

DIRECTIONAL TERMS, BODY CAVITIES AND REGIONS

Anatomical Position and Directional Terms

Superior/inferior: above/below

Anterior(ventral)/posterior(dorsal): front/back

Medial/lateral: middle/side

Proximal/distal: near torso/far from torso

Superficial/deep: near surface/far from surface

Supine/Prone: laying on back/laying on stomach

Body planes and sections

Sagittal: Section divides cadaver or organ into left and right halves. Often symmetrical.

Frontal (AKA coronal): Section divides cadaver or organ into front and back halves. Usually asymmetrical.

Transverse (AKA cross-section or X.S.): Section divides cadaver or organ into a top and bottom half. Asymmetrical.

Body Cavities

1. Dorsal body cavity

- a. Cranial cavity: contains brain
- b. Vertebral cavity: contains spinal cord

2. Ventral body cavity

- a. Thoracic cavity: contains heart and lungs
- b. Abdominopelvic cavity
 - Abdominal cavity: digestive organs and kidneys
 - Pelvic cavity: bladder and reproductive organs

Abdominopelvic Quadrants and Notable Contents

1. Right Upper Quadrant: liver, pancreas
1. Left Upper Quadrant: stomach, spleen
2. Right Lower Quadrant: appendix
3. Left Lower Quadrant: descending colon

Abdominopelvic Regions

1. Epigastric
2. Umbilical
3. Hypogastric
4. Right hypochondriac
5. Left hypochondriac
6. Right lumbar
7. Left lumbar
8. Right iliac
9. Left iliac