


Lumbar artery

The lumbar arteries are arteries located in the lower back or [lumbar region](#). The lumbar arteries are  in parallel with the intercostals.

They are usually four in number on either side, and arise from the back of the aorta, opposite the bodies of the upper four lumbar vertebrae.

A fifth pair, small in size, is occasionally present: they arise from the [middle sacral artery](#).

They run lateralward and backward on the bodies of the lumbar vertebrae, behind the sympathetic trunk, to the intervals between the adjacent [transverse processes](#), and are then continued into the abdominal wall.

The arteries of the right side pass behind the [inferior vena cava](#), and the upper two on each side run behind the corresponding crus of the diaphragm.

The arteries of both sides pass beneath the tendinous arches which give origin to the psoas major, and are then continued behind this muscle and the lumbar plexus.

They now cross the quadratus lumborum, the upper three arteries running behind, the last usually in front of the muscle.

At the lateral border of the quadratus lumborum they pierce the posterior aponeurosis of the transversus abdominis and are carried forward between this muscle and the obliquus internus.

They anastomose with the lower intercostal, the subcostal, the iliolumbar, the deep iliac circumflex, and the inferior epigastric arteries.

see [lumbar artery injury](#)

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