

Inguinal Canal

The inguinal canal is the passage in the abdominal wall through which the spermatic cord (males) or the round ligament of the uterus (females) passes. In males, this passage marks where the spermatic cord exits the abdomen and enters the scrotum. In females, it ends blindly in the labia majora. Its boundaries, which are commonly referred to as the "floor, ceiling, and walls" are formed by various anatomic structures, which can be remembered by the mnemonic "2MALT": 2 Muscles, 2 Aponeuroses, 2 Ligaments, and 2 Tendons forming the ceiling (located anatomically superiorly), anterior wall, floor (located anatomically inferiorly), and posterior wall respectively.



PLAY PICMONIC

2MALT

[Two-tutu malt liquors](#)

The inguinal canal is the passage in the abdominal wall through which the spermatic cord (males) or the round ligament of the uterus (females) passes. The boundaries of the inguinal canal can be remembered by the mnemonic "2MALT" for 2 muscles, 2 aponeuroses, 2 ligaments, and 2 tendons.

2 Muscles Form the Roof

[Two muscles over the jungle canopy](#)

The "roof" or superior surface of the inguinal canal is formed by two muscles: The Internal oblique and transverse abdominus.

Internal Oblique

[Internal Obelisks](#)

The internal oblique muscle is one of the muscles forming the roof of the inguinal canal.

Transverse Abdominus Muscle

[Train-versus-abs guy](#)

The transverse abdominus muscle helps form the roof of the inguinal canal.

2 Aponeuroses Form the Anterior Wall

[Apple-neurotic-tutu by anteater-wall](#)

The anterior wall of the inguinal canal is formed by the aponeuroses of the external abdominal oblique and internal abdominal oblique muscles.

External and Internal Abdominal Oblique Aponeuroses

[Obelisks inside and outside wall](#)

The anterior wall of the inguinal canal is formed by the external and internal abdominal oblique aponeuroses.

2 Ligaments Form Floor

[2 Ligaments](#)

The lacunar and inguinal ligaments form the floor or anatomically inferior surface of the inguinal canal.

Lacunar Ligament

[Lake-ligament](#)

The lacunar ligament is one of the ligaments that forms the floor of the inguinal canal.

Inguinal Ligament

[iguana-ligament](#)

The inguinal ligament helps form the floor of the inguinal canal.

2 T's Form the Posterior Wall

[Mr T-tutu by post-wall](#)

The posterior wall of the inguinal canal is formed by two T's: Transversalis fascia, and the conjoint Tendon.

Transversalis Fascia

[Train-facial lotion](#)

The transversalis fascia helps form the posterior wall of the inguinal canal.

Conjoint Tendon

[Convict-joint](#)

The conjoint tendon helps form the posterior wall of the inguinal canal.

Deep Ring is Defect in Transversalis Fascia

[Deep-diver-life ring by train-facial lotion](#)

The deep inguinal ring is formed by a defect or hole in the transversalis fascia.

Superficial Ring is Formed by Defect in the External Abdominal Oblique Aponeurosis

[Super-fish-ring by external-obelisk](#)

The superficial inguinal ring is formed by a hole in the external abdominal oblique aponeurosis. In hernias, when intestines protrude through the abdominal cavity and exit through the path of the inguinal canal, they may protrude through the superficial ring. This is in contrast to a direct inguinal hernia, which instead of traveling through the path of the inguinal canal protrudes directly through the abdominal wall.