



Mahidol University
Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital

Neurovascular Anatomy (1): Anterior Circulation Anatomy

Natthapon Rattanathamsakul, MD.
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Contents:

Neurovascular Anatomy

- **Arterial supply of the brain**
 - **Anterior circulation**
 - **Posterior circulation**
- **Arterial supply of the spinal cord**
- **Venous system of the brain**



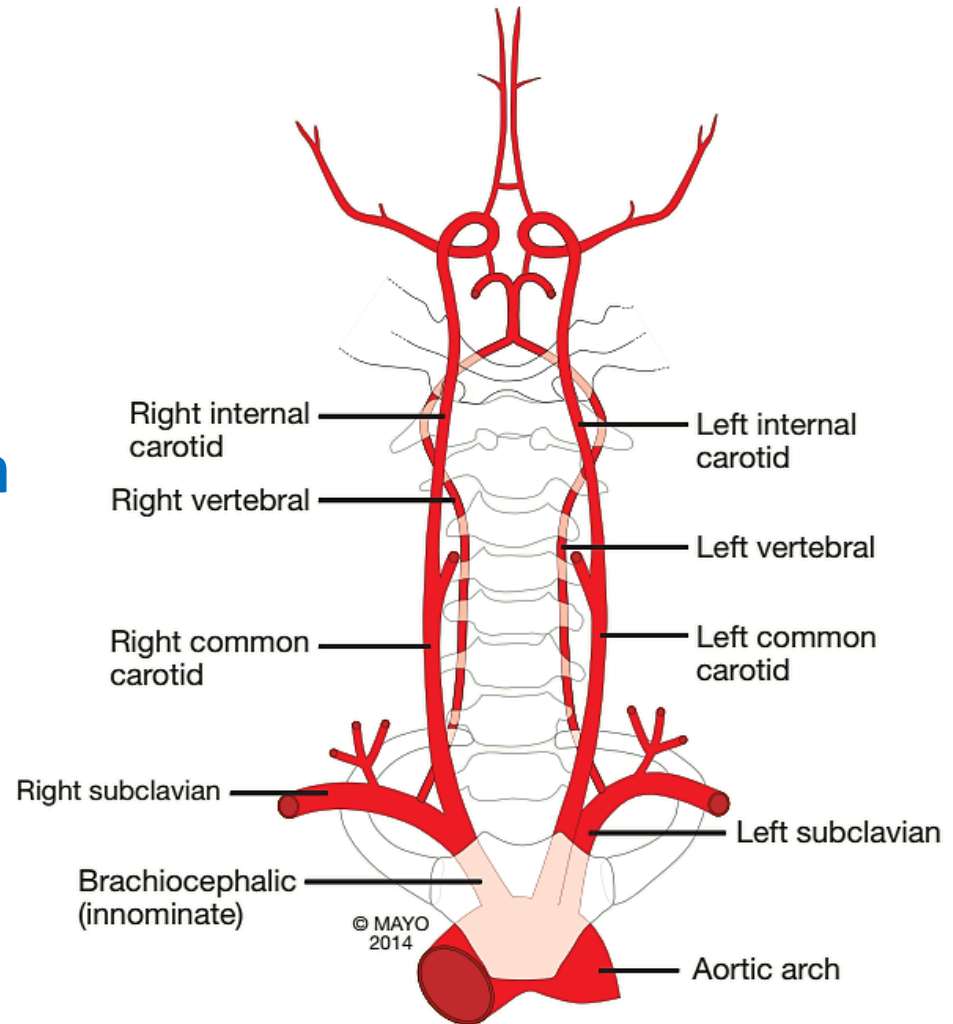
Neurovascular Anatomy (1): Anatomy of the Anterior Circulation

- **Carotid artery system**
- **Ophthalmic artery**
- **Arterial circle of Willis**
- **Arterial territories of the cerebrum**

Cerebral Vasculature

- **Anterior circulation:**
Internal carotid artery
- **Posterior circulation:**
Vertebrobasilar system

- **All originates at the arch of aorta**



Common Carotid Artery

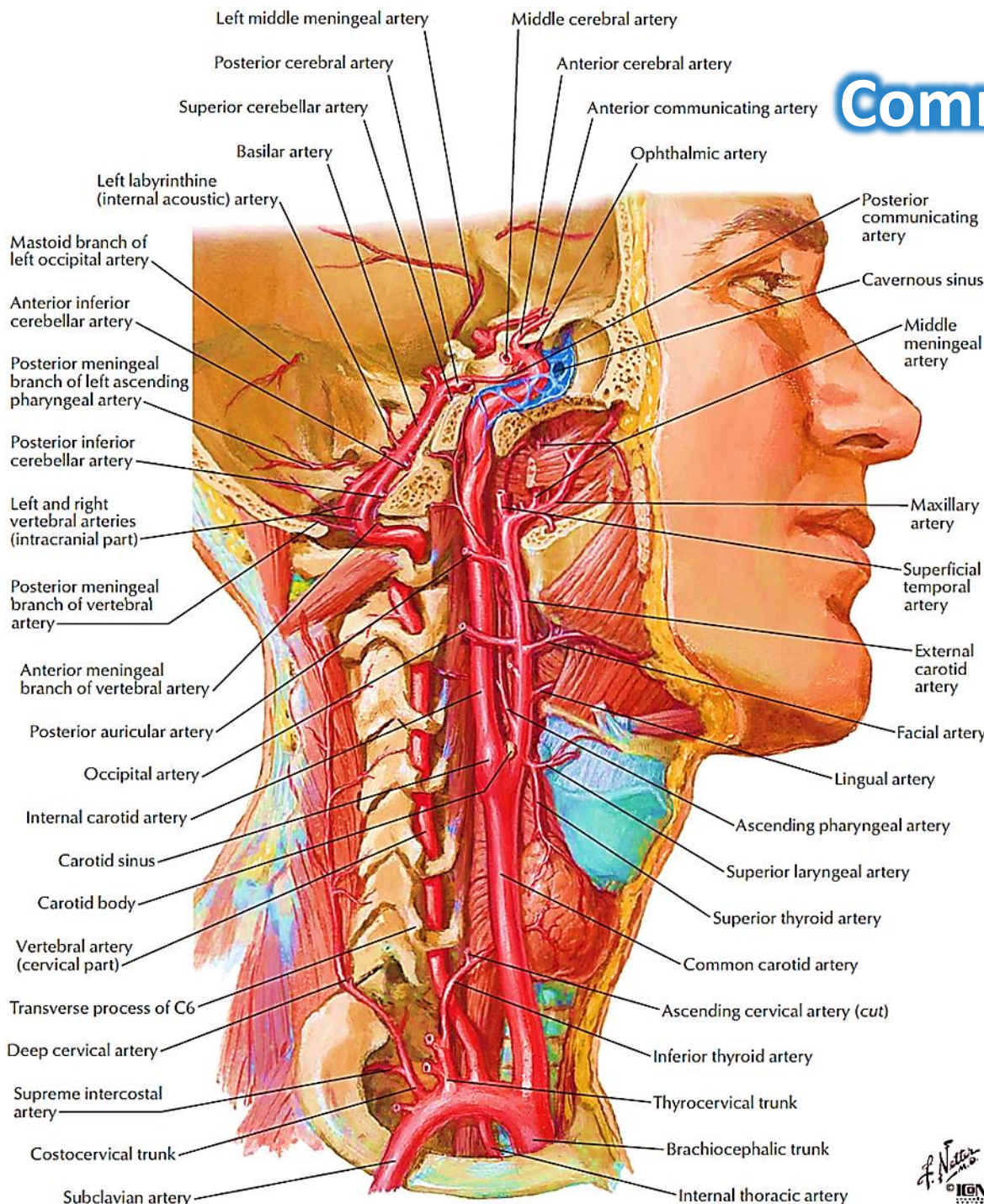
- Carotid bifurcation at the level of C3-4 vertebra or superior border of thyroid cartilage

External carotid artery

Supply the head & neck, except for the brain the eyes

Internal carotid artery

- Supply the brain the eyes
- Enter the skull via the carotid canal



Angiographic Correlation



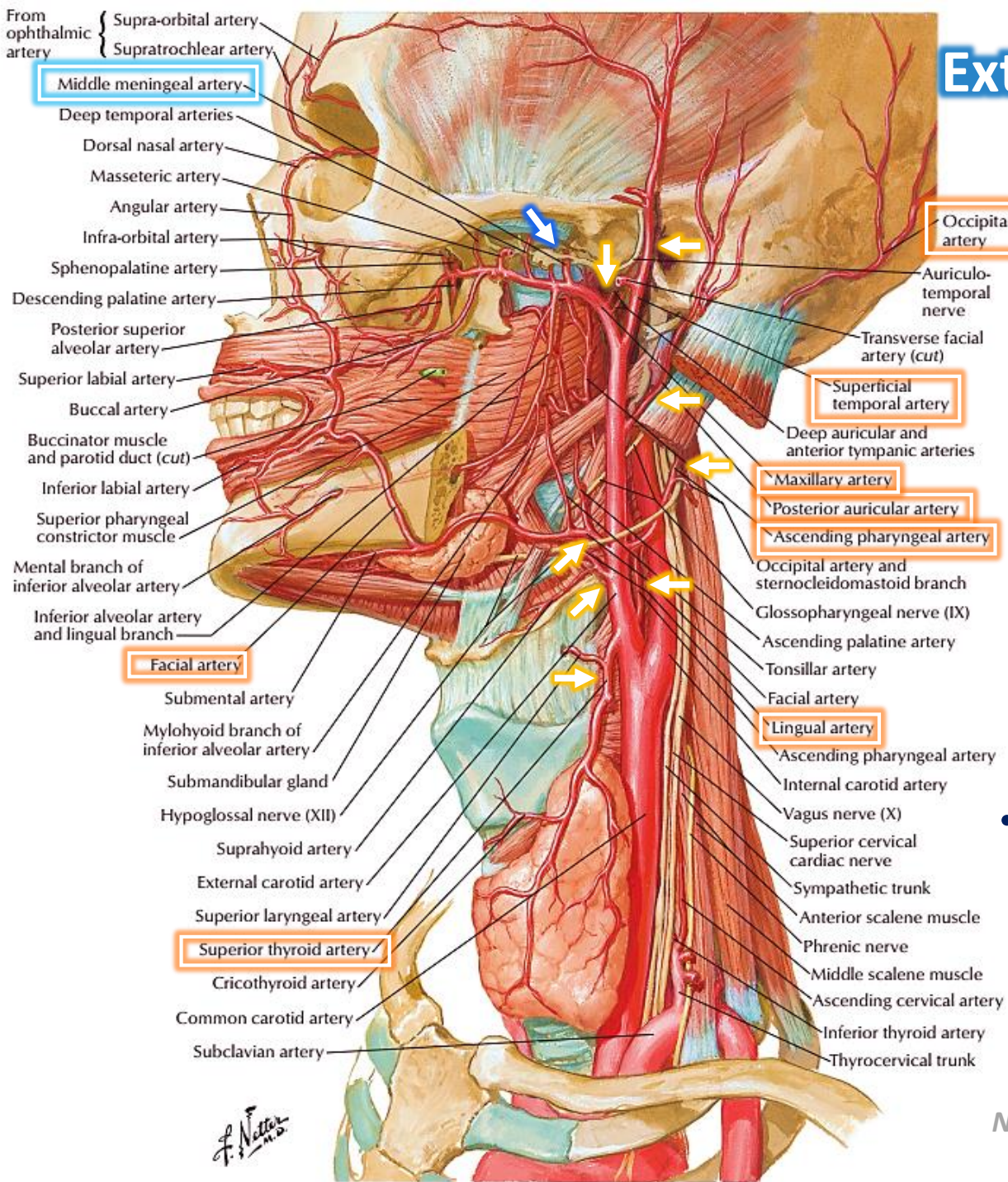
- Right Internal Carotid Artery
- Right External Carotid Artery
- Left Internal Carotid Artery
- Left External Carotid Artery
- Right Common Carotid Artery
- Left Vertebral Artery
- Suprascapular Artery
- Left Internal Mammmary Artery
- Left Common Carotid Artery
- Brachiocephalic Trunk
- Left Subclavian Artery
- Aortic Arch
- Descending Thoracic Aorta

Right
Axillary
Artery

Right
Internal
Mammmary
Artery

Right
Subclavian
Artery

External Carotid Artery

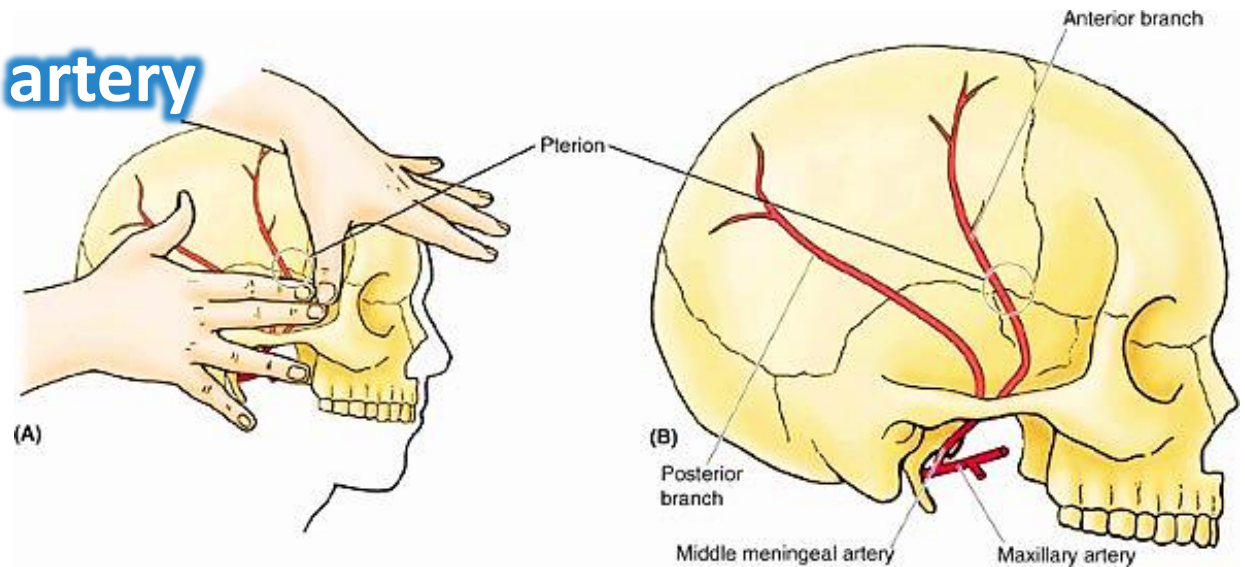


External carotid artery

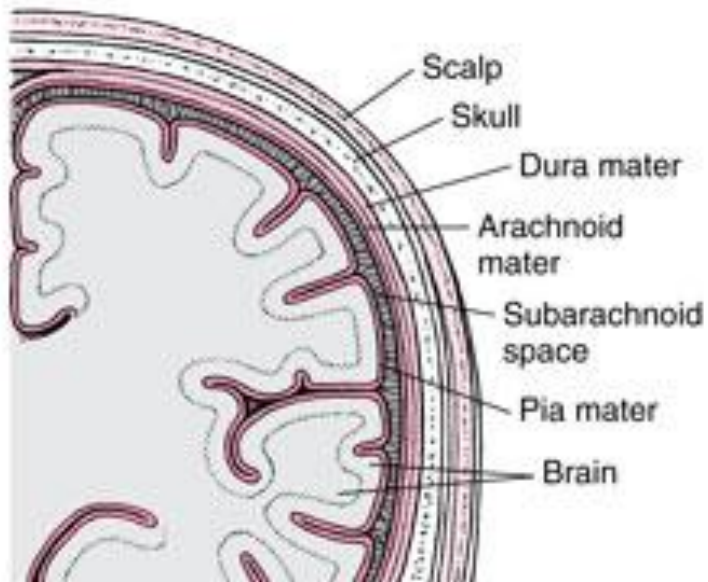
- Superior thyroid artery
- Lingual artery
- Facial artery
- Ascending pharyngeal artery
- Posterior auricular artery
- Occipital artery
- Maxillary artery
- Superficial temporal artery

- Middle meningeal artery – epidural hemorrhage

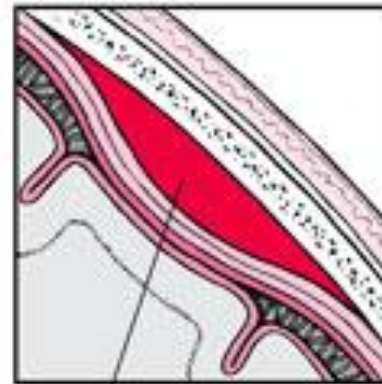
Middle meningeal artery



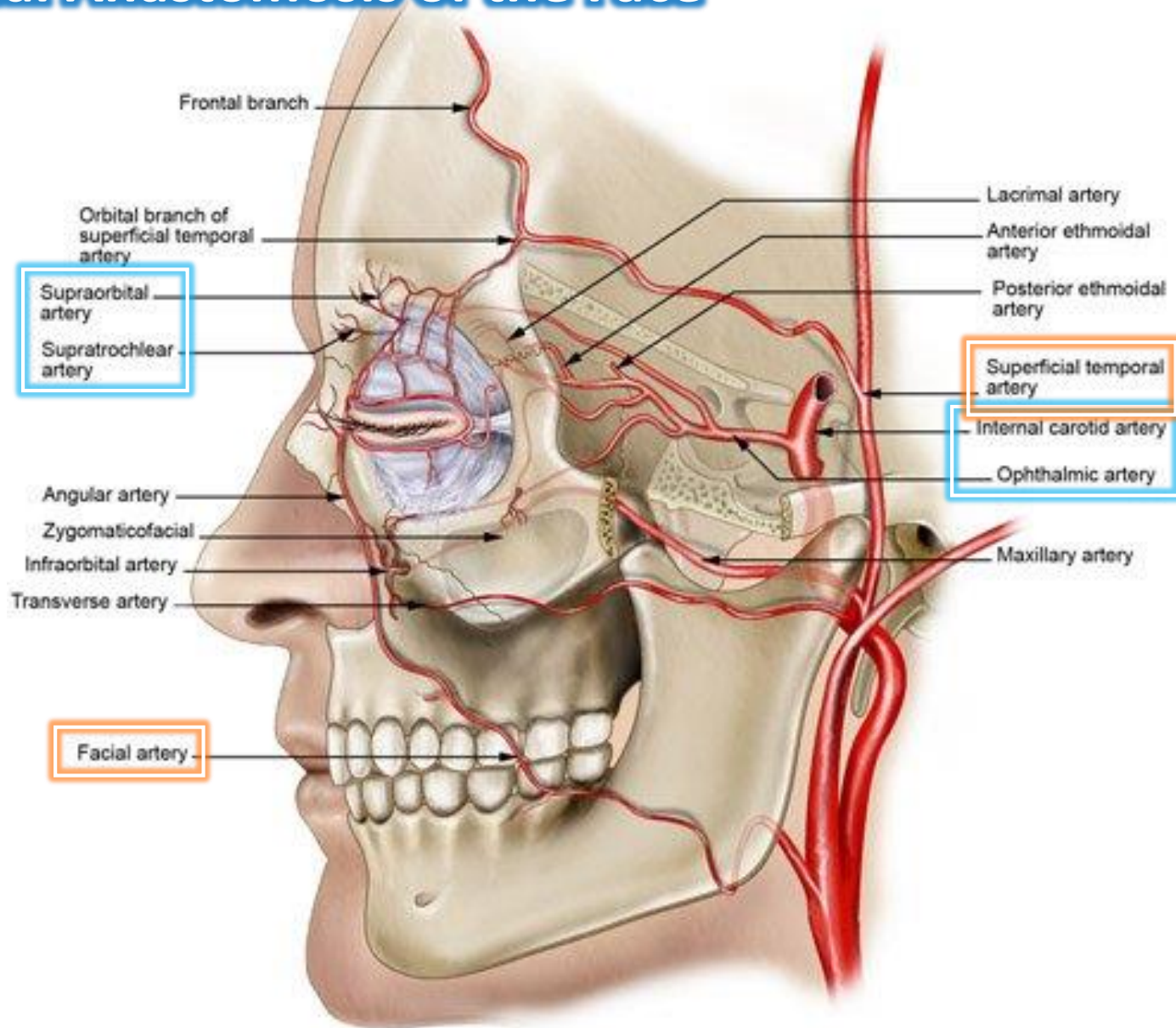
Cross Section of the Brain



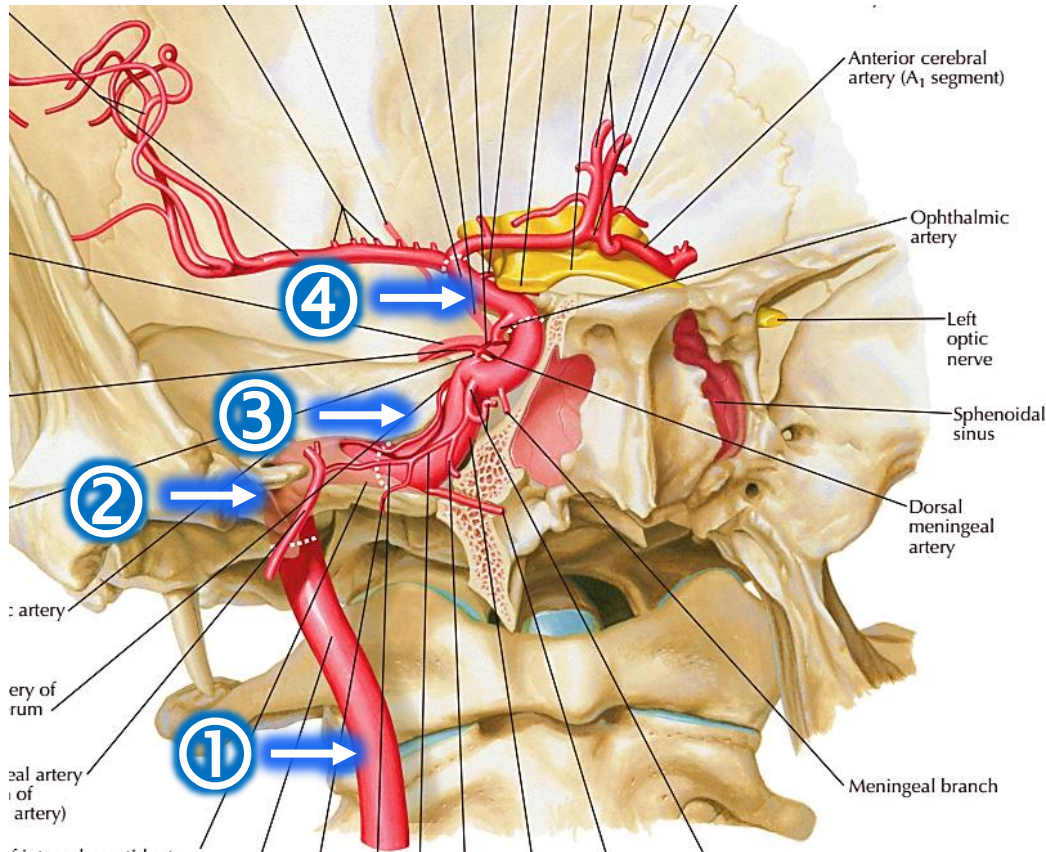
Epidural Hematoma



Arterial Anastomosis of the Face

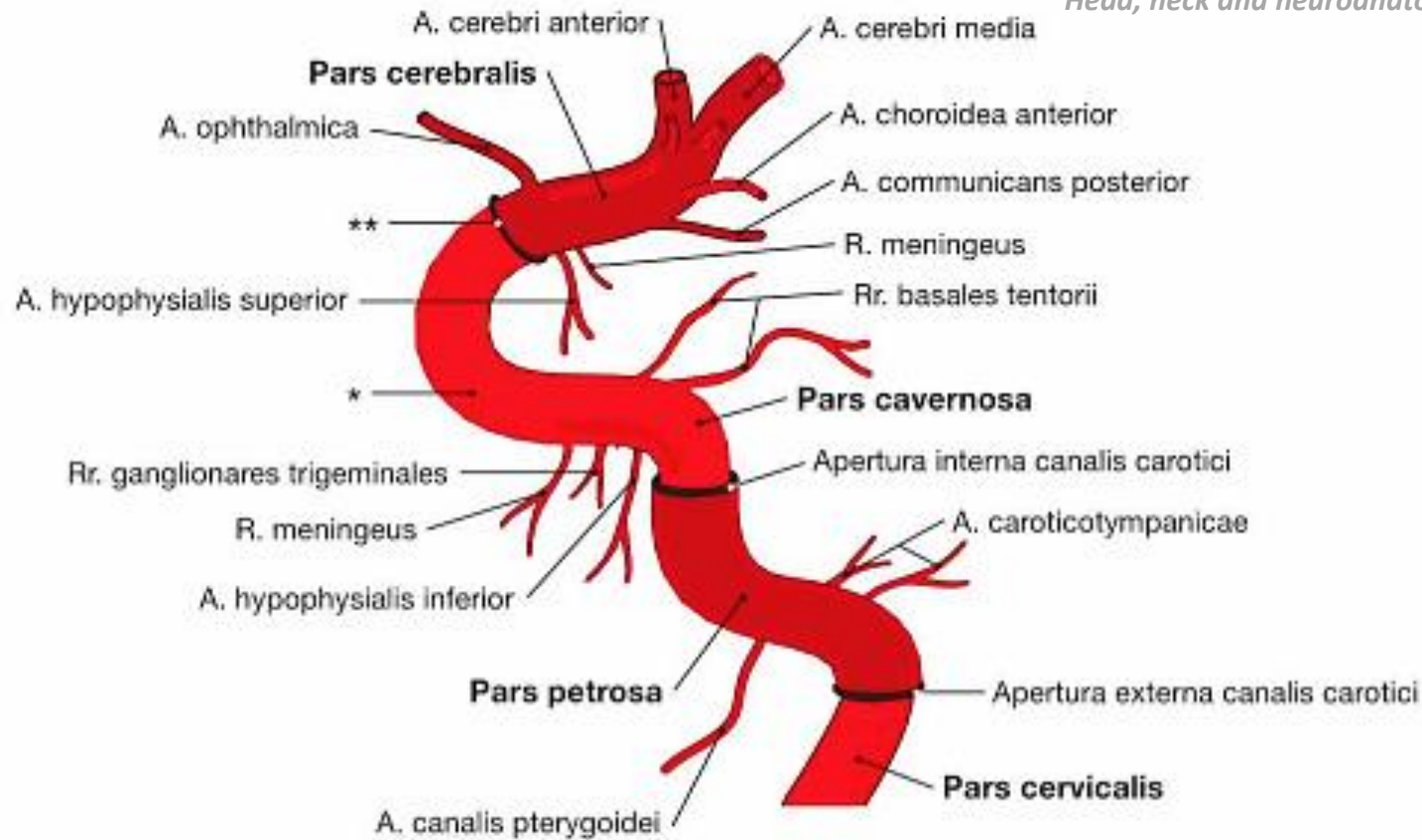


Internal Carotid Artery



4 parts:

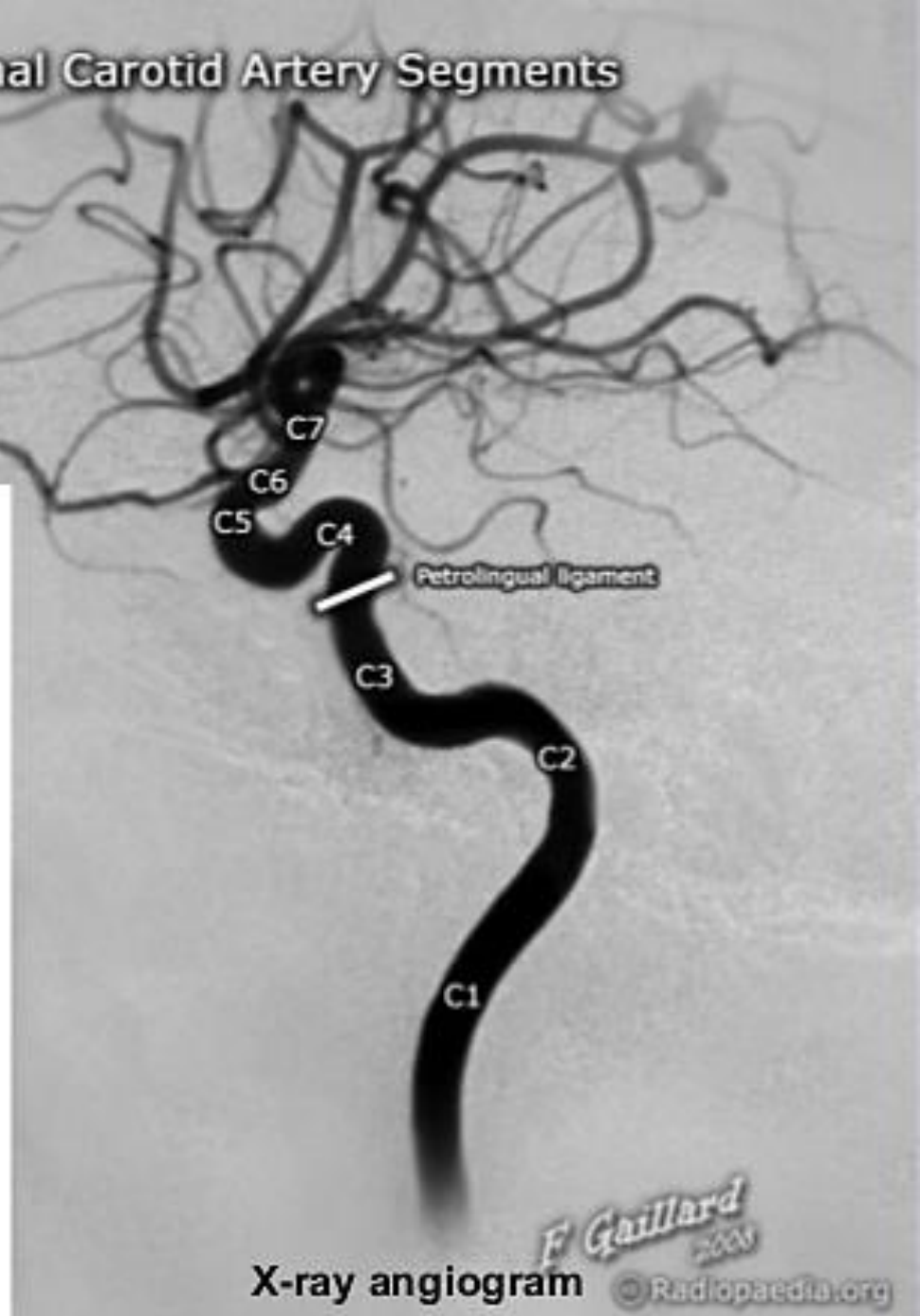
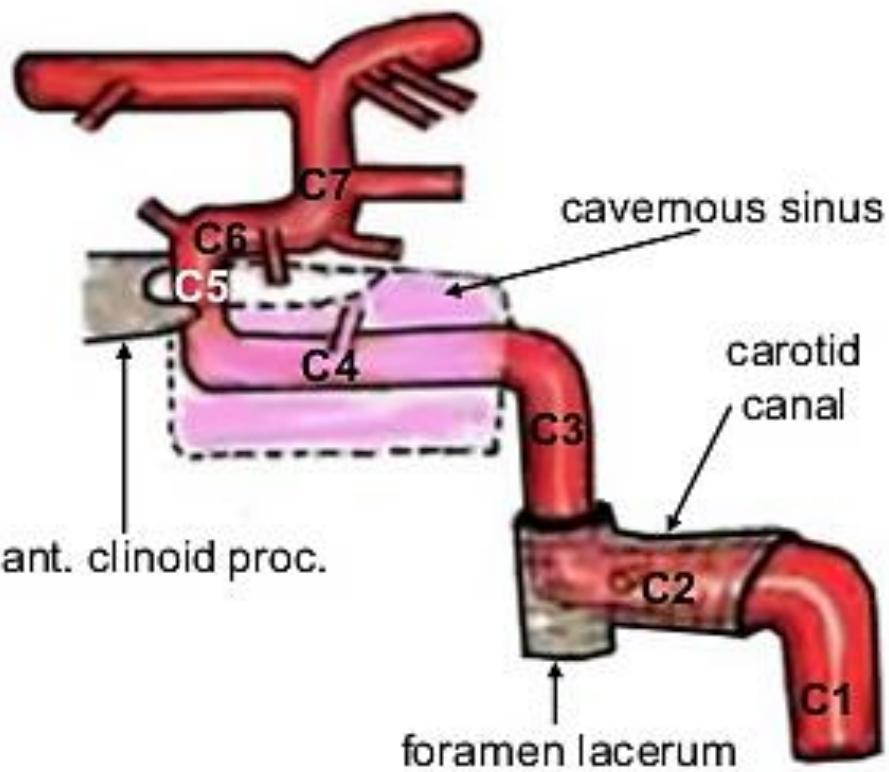
- Cervical part
- Petrous part
- Cavernous part
- Cerebral part (supraclinoid)



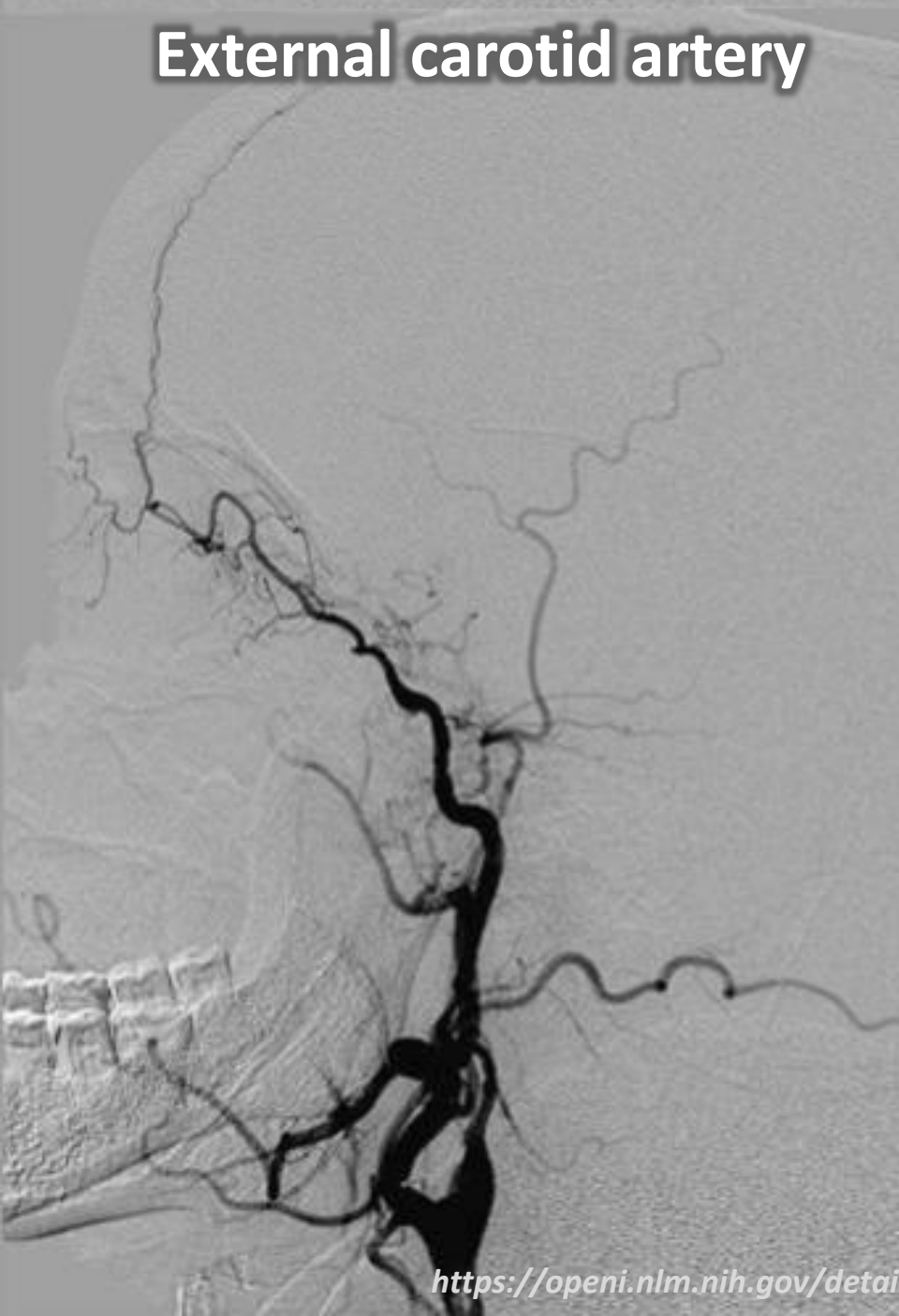
Segments	Branches
Cervical	No branch
Petrous	Artery of pterygoid canal (vidian a.), caroticotympanic artery
Cavernous	Meningohypophyseal trunk, inferolateral trunk, capsular artery
Supraclinoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ophthalmic part – ophthalmic artery, superior hypophyseal artery • Communicating part – posterior communicating & anterior choroidal arteries • Terminal branches – anterior & middle cerebral arteries (ACA, MCA)

- C1 - cervical
- C2 - petrous
- C3 - lacerum
- C4 - cavernous
- C5 - clinoid
- C6 - ophthalmic
- C7 - communicating

Internal Carotid Artery Segments



External carotid artery



Internal carotid artery



Fig. 5.2 Lateral view following common carotid artery injection. Non-filling of the middle cerebral artery from atherosclerotic occlusion allows unobtrusive view of the anterior cerebral artery territory.

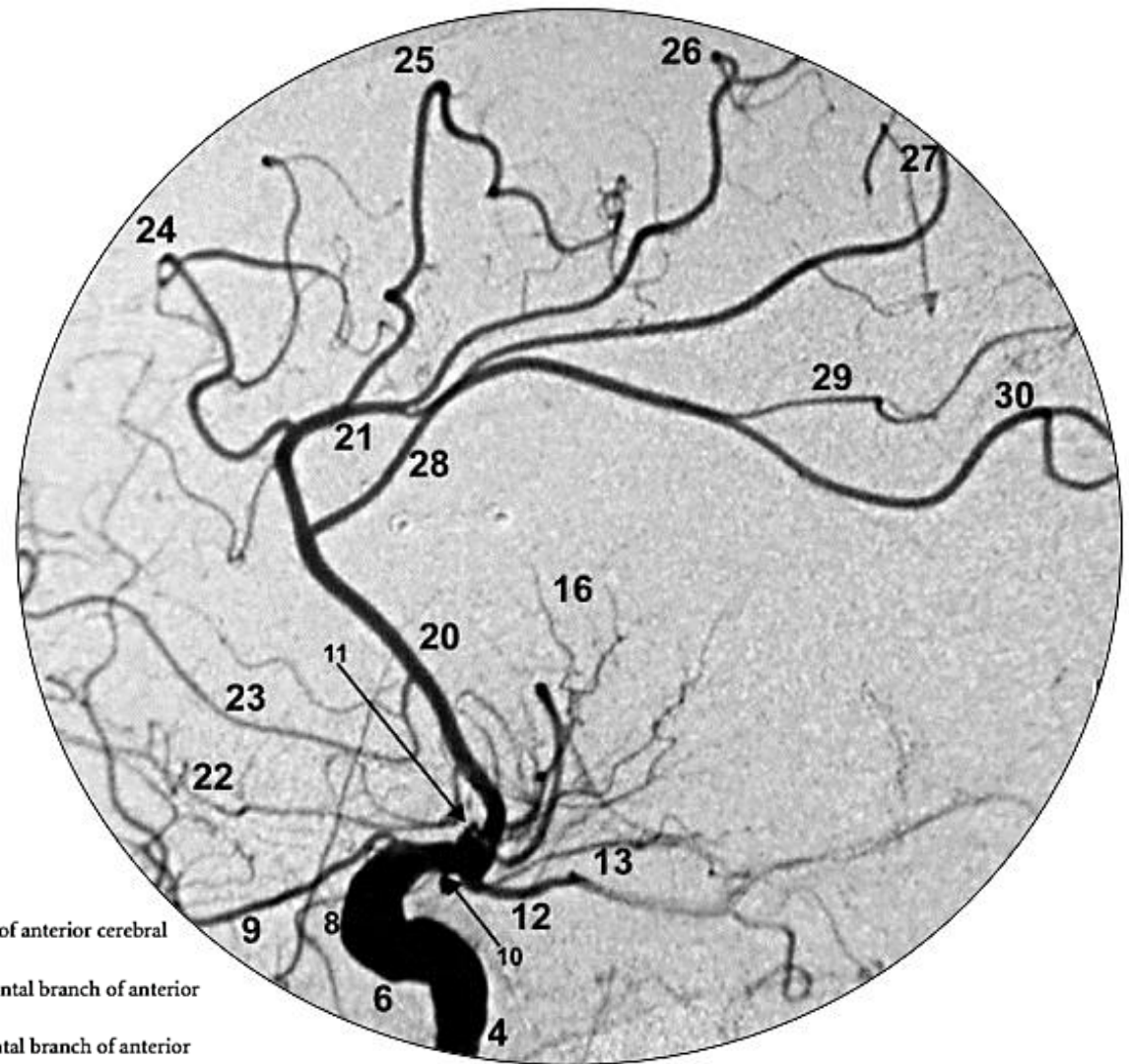
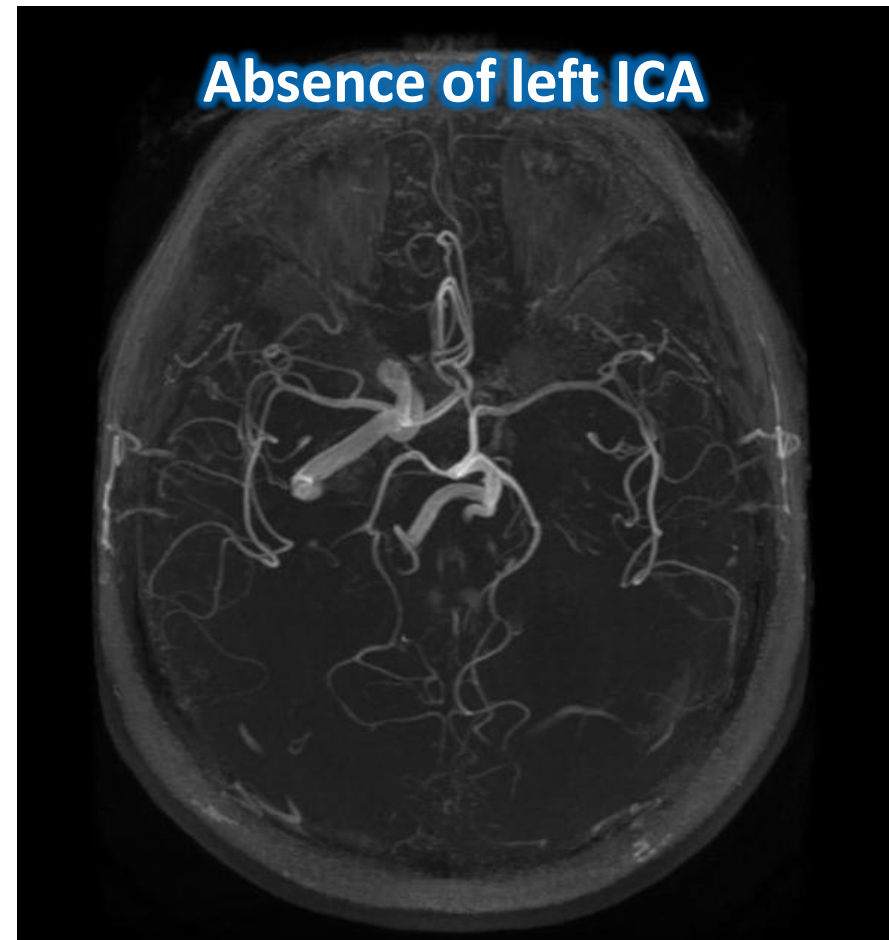


FIGURE KEY

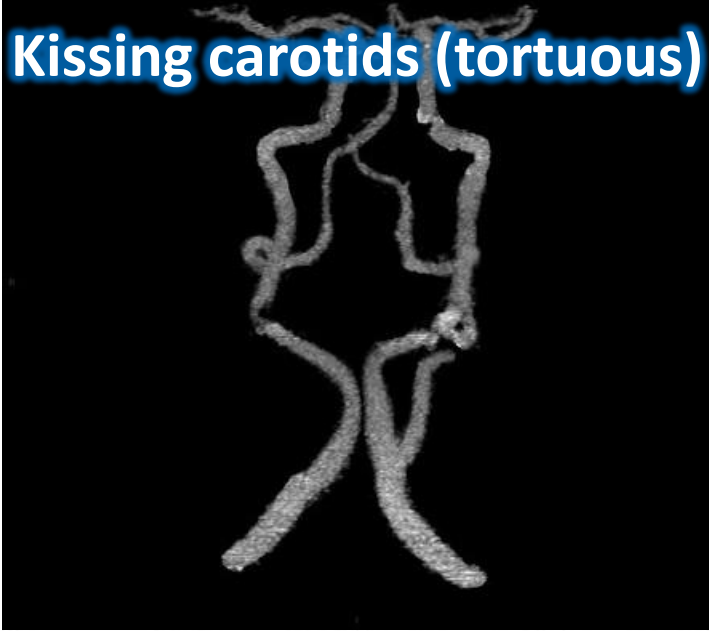
- | | |
|--|--|
| 4 presellar (Fischer C5) segment internal carotid artery | 23 frontopolar branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 6 horizontal (Fischer C4) intracavernous internal carotid artery | 24 anterior internal frontal branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 8 anterior genu (Fischer C3) intracavernous internal carotid artery | 25 middle internal frontal branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 9 ophthalmic artery | 26 posterior internal frontal branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 10 & 11 proximal and distal supraclinoid segment internal carotid artery | 27 paracentral lobule artery branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 12 posterior communicating artery | 28 pericallosal branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 13 anterior choroidal artery | 29 superior internal parietal branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 16 medial lenticulostriate arteries | 30 inferior internal parietal branch of anterior cerebral artery |
| 21 callosomarginal branch of anterior cerebral artery | |
| 22 orbitofrontal branch of anterior cerebral artery | |

Variation of ICA

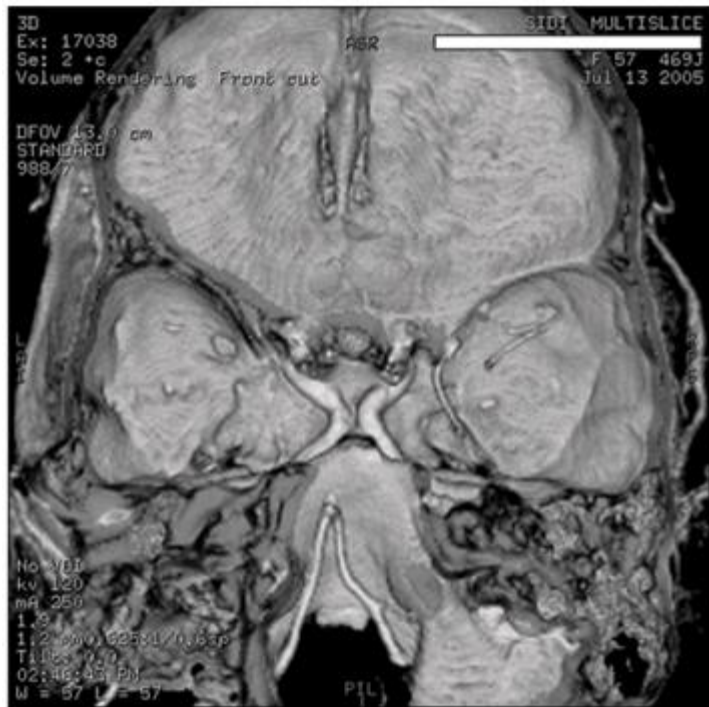
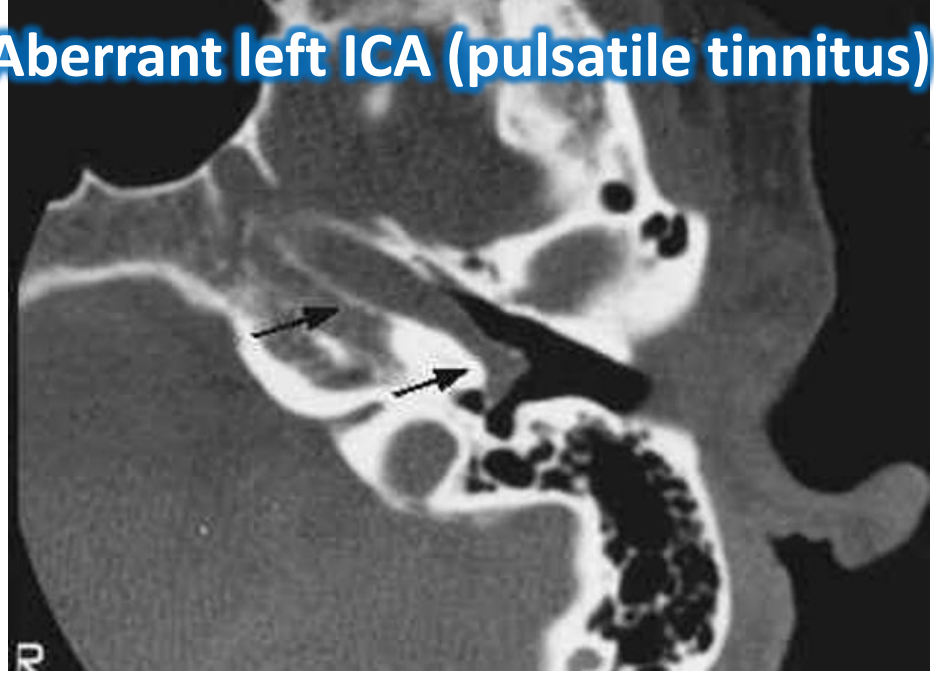
- **Mostly arise between C3-C5 level**
 - C3/4 34.2%, C4/5 48.1%
- **Asymmetry of bifurcation**
 - Left higher 50%, right higher 22%, same level 28%
- **Variations**
 - Aberrant ICA
 - Congenital absence of ICA
 - Retropharyngeal ICA (rare)
 - Kissing carotids
 - Persistent carotid-vertebrobasilar anastomoses
 - Lateralised ICA



Kissing carotids (tortuous)



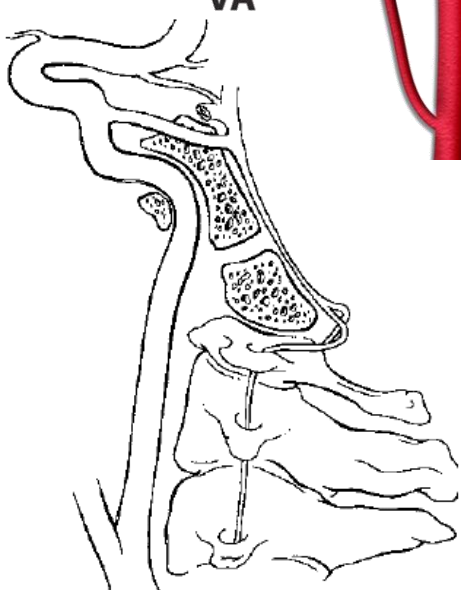
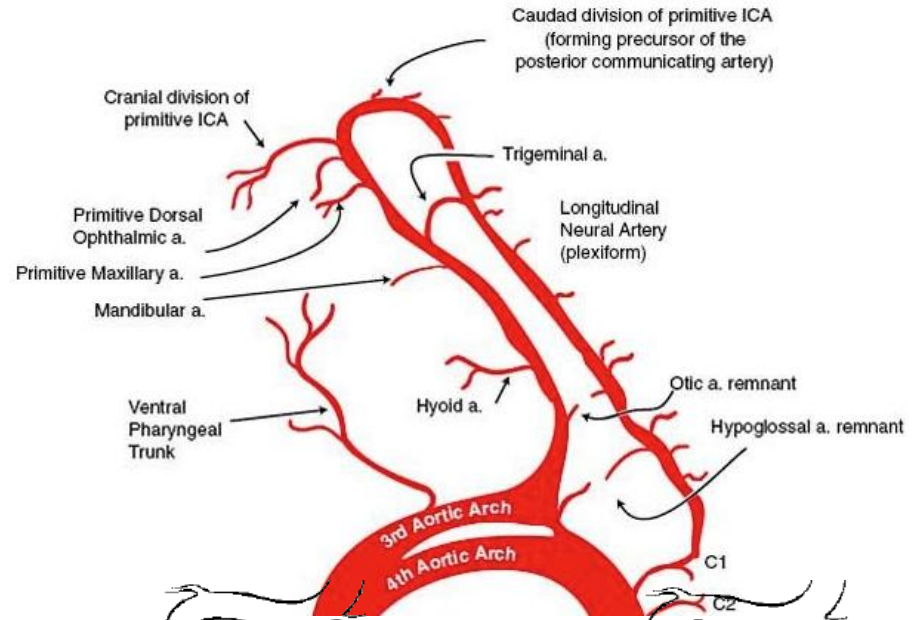
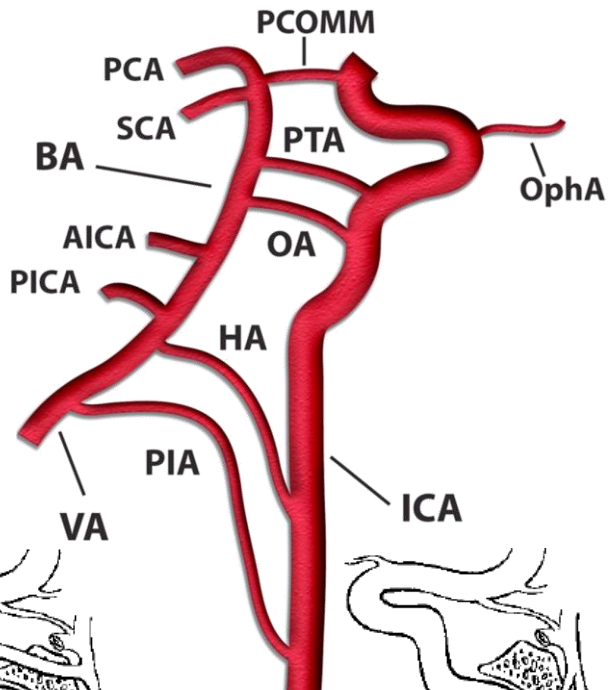
Aberrant left ICA (pulsatile tinnitus)



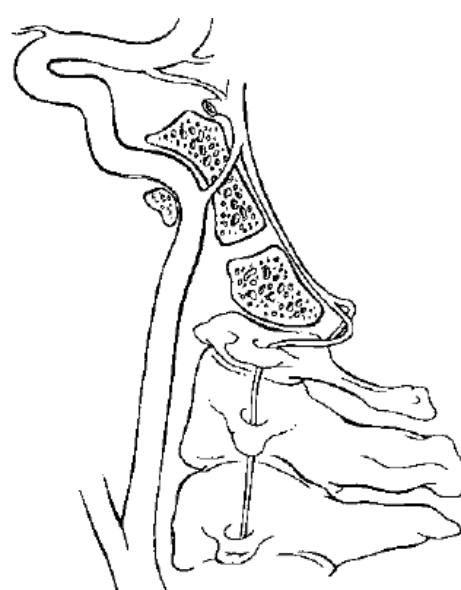
Persistent carotid-vertebrobasilar anastomoses

Fig 3. CTA – 3D Reconstruction (Axial View): Intracranial intrasellar kissing carotid arteries.

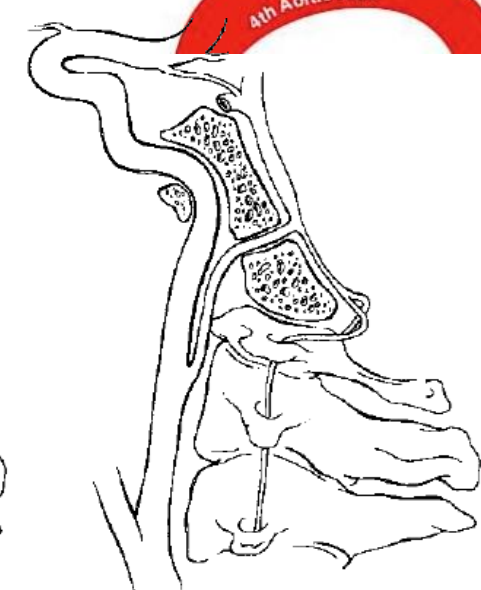
Persistent Carotid-Vertebrobasilar Anastomoses



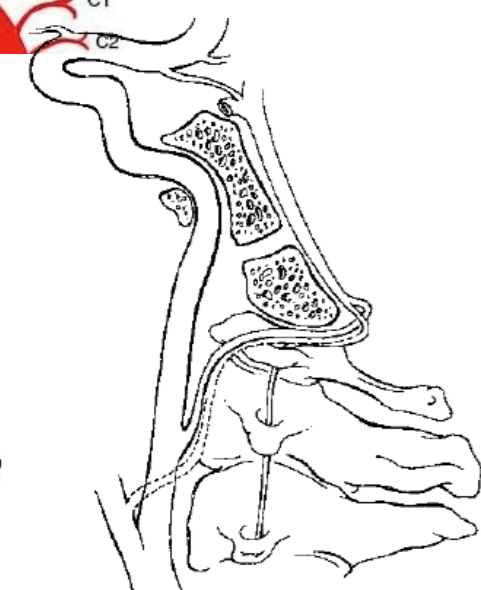
Persistent Trigeminal Artery



Persistent Otic aArtery

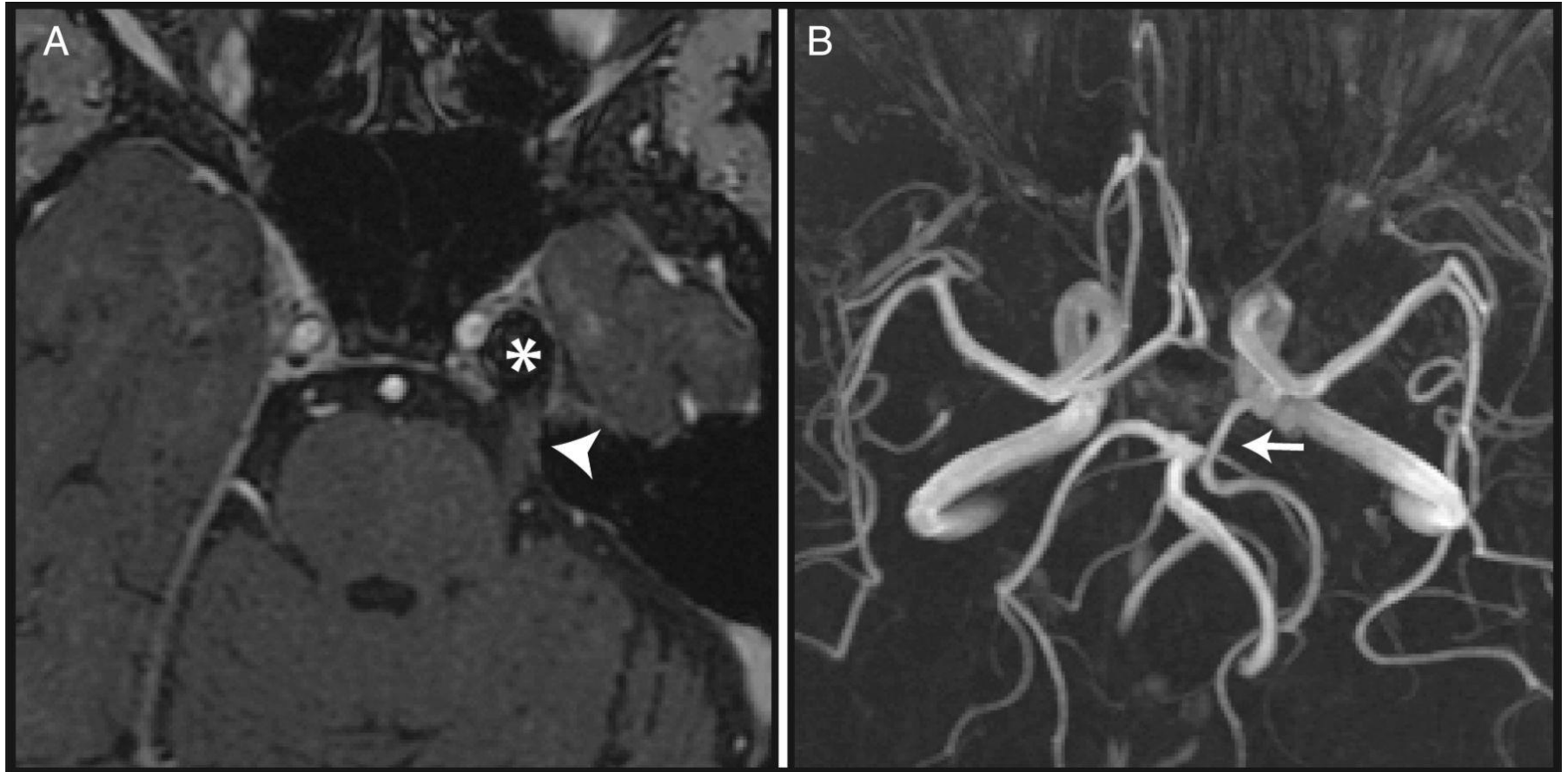


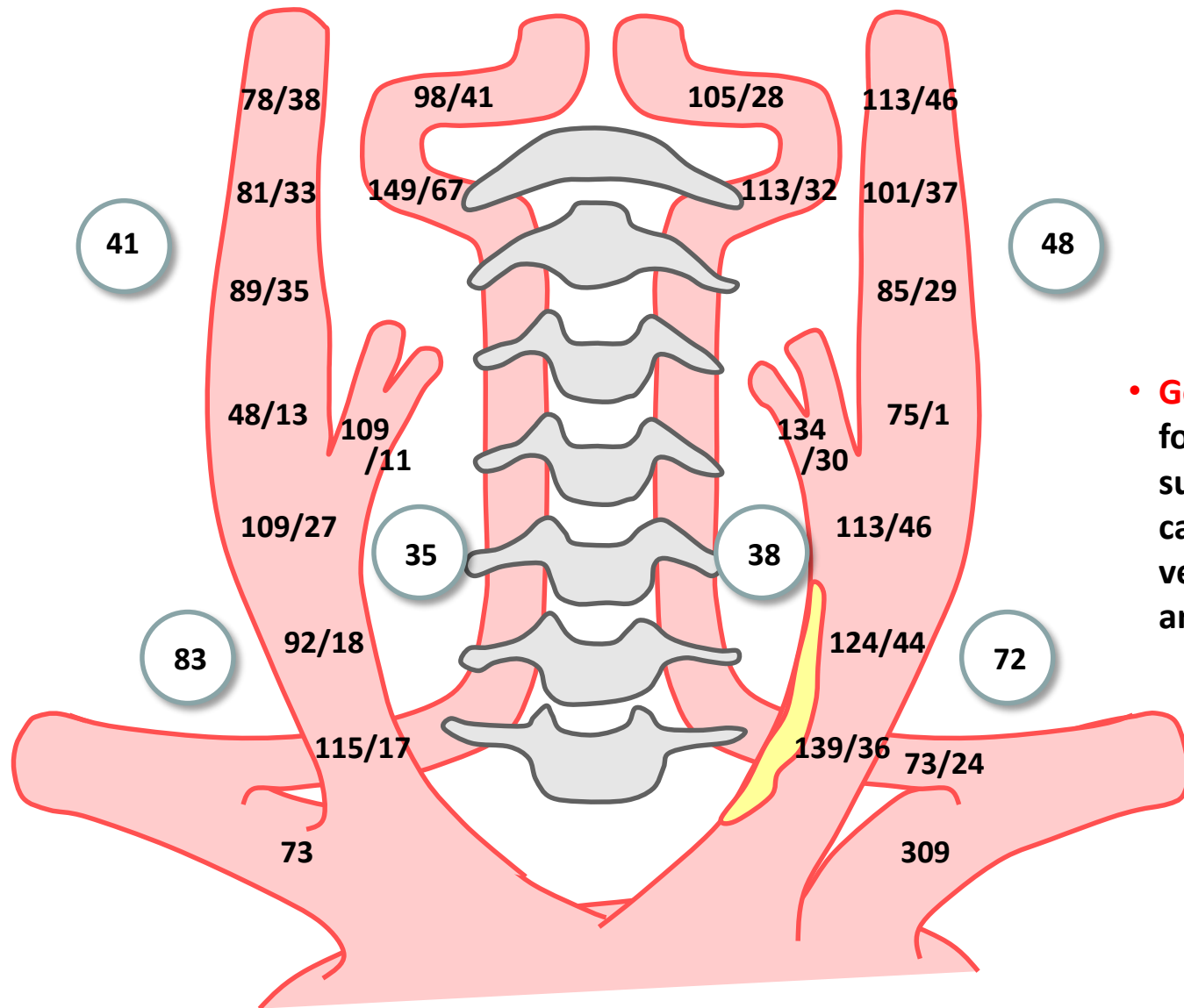
Persistent Hypoglossal Artery



Proatlantal Intersegmental Artery

Persistent Trigeminal Artery

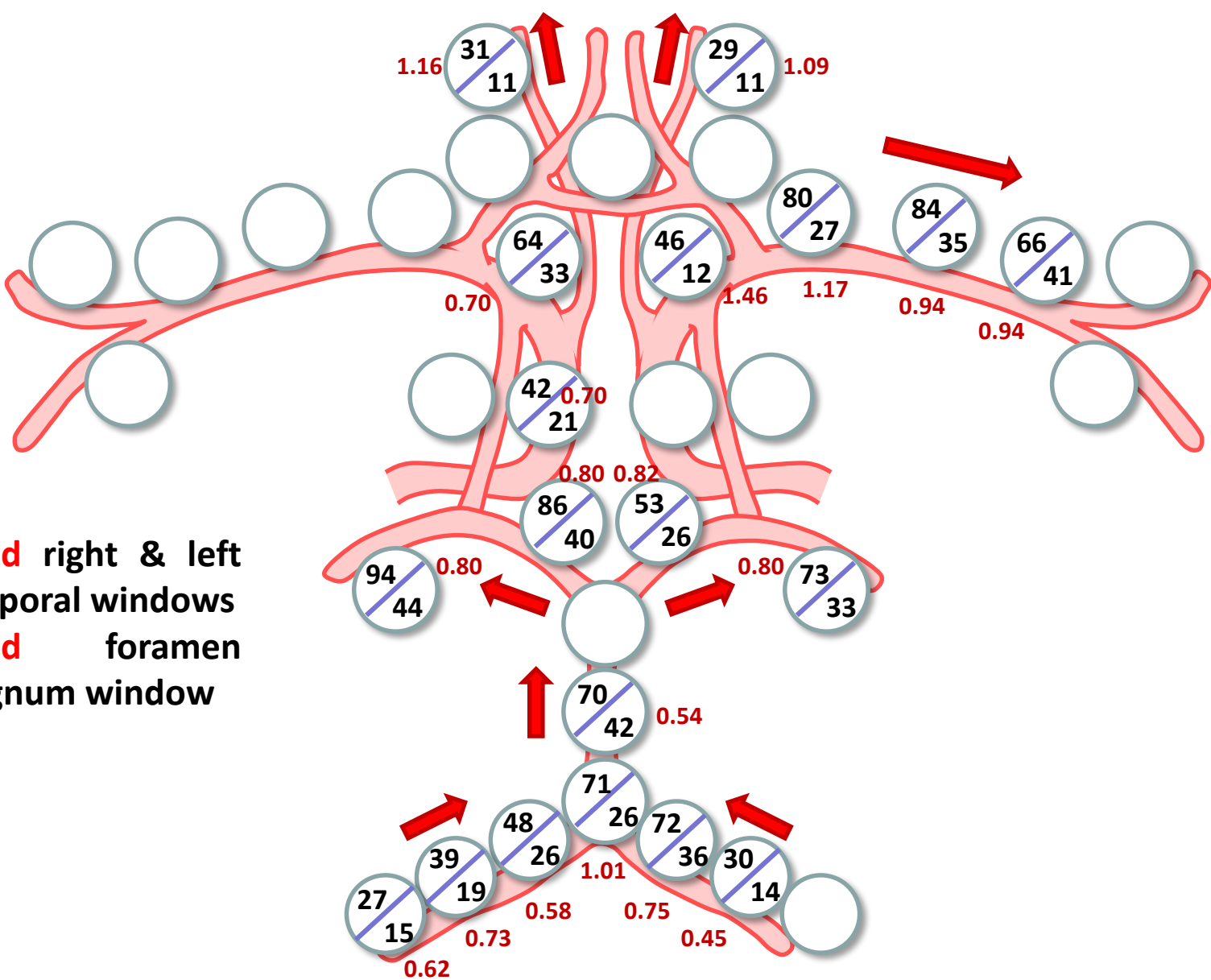




- **Good** windows for right & left subclavian, carotid and vertebral artery system

No hemodynamically significant stenosis in right and left carotid arteries and right and left extracranial vertebral arteries

TCCD



- **Good** right & left temporal windows
- **Good** foramen magnum window

No hemodynamically significant stenosis in terminal right & left ICA, left MCA, right & left PCA, right V4 & left V4 and BA. The near occlusion of total occlusion of right MCA should be considered.

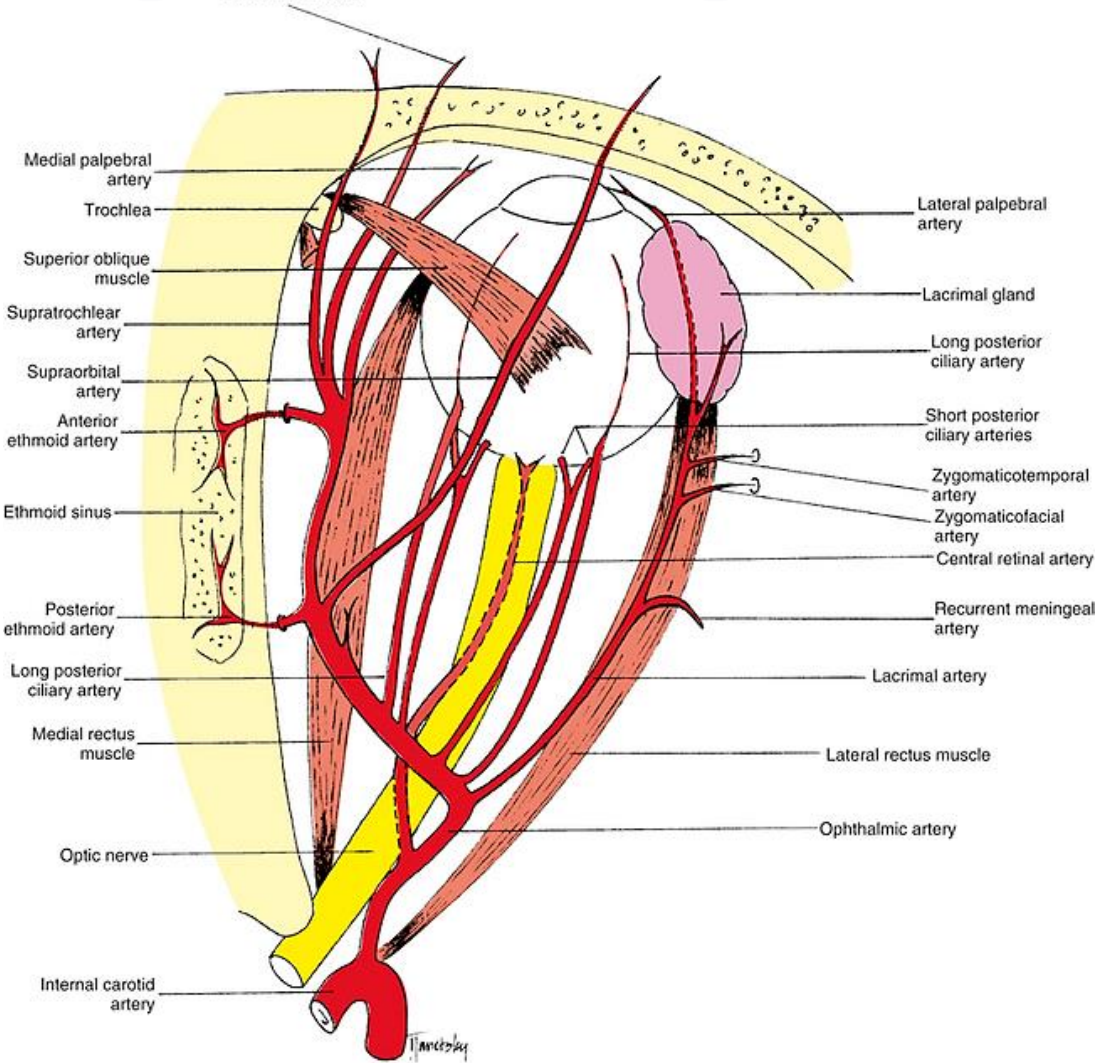


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Ophthalmic Artery

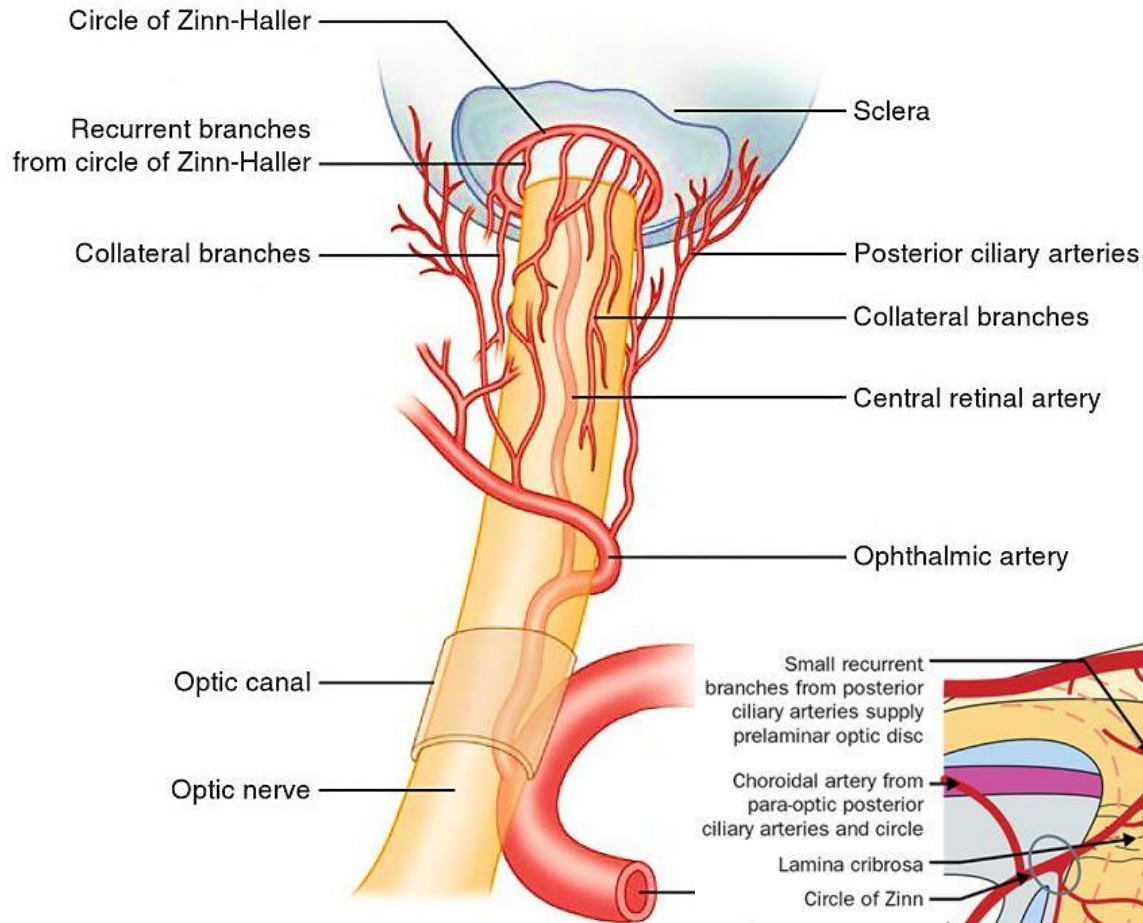
Dorsonasal artery



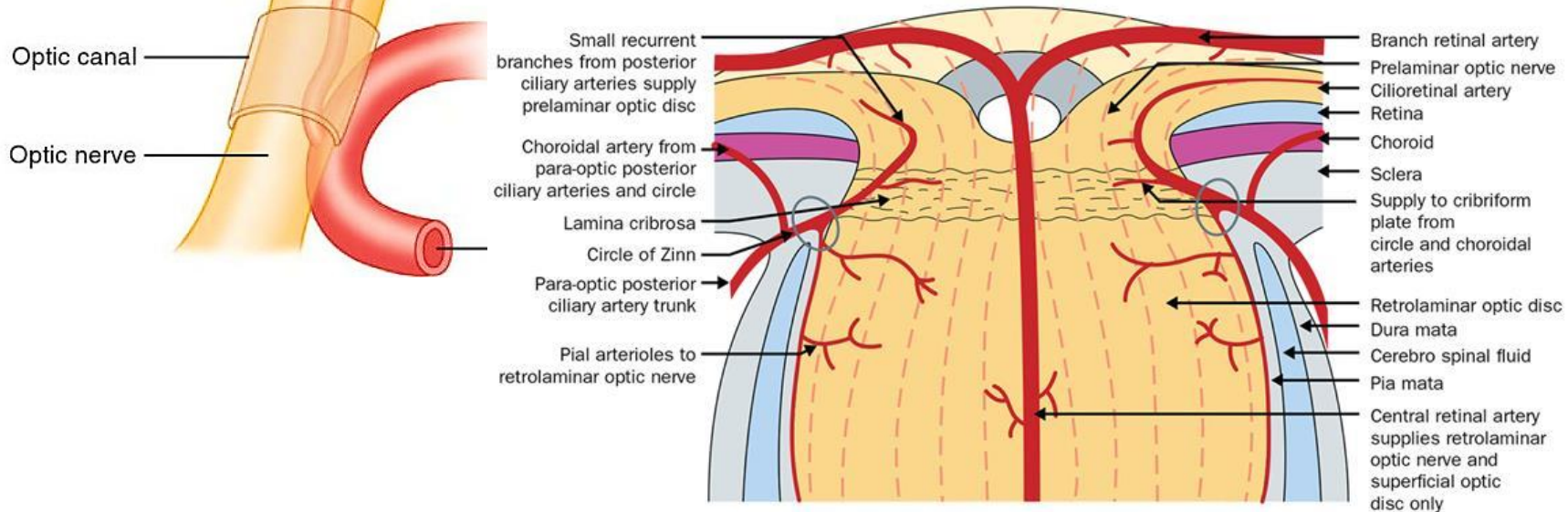
Branches of ophthalmic artery

- **Central retinal artery****
- **Long & short posterior ciliary arteries****
- **Supratrochlear artery****
- **Supraorbital artery****
- **Lacrimal artery**
- **Anterior & posterior ethmoidal arteries**
- **Etc.**

Ophthalmic Artery



- **Central retinal artery – supply most part of the retina**
- **Posterior ciliary artery – supply choroid plexus and macula lutea (forming circle of Zinn-Haller)**

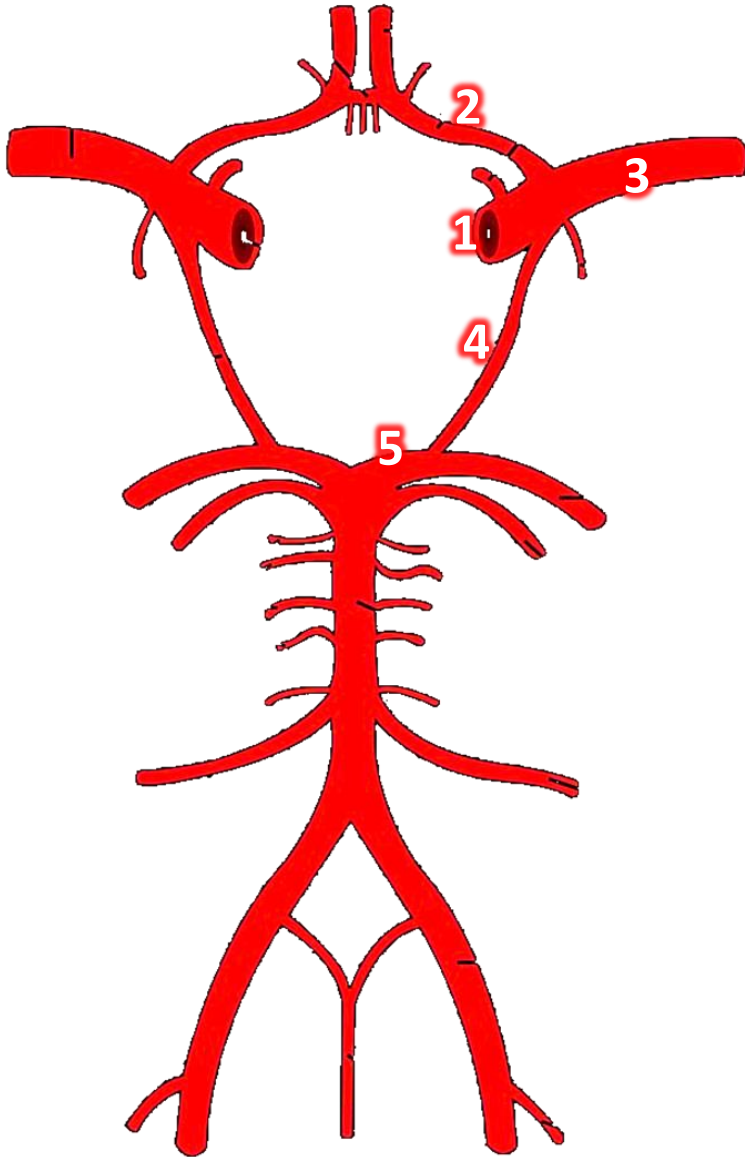




Neurovascular Anatomy (1): Anatomy of the Anterior Circulation

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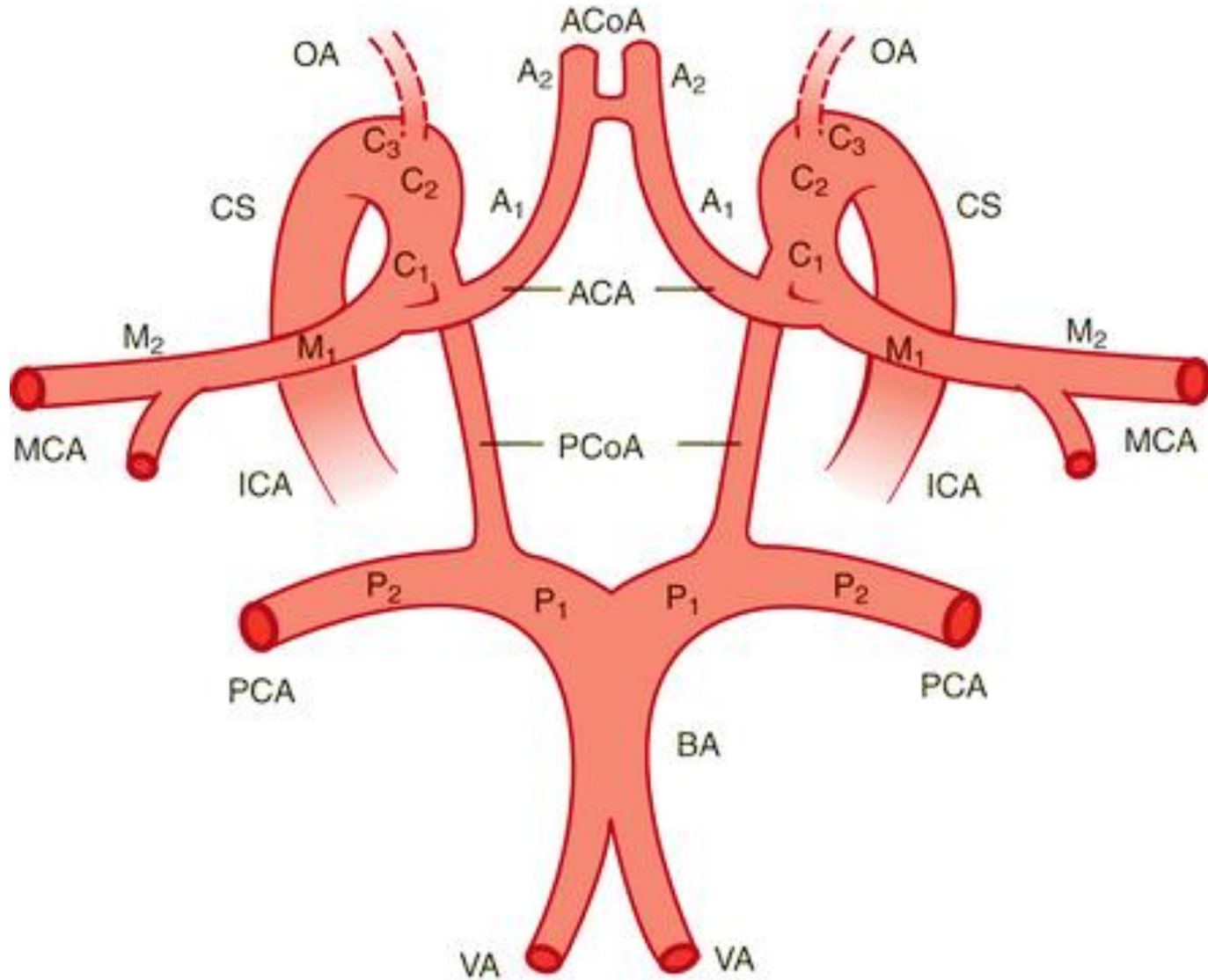
Arterial Circle of Willis



Item	
1	Internal carotid artery (supraclinoid part)
2	Anterior cerebral artery
3	Middle cerebral artery
4	Posterior communicating artery
5	Posterior cerebral artery

Segments of the Arterial Circle

Carotid siphon



Variations of Arterial Circle of Willis

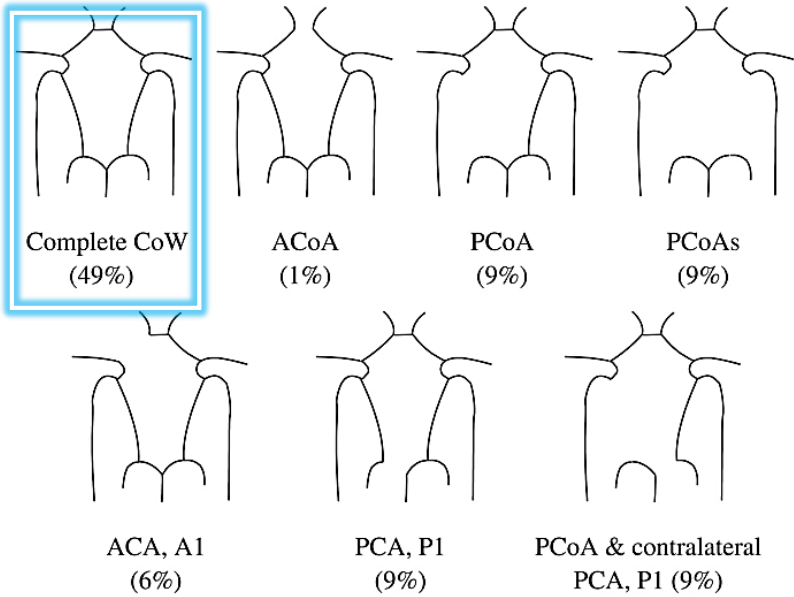


Figure 1 Some common variations of the Circle of Willis [48].

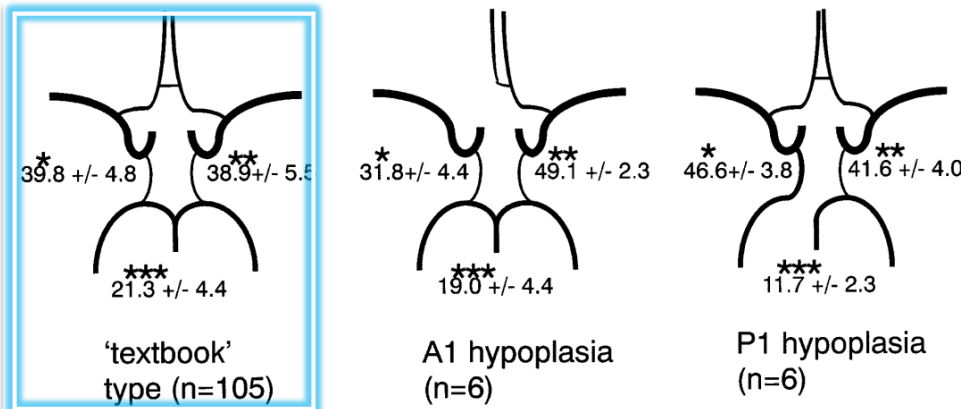


Fig 3. Relative contribution of proximal arteries to total volume flow in variations in the circle of Willis. Values signify mean percentage \pm SD. The upper left value corresponds to the relative contribution of the right internal carotid artery in the "textbook" type or of the internal carotid artery ipsilateral to hypoplastic A1 or P1 in the other variations. The upper right value corresponds to the relative contribution of the left internal carotid artery in the "textbook" type, or of the internal carotid artery contralateral to hypoplastic A1 or P1 in the other variations. The value at the bottom corresponds to the relative contribution of the basilar artery.

* The value for A1 hypoplasia variation was significantly smaller than those for "textbook" type and P1 hypoplasia variation. The value for P1 hypoplasia variation was significantly larger than that for "textbook" type.

** The value for A1 hypoplasia variation was significantly larger than that for "textbook" type.

*** The value for P1 hypoplasia variation was significantly smaller than that for "textbook" type.

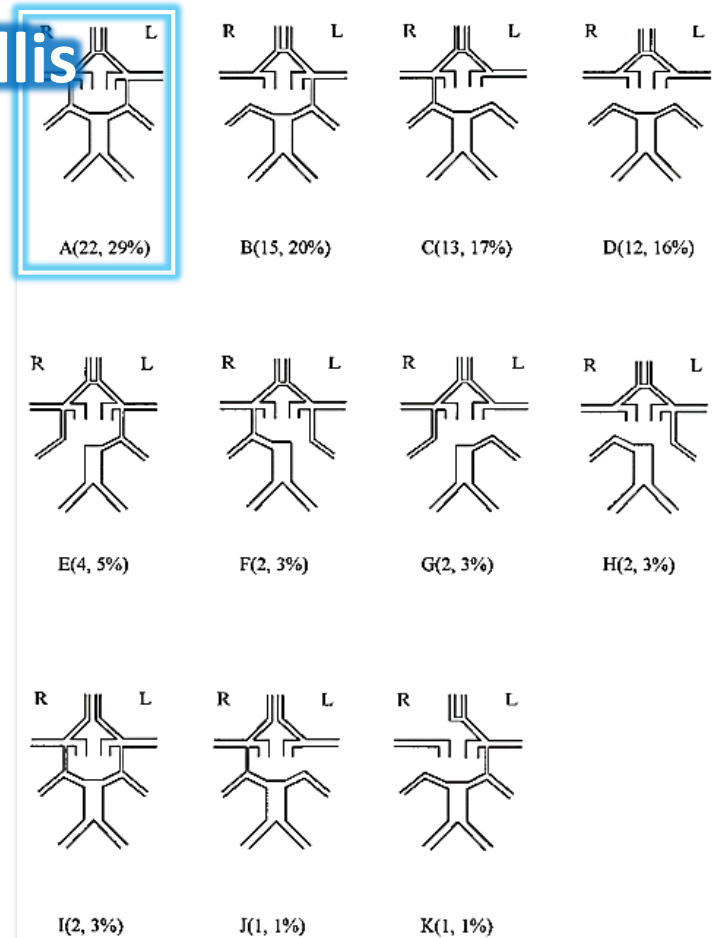


Figure 3. Schematic drawings of the collateral variations found in the circle of Willis in the present study. Numbers and percentages of patients are shown in parentheses for the following conditions: A, complete circle; B, hypofunctional right PcoA; C, hypofunctional left PcoA; D, bilateral hypofunctional PcoAs; E, fetal right posterior cerebral artery; F, fetal left posterior cerebral artery; G, hypofunctional left PcoA and fetal right posterior cerebral artery; H, hypofunctional right PcoA and fetal left posterior cerebral artery; I, hypofunctional AcoA; J, hypofunctional AcoA and hypofunctional left PcoA; and K, hypoplasia right A1 and hypofunctional right PcoA. R indicates right; L, left.

Arterial Circle of Willis

Cortical branches

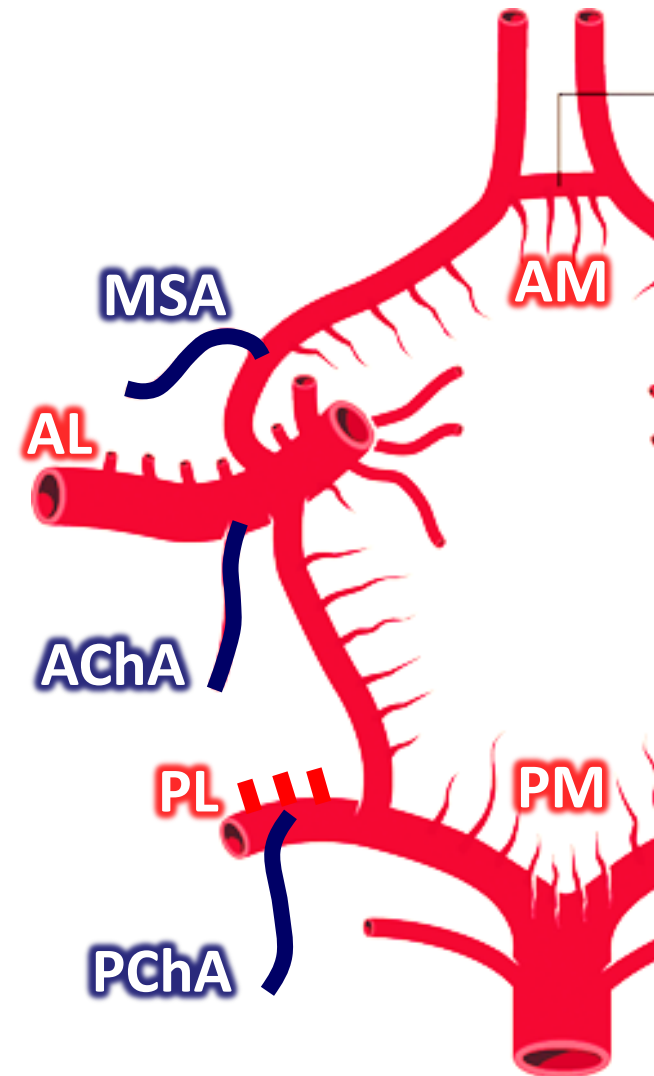
- Anterior cerebral artery (ACA)
- Middle cerebral artery (MCA)
- Posterior cerebral artery (PCA)

Circumferential branches

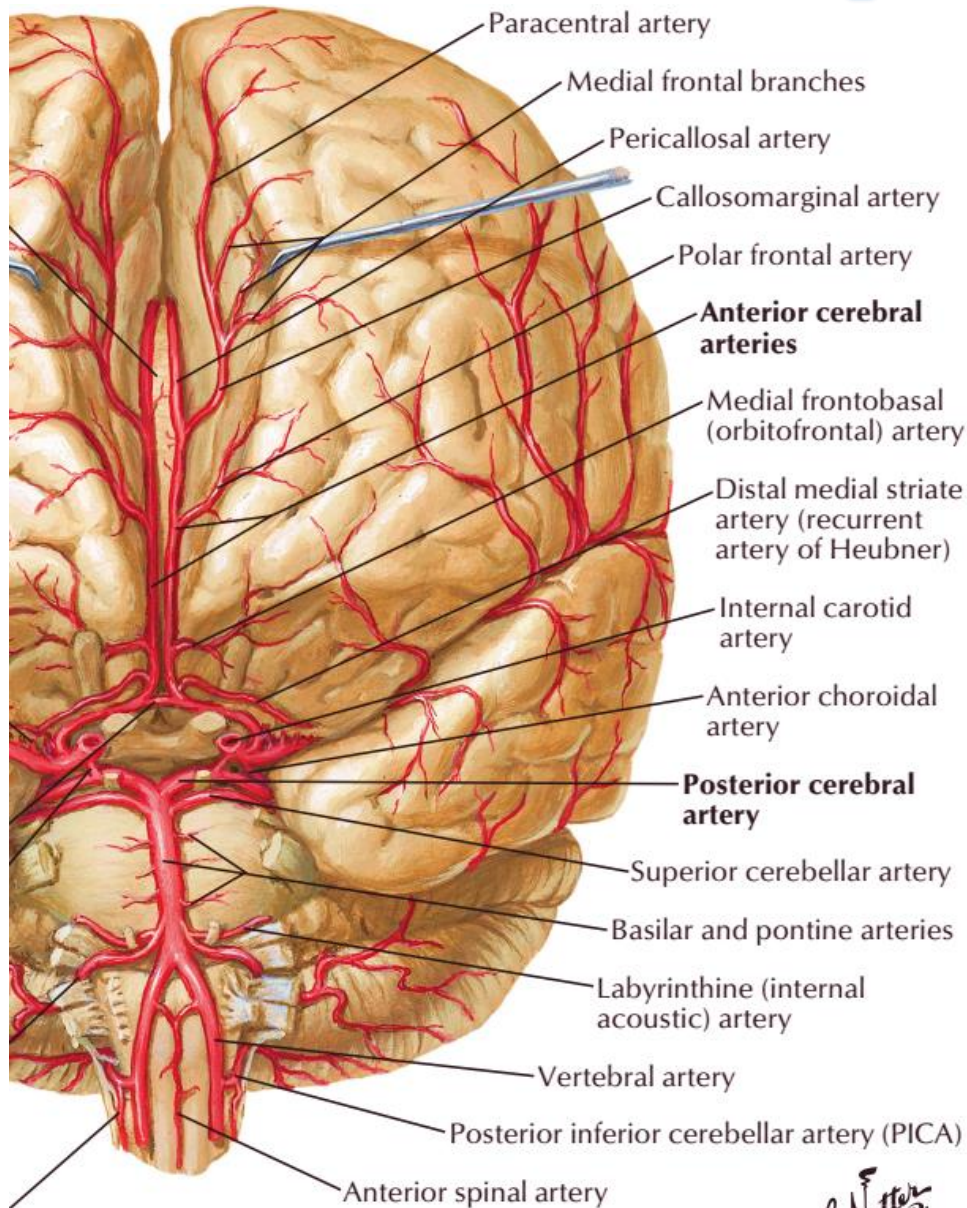
- Medial striate artery (recurrent artery of Heubner's)
- Anterior choroidal artery (AChA)
- Posterior choroidal artery (PChA)

Central branches

- Anteromedial artery
- Posteromedial artery
- Anterolateral artery (lenticulostriate artery)
- Posterolateral artery



Anterior Cerebral Artery



- Arise just below the anterior perforated substance
- Run anteromedially to the interhemispheric fissure

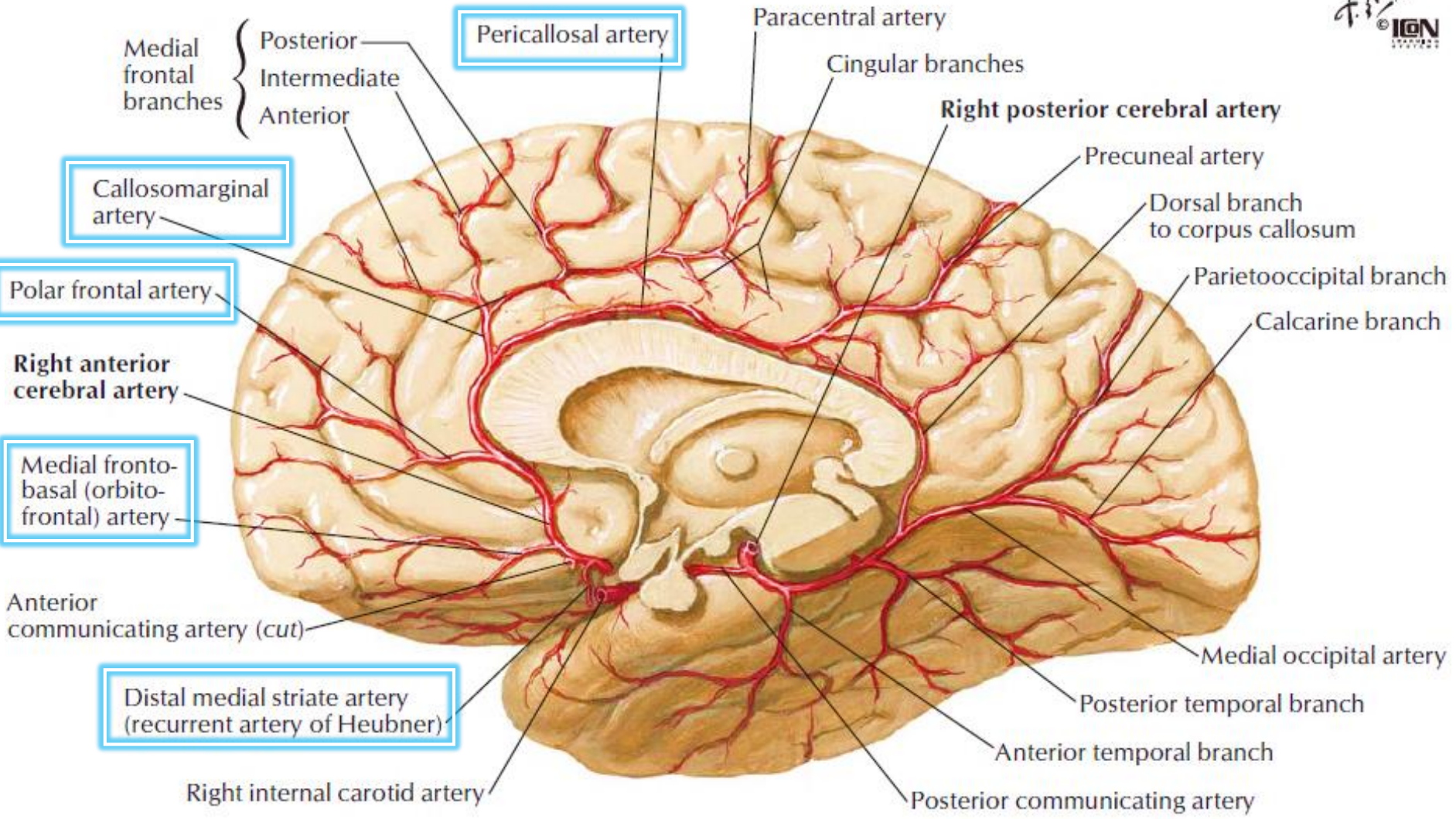
Branches of ACA

- Medial striate artery
- Orbitofrontal artery
- Frontopolar artery
- Callosomarginal artery
- Pericallosal artery



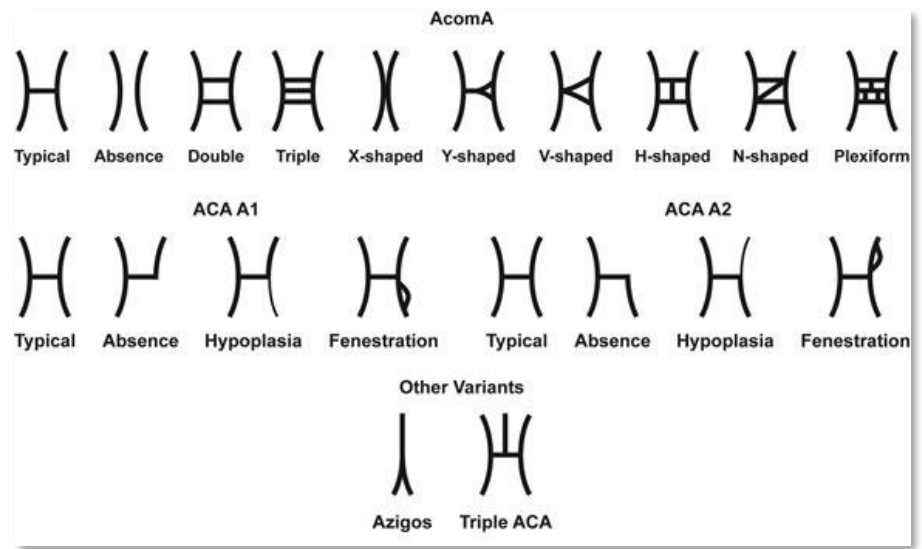
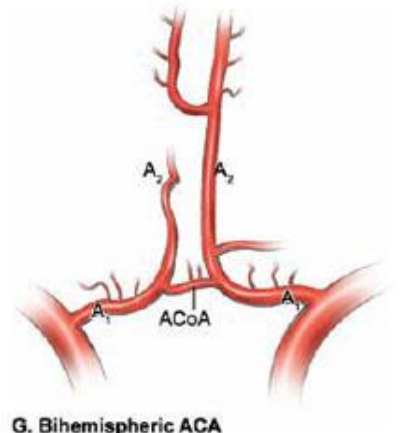
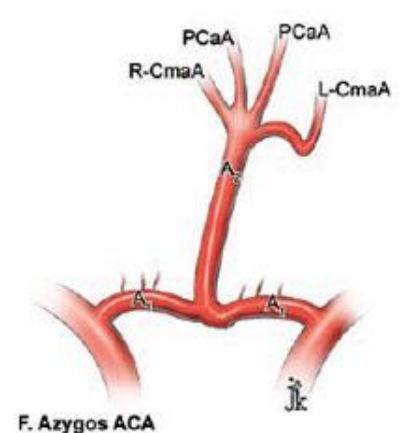
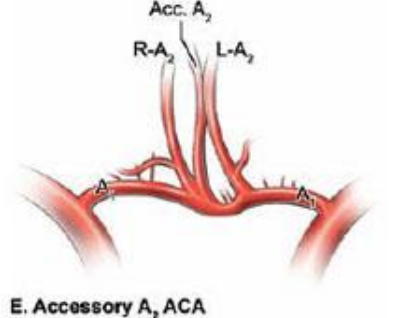
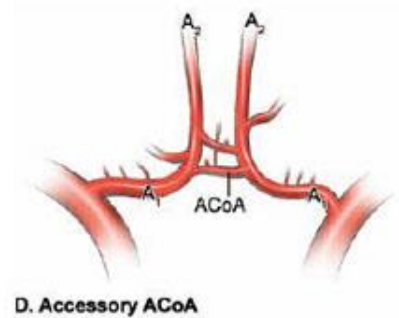
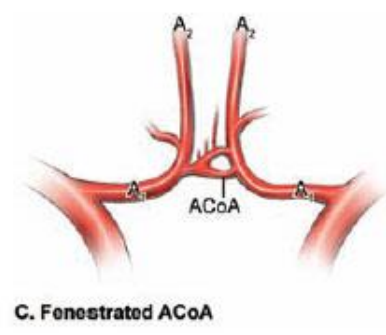
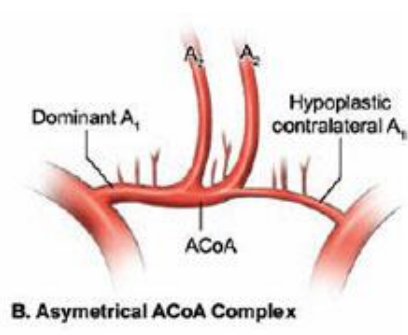
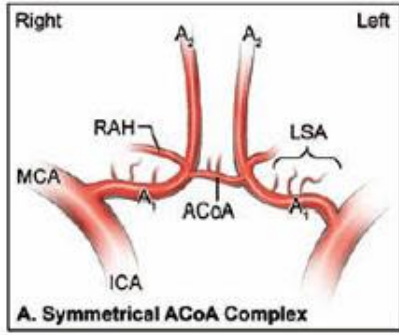
Internal frontal: anterior, intermediate, posterior

Internal parietal: superior, inferior



Note: Anterior parietal (postcentral sulcal) artery also occurs as separate anterior parietal and postcentral sulcal arteries

Variation of ACA

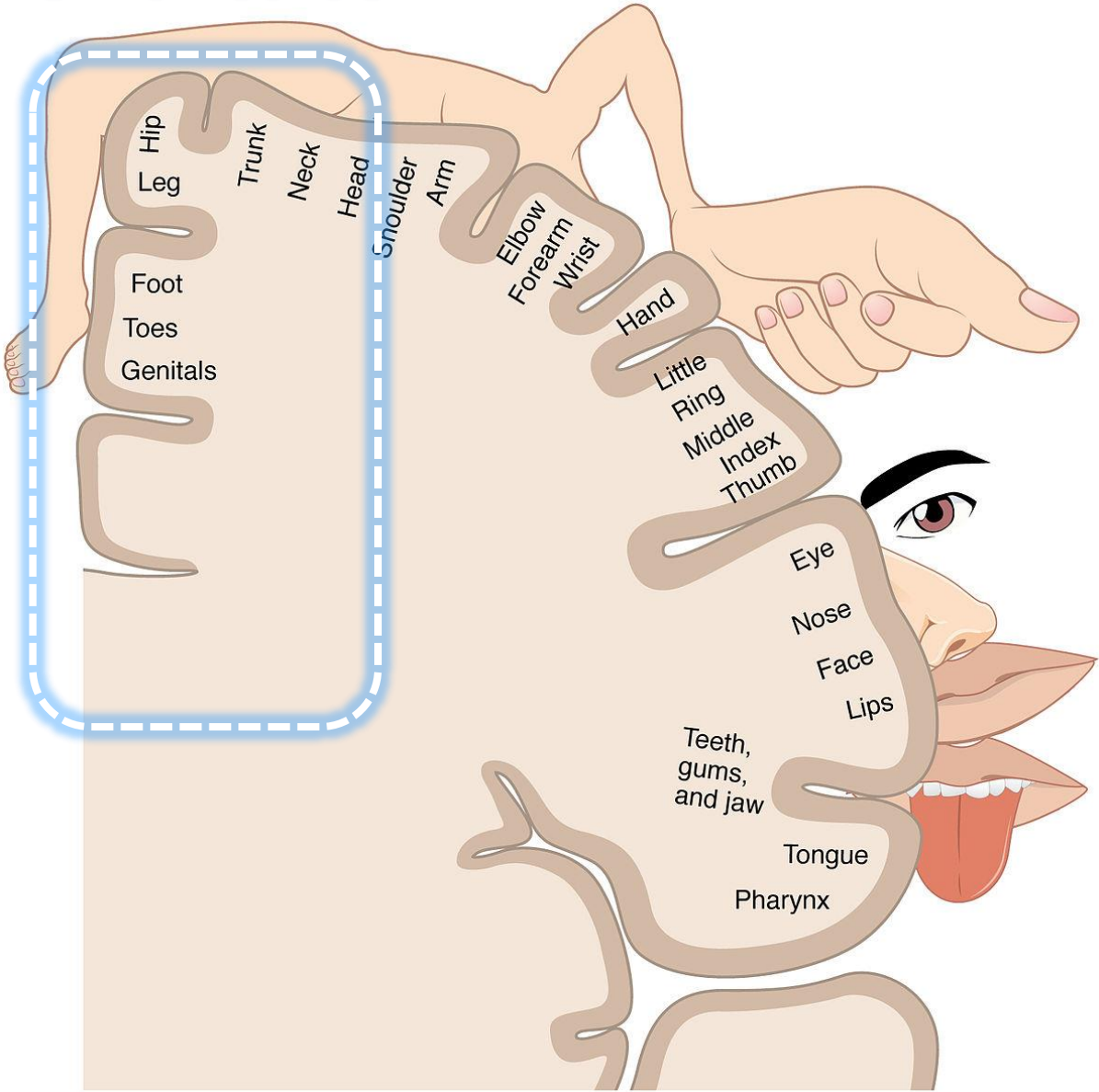


ACA Syndrome

- Rarely isolated, about 0.6-3% of all ischemic stroke

Features of ACA syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contralateral weakness (leg > arm) ± sensory loss• Lack of initiation, abulia• Paratonia (gegenhalten), grasp reflex
Bilateral involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Akinetic mutism, paraplegia, urinary incontinence, amnesia with apathy
Anterior corpus callosum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Left arm apraxia (anterior disconnection syndrome)
Medial striate artery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contralateral weakness of face & arm (no sensory loss)
Other manifestations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ± impaired articulation, soft whispering voice• Transcortical motor aphasia (dominant side)• Memory/emotional disturbances• Impaired motor planning & bimanual coordination• Disturbances of sphincter control, gait• Contralateral ataxic hemiparesis

Motor Homunculus



Angiographic Correlation

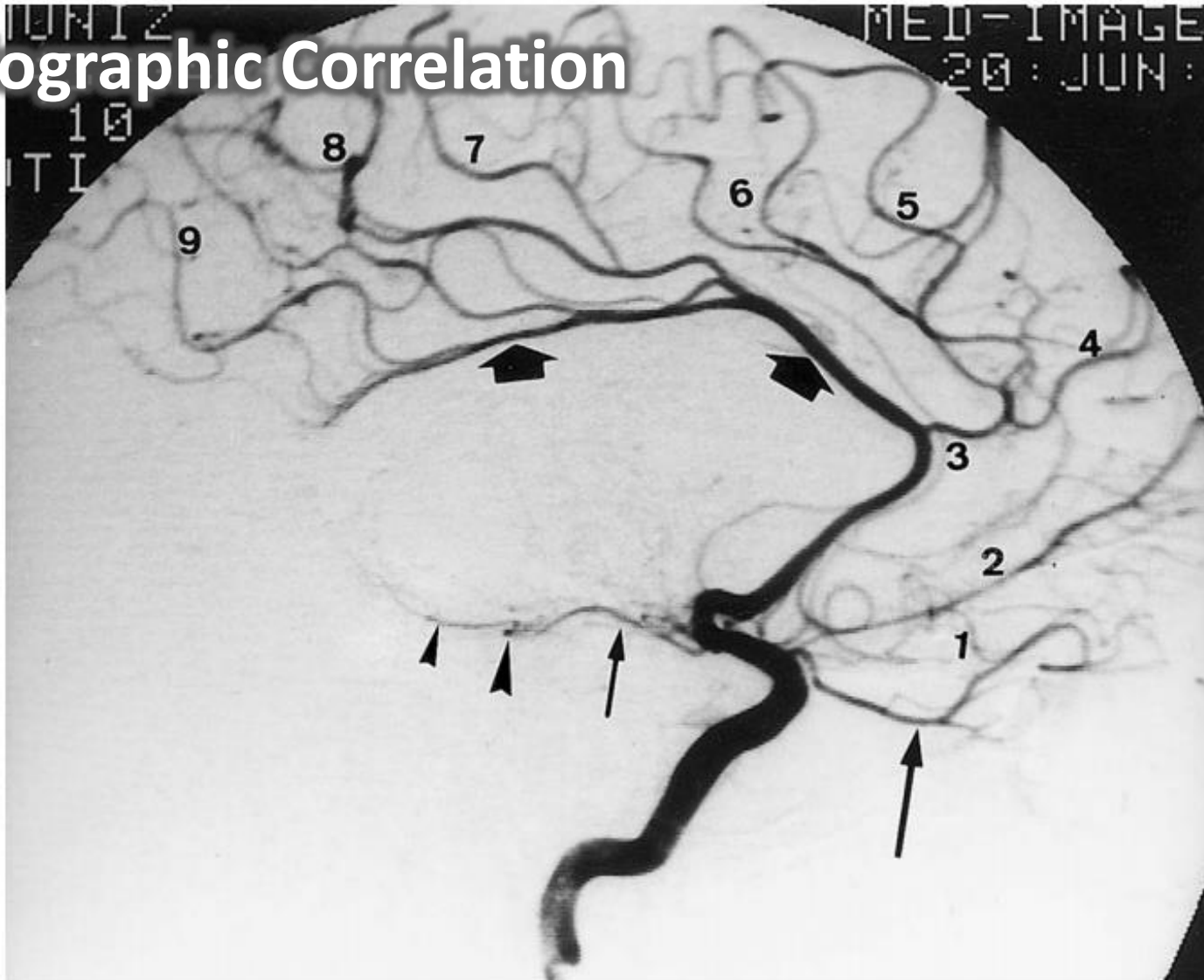
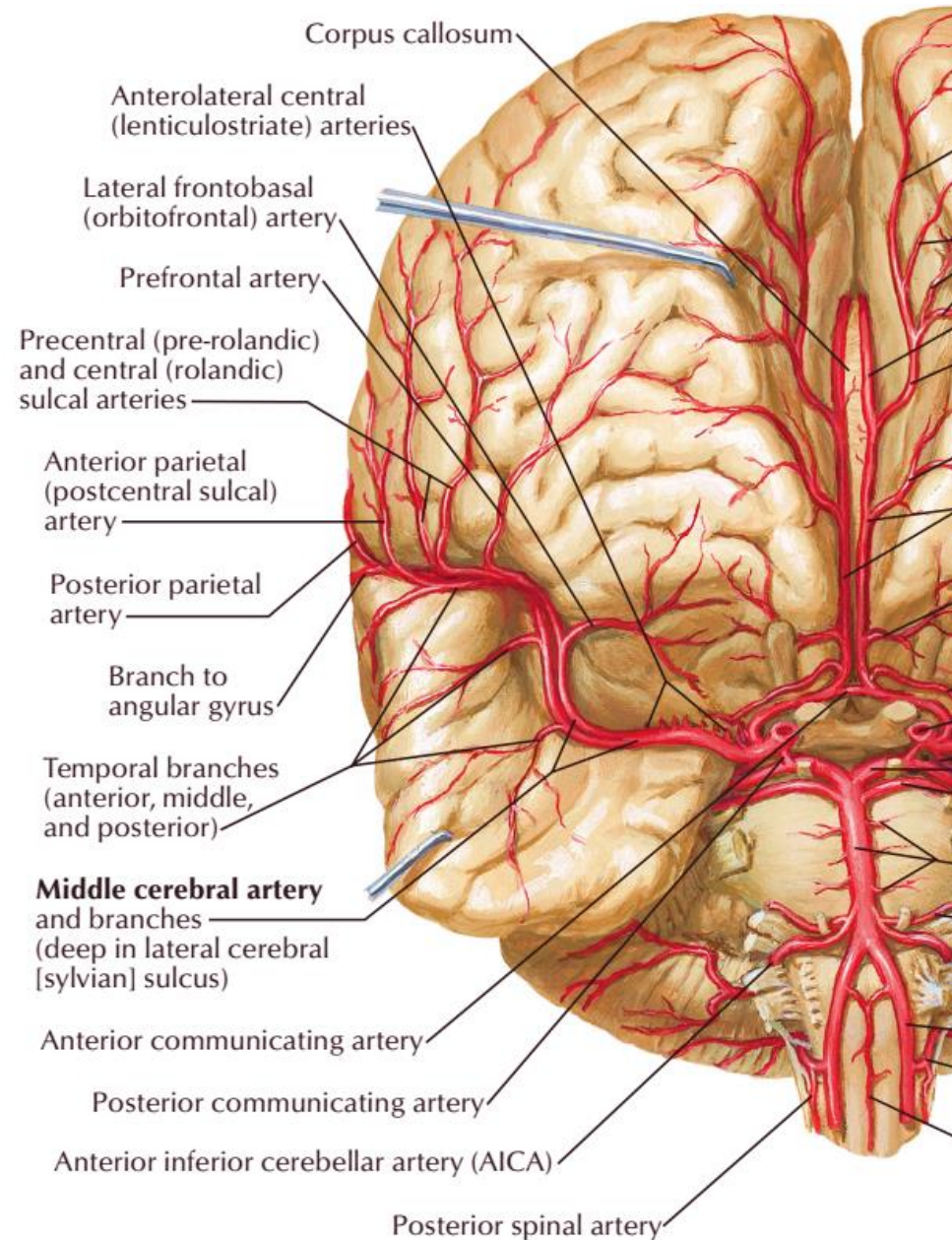
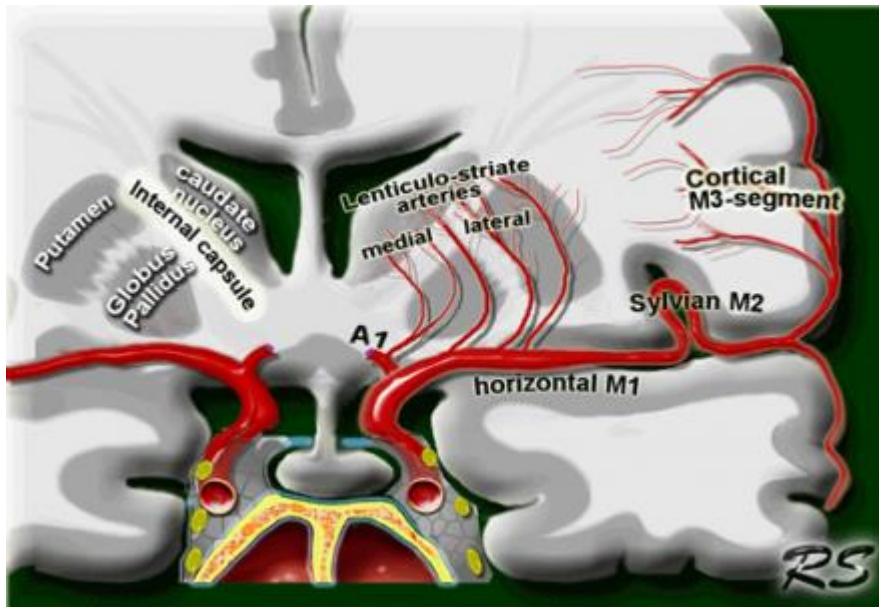


Figure 2.41. Internal carotid artery, lateral view. Occlusion of the middle cerebral artery. Anterior choroidal artery (small arrow) with superior deep branches. Pontochoroidal (large arrowhead) and plexal branches (small arrowhead). Pericallosal artery and branches: 1. Orbitofrontal artery (frontobasilar artery). Overlaps the ophthalmic artery (large arrow). 2. Frontopolar artery. 3. Common trunk of the internal frontal arteries, anterior (4), middle (5), and posterior (6). 7. Paracentral artery. 8. Superior internal parietal artery. 9. Inferior internal parietal artery. In this case there is no callosomarginal artery. The large, wide short arrows denote the pericallosal artery.

Middle Cerebral Artery

- Arise just below the anterior perforated substance
- Supplies most of the lateral surface of the cerebral hemisphere
- 3 parts :
 - Proximal (M1)
 - Sylvian (M2)
 - Distal (M3)



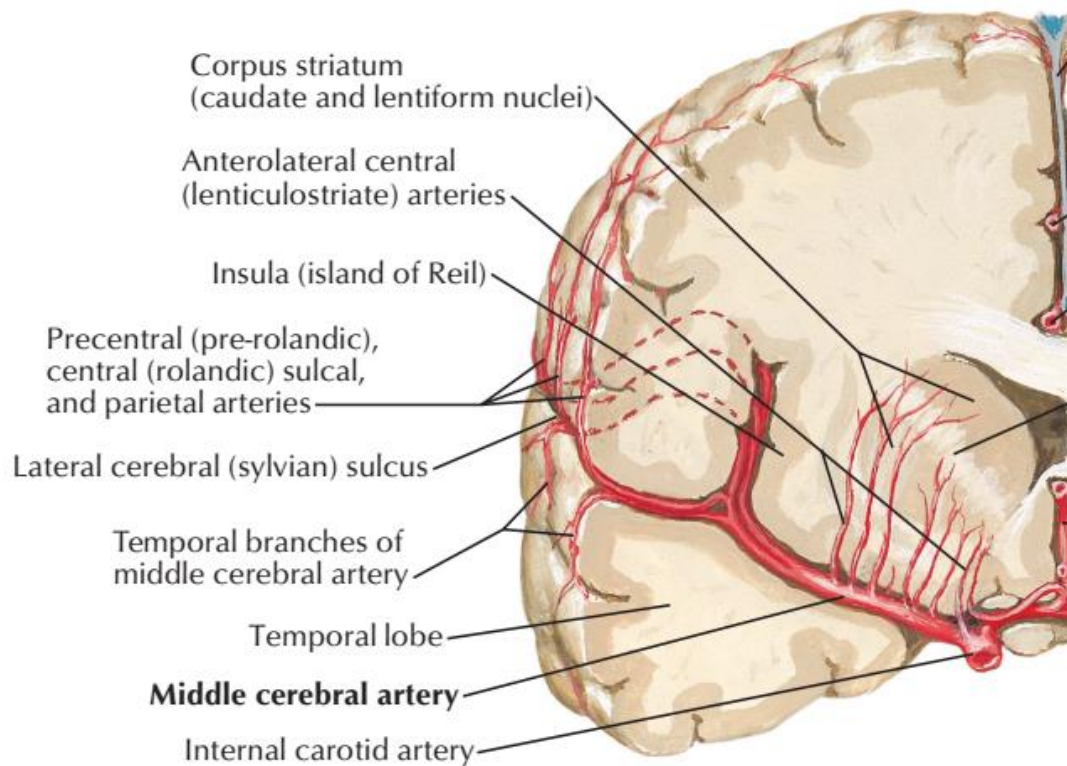


Fig. 13 Anterior view of a vascular cast of the perforating arteries of the right middle cerebral artery (1). 2 The anterior cerebral artery (cut); 3 the internal carotid artery

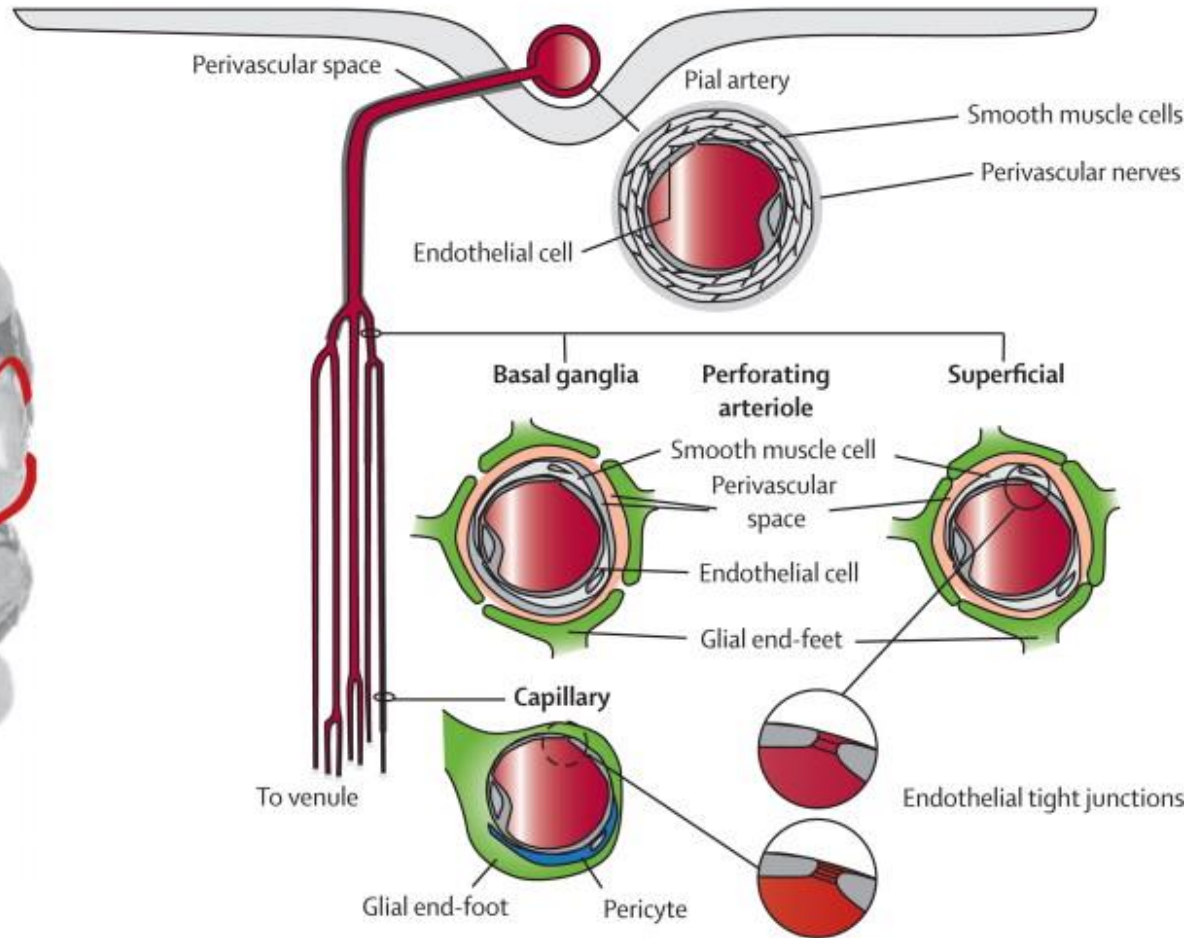
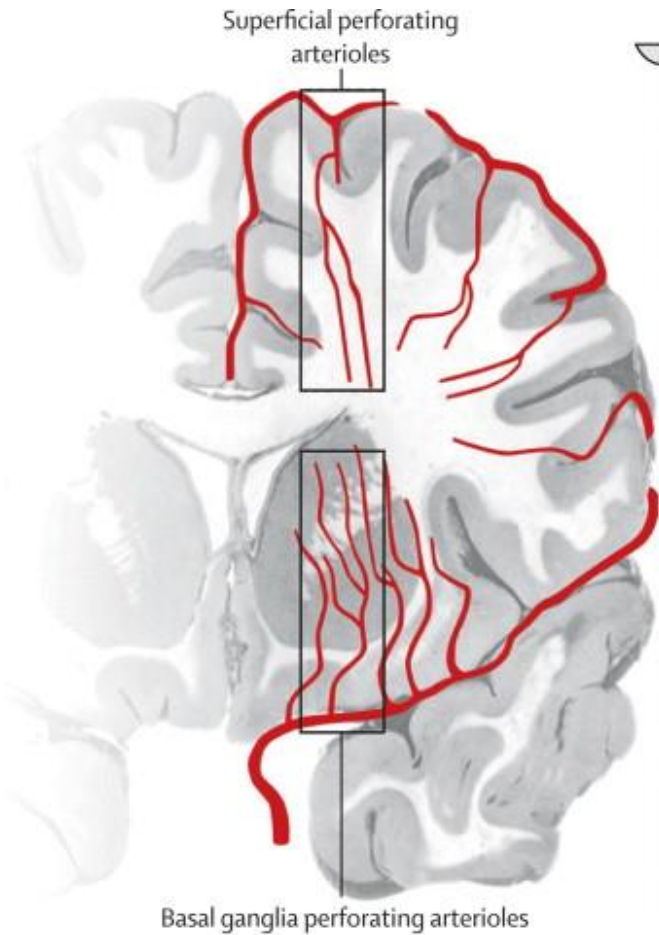
Lenticulostriate Artery (Lateral Striate Artery)

Supplies

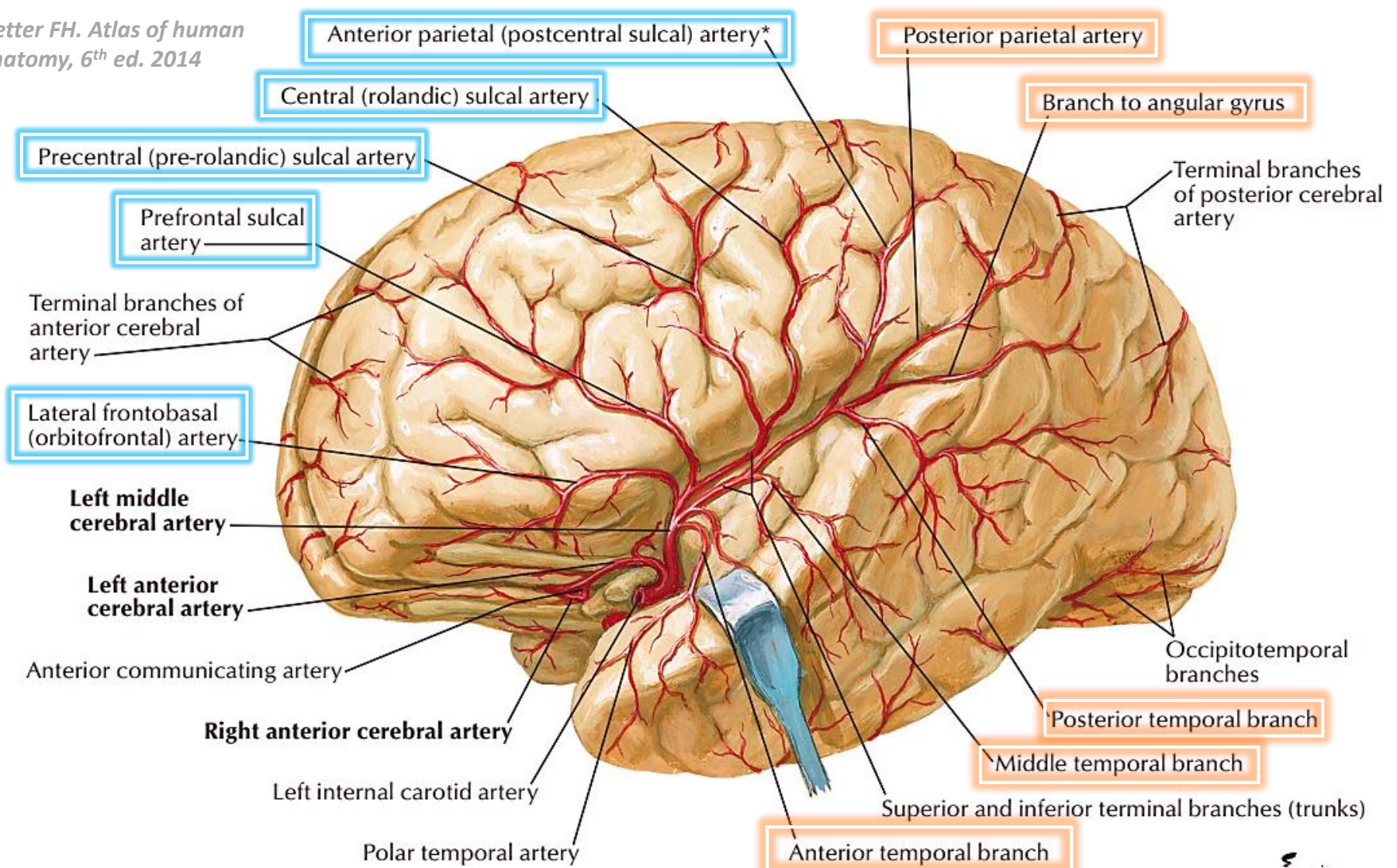
- Corona radiate, superior portion of anterior/posterior limb of internal capsule
- External capsule, claustrum, putamen, part of the globus pallidus, body of the caudate nucleus

Syndromes

- Contralateral hemiparesis (mainly upper extremity)
- Cortical symptoms (aphasia, neglect, apraxia)

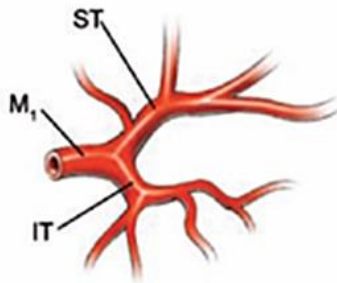
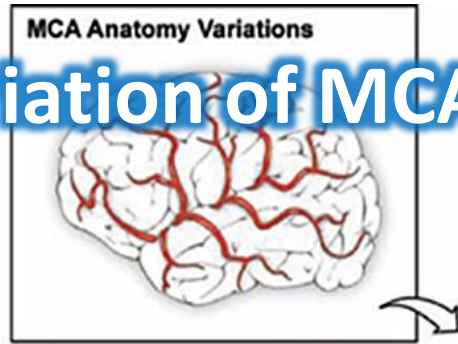


- **Perpendicular projection**
- **End-on arteries**
- **Watershed infarction**

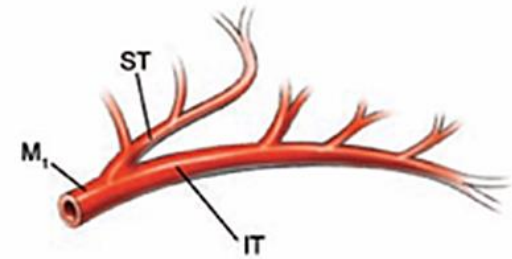


Main stem (occasional)	Superior division	Inferior division
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orbitofrontal Anterior temporal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prefrontal Precentral Central Anterior parietal (postcentral) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posterior parietal Branch to angular gyrus Anterior, middle & posterior temporal

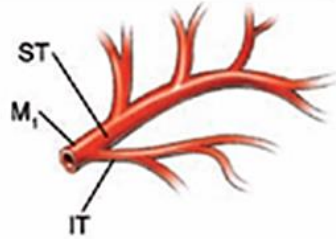
Variation of MCA



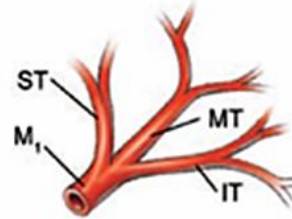
A. Bifurcation, Equal Trunks



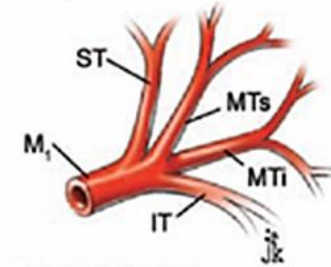
B. Bifurcation, Inferior Trunk Dominant



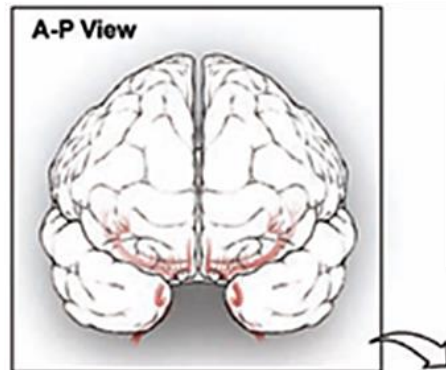
C. Bifurcation, Superior Trunk Dominant



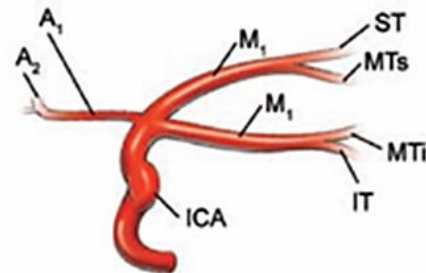
D. Trifurcation



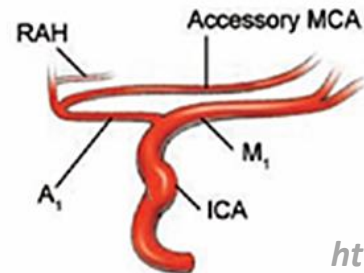
E. Quadrifurcation



- 78% bifurcation
- 12% trifurcation
- 10% branching into many smaller branches



F. Duplicated MCA



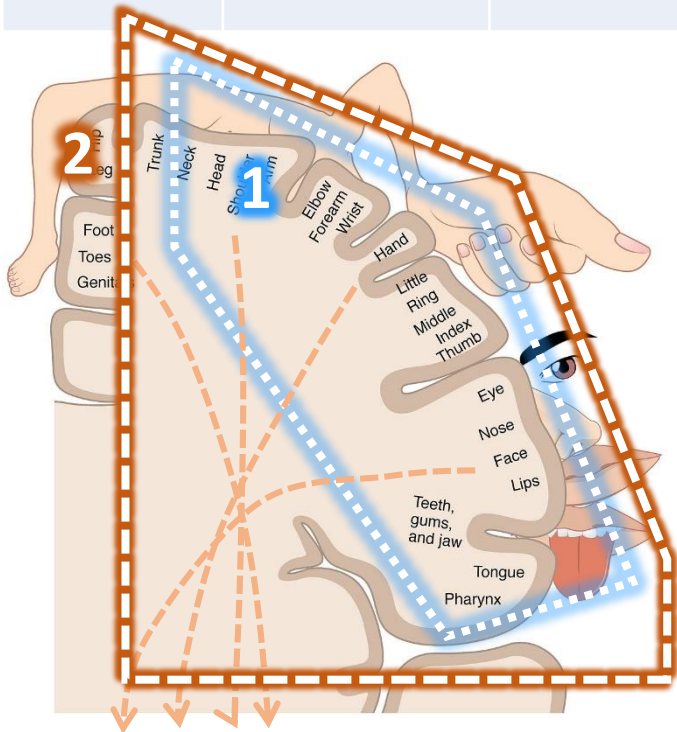
G. Accessory MCA

MCA Syndrome

- The most common site of ischemic stroke
- Clinical features are extremely diverse

Features of MCA syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contralateral weakness (face, arm > leg)• Contralateral hemisensory loss (face, arm > leg)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perioral & distal upper limb sensory dysfunction (cheiro-oral syndrome)• Paresis/apraxia of conjugate gaze to opposite side with transient tonic deviation toward the affected side• Contralateral homonymous visual field defect<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole optic radiation → hemianopia• Parietal → inferior quadrantanopia• Temporal – superior quadrantanopia
Dominant hemisphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broca's, Wernicke's, conduction, or global aphasias• Left angular gyrus – alexia with agraphia or Gerstmann's syndrome
Nondominant hemisphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inattention, neglect, denial, apraxia, aprosody• Acute agitated delirium, delusion, hallucinations

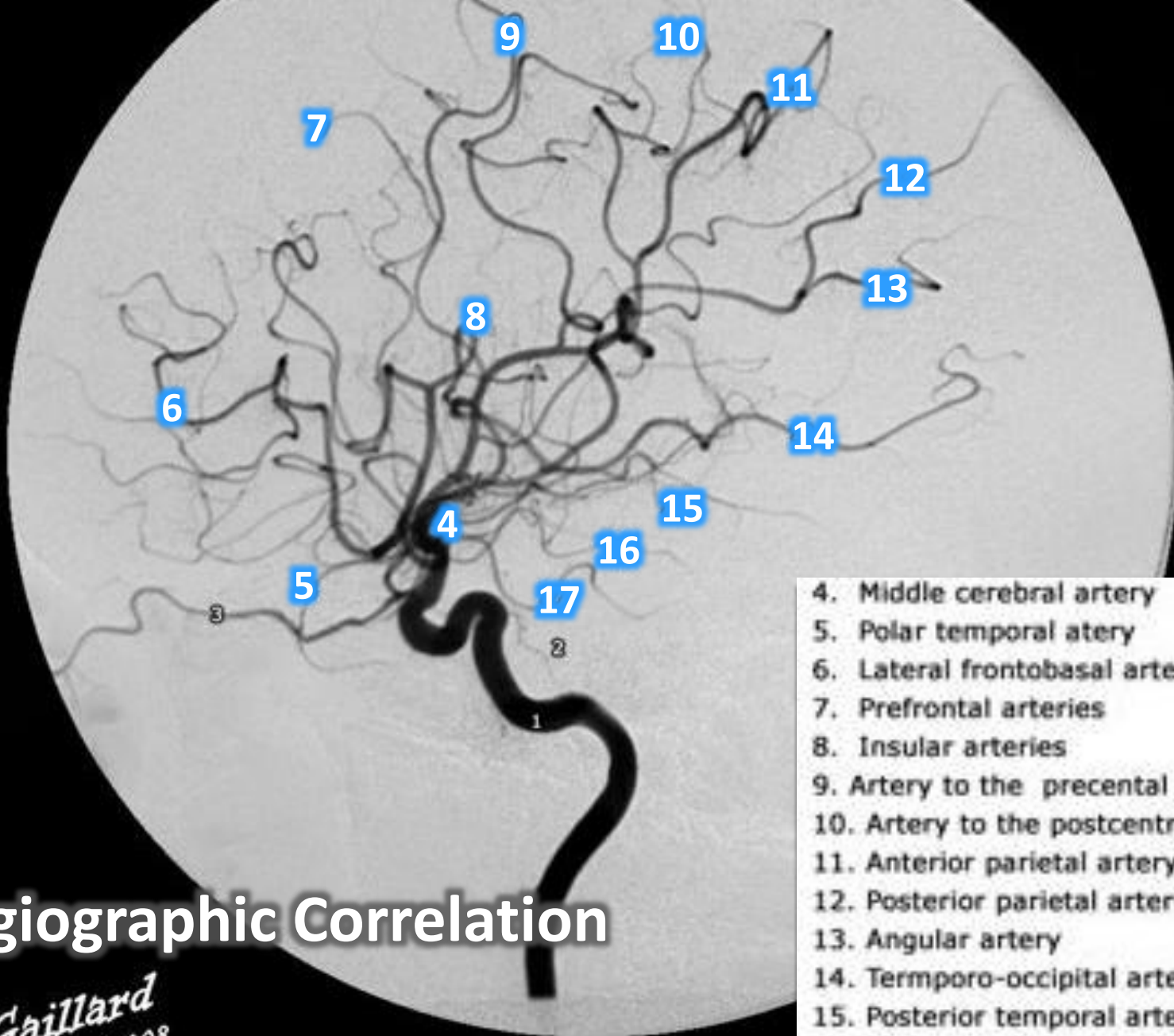
Territories	Contralat hemiparesis	Contralat hemisensory loss	Eye manifestation	Other cortical dysfunctions
Superior division	Face, arm > leg	Face, arm > leg	Preference to affected side (VF usually spared)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonfluent aphasia (dominant) Aprosodia, confusion, hemiattention, anosognosia (non-dominant)
Inferior division	-	-	Contralat hemianopia/quadrant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduction/Wernicke aphasia, Gerstmann's syndrome (dominant) Left visual neglect (non-dominant)



Isolated cortical	M2/M3 segments
Global aphasia & disproportionate weakness	Distal M1 segment
Global aphasia & proportionate weakness	ICA or proximal M1 segment

Other MCA Syndrome

Insular cortex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Somatosensory deficits, gustatory disorders• Vestibular-like manifestations• Cardiovascular disorders, including arterial hypertension and arrhythmias (increased risk of MI, sudden death)• Language & neuropsychological disorders (aphasia, dysarthria, somatoparaphrenia)
Double infarcts of dominant MCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global aphasia without hemiparesis• Hemianopic hemiplegia without sensory impairment• Conduction aphasia with hemiparesis
Bilateral anterior opercular infarcts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foix-Chavany-Marie syndrome• Bilateral supranuclear facio-pharyngeal-glossomasticatory paresis with automatic-voluntary dissociation
Bilateral temporal infarcts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cortical deafness: Awareness of sound, but cannot interpret verbal or identify nonverbal auditory stimulus• Klüver-Bucy syndrome

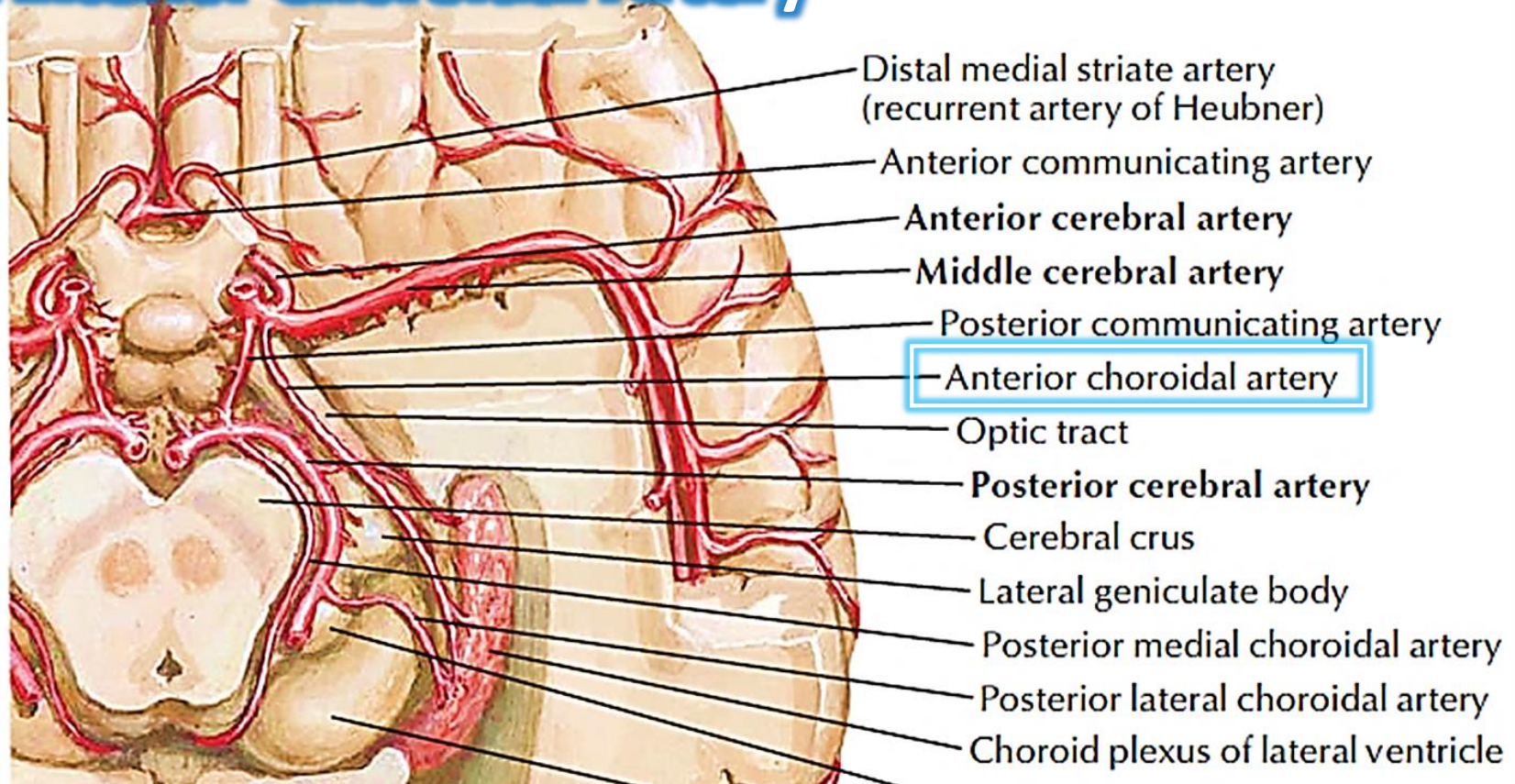


4. Middle cerebral artery
5. Polar temporal artery
6. Lateral frontobasal artery
7. Prefrontal arteries
8. Insular arteries
9. Artery to the precentral gyrus
10. Artery to the postcentral gyrus
11. Anterior parietal artery
12. Posterior parietal artery
13. Angular artery
14. Temporo-occipital artery
15. Posterior temporal artery
16. Middle temporal artery
17. Anterior temporal artery

Angiographic Correlation

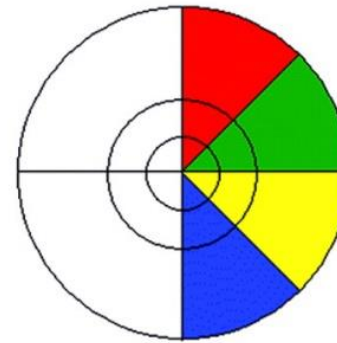
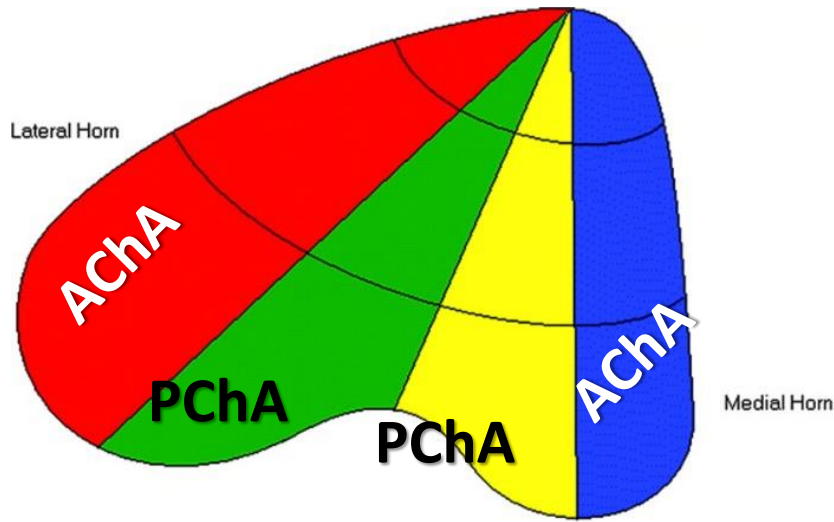
F. Gaillard
2008

Anterior Choroidal Artery



Supplies

- Posterior 2/3 of posterior limb of internal capsule
- Optic tract, lateral geniculate body (hilum and lateral part), optic radiation
- Amygdala, uncus and adjacent medial temporal lobe
- Posterior paraventricular corona radiata

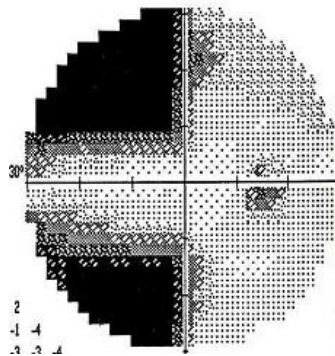


Visual Field

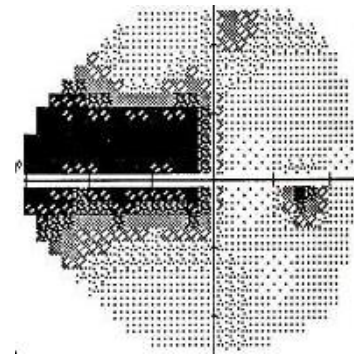
- Anterior Choroidal Artery
- Lateral Choroidal Artery
- Lateral Choroidal Artery
- Anterior Choroidal Artery

Representation of right visual field in the left LGB, seen in coronal section from behind.

Representation of right visual field in the left LGB, seen in coronal section from behind.

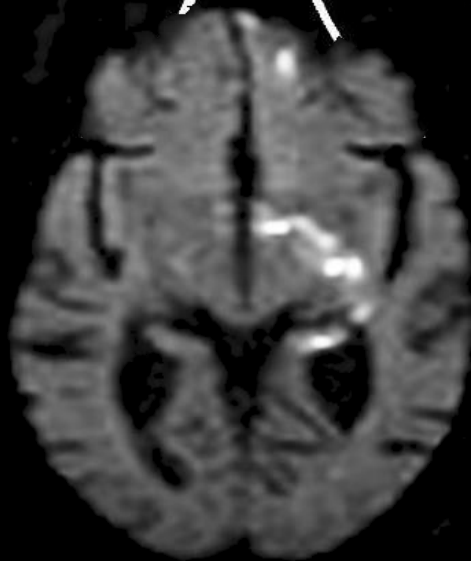
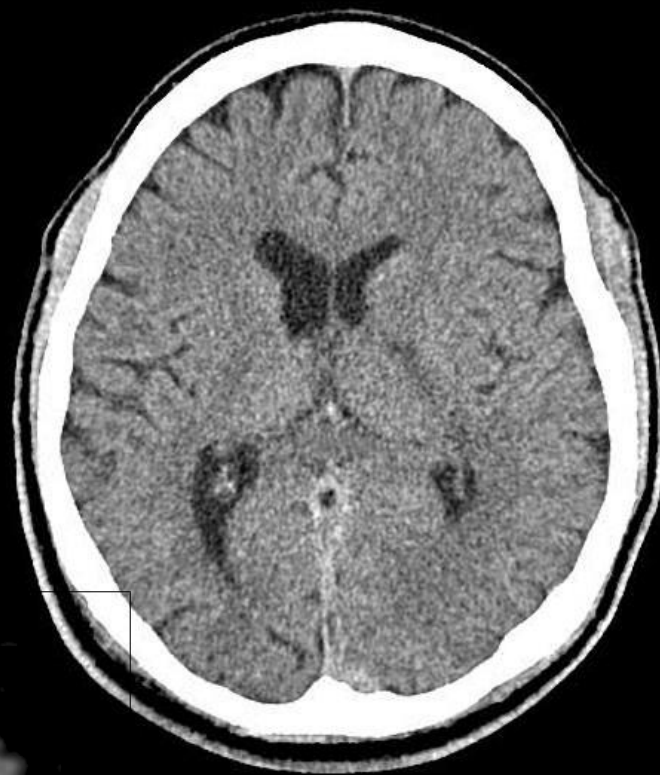
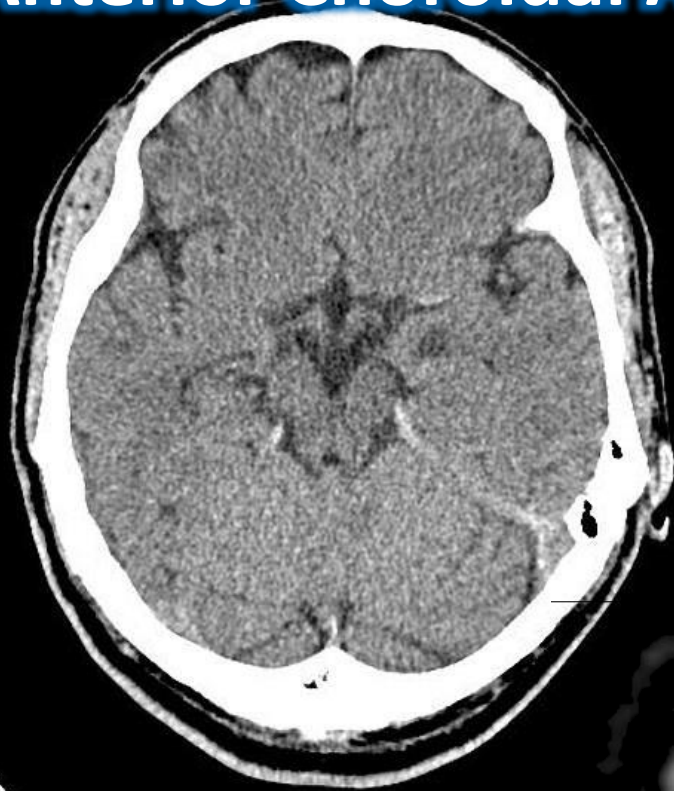


**Quadruple sectoranopia
(Anterior choroidal artery)**

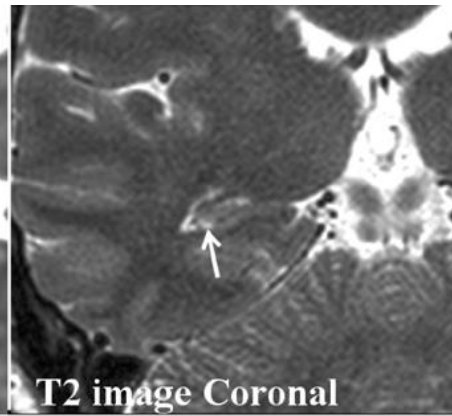
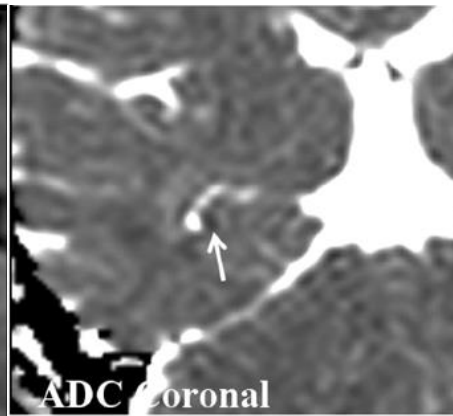
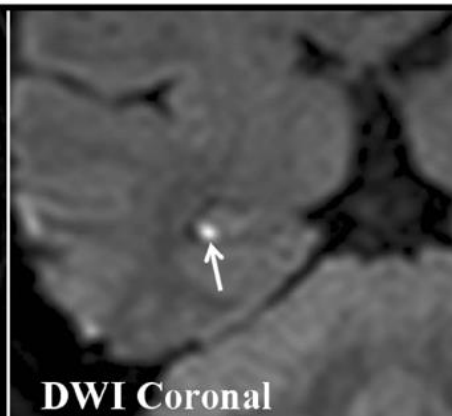
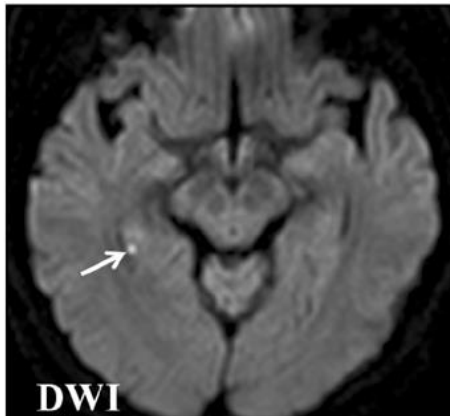
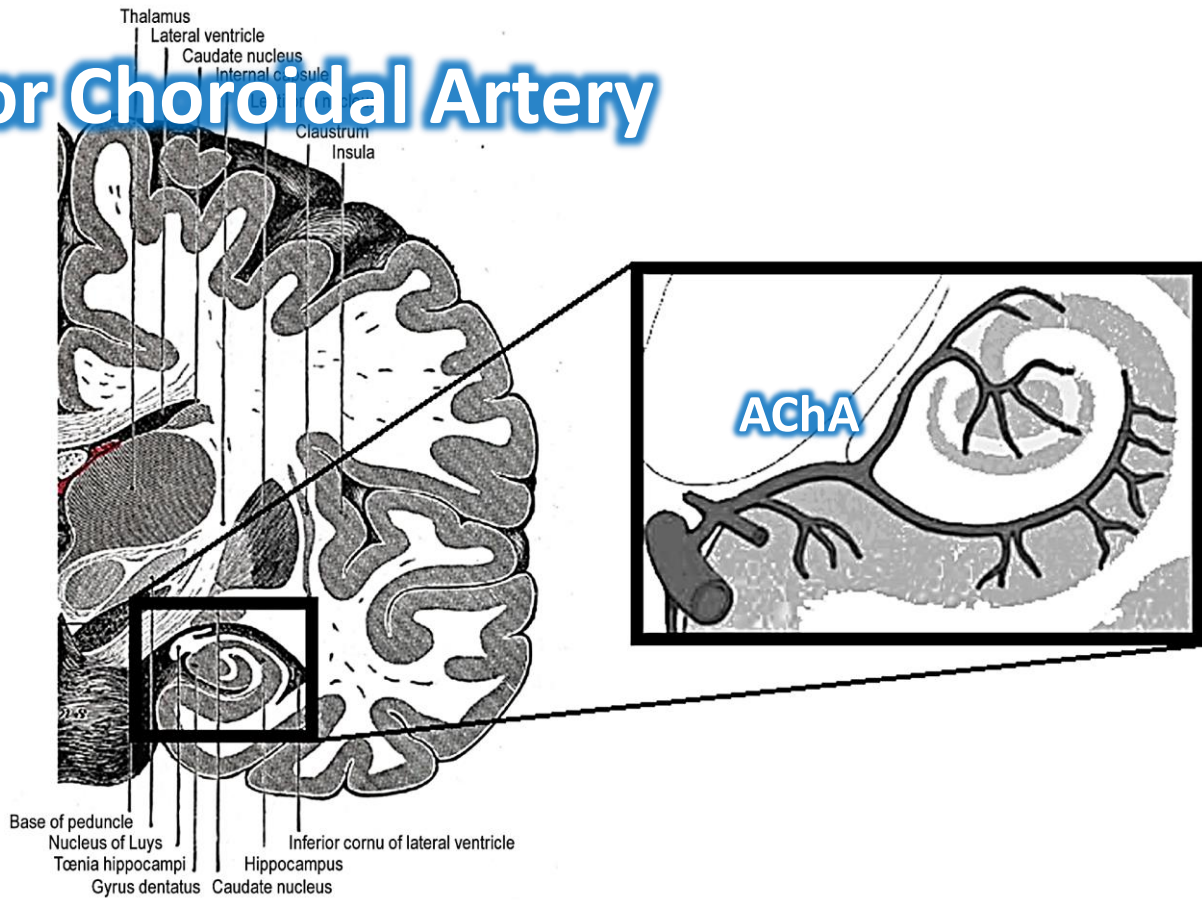


**Horizontal sectoranopia
(Posterior choroidal artery)**

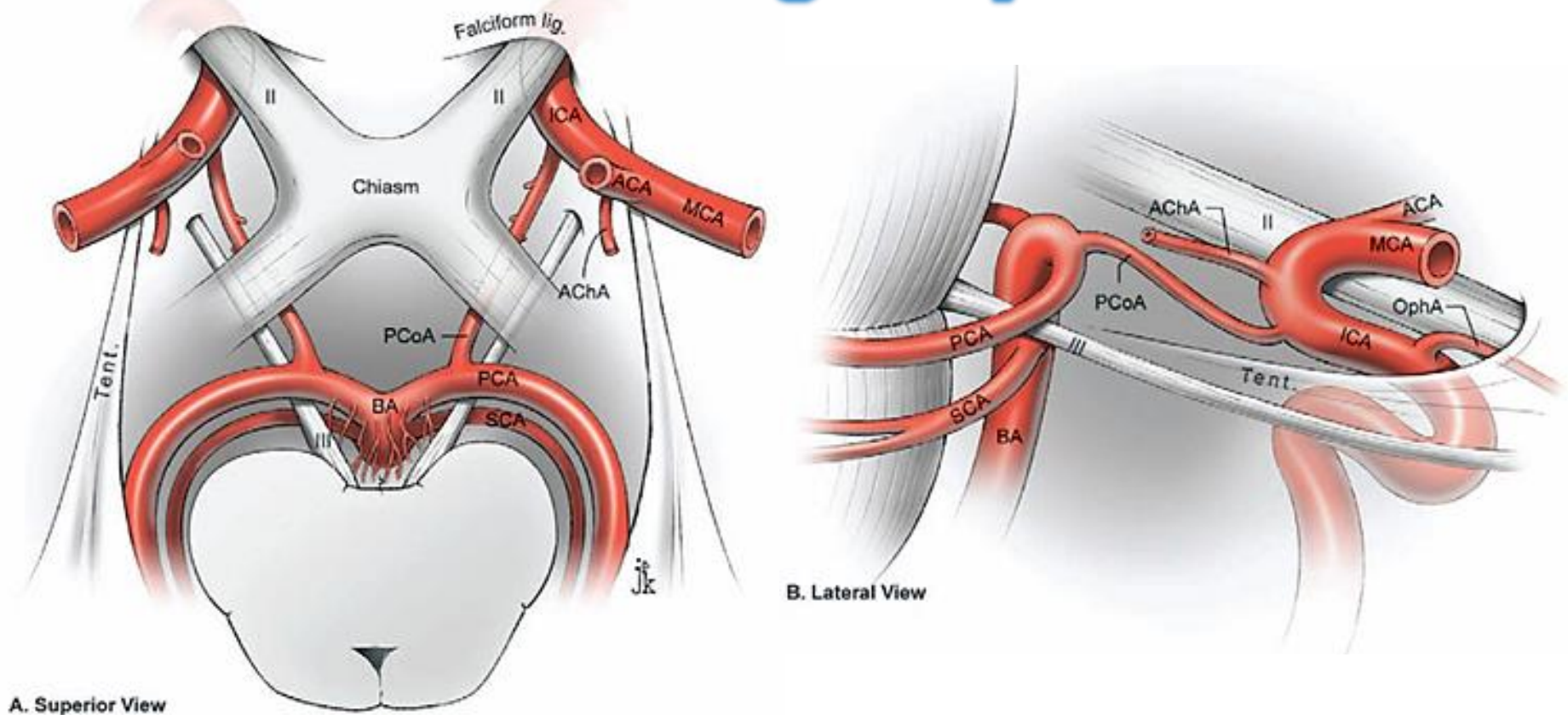
Anterior Choroidal Artery



Anterior Choroidal Artery

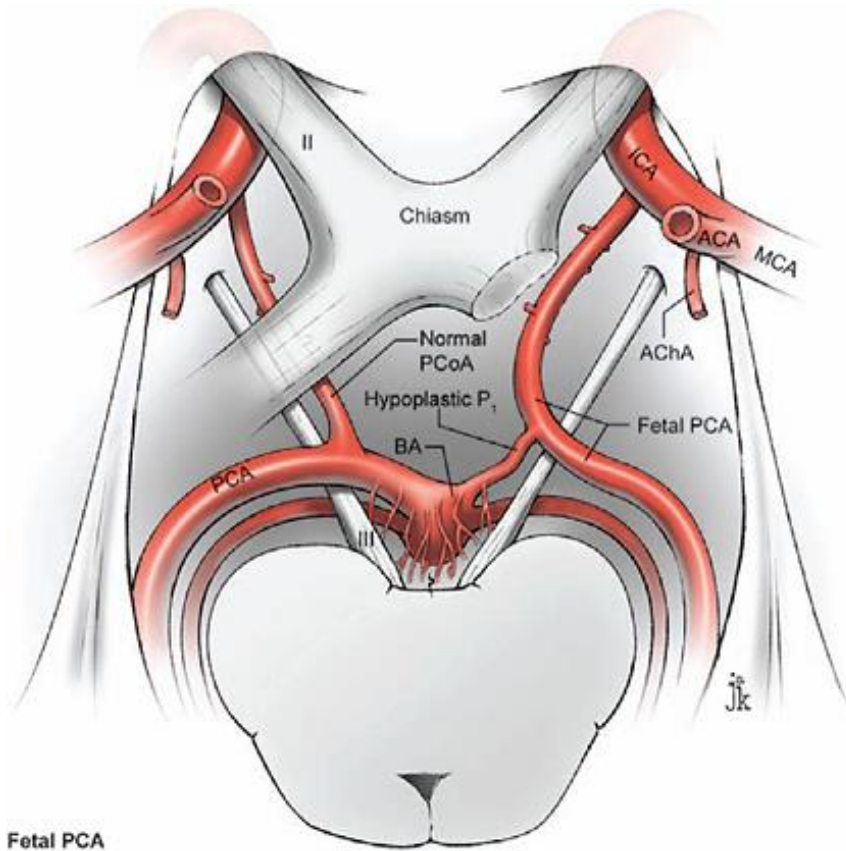


Posterior Communicating Artery

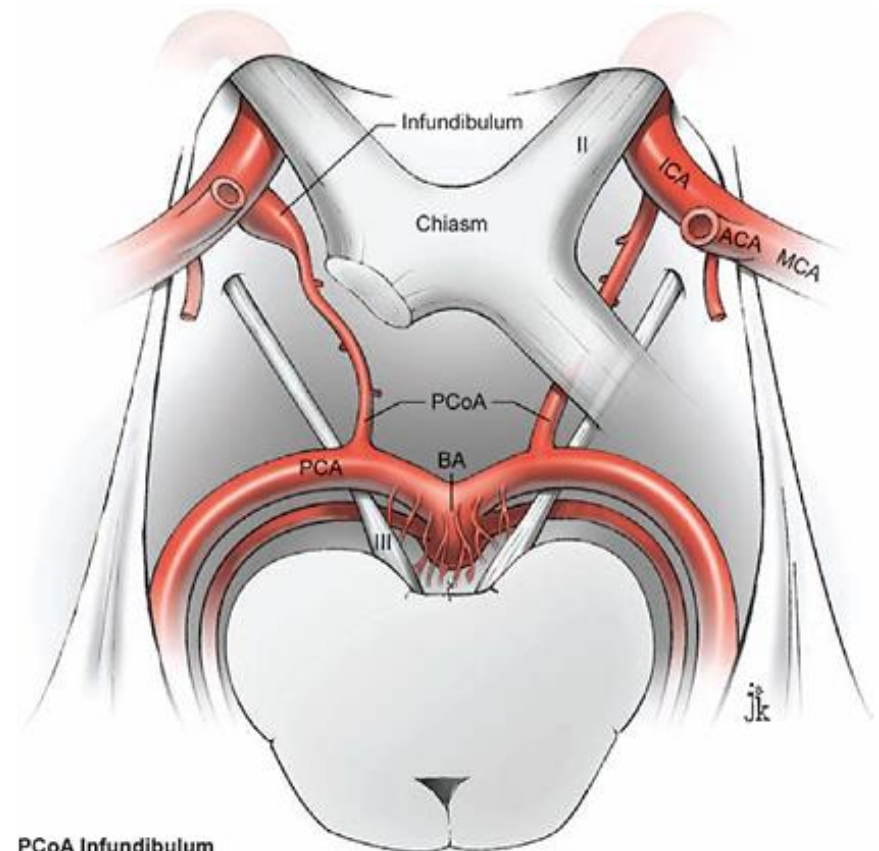


- Interconnection between the anterior and posterior circulation
- Lied adjacent to CN.III
- Supplies the optic tract, CN.III and anterior part of thalamus (anterior thalamoperforate branch)

Variations of Posterior Communicating Artery

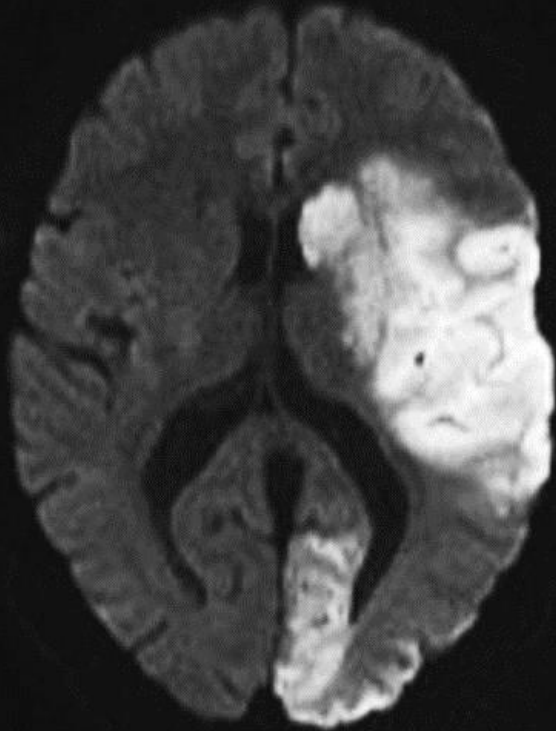


Fetal origin of PCA



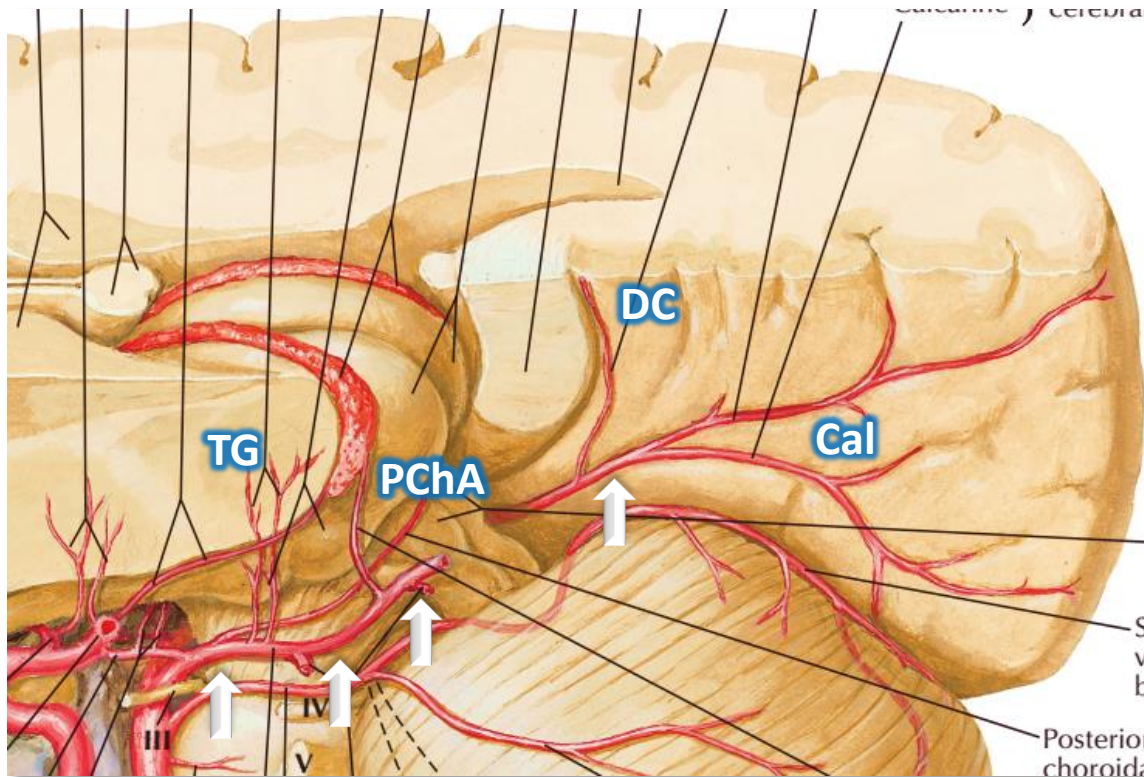
PCom Infundibulum

Fetal Origin of PCA with Left ICA Infarction



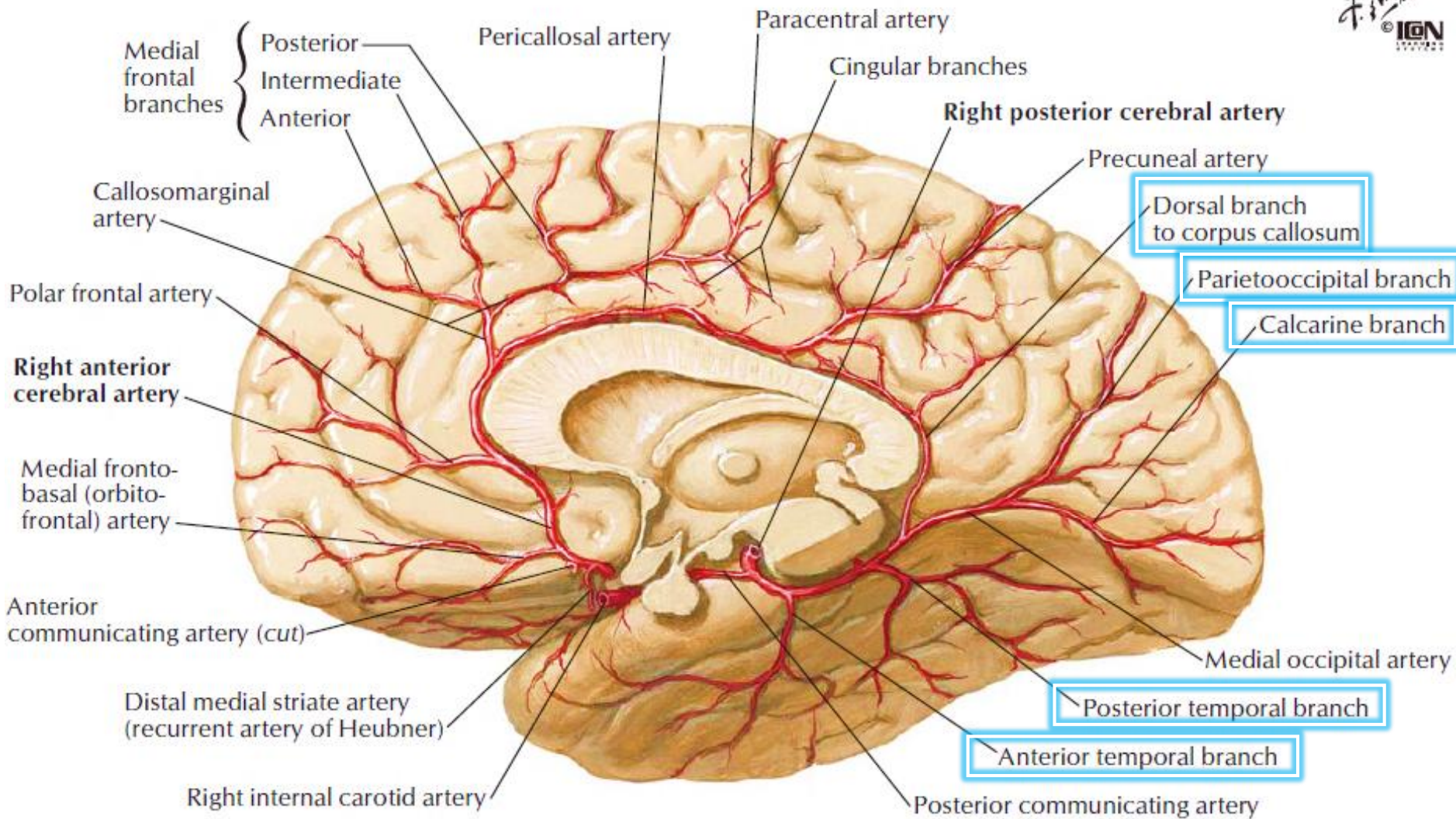
Posterior Cerebral Artery

- Terminal branch of the basilar artery
- 20-25% have fetal origin of the PCA
- Supplies midbrain, thalamus, inferomedial portions of the temporal lobes and the occipital lobe



Branches of PCA

- Perforating branches (posteromedial, posterolateral groups)
- Thalamogeniculate artery
- Posterior choroidal arteries
- Dorsal callosal artery (anastomose with pericallosal a. from ACA)
- Calcarine artery
- Parieto-occipital artery
- Anterior & posterior temporal arteries



Note: Anterior parietal (postcentral sulcal) artery also occurs as separate anterior parietal and postcentral sulcal arteries

PCA Syndrome

Features of PCA syndrome

- **Contralateral homonymous visual field defect with macular sparing if not affecting occipital pole**
 - **Whole striate cortex → hemianopia**
 - **Superior calcarine → inferior quadrantanopia**
 - **Inferior calcarine – superior quadrantanopia**
- **Color agnosia ('what' pathway)**
- **Prosopagnosia (fusiform gyrus)**
- **Amnesia (esp. when affects the left side)**

Thalamic involvement

- **Paresthesia, altered position/pain/temperature sensations**

Left PCA infarct

- **Left occipital lobe + splenium of corpus callosum**
- **'Alexia without agraphia' (intact naming, writing, spelling, speaking)**
- **Occasionally associated with color anomia, object/photographic anomia**
- **Transcortical sensory aphasia**

PCA Syndrome

Right PCA infarct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Left visual neglect
Bilateral PCA infarcts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cortical blindness (bilateral homonymous hemianopia)• Anton's syndrome: Unaware of their blindness
Other manifestations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual hallucination (formed, unformed) & visual agnosia<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual association cortex• Released phenomenon (Charles-Bonnet syndrome)• Apraxia of ocular movement• Balint's syndrome:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optic ataxia – difficulty reaching the object under visual guidance• Ocular apraxia – deficits in visual scanning• Simultagnosia• Proximal PCA occlusion may simulate MCA occlusion when it causes hemiparesis, hemianopia, hemispatial neglect, aphasia, and sensory loss or inattention

Simultanagnosia

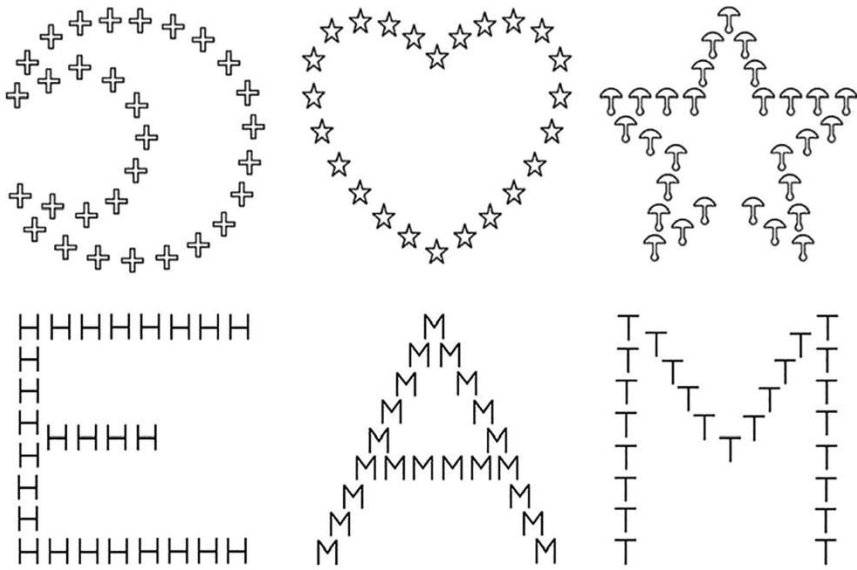


Fig. 7. Overlapping line drawings used to test for **simultaneous agnosia**.

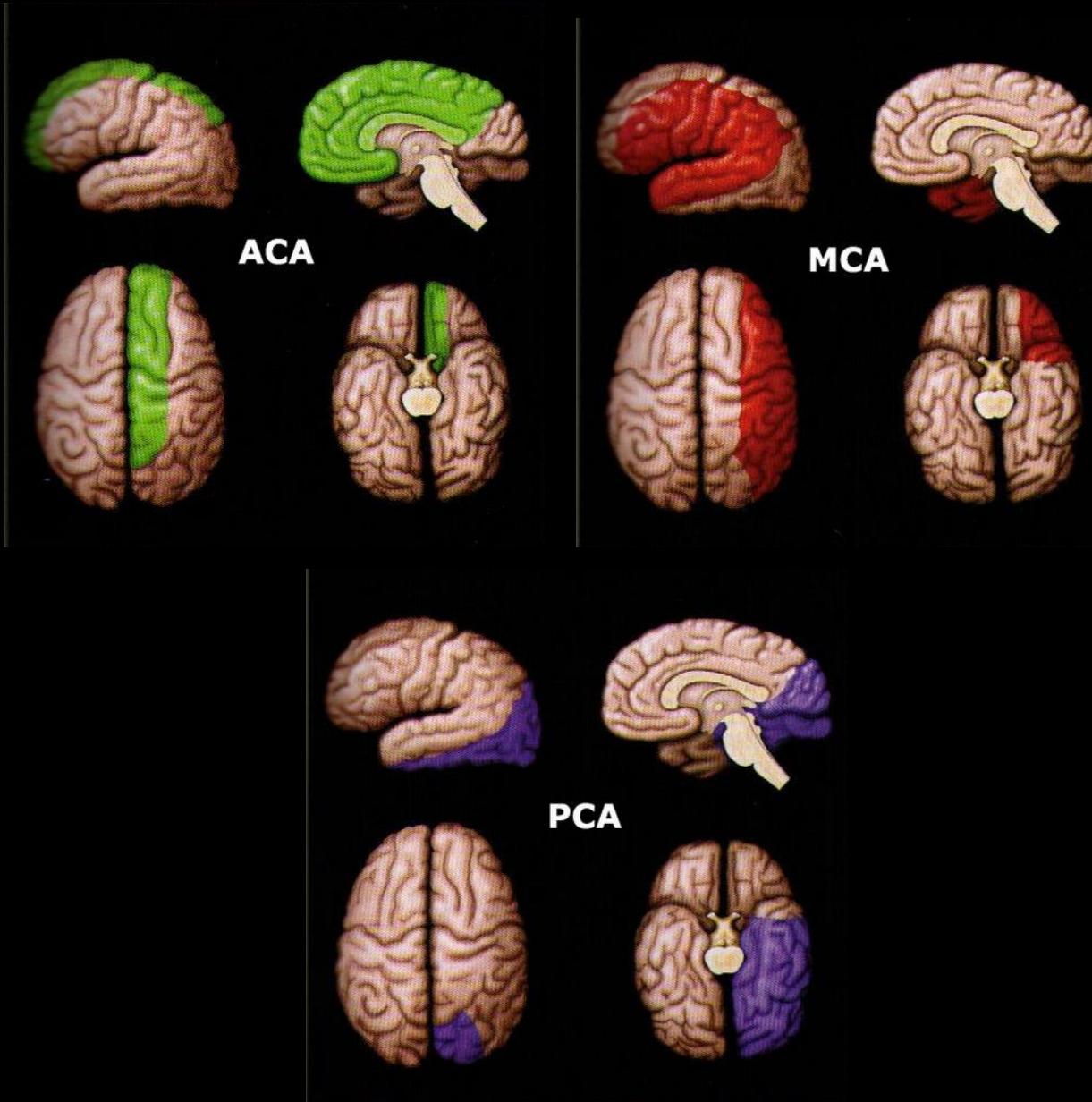




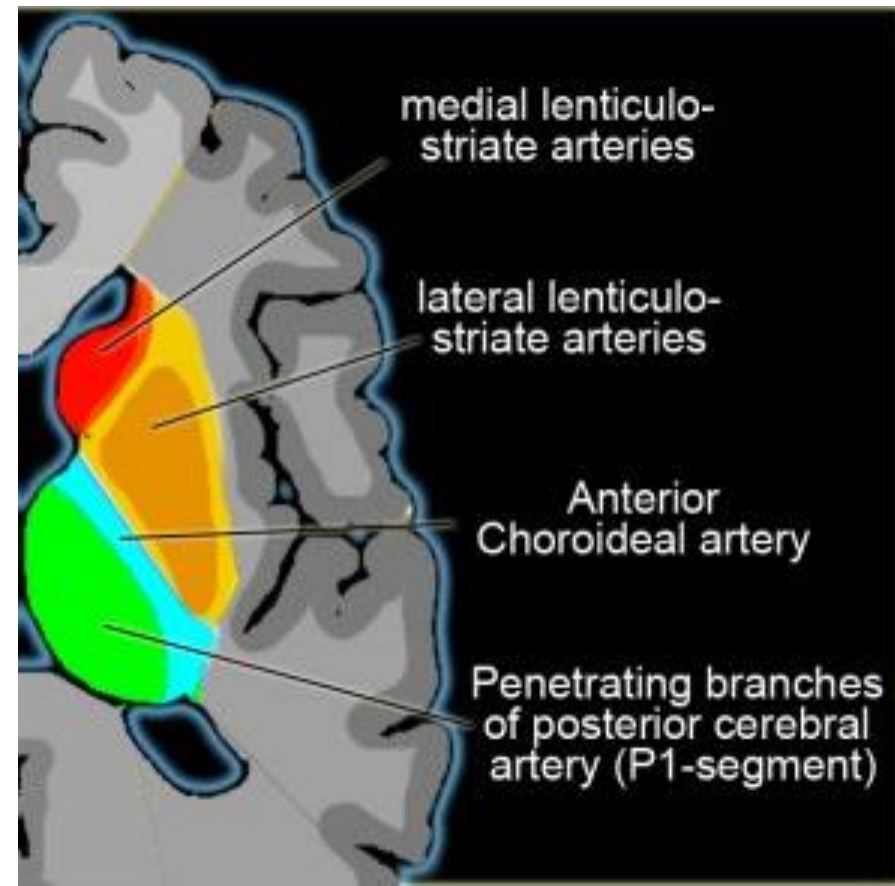
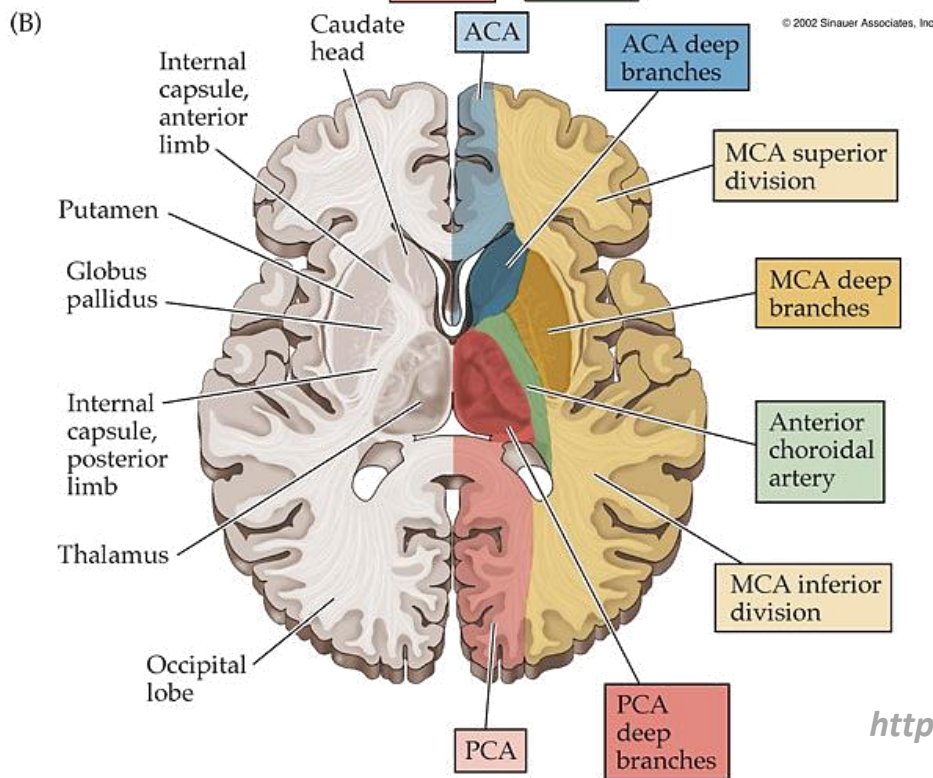
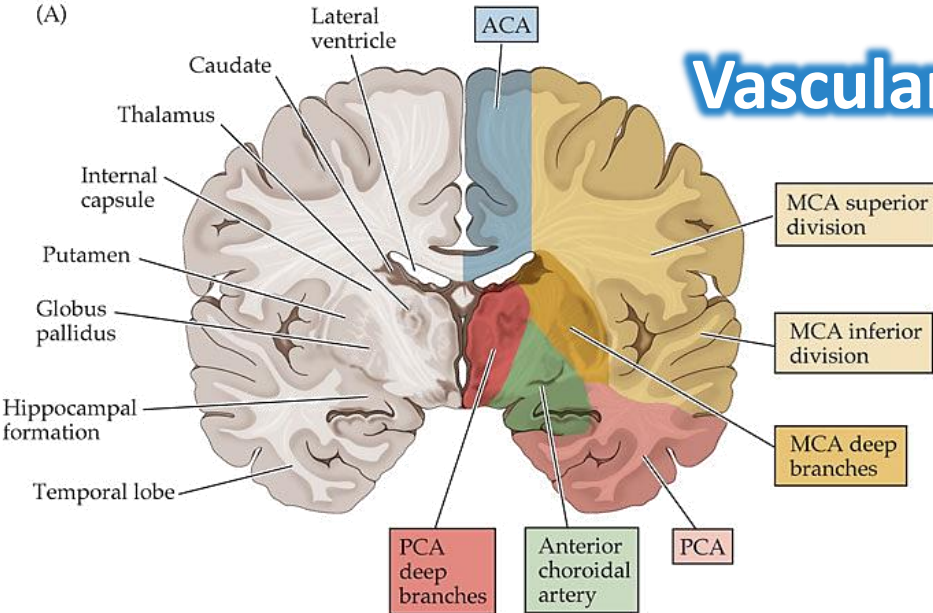
Neurovascular Anatomy (1): Anatomy of the Anterior Circulation

- Carotid artery system
- Ophthalmic artery
- Arterial circle of Willis
- Arterial territories of the cerebrum

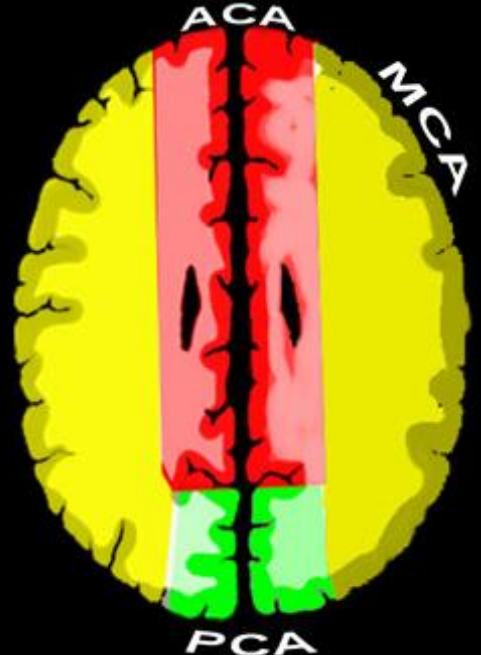
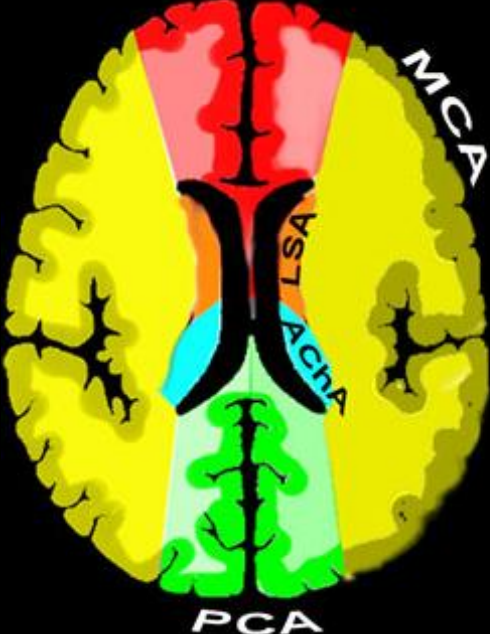
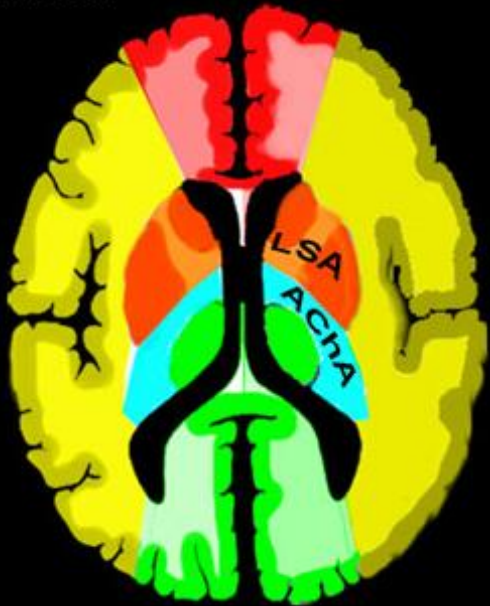
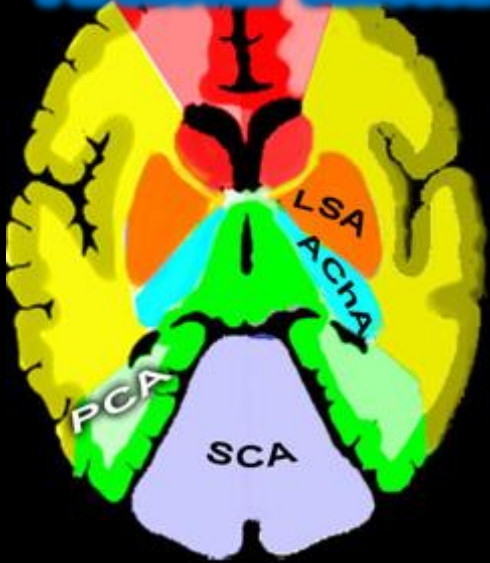
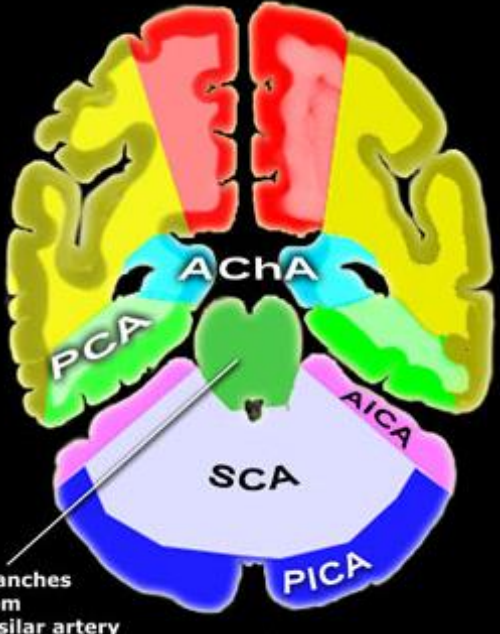
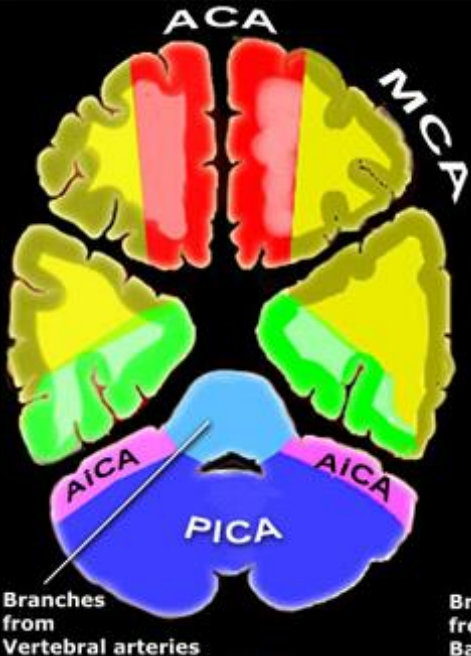
Vascular Territories of the Cerebrum



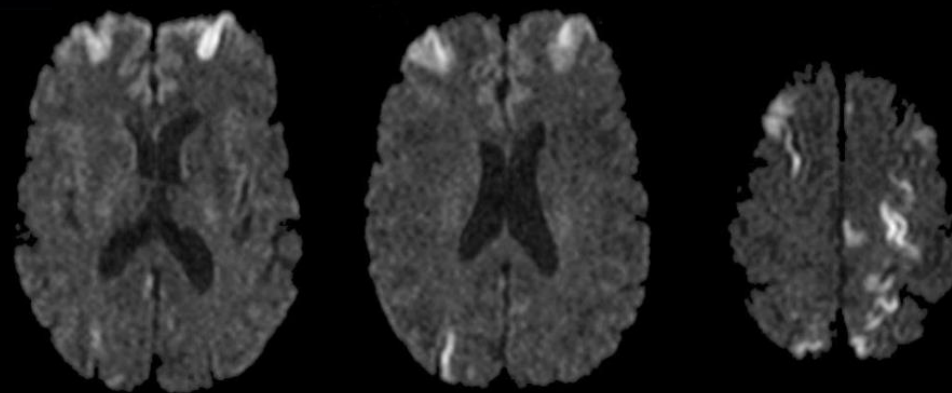
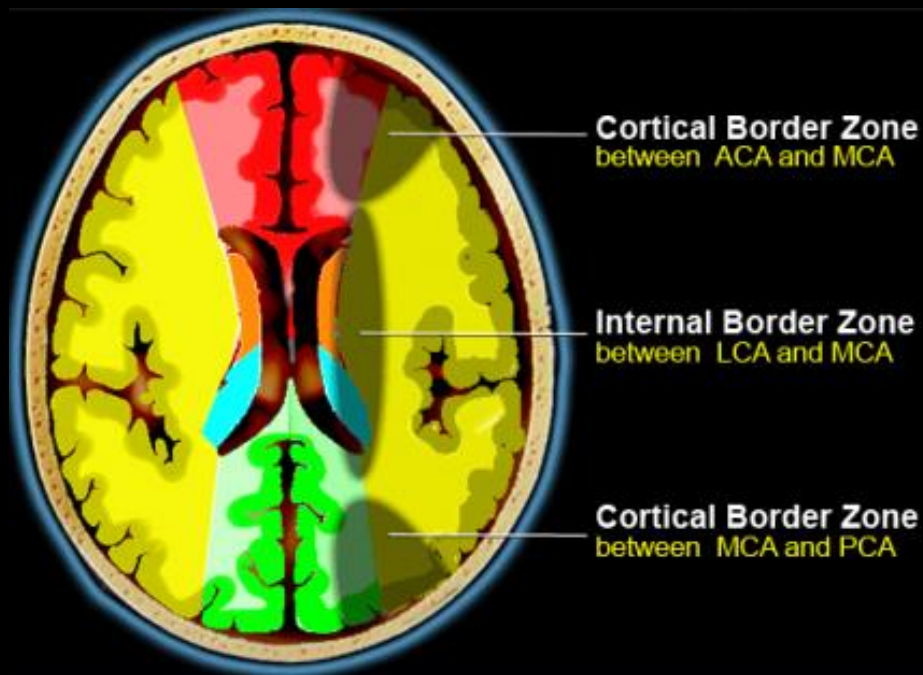
Vascular Territories of the Cerebrum



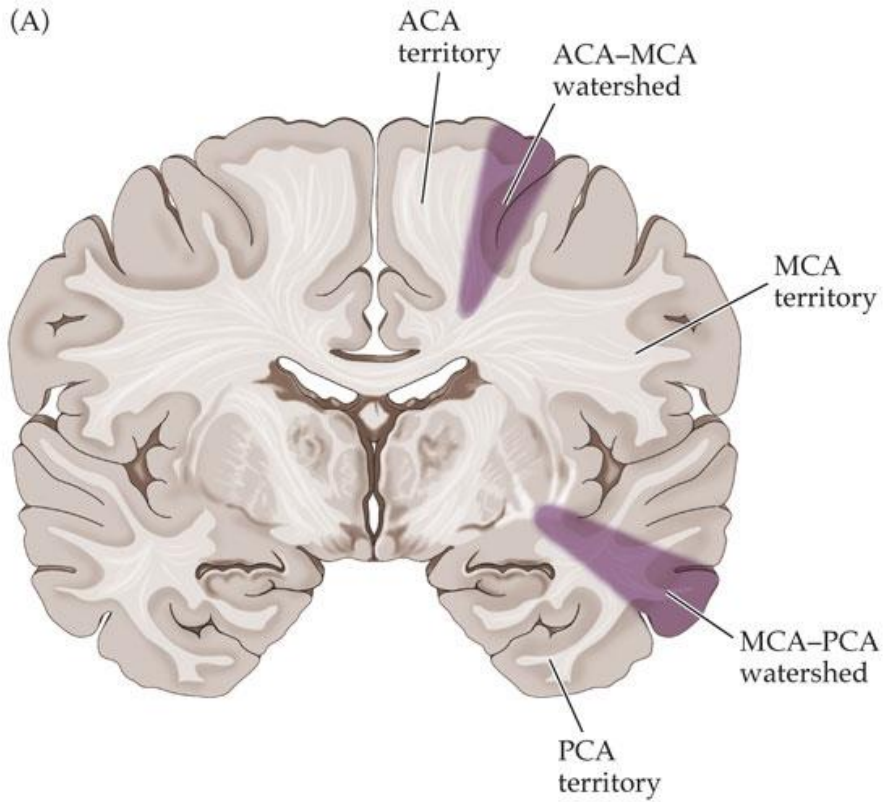
Arterial Territories



Border Zone Ischemia

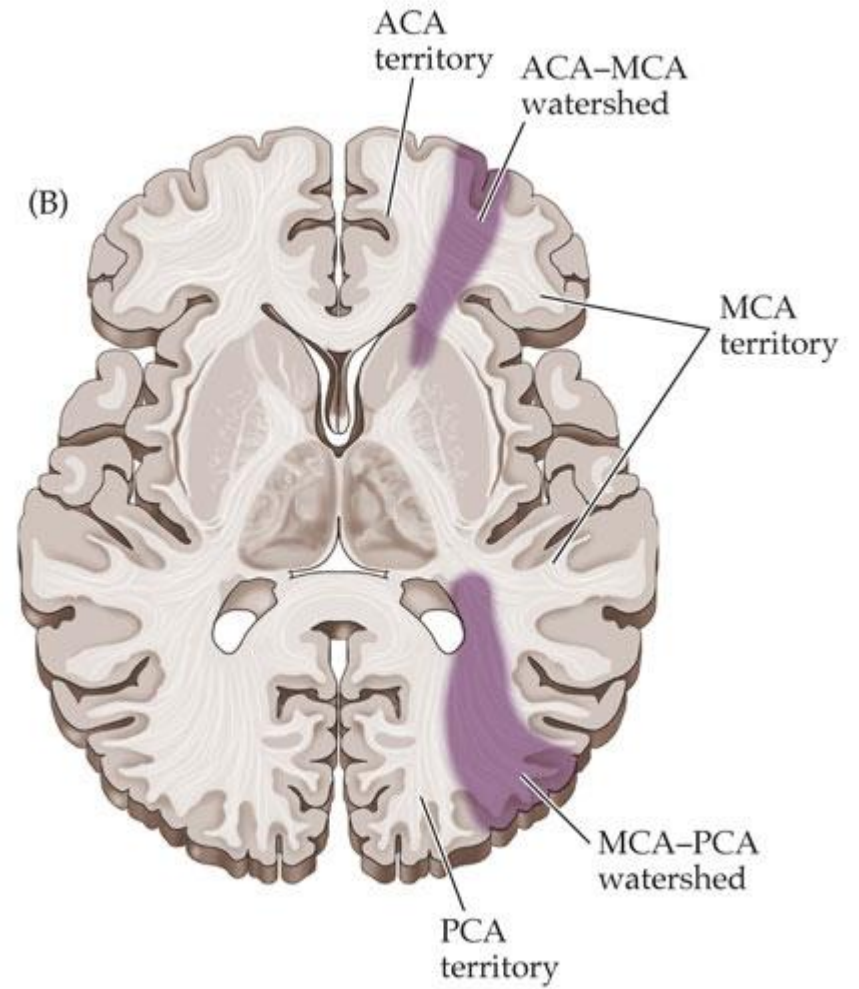


(A)



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(B)



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Border Zone Ischemia

Types	Features
ACA-MCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bibrachial cortical sensorimotor impairment, initially affecting whole limbs, but later confined to the hands & forearms• Disturbance of volitional saccade eye movements
MCA-PCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cortical blindness that rapidly improves but leaves a marked dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and memory deficits for verbal and nonverbal material
All three major arterial systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bilateral lower altitudinal visual field defect• Difficulty in judging size, distance, and movement• Disorders of smooth ocular pursuit



Neurovascular Anatomy (1): Anatomy of the Anterior Circulation

- **Carotid artery system**
- **Ophthalmic artery**
- **Arterial circle of Willis**
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Mahidol University
Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital

Neurovascular Anatomy (1): Anterior Circulation Anatomy

Natthapon Rattanathamsakul, MD.
December 14th, 2017