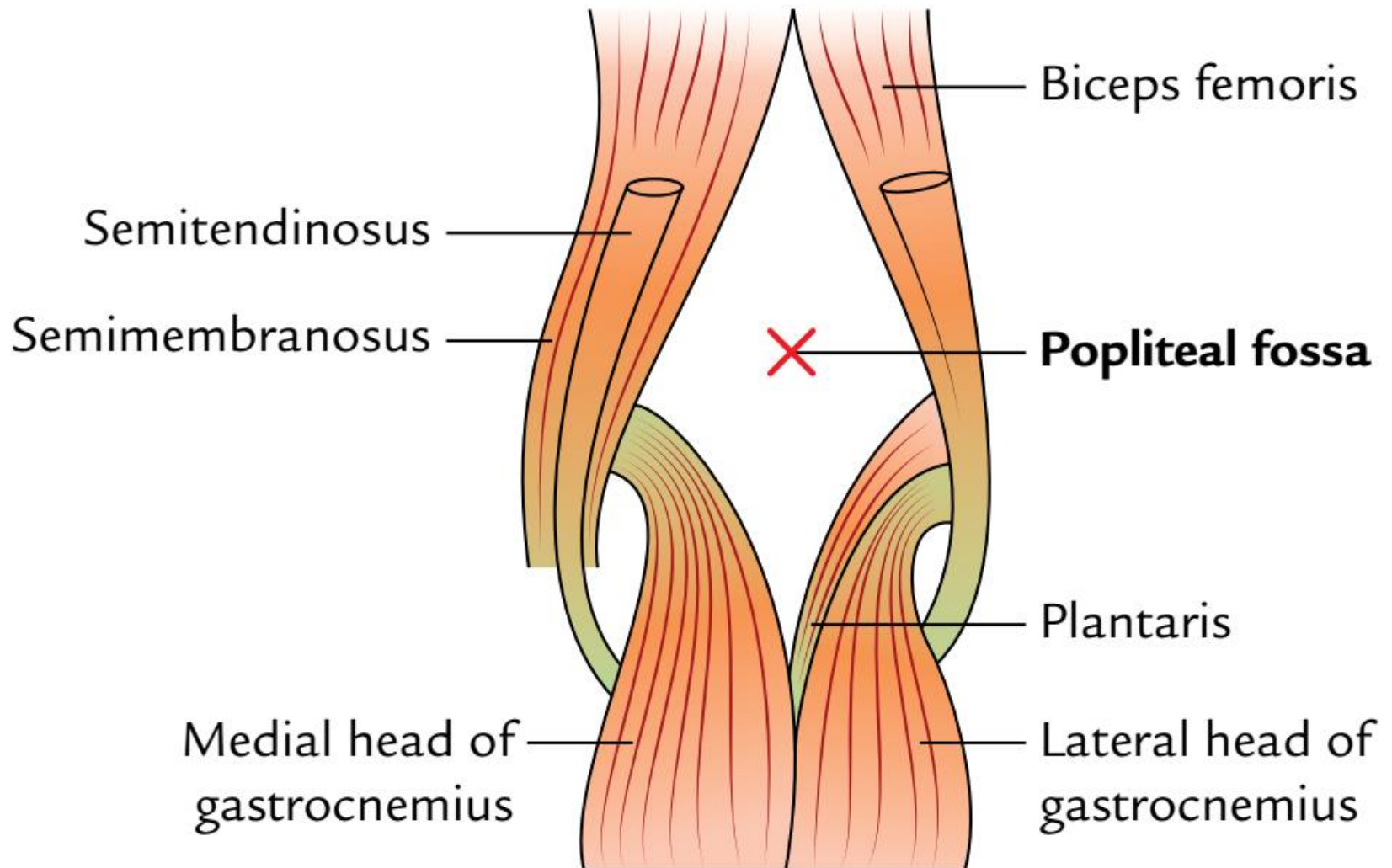


POPLITEAL FOSSA



Location

- **The popliteal fossa is a fat-filled diamond shaped shallow depression which is posterior to the knee.**
- **All the important nerves and vessels from the thigh to the leg pass through the popliteal fossa.**
- **It is homologous with cubital fossa.**



Boundaries –

- **Superolaterally-** biceps femoris
- **Superomedially-** semitendinosus and semimembranosus
- **Inferolaterally-** lateral head of the gastrocnemius .
- **Inferomedially-** medial head of the gastrocnemius.

ROOF –.

- superficial fascia
- deep fascia or popliteal fascia
- short saphenous vein
- 3 cutaneous nerves, namely, the branches and terminal part of the **posterior cutaneous nerve of the thigh**, the posterior division of the **medial cutaneous nerve of the thigh** and the **peroneal or sural communicating nerve**.

Floor- it is formed from above downwards by-

- 1. The popliteal surface of femur**

2. The capsule of the knee joint and the oblique popliteal ligament

3. The strong popliteal fascia covering the popliteus muscle.

Contents-

1. The popliteal artery and its branches

2. The popliteal vein and its tributaries

3. The tibial nerve and its branches

4. The common peroneal nerve and its branches

Semitendinosus

Semimembranosus

Tibial nerve

Medial head of
gastrocnemius

Biceps Femoris

Popliteal lymph nodes

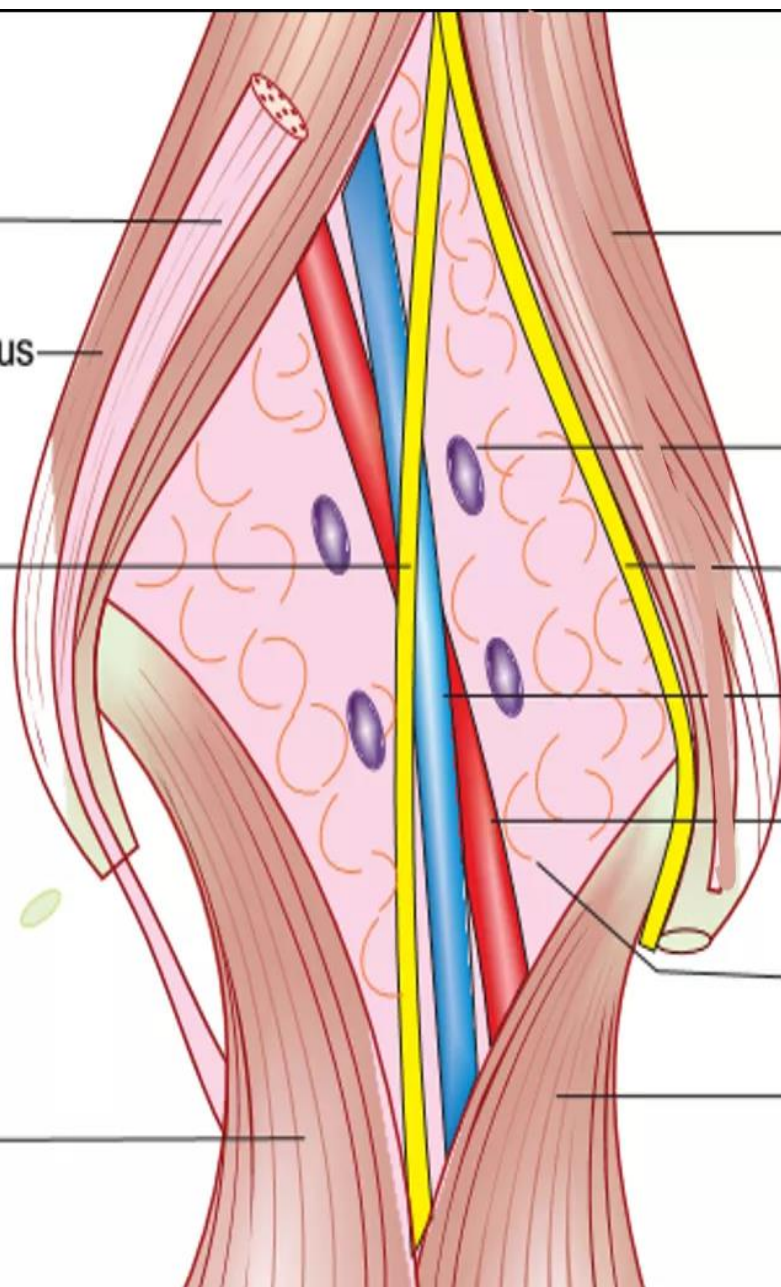
Common peroneal nerve

Popliteal vein

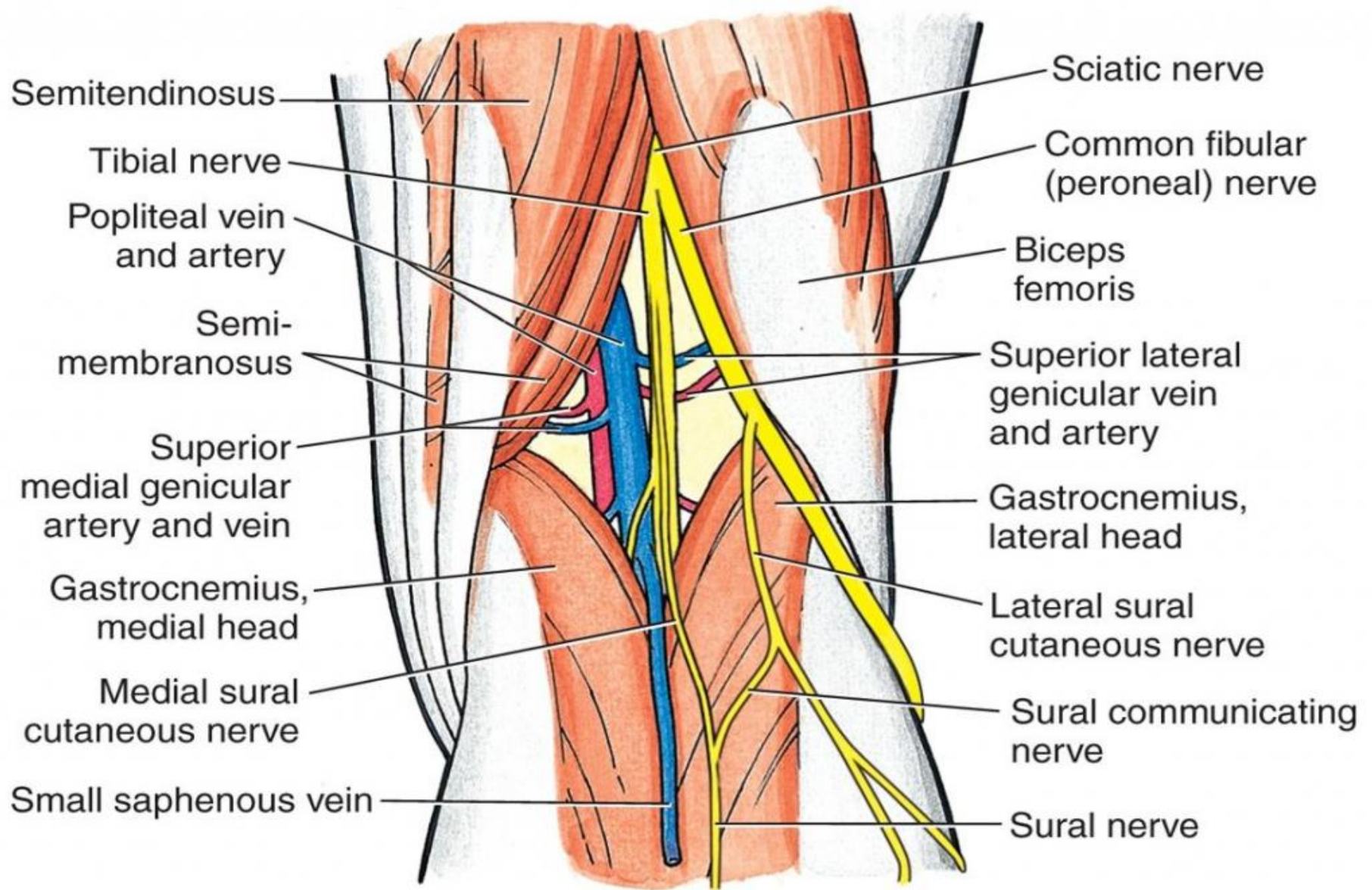
Popliteal artery

Fibrofatty tissues

Lateral head of
gastrocnemius



- **5. Posterior cutaneous nerve of the thigh**
- **6. The genicular branch of the obturator nerve**
- **7. The popliteal lymph nodes**
- **8. Fat**
- **The popliteal vessels and the tibial nerve cross the fossa vertically and are arranged one over the other, the tibial nerve is most superficial**
- **The popliteal vein lies deep and the popliteal artery is deepest of all.**
- **The common peroneal nerve crosses the fossa obliquely from superior angle to the lateral angle.**



C Posterior view

- The relative position of these structures is as follows-

In the upper part- from medial to lateral side

Artery- vein- nerve

In the middle part- from behind forwards

Nerve- vein- artery

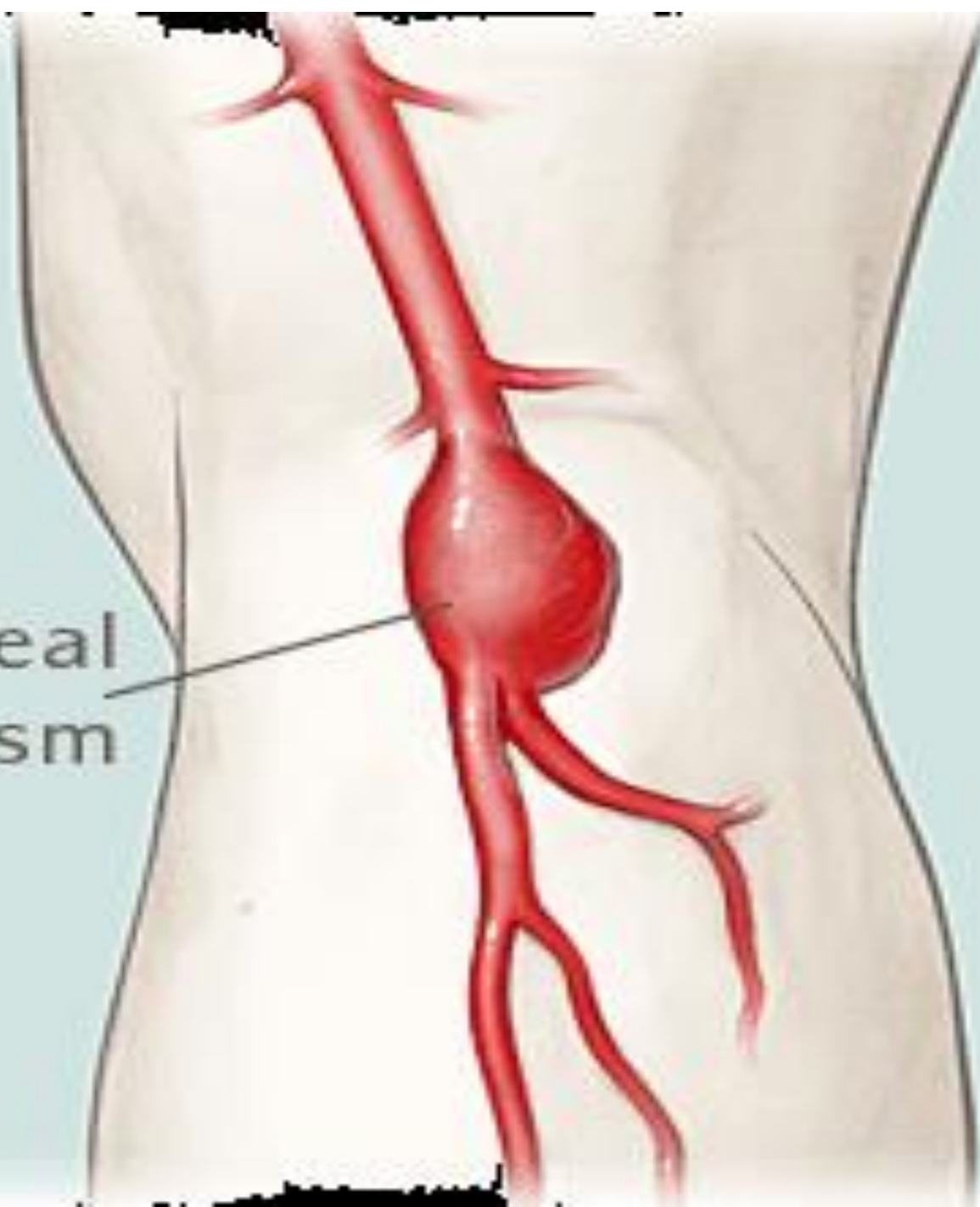
In the lower part- from medial to lateral side

Nerve- vein-artery

CLINICAL ASPECT

- POPLITEAL ARTERY ANEURYSM
- VARICOSE VEINS
- BAKERS CYST

Popliteal
aneurysm





Bakers
Cyst

Synovial
Lining

Bakers
Cyst



