

Arteries, nerves, veins

Arteries of the Lower Leg

- **Popliteal Artery**-Actually just above the lower part of the leg. However, supplies many of the muscle in or around the knee itself
- **Anterior Tibial Artery**-Supplies the anterior compartment of the leg
- **Posterior Tibial Artery**-Supplies the posterior compartment of the leg
- **Fibular Artery**-Supplies the lateral compartment of the leg (makes sense because the fibula is the lateral bone of the lower leg)
- **Medial/Lateral Plantar Arteries**-Supplies the foot

Arteries of the Lower Leg

- The Popliteal is important because it branches in to two other arteries

Anterior Tibial Artery

Branches off in to many other smaller arteries

Accompanied by the anterior tibial vein

Posterior Tibial Artery

Accompanied by the posterior tibial vein

Also has other arteries that branch off of it

Arteries of the Lower Leg

Fibular Artery

Actually a branch of the posterior tibial artery

Runs downward in the deep posterior compartment of the leg

Its main duty is to provide a nutrient artery to the fibula

Branches

Communication branch to anterior tibial artery

Branch to the anterior lateral malleolar artery

Calcaneal branch to the Calcaneus

Veins of the Lower leg

- **Great Saphenous Vein**

 - Longest Vein in the body

 - Begins in the dorsum of the foot and ends in the femoral vein

- **Small Saphenous Vein**

 - Communicates with the deep veins of the dorsum of the foot and receives tributaries from the back of the leg

- **Posterior Tibial Vein**

 - Accompanies the posterior tibial artery as well as being joined by all the peroneal veins

- **Anterior Tibial Veins**

 - Passes between the tibia and fibula, goes over the interosseous membrane and joins with the PTV to form the popliteal vein

Veins of the Lower Leg

- Popliteal Vein

It is formed by the junction of the ATV and PTV

Also receives the small saphenous vein

Nerves of the Lower Leg

- **Sciatic Nerve**

Although this nerve does not descend in to the lower limb, it branches of in to two separate nerves that do

- Common Peroneal Nerve
- Tibial Nerve

It is also the largest nerve in the body, originating from the lumbar region of the spinal cord and reaching to the lower third of the thigh.

Common Peroneal Nerve

- Divides in to three branches known as the lateral sural cutaneous nerve, deep peroneal nerve and the superficial peroneal nerve
- Lateral Sural Cutaneous
 - Merges with the medial sural cutaneous nerve to form the sural nerve
 - The sural nerve runs down the outside of the leg
- Deep Peroneal
 - Starts at the outside of the upper leg but then moves across the tibia to supply nerve function to the front of the leg
 - Afterwards, continues downward in to the foot
- Superficial Peroneal

Tibial Nerve

- Two branches

The first branch of the tibial nerve is the medial sural cutaneous nerve, which mentioned above meets with the lateral to form the sural nerve.

The other branch reaches downward through the back of the leg to provide the muscle back there with nervous function.