

# Tortuous

**Definition:** In medical terminology, “tortuous” describes an anatomical structure—typically a vessel, duct, or pathway—that is **excessively twisted, winding, or meandering**.

**Clinical relevance:** Tortuous anatomy can **impede catheter navigation**, increase procedural complexity, and may be associated with underlying vascular pathology (e.g., atherosclerosis, elongation, or stenosis).

## Examples:

- Tortuous internal carotid artery
- Tortuous sigmoid sinus
- Tortuous ureter

## Related terms:

- [stenosis](#)
- [trackability](#)

see [Tortuous vessel](#).

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