

# Vascular supply of the brain

**Julie Staals**  
**Dept of Neurology**  
**MUMC+**

# Content

---

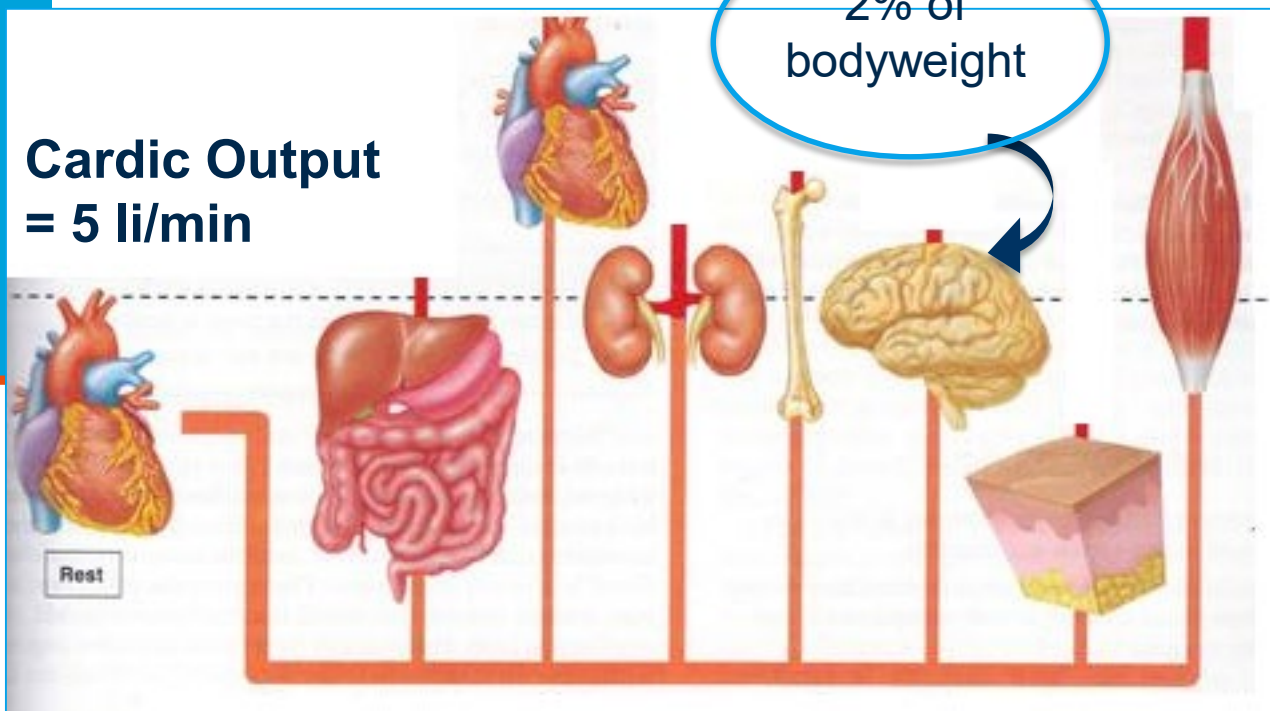
- A. Arterial blood supply
- B. Supply areas and Brain functions
- C. Venous system
- D. Disease: Stroke



# Question

## CBF ?

- a. 0.5% of CO
- b. 2% of CO
- c. 5% of CO
- d. 15% of CO



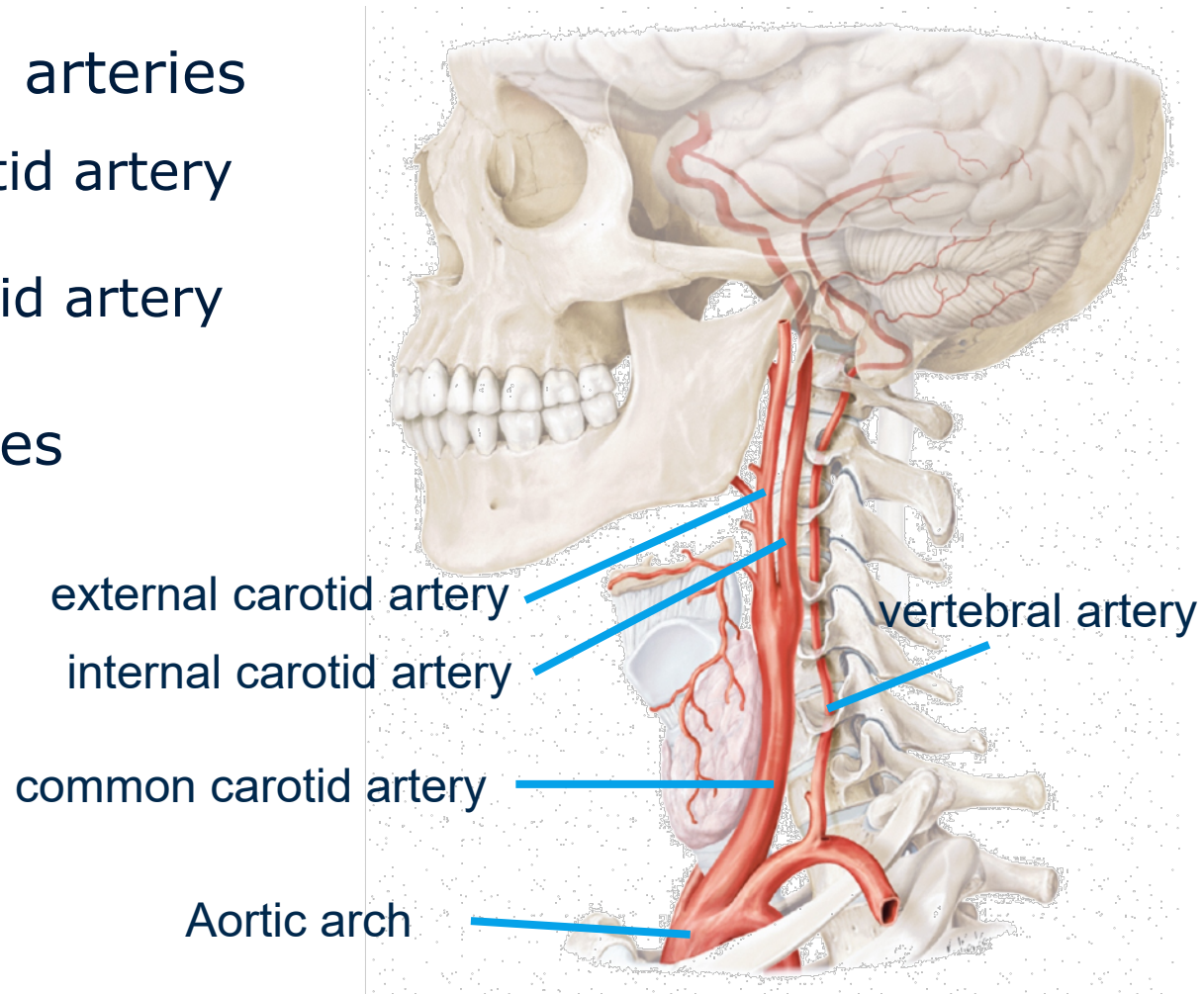
# Our brain is very special

- Brain:
  - weight  $\sim 1500\text{g} = 2\%$  body weight
  - CBF  $\sim 750\text{ ml/min} = 15\%$  cardiac output  
 $\sim 50\text{ml}/100\text{gr}/\text{min}$
- Metabolism:
  - glucose
- No reserve or storage of oxygen and glucose
- Fully dependent on continuous blood supply  
→ collateral circulation (“alternative ways”)

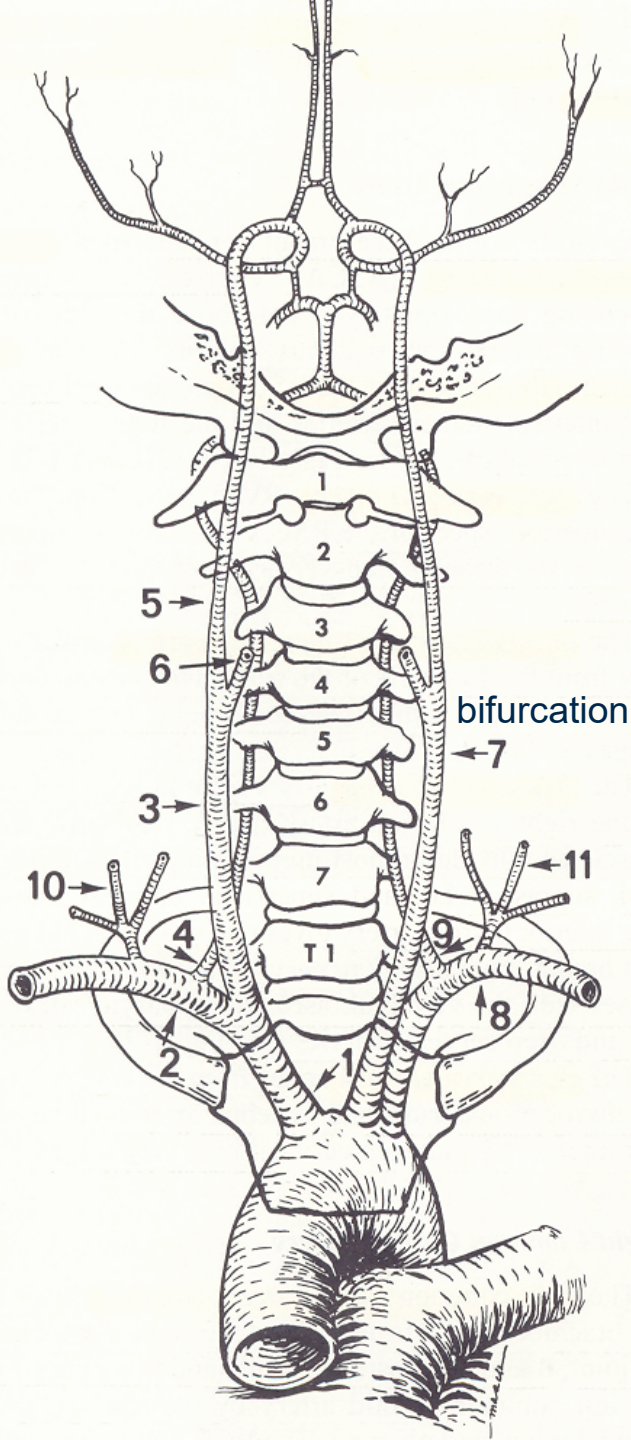


# Arterial supply - precerebral

- Common carotid arteries
  - External carotid artery
  - Internal carotid artery
- Vertebral arteries



# Arterial supply



- Carotid (anterior circulation)

80%

Common carotid artery →

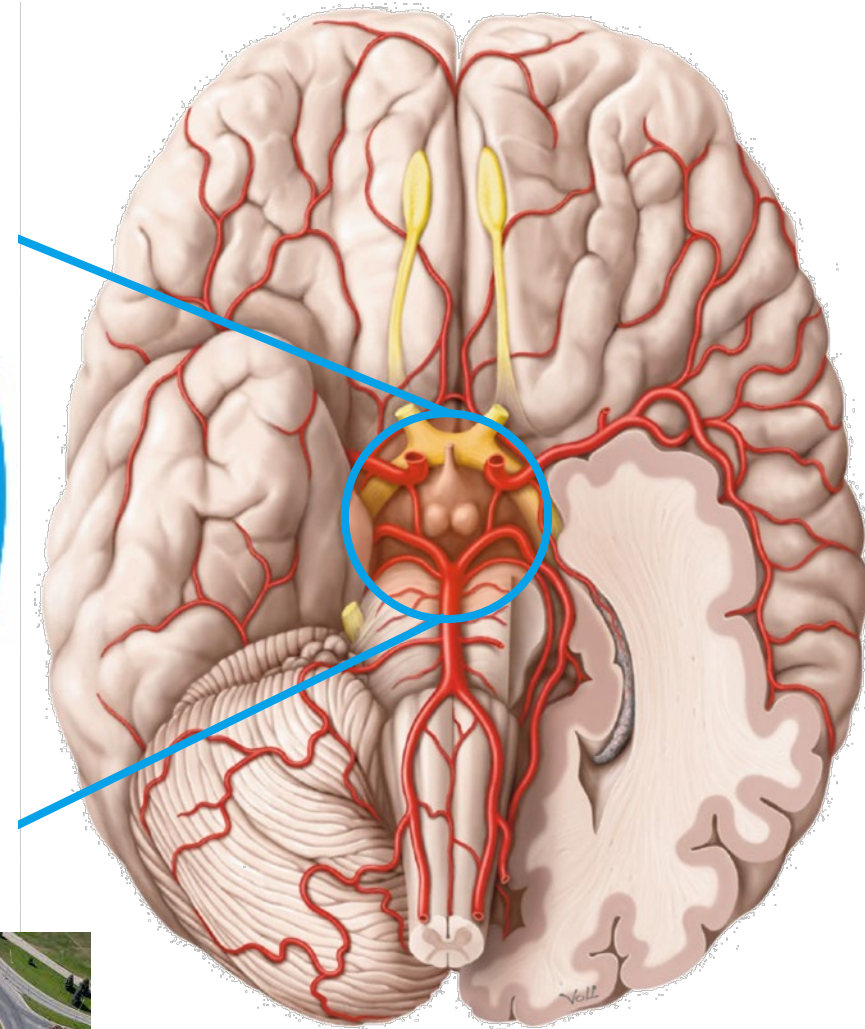
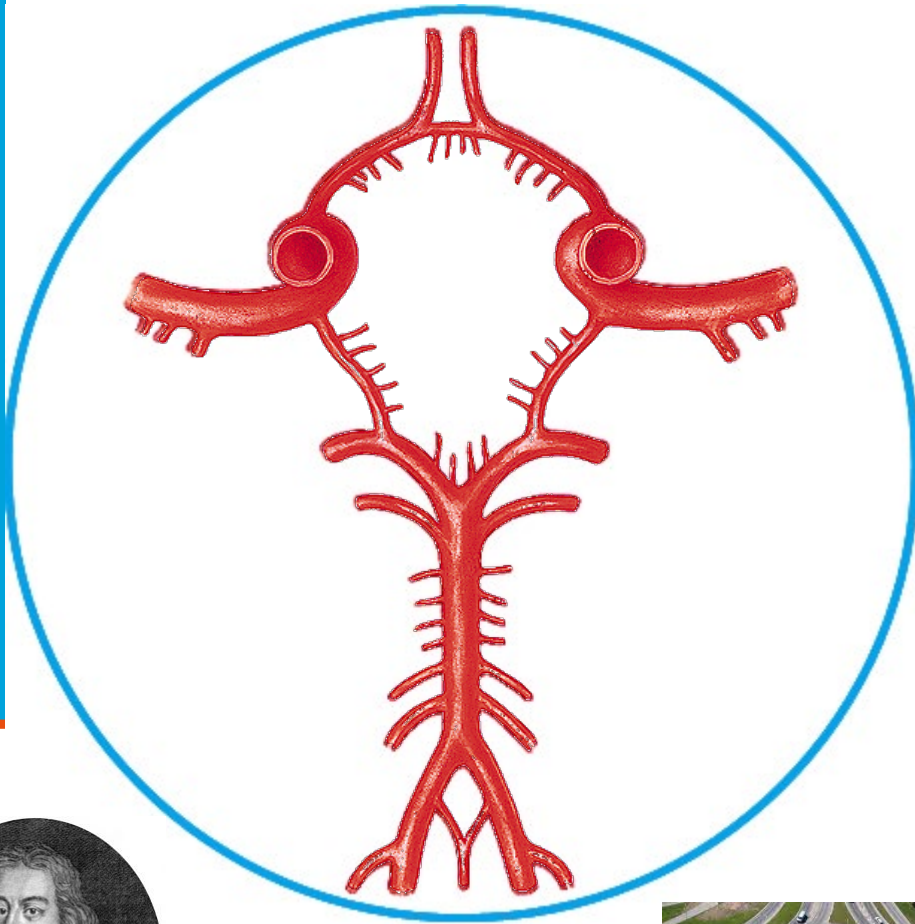
- Internal carotid a. (ICA) →
  - Middle cerebral a. (MCA)
  - Anterior cerebral a. (ACA)

- Vertebrobasilar (posterior circulation)

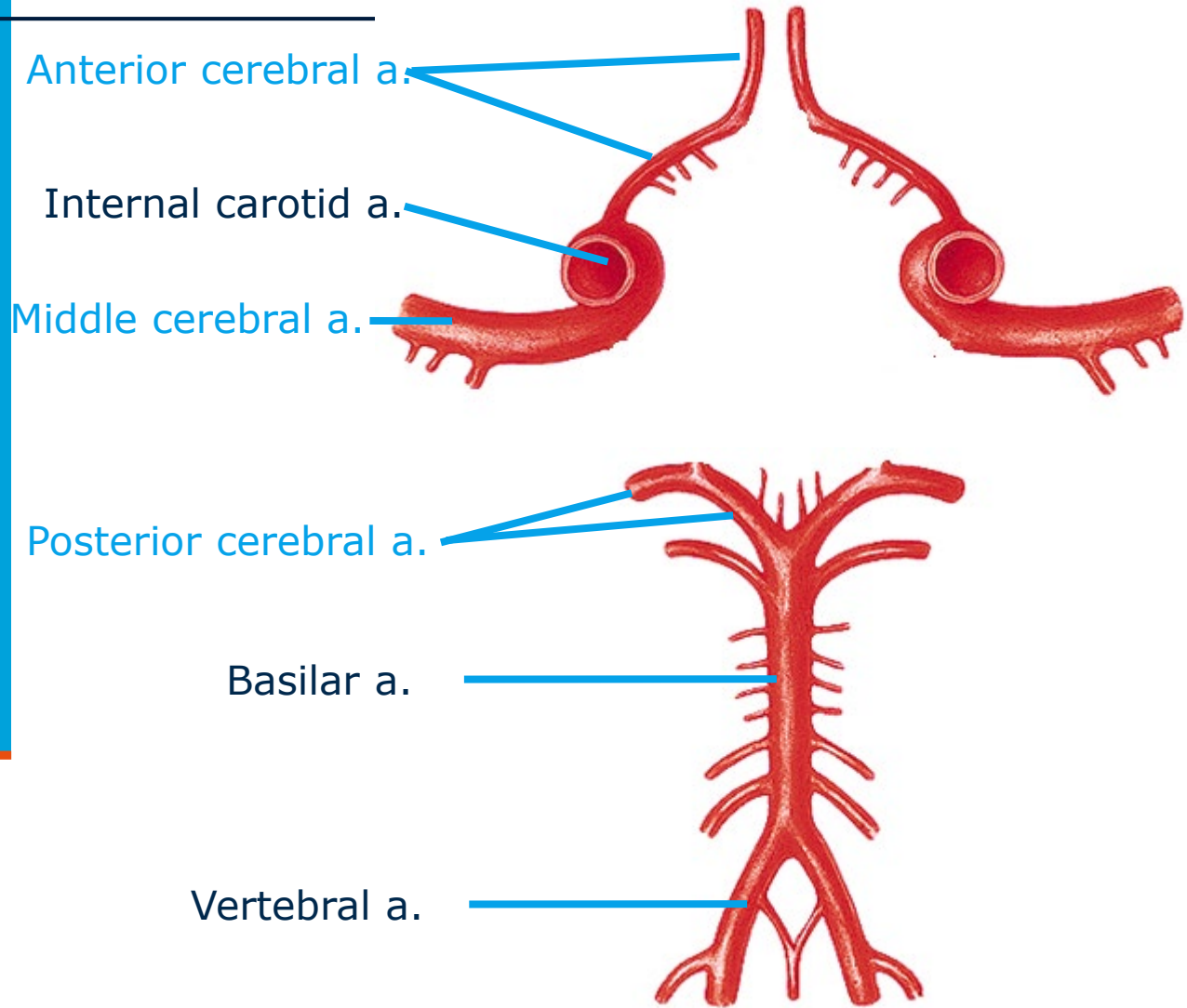
20%

- Vertebral a. →
- Basilar a. →
  - Posterior cerebral a. (PCA)

# Circle of Willis

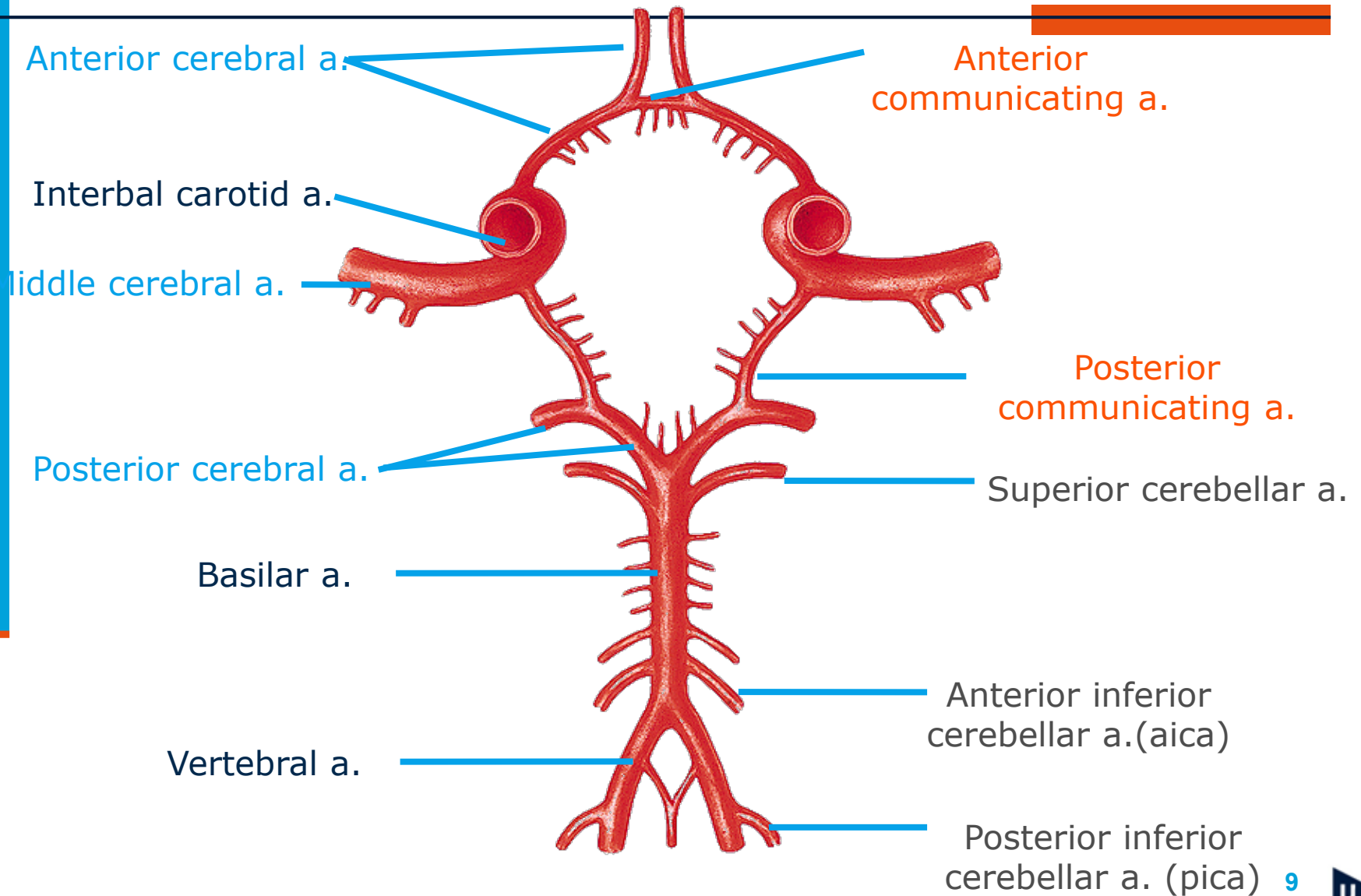


# Circle of Willis

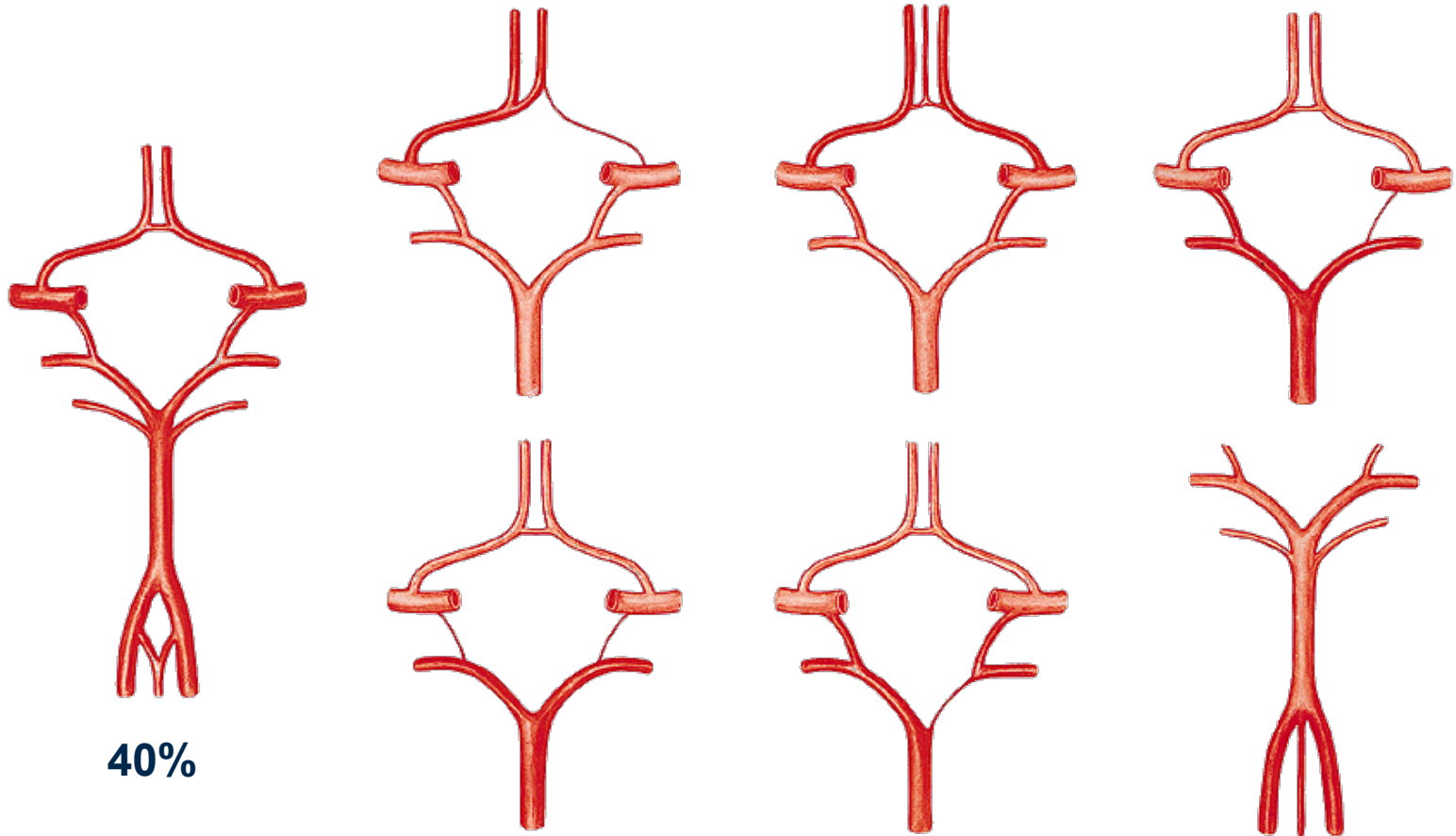




# Circle of Willis

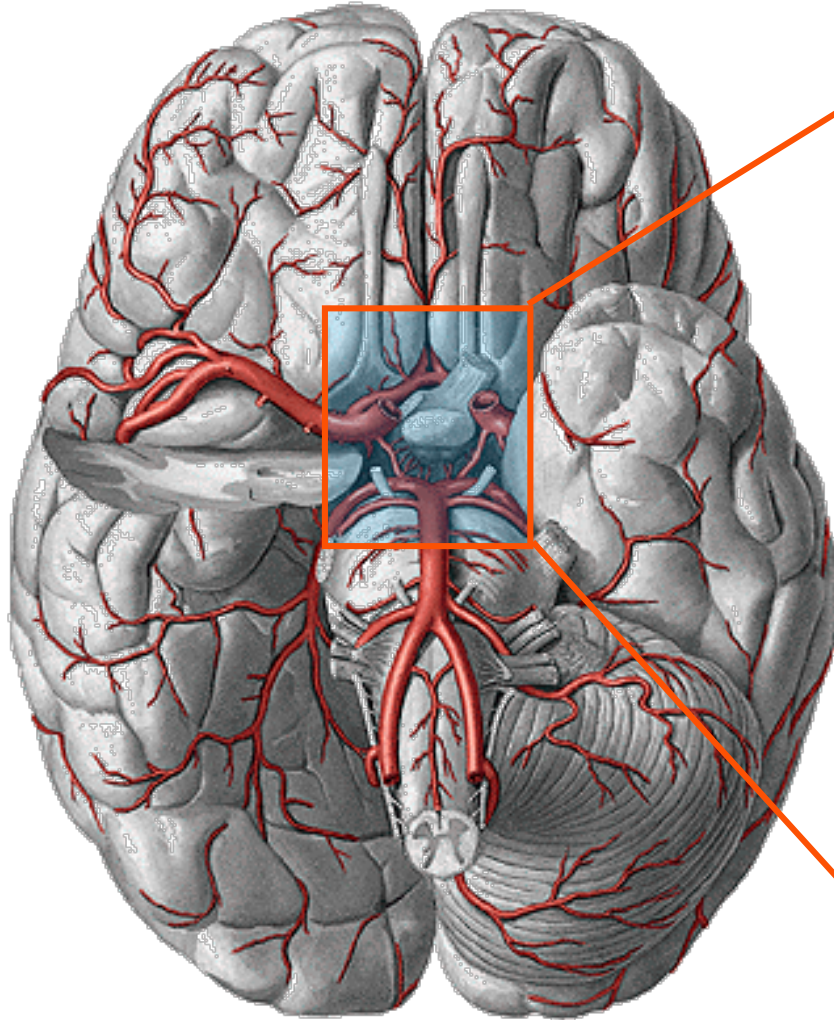


# Circle of Willis: variants

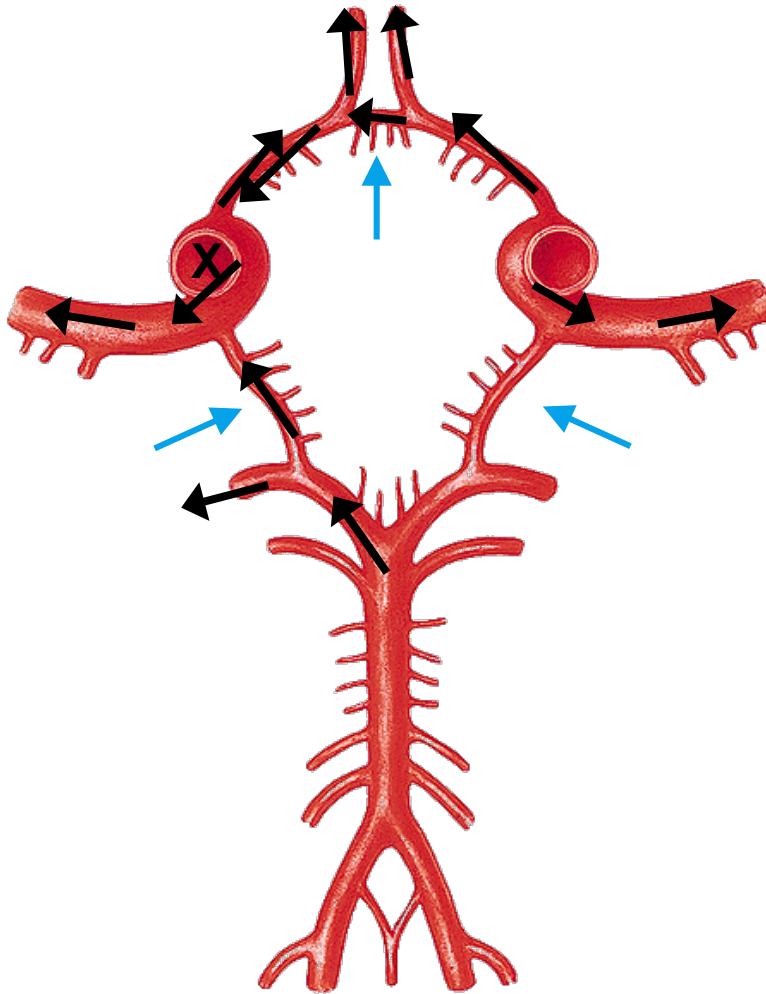


40%

# Circle of Willis



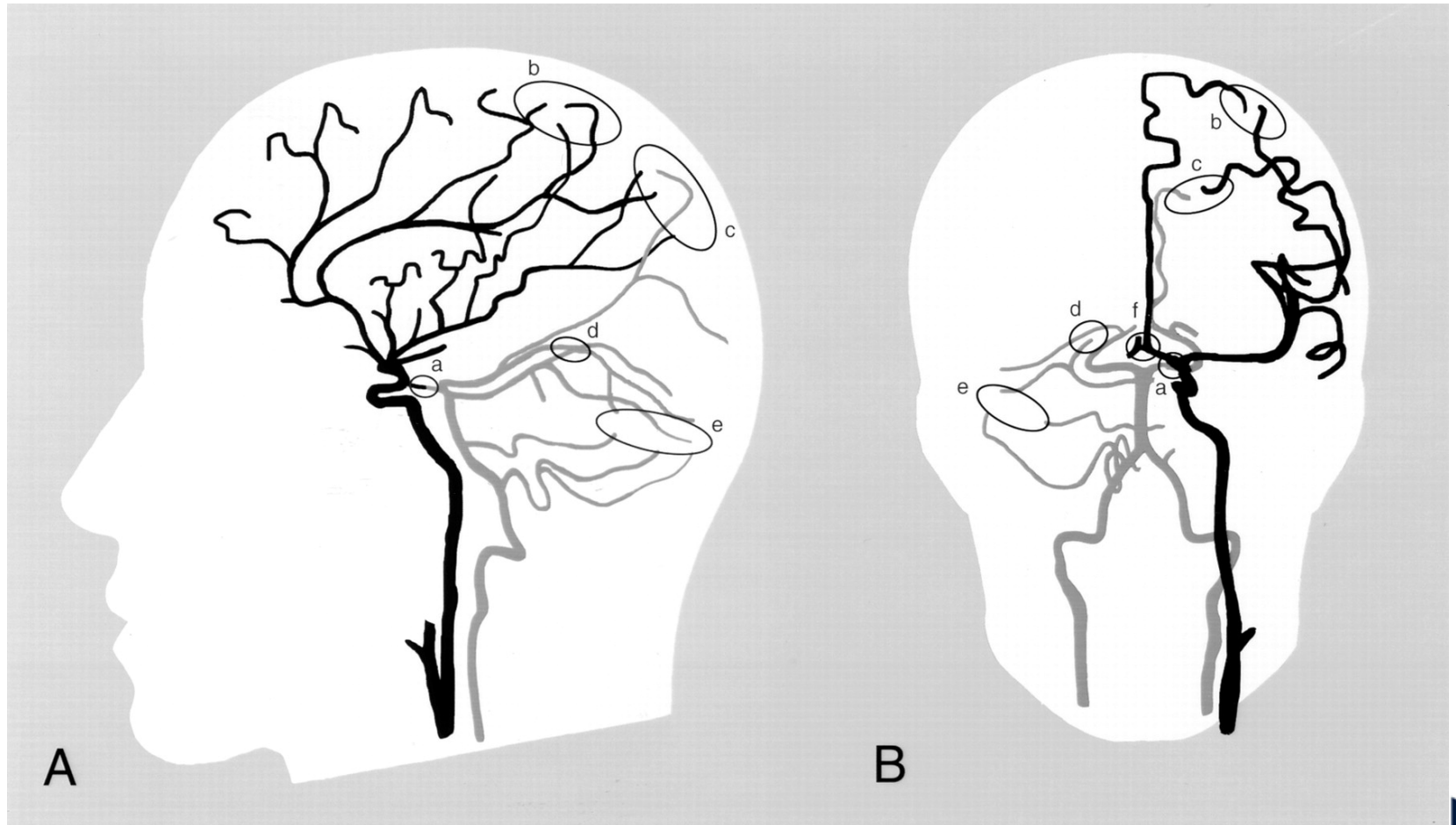
# Collateral supply: circle of willis



- Carotid system left ↔ right
- Carotid ↔ Vertebrobasilar system

# Collateral supply: anastomosis

## ■ 'overlap'

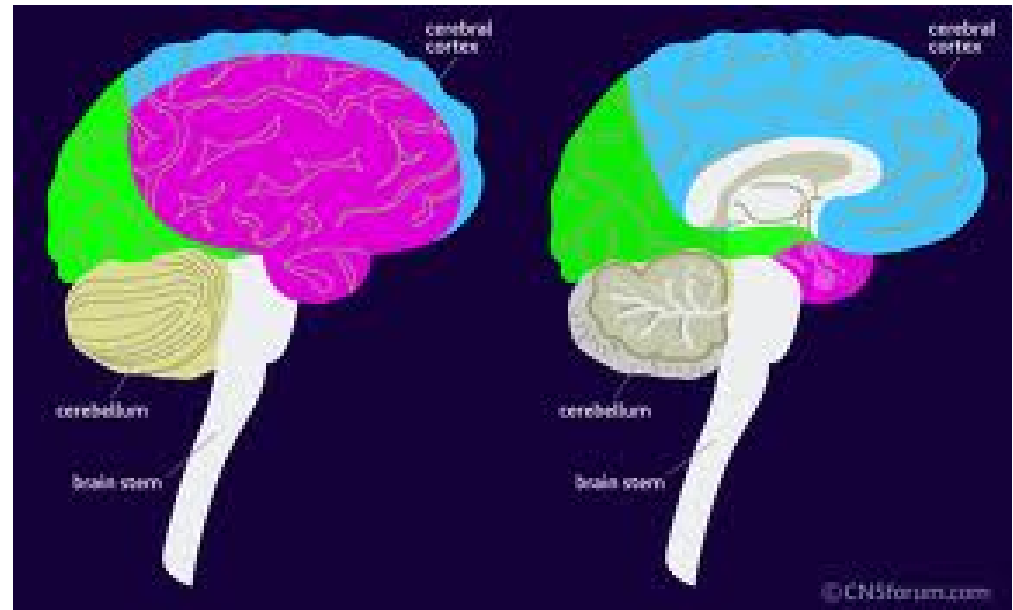
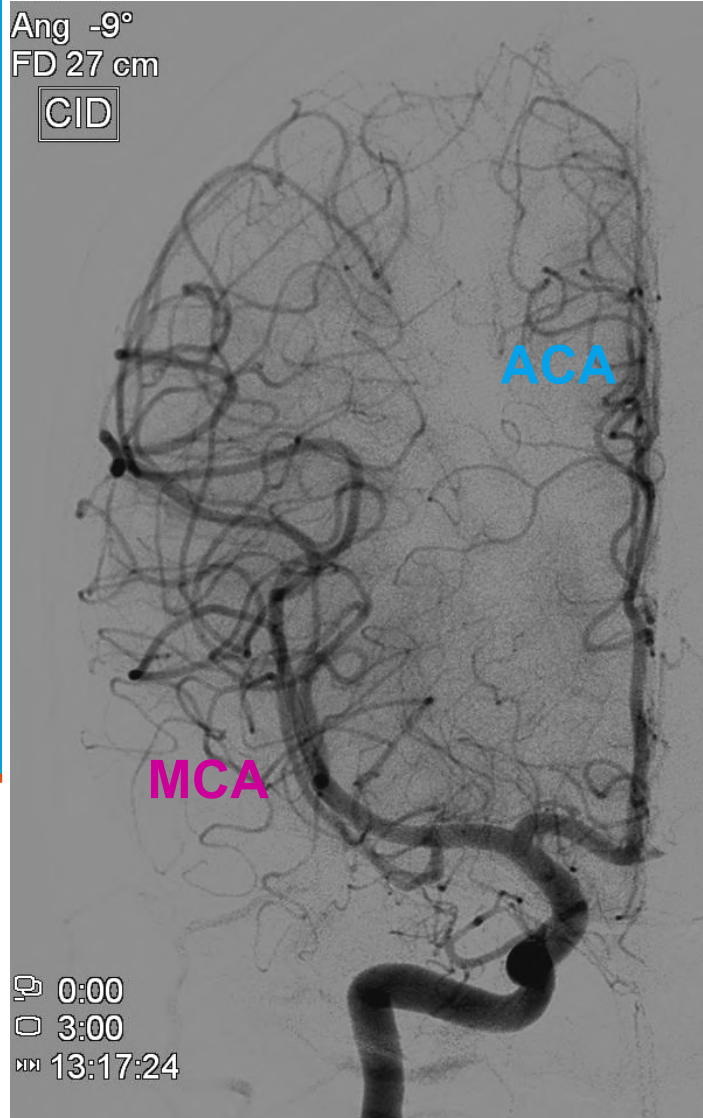


# From vascular supply

---

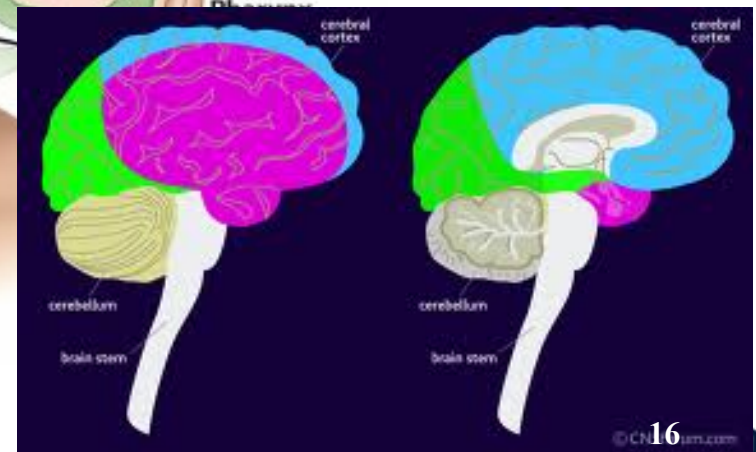
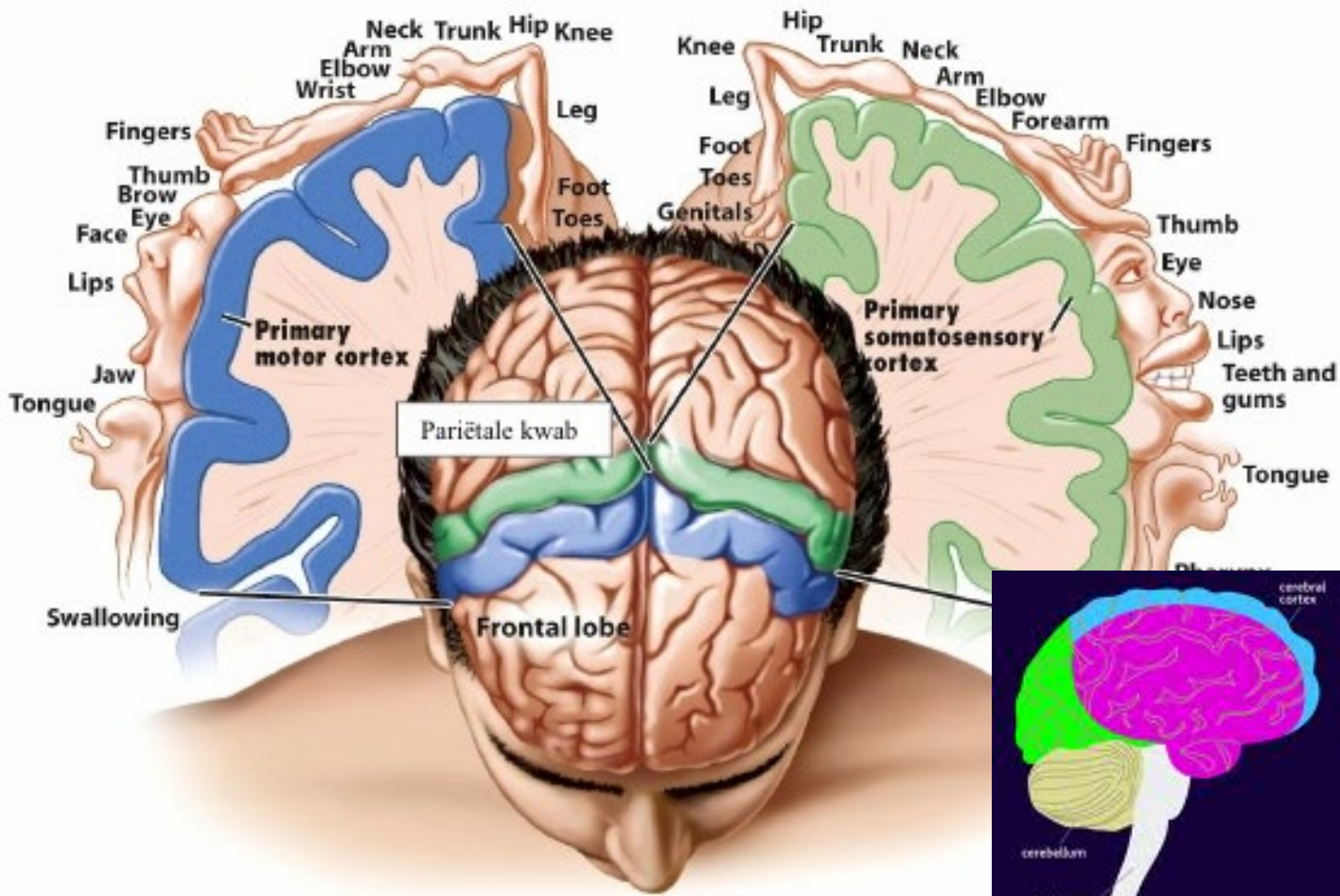
# to brain functions

# Middle and anterior cerebral artery

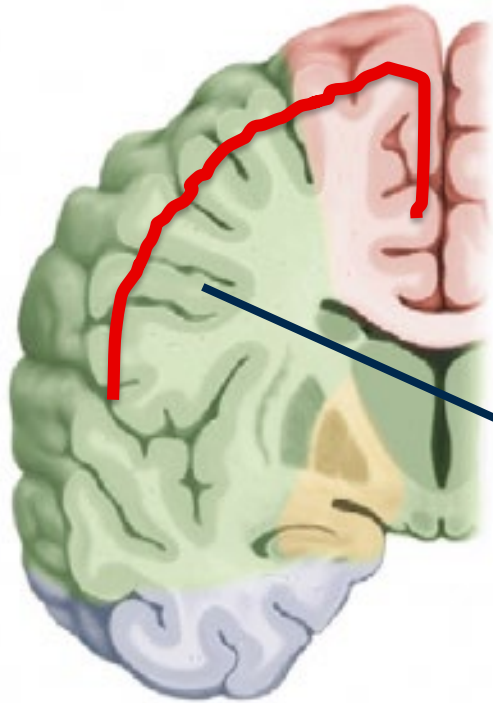


Side view

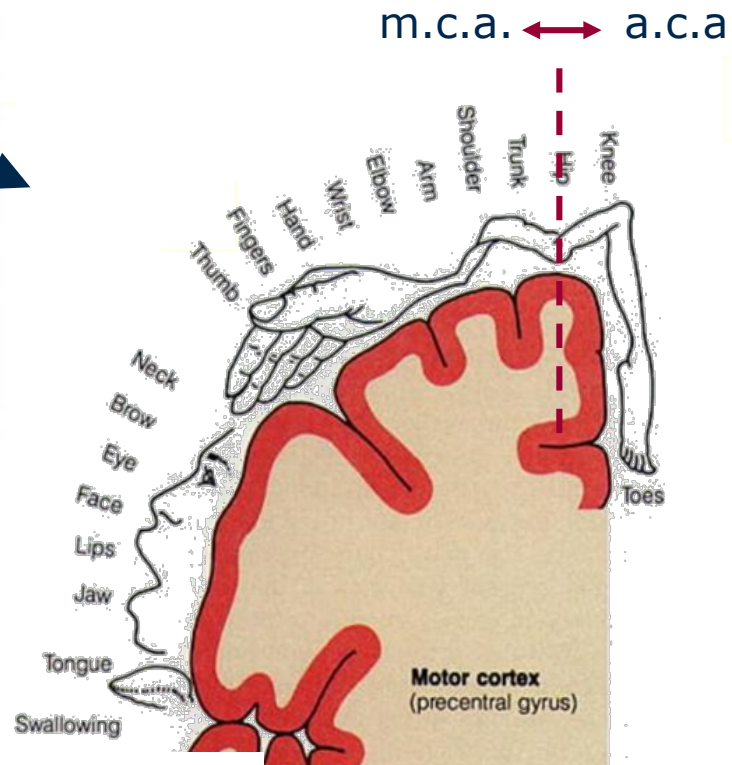
Frontal view



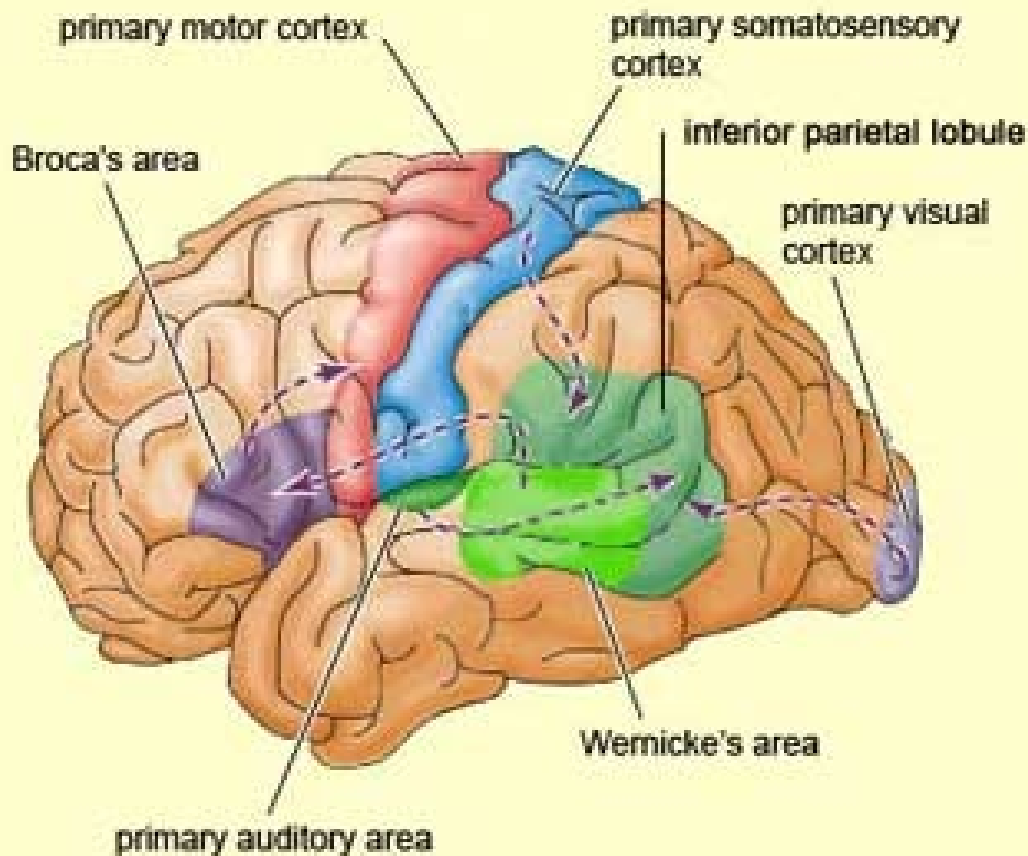




- Anterior cerebral artery
- Medial cerebral artery
- Posterior cerebral artery



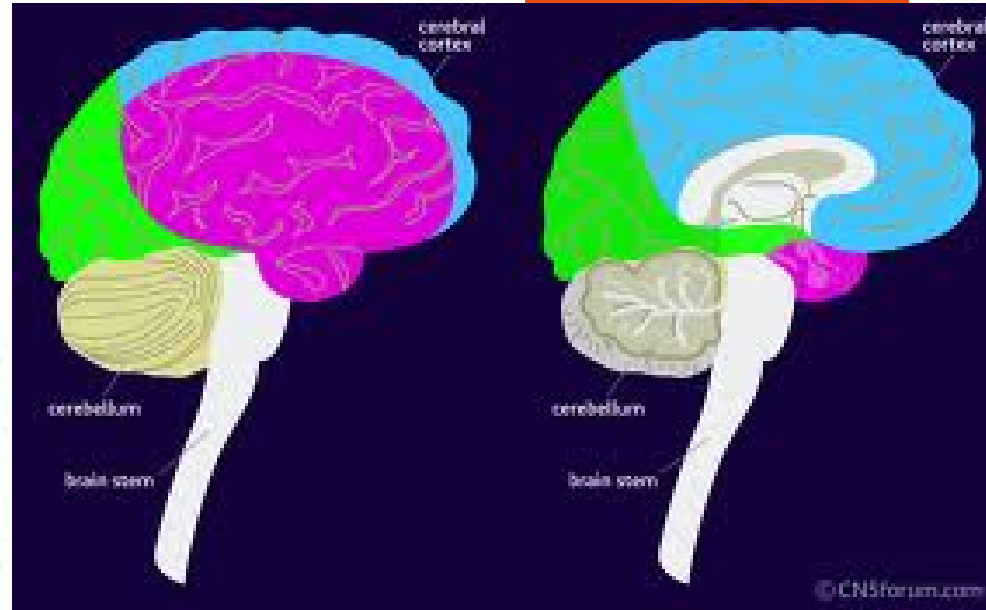
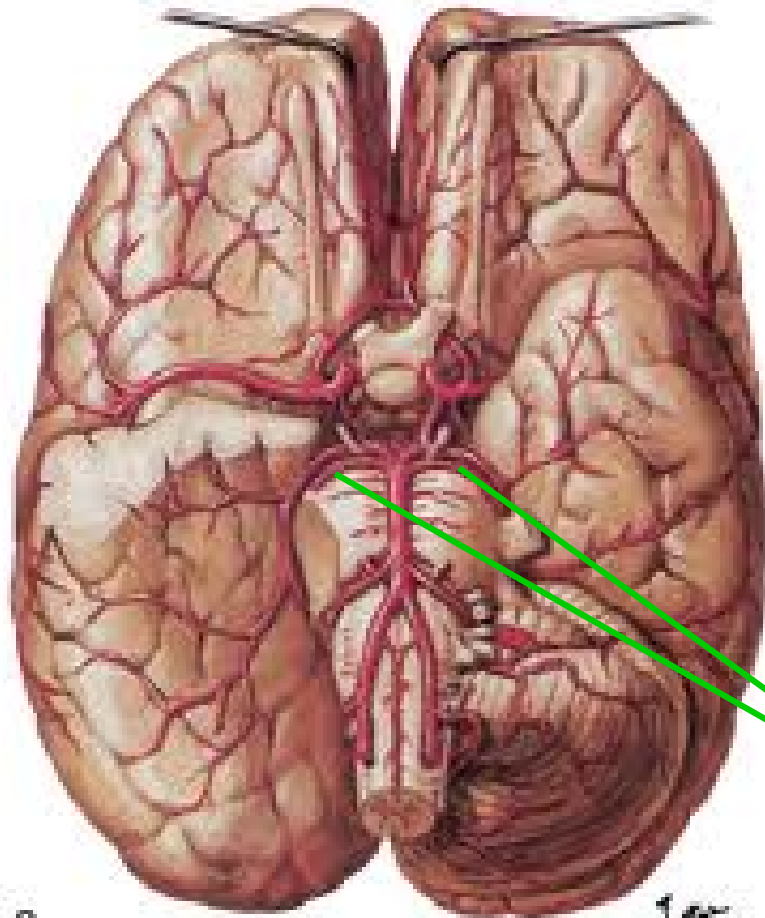
# Language



Broca and Wernicke area:

- In which lobe?
- On which side?
- In which vascular territory?

# Posterior cerebral artery

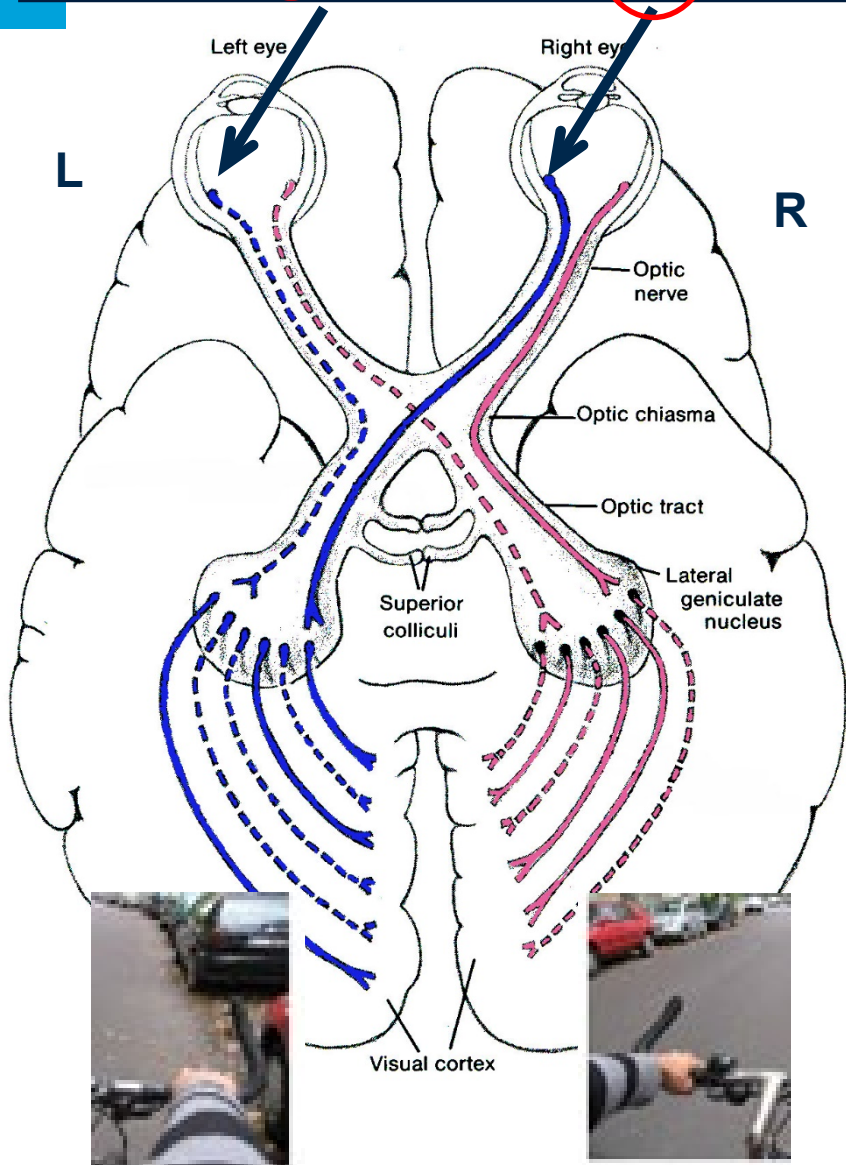


PCA

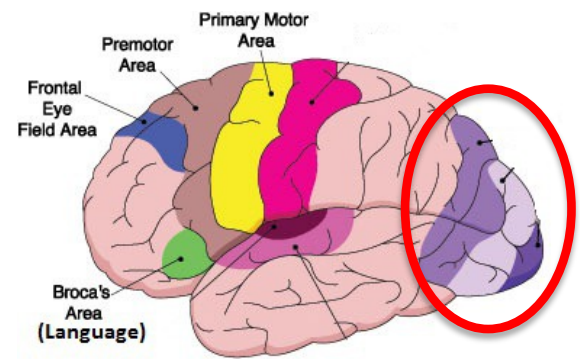
Occipital lobe: visual cortex

Figure 9.

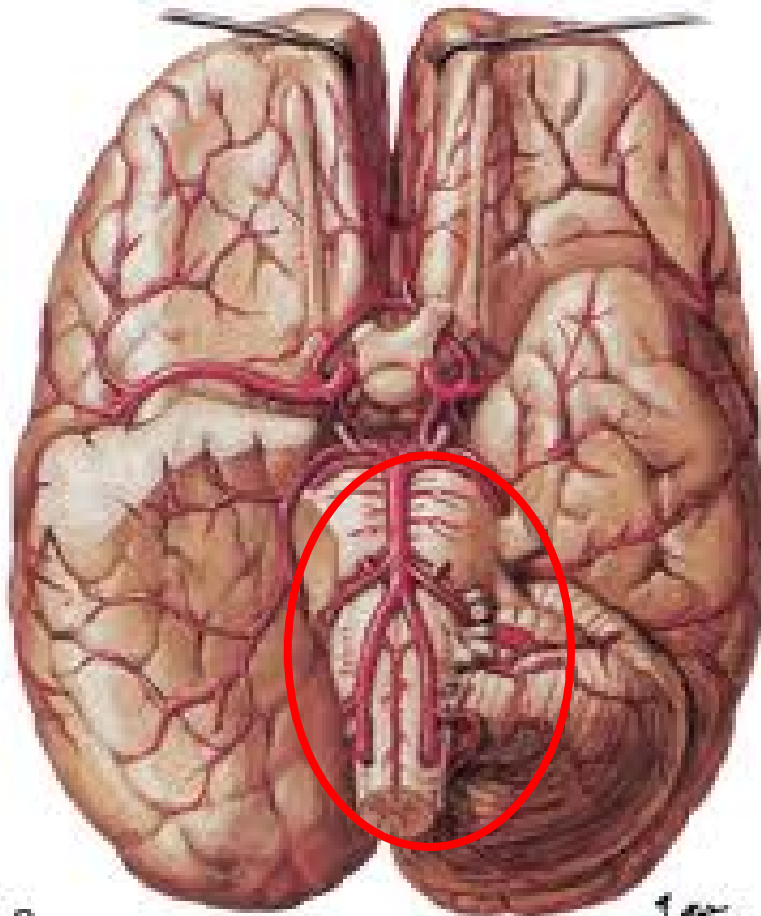




# Visual tracts



# Vertebral and basilar arteries

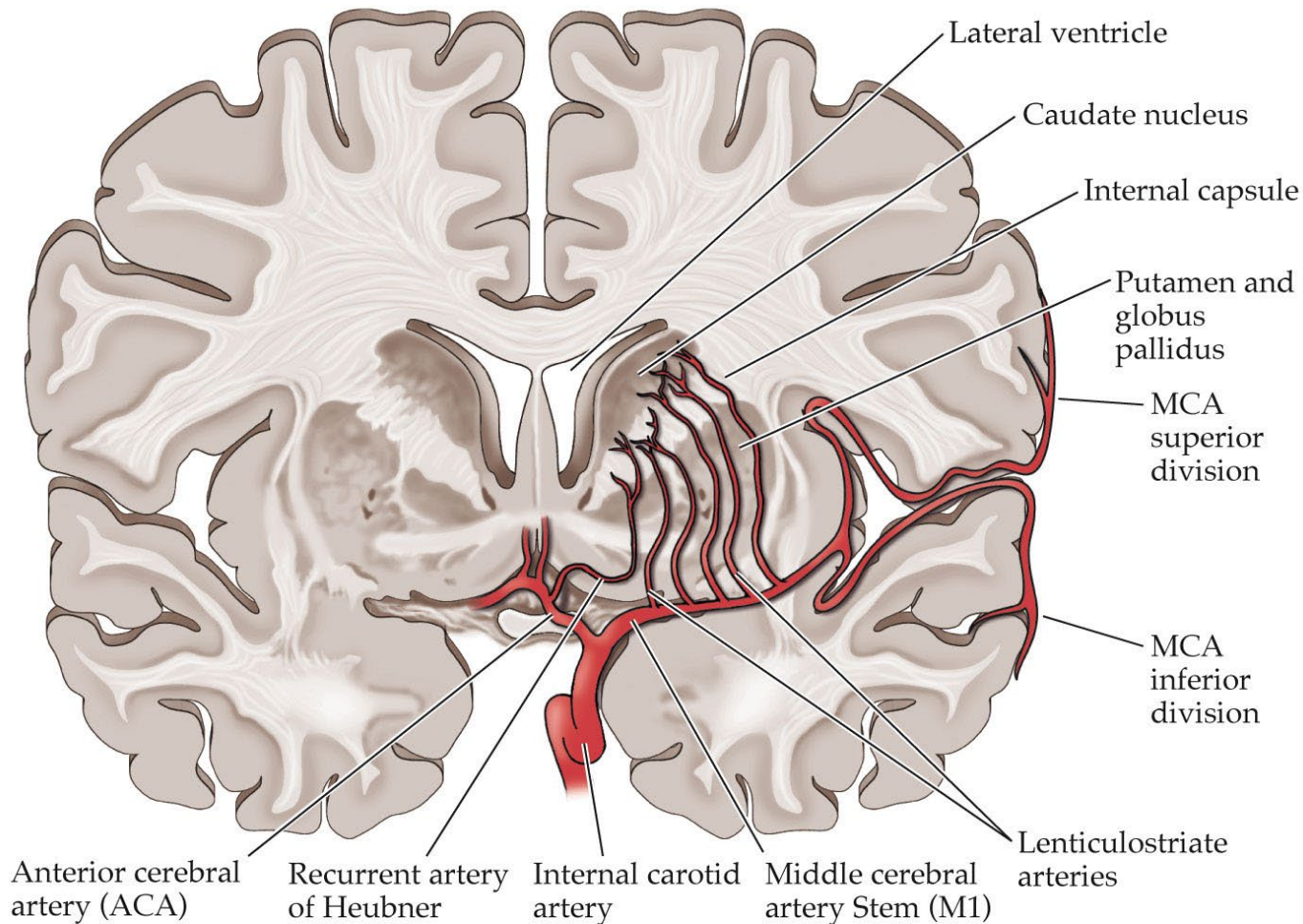


Brainstem  
Cerebellum

Figure 9.



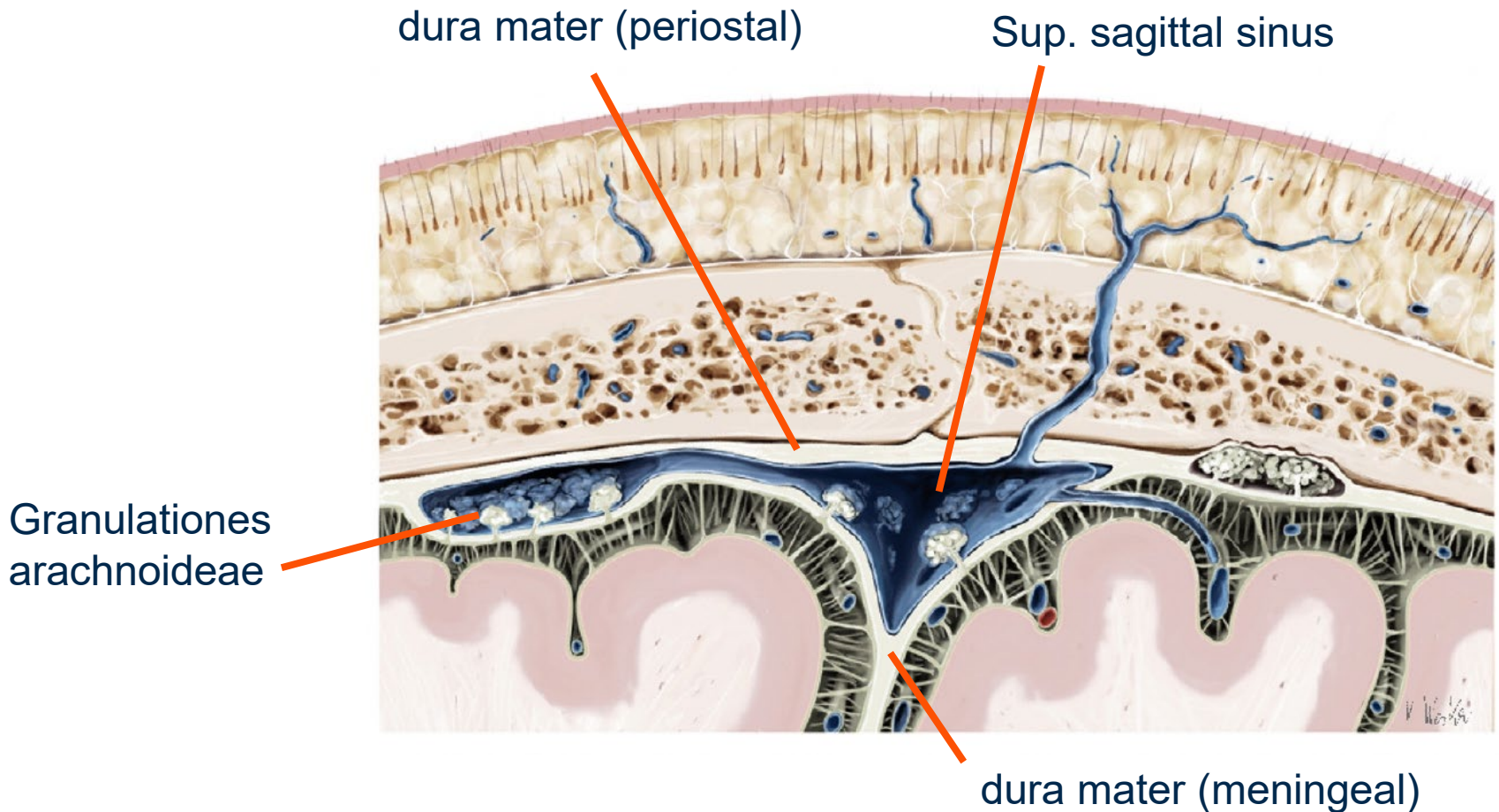
# Deep small vessels



© 2002 Sinauer Associates, Inc.

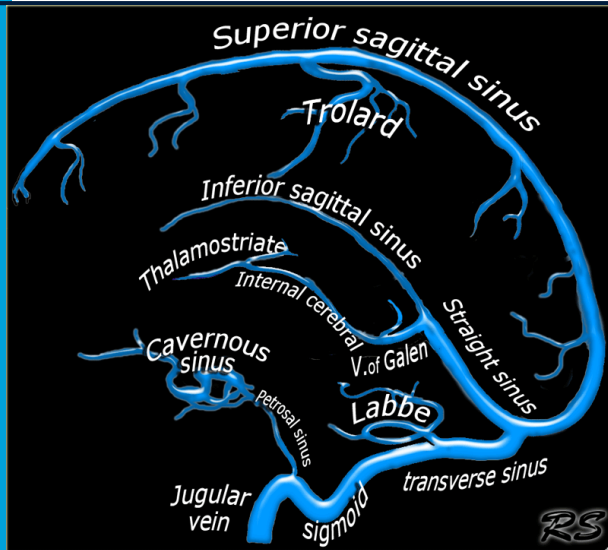
End arteries, no collaterals

# Venous system: sinuses



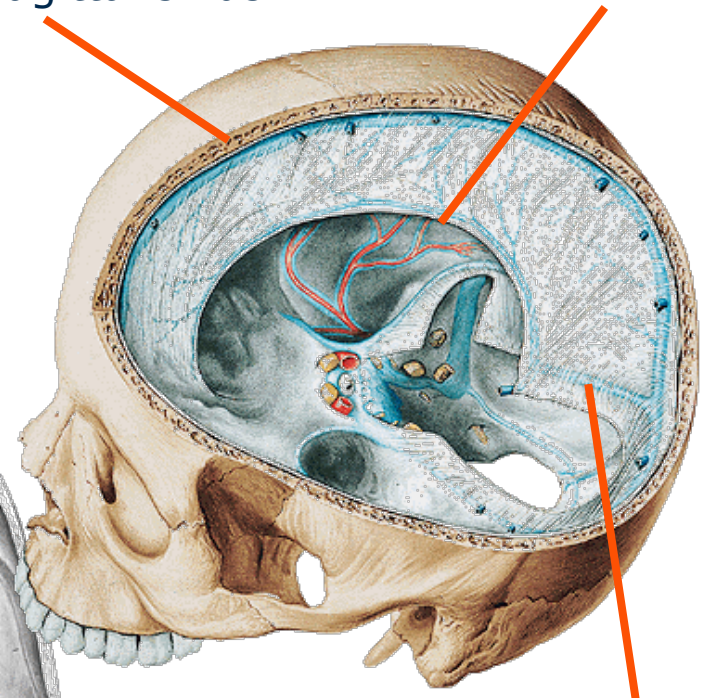
- Sinus:** venous channel within layers of dura
- Receives venous blood from cerebral veins
  - Receives CSF through granulations

# Venous system: sinuses



Superior sagittal sinus

Inferior sagittal sinus



Sinus cavernosus

Sigmoid sinus

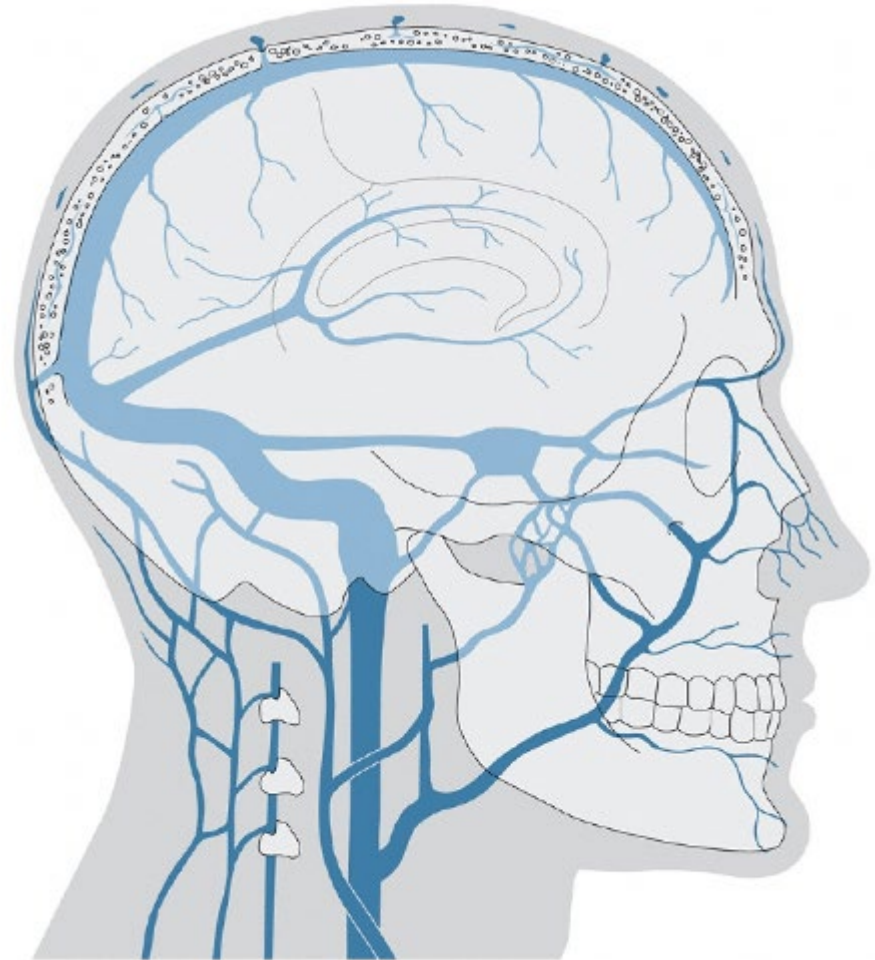
Transverse sinus

sinus rectus



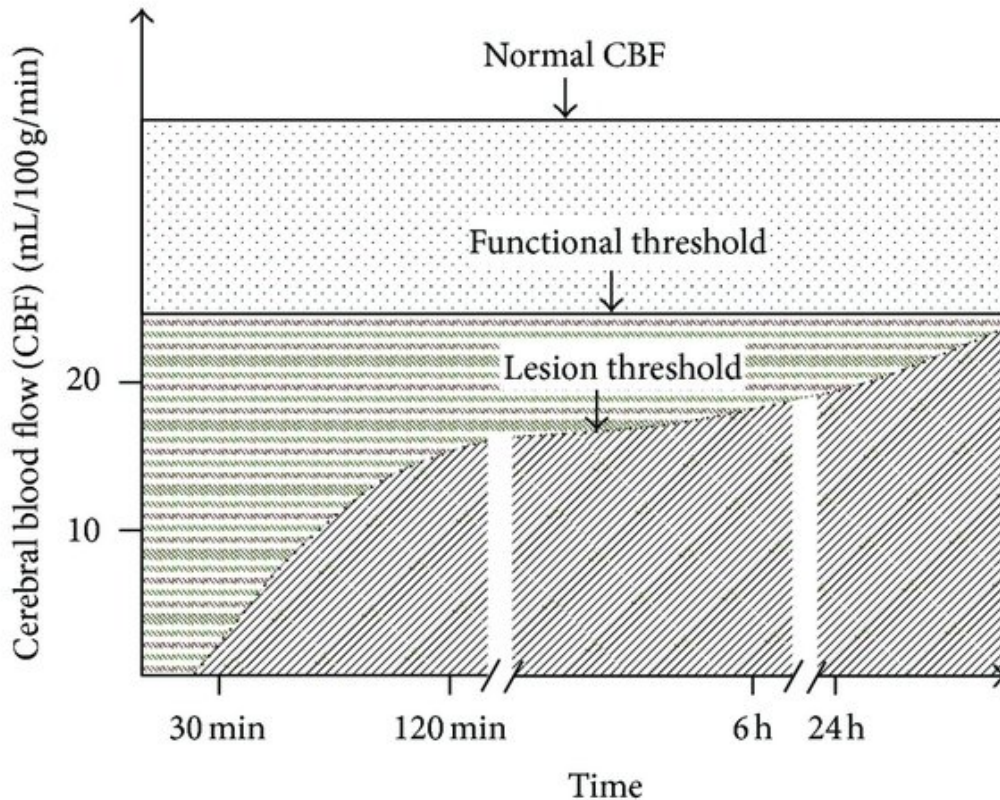
# Venous system: sinuses

- Cerebral venes →  
sinus →  
internal jugular vene →  
brachiocephalic vene →  
superior vena cava →  
right atrium



When a clot forms:  
Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis

# Blood supply - When it goes wrong:



- ▤ Oligoemia (viable tissue)
- ▨ Penumbra
- ▩ Infarct

Ischemia =  
insufficient blood supply  
leading to oxygen deficit  
in tissue and neuronal  
dysfunction

(CBF below critical  
threshold of 20-25  
mL/100g/min)

Infarction =  
tissue death

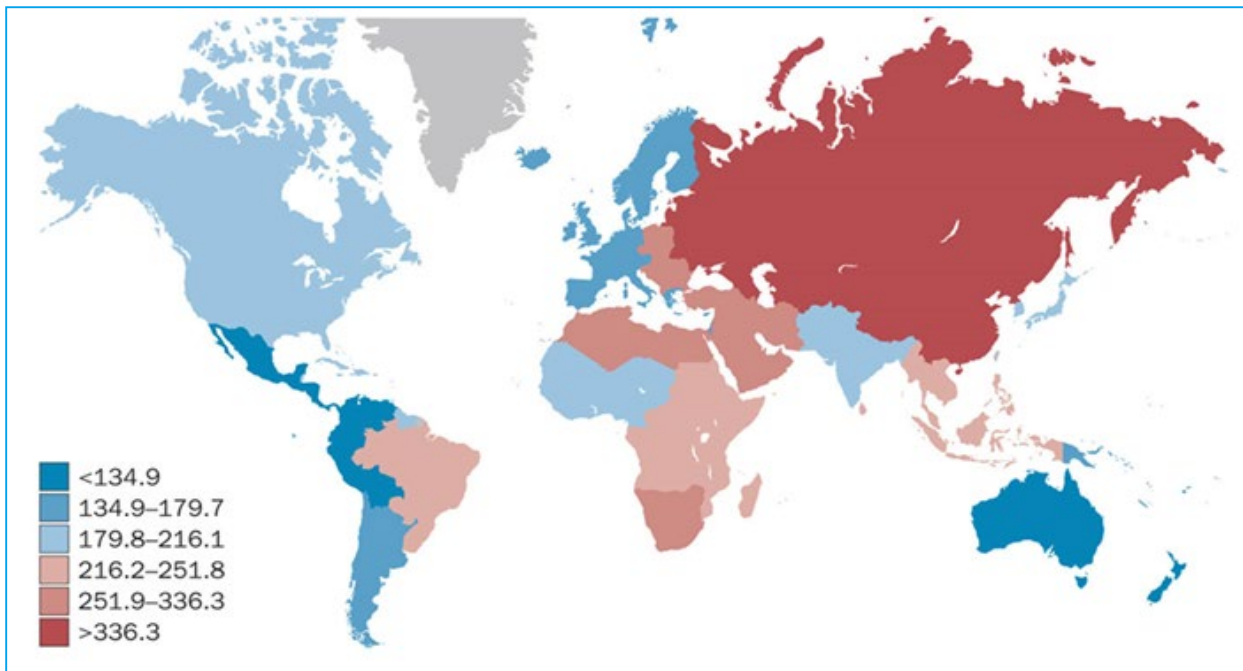
# Stroke

---

- Sudden interruption of arterial blood supply to the brain resulting in neurological deficits
  - Ischemic stroke : occlusion 80 %
  - Haemorrhagic stroke : rupture
    - Intracerebral 15 %
    - Subarachnoid 5 %

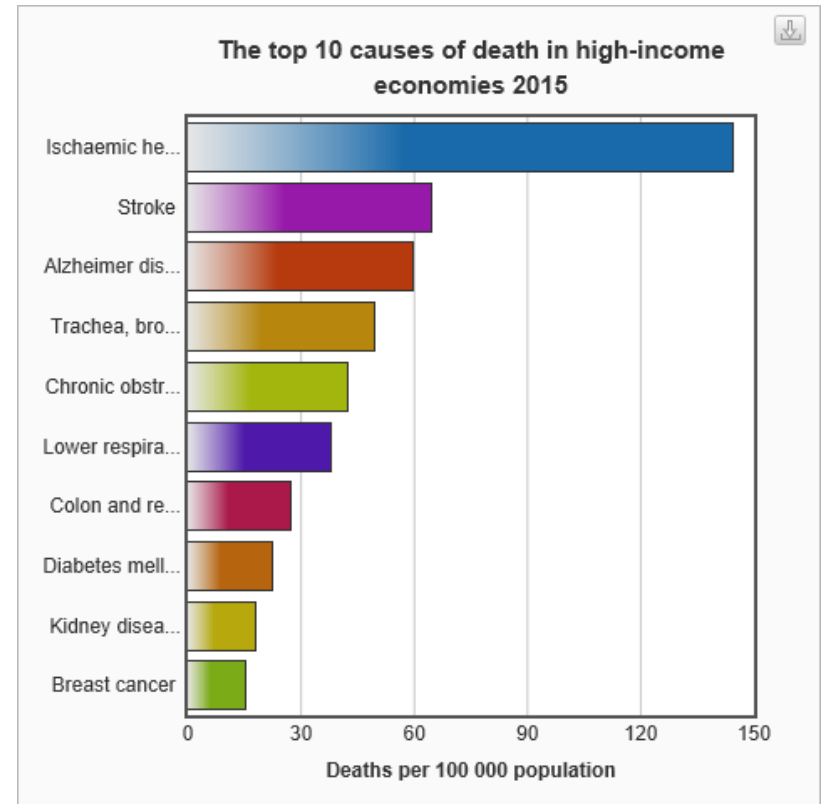
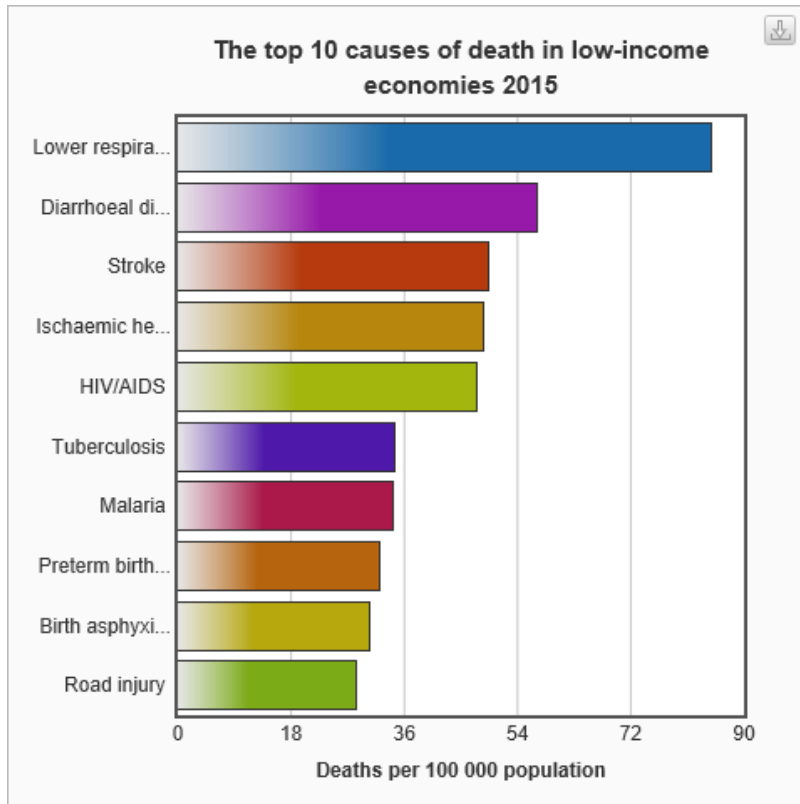
# Stroke: impact

- Globally, 15 million strokes a year
- Leading cause of long term disability at older age



Age-standardized  
**stroke**  
incidence per  
100.000 person-  
years for 2010

# Stroke: impact



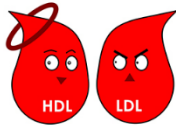
WHO

# Ischemic stroke

---

- Sudden signs of focal cerebral function loss
- Clinical signs depend on location of infarction

# Ischemic stroke – 3 main causes

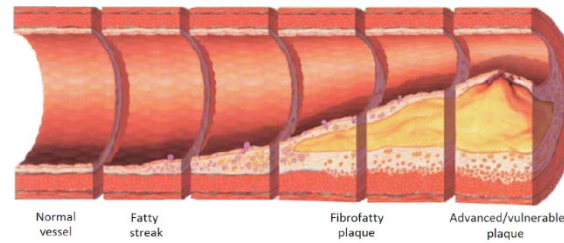
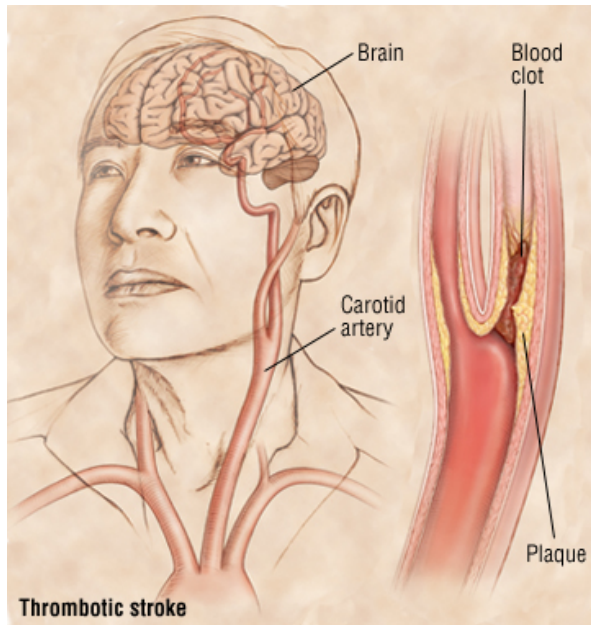


Cholesterol



## 1. Large vessel disease

### ■ Atherosclerosis

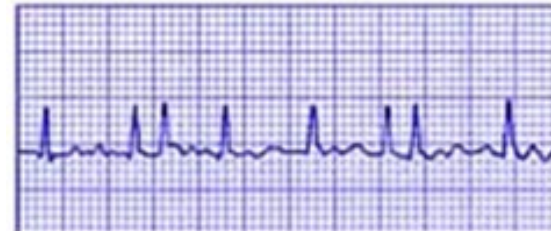
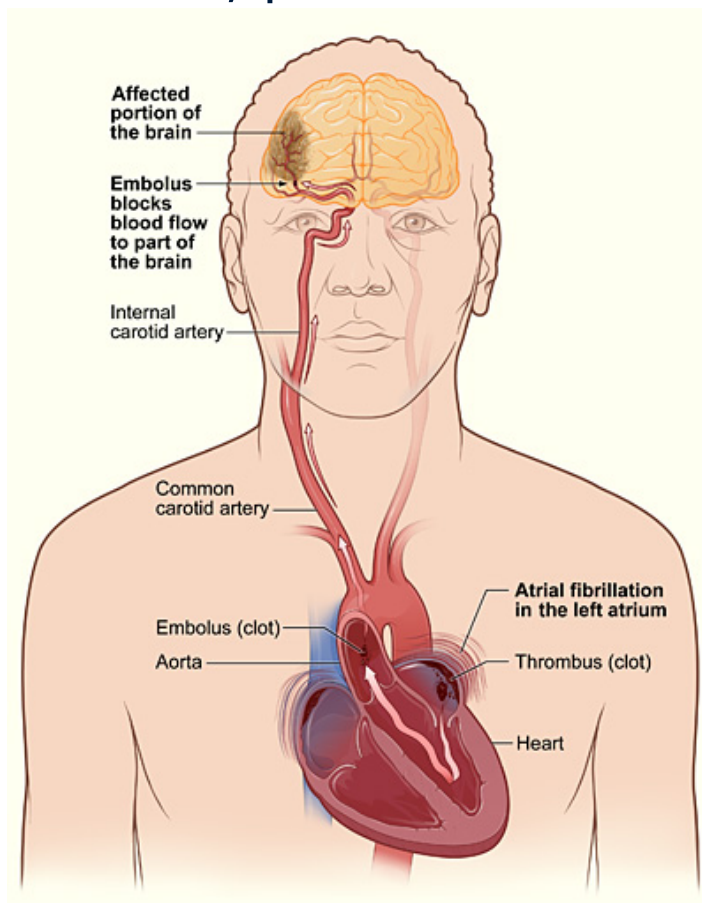


Atherosclerosis

# Ischemic stroke – 3 main causes

## 2. Cardiac embolism

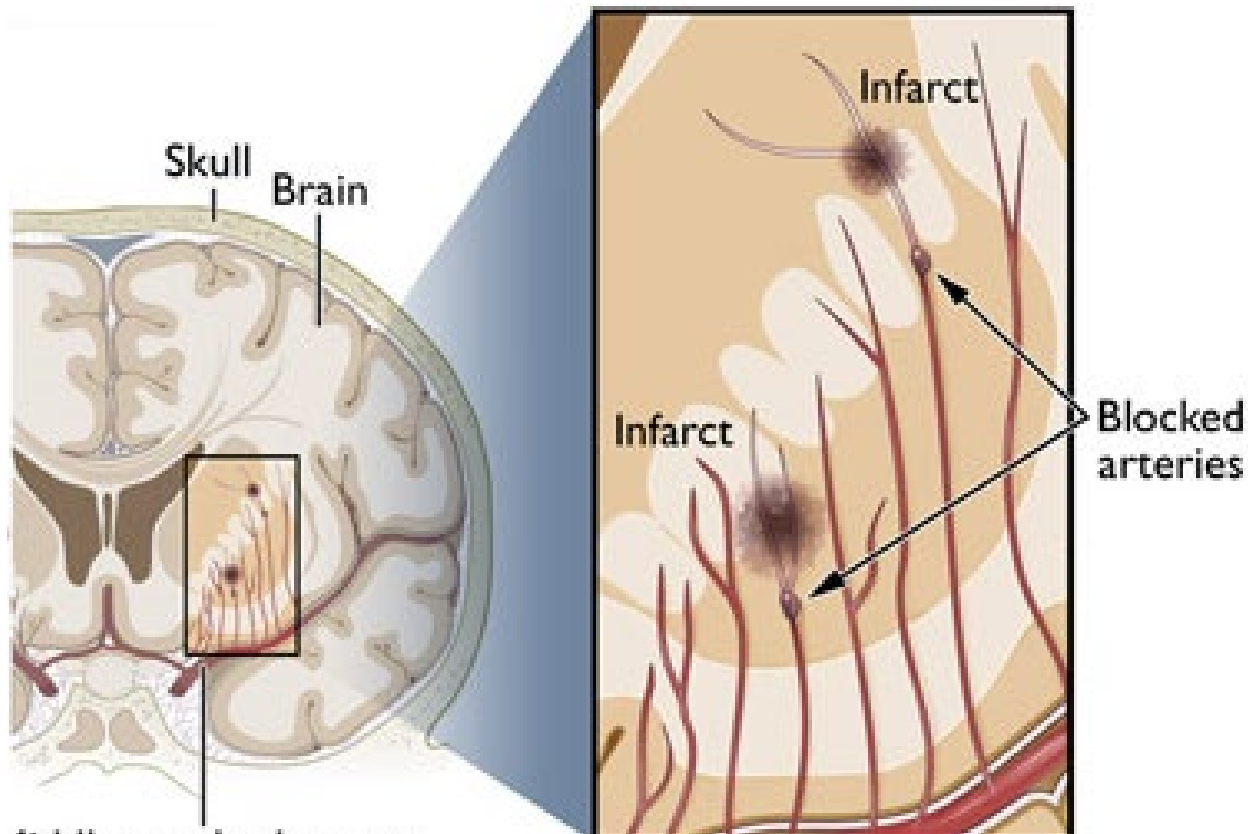
- AF, prosthetic valve





# Ischemic stroke – 3 main causes

## 3. Small vessel disease



# Small vessel disease



**Disturbance of NVU  
Endothelial dysfunction**

**Increased BBB permeability  
Hypoperfusion  
Diminished CVR  
Diminished PVS clearance  
Microstructural damage  
Inflammation**

**Structural brain abnormalities**

**Clinical manifestations**

- Lacunar ischemic stroke
- Deep hemorrhagic stroke
- Cognitive impairment

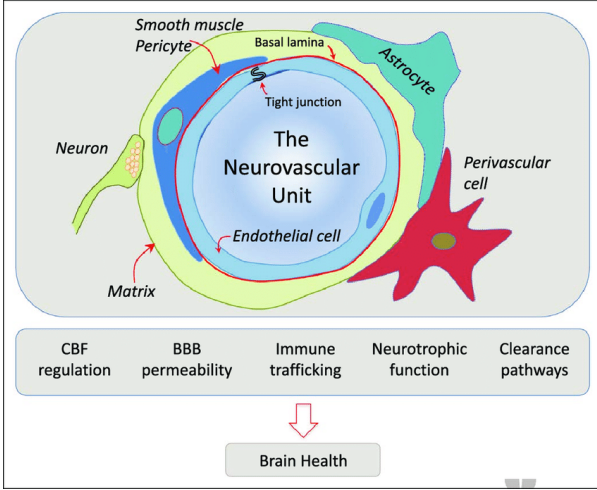
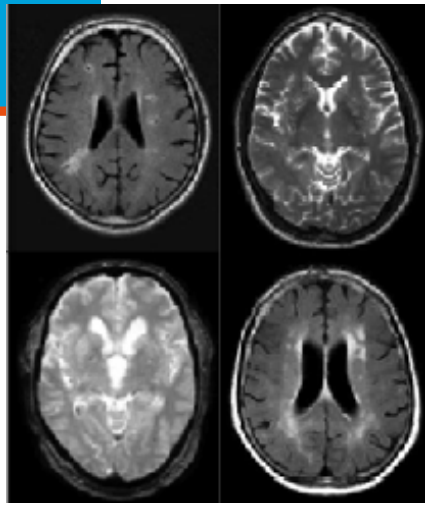
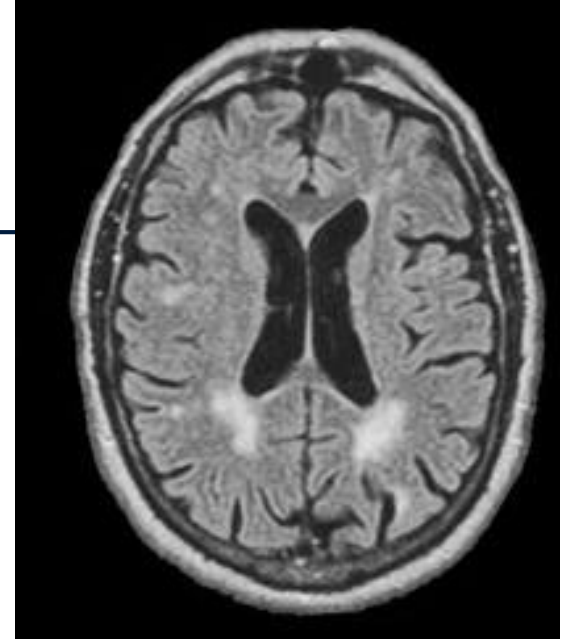
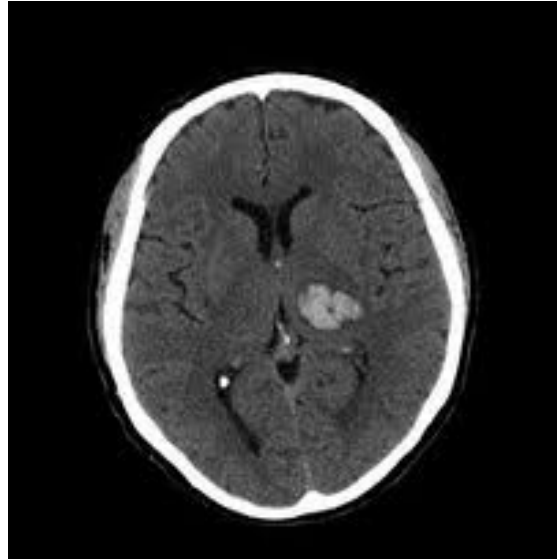
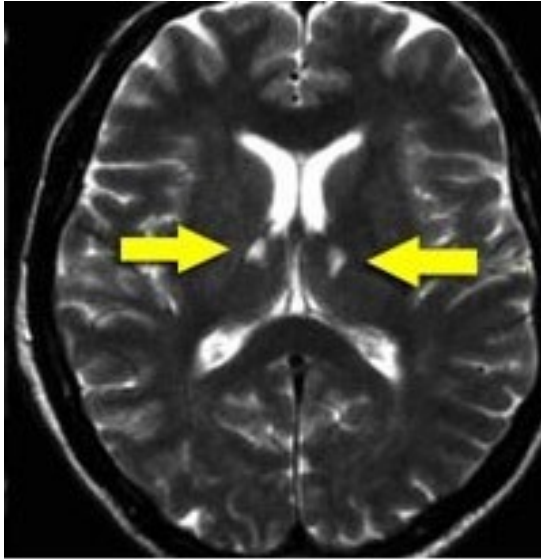


Figure: Gorelick 2017



# Small vessel disease

- Radiological:



# Questions ?

