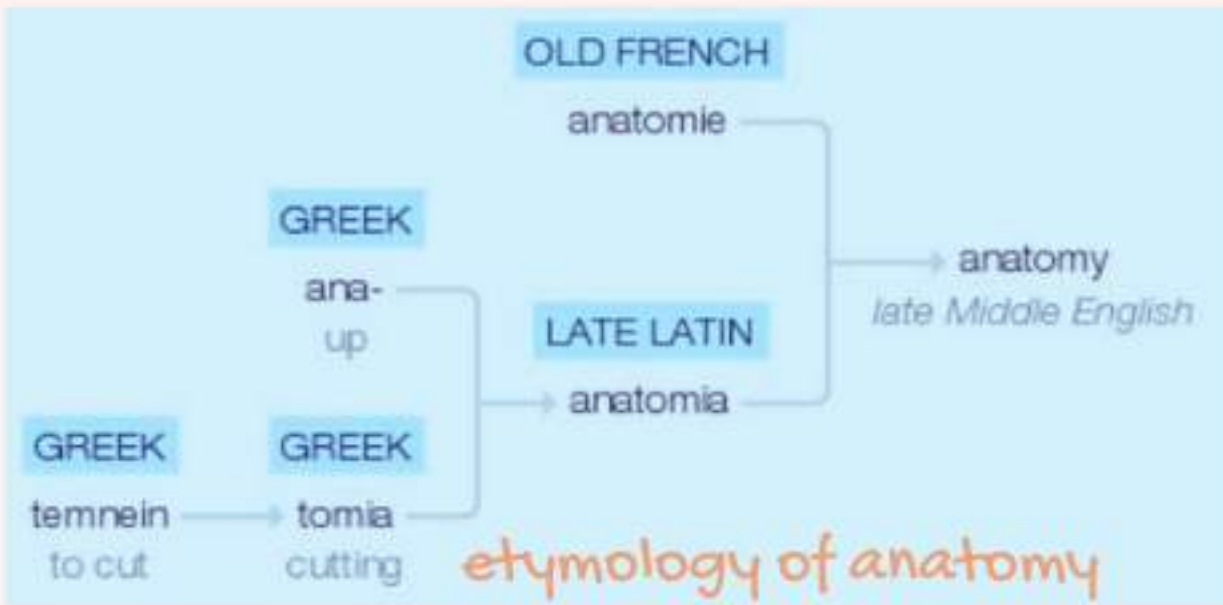




# FACTA ANATOMICA

## HUMAN ANATOMY ETYMOLOGY

### INTRODUCTION



The word "Etymology" refers to the origin of a word and the historical development of its meaning. Here we look at some of the interesting anatomy etymology.

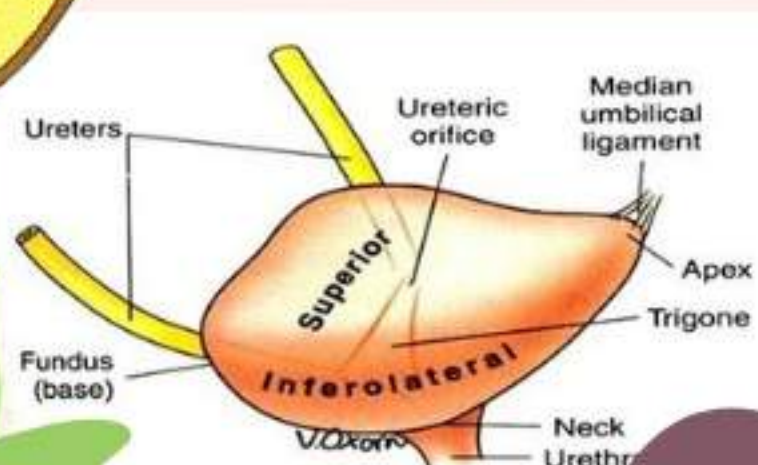
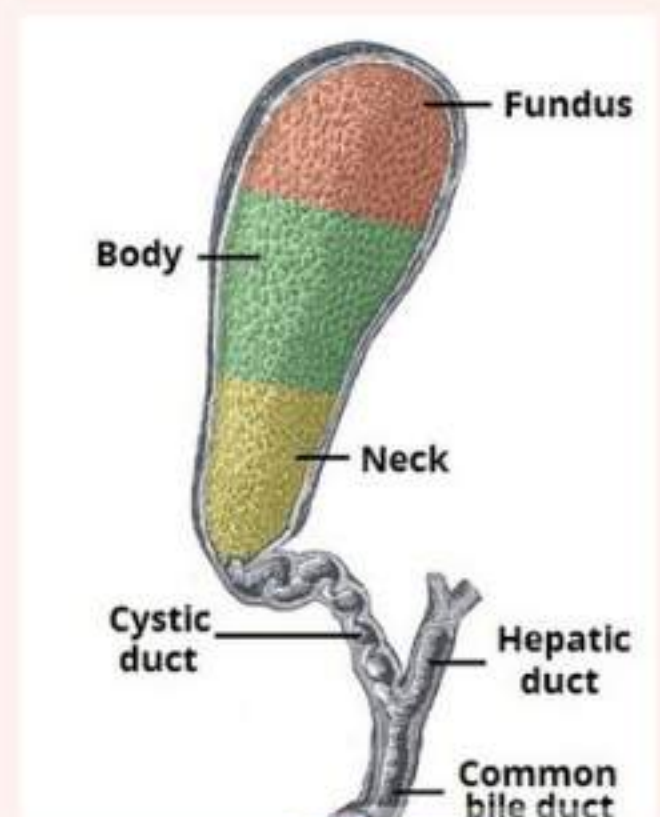
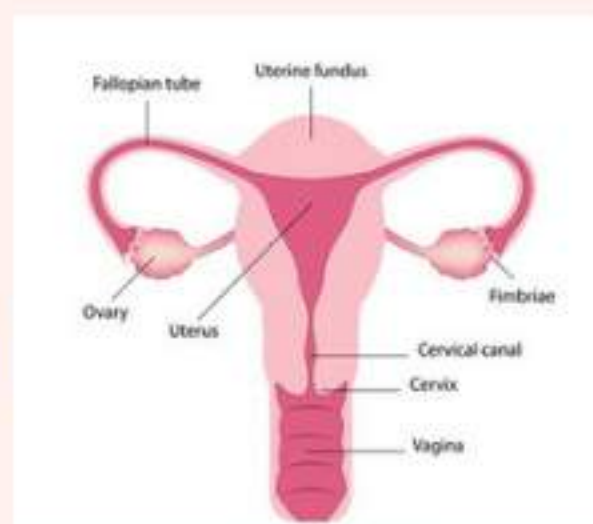
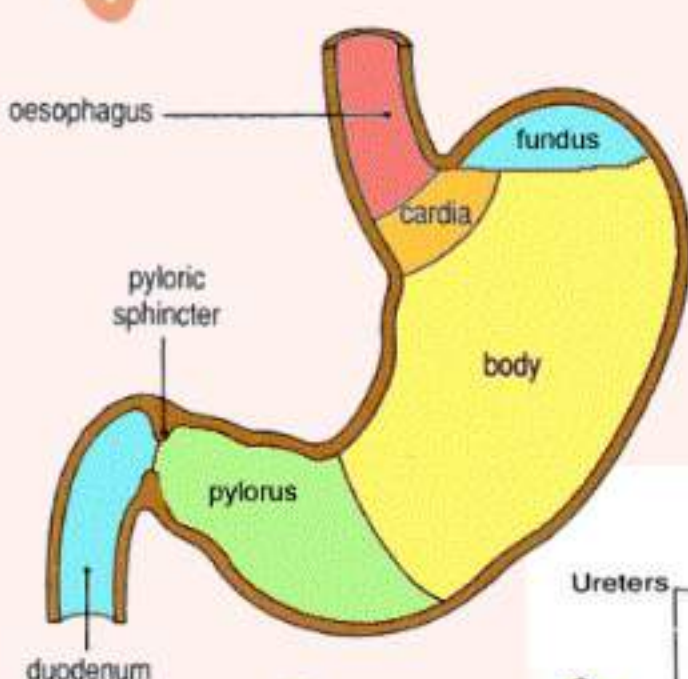
### ACROMION



Acromion is a bony process on the scapula. This term is a combination of two Greek words "*acro*" meaning "tip, summit, extreme" and "*omo*" meaning "shoulder". The acropolis in Athens means "*acro*" the "highest point" of the "*polis*" meaning "city" was the place to fortify and build important temples such as the Parthenon of the goddess Athena.

### FUNDUS

A number of organs have a part called the *fundus* or *fundi* region. It means "*bottom*" in Latin. Apart from the fundus of the gall bladder, the fundus is typically the top of organs such as the top of the uterus and the top of the stomach. In the urinary bladder, the fundus is the base of the bladder, which is formed by the posterior wall and contains the trigone of the bladder. The word fundus specifically refers to the part "*furthest removed from the exit*". If you imagine each of these organs as upside-down emptying out of contents, then the fundus of the uterus is opposite the cervix (opening into the vagina), the fundus of the bladder is opposite the neck (opening into the urethra) and the fundus of the stomach is opposite the pylorus emptying into duodenum.





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### FIBULA



The fibula derives its name from Latin *fibulae*. In Latin, a fibulae is a brooch that works similar to the modern-day safety pin. A fibulae was used to fasten fabrics together, such as when wearing a tunic or toga. The bones of the lower leg together resemble a safety pin with the fibula making up the 'pin' part.

### HAMSTRING

When the thighs of pigs (hams) were hung by butchers, they were hung by hooks through the rope-like (or 'string'-like) tendons of these muscles. Hence the term, 'hamstring'.



### OLECRANON

The olecranon, the large, thick, curved bony eminence of the ulna, is a compound of two Latin words; *ōlénē* = elbow and *kraníon* = head/helmet. The olecranon is therefore the 'head' of the ulna.

### PATELLA

The term '*patella*' comes from Latin and means 'little plate'.



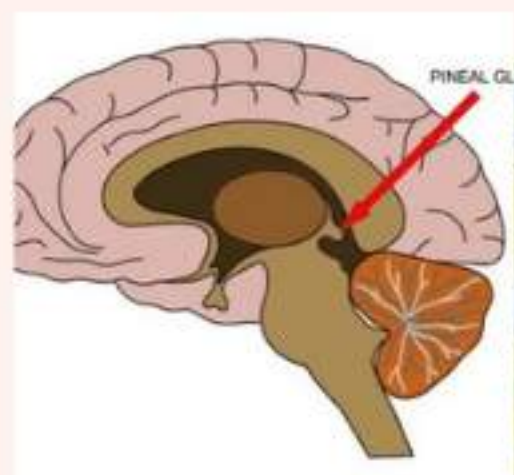
### SARTORIUS

The *sartorius* is the longest muscle in the body and is activated most when you sit cross-legged. As a result of the position that activates it, the muscle was named '*sartorius*', which is Latin for Tailor. Tailors used to sit cross-legged when pinning hems.

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## HUMAN ANATOMY ETYMOLOGY

### PINEAL GLAND



The *pineal gland*, the small melatonin and serotonin-producing gland near the center of the brain, is so named because its shape is similar to that of a *pine cone*.

### SESAMOID

A *sesamoid* is a bone that is embedded in a tendon. The term '*sesamoid*' was derived in the late 17th century from the word '*sesame*'. Sesamoid bones are often quite small and early anatomists felt they looked like sesame seeds within tendons. The patella is the largest example of this in the human body.



### SOLE

You may think that the *sole* of the foot is named after the fish, it is actually the reverse. The fish is so named because its shape is similar to that of the bottom of the human foot. The sole of the foot is actually derived from the Latin *solum*, meaning "bottom".



### IRIS

The colored part of the eye is named after *Iris*, the goddess of the rainbow in Greek mythology. The color of the iris in people can be one or more of many different colors.



### COCCYX

'COCCYX' comes from the Greek word '*kokkyx*', meaning "*cuckoo*". The coccyx was thought to resemble a cuckoo's beak.





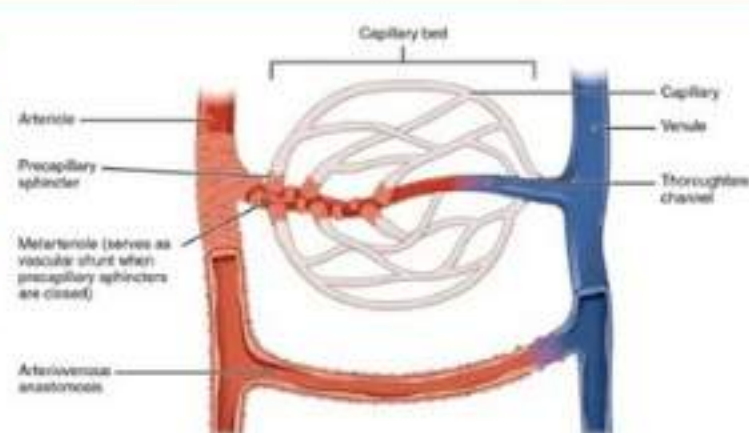
# FACTA ANATOMICA

## HUMAN ANATOMY ETYMOLOGY

### CAPILLARY

#### CAPIIL-HAIRY

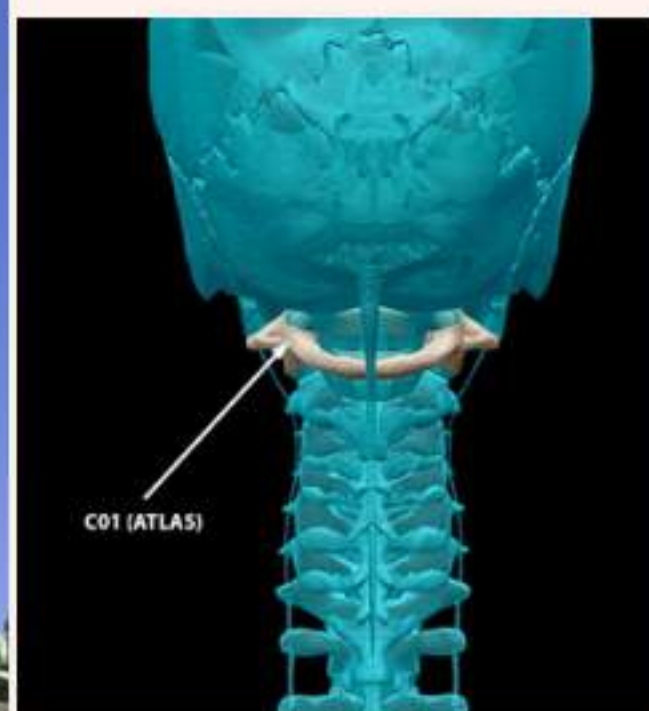
Capillaries are fine branching blood vessels that form a network between the arterioles and venules.



Derived from the Latin word '*capillaris*' which means "relating to the hair or any structure as fine as a hair". Early anatomists thought capillaries looked hair-like.

### ATLAS

The topmost cervical vertebrae is named after the Greek Titan, *Atlas*, who held the world on his shoulders.



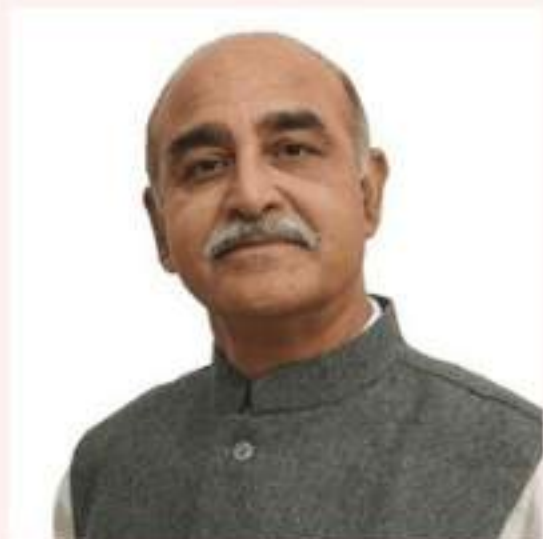
### ACHILLIES TENDON

*Achilles*, the Greek hero of the Trojan war, was held by this part of his body when his mother Thetis dipped him into the river Styx to make him invulnerable. As a result of this handhold, his heel was his only weakness as it didn't get wet during the dipping. This single weakness was eventually the source of his eventual downfall and came to mean a weak point.



### CONCLUSION

Etymology is the key that unlocks both knowledge and love of language. Most professional anatomical and physiological terms come from Latin and Greek. Knowing their etymology helps their memorization but also the adoption of new concepts.



## **MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**PROF.DR. (COL.) CDS KATOCH, AIIMS RAJKOT**

"I heartily congratulate the Department of Anatomy for bringing this informative newsletter on Human Anatomy Etymology. My best wishes to the entire team....."

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