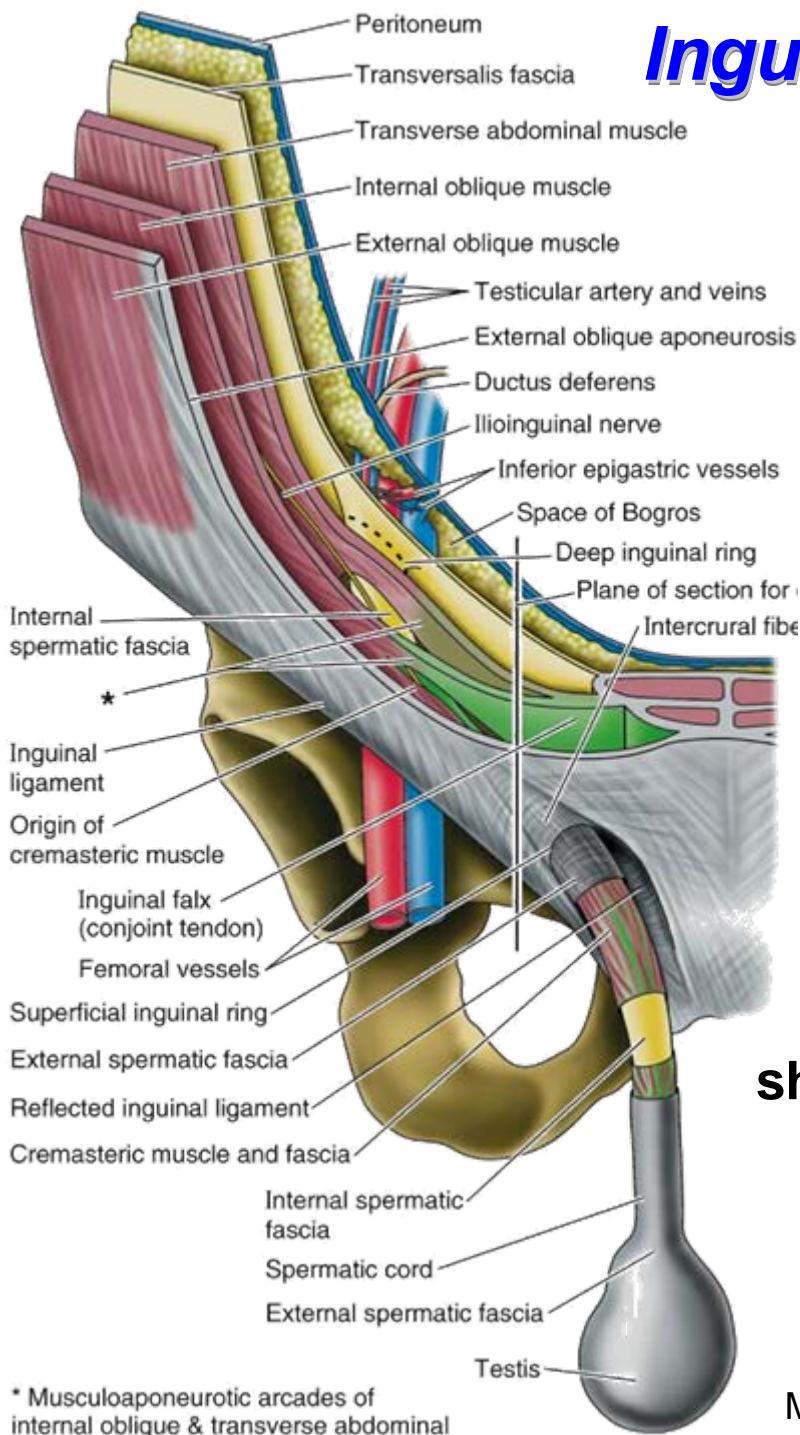


vas deferens  
internal ring  
**Space of Bogros**

ilioinguinal n.

external ring  
“conjoint tendon” ring

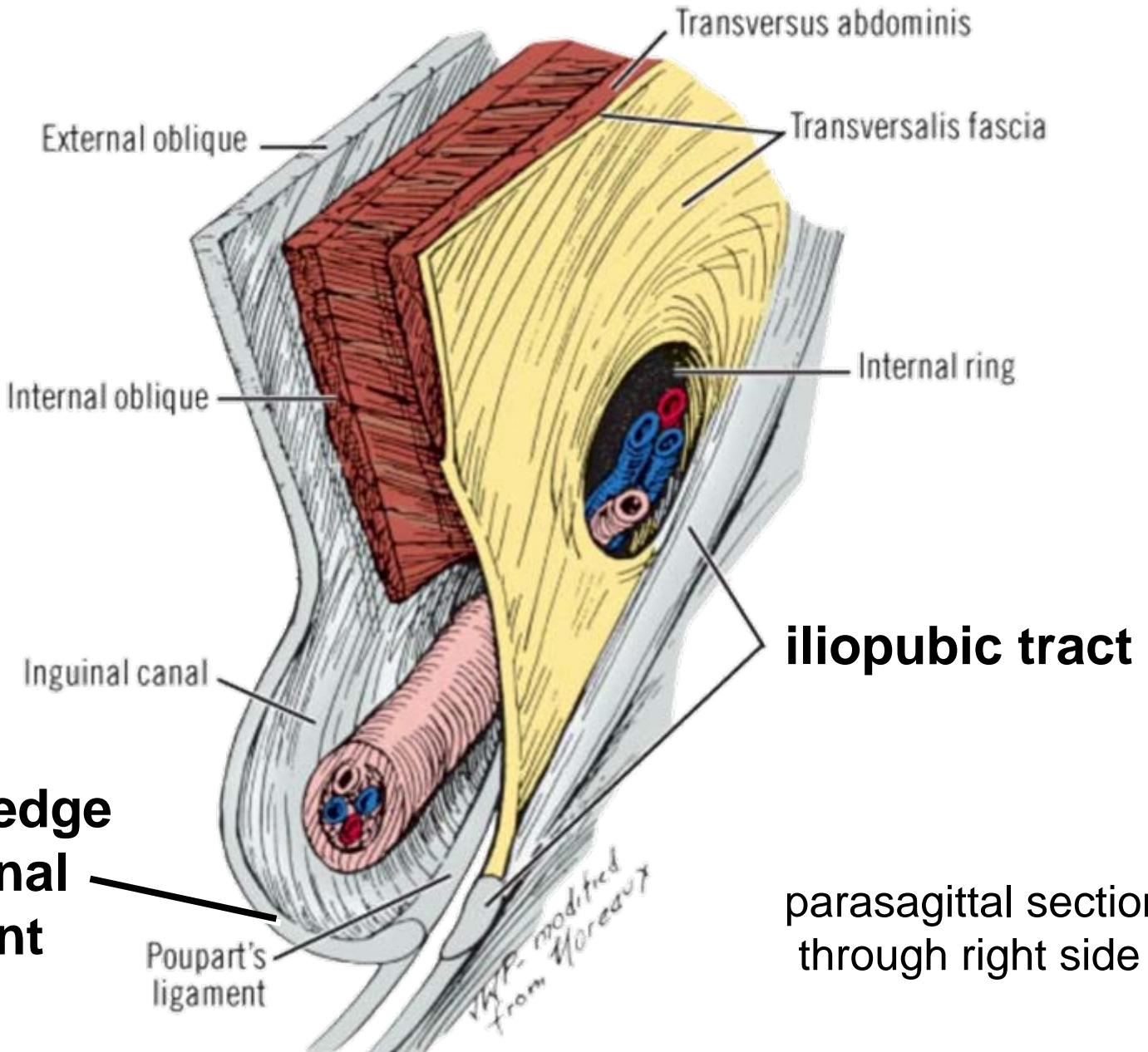
# Inguinal Anatomy

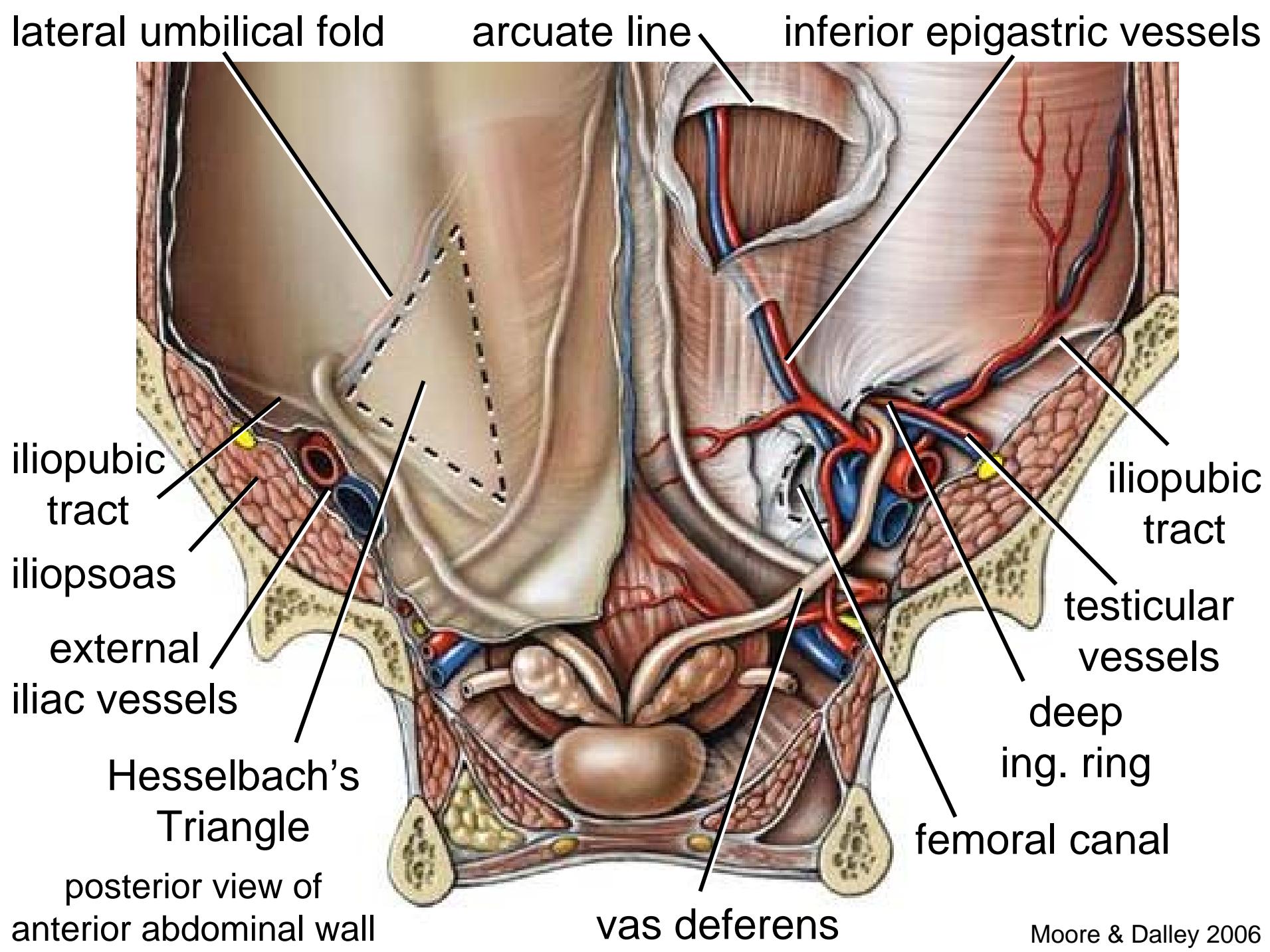


Schematic sagittal section

\* Musculoaponeurotic arcades of internal oblique & transverse abdominal

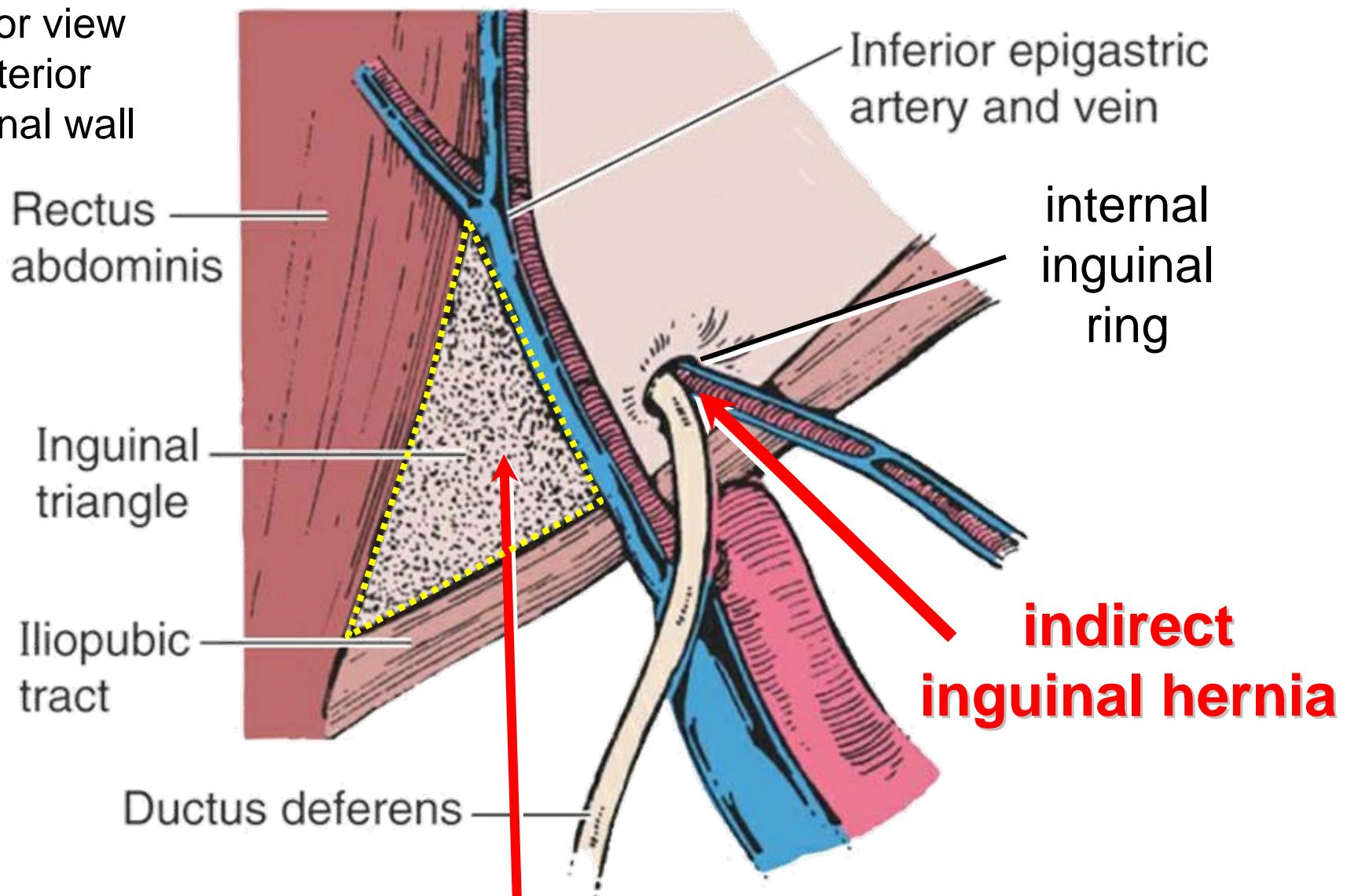
# Inguinal Anatomy





# Hesselbach's (Inguinal) Triangle

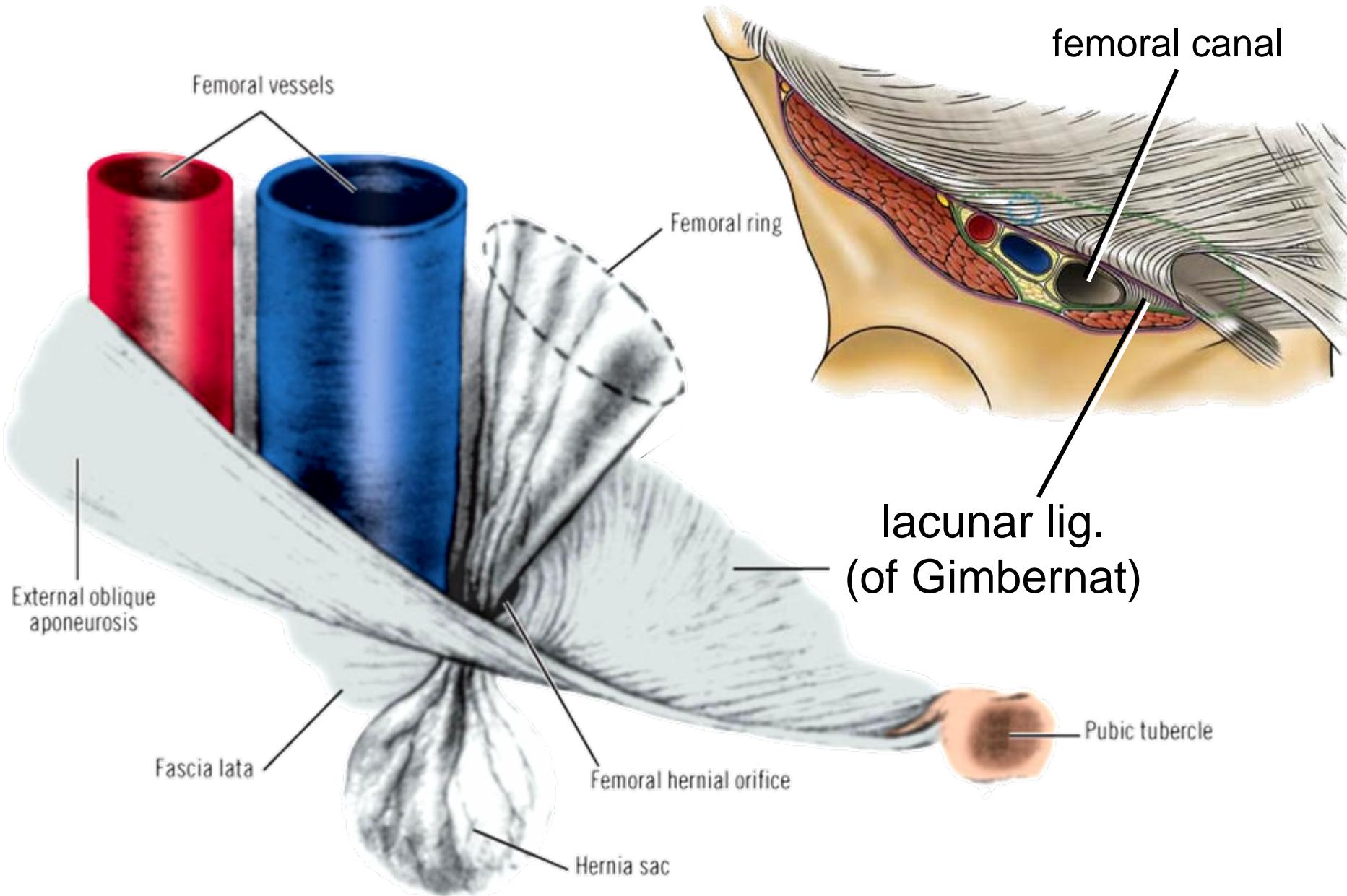
posterior view  
of anterior  
abdominal wall



**direct inguinal hernia**

**indirect  
inguinal hernia**

# Femoral Hernia



## References

- Cahill, D. R. 1997. *Lachman's Case Studies in Anatomy, 4th Ed.* Oxford University Press, New York.
- Moore, K. L. and A. F. Dalley. 2006. *Clinically Oriented Anatomy, 5th Ed.* Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore.
- Moore, K. L. 1988. *The Developing Human. Clinically Oriented Embryology, 4th Ed.* Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore.
- Skandalakis, J. E., G. L. Colborn, T. A. Weidman, R. S. Foster, A. N. Kingsnorth, L. J. Skandalakis, N. P. Skandalakis, P. Mirilas (Editors). 2004. *Surgical Anatomy: The Embryologic And Anatomic Basis Of Modern Surgery.* McGraw-Hill, New York.