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On the anatomy of the breast - Of the arteries of the male breast

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OF THE ARTERIES OF THE MALE BREAST.

In *Plate* 14 *of the Female*, the arteries of the male breast have been given, and they are as follow:—

They are posterior or axillary—anterior or sternal.

The posterior arteries which supply the nipple, areola, and gland, are principally two vessels, *viz.*, from the thoracica longa, and the external mammary artery, which is very often also a branch of the thoracica longa, and often arises directly from the axillary artery.

The clavicle in fig. 5, *Plate* 14, is seen crossing the subclavian artery, and the branches from the axillary artery appear beyond it. A portion of the pectoralis major and minor muscles is left to show their arteries, and generally branches of arteries penetrate the pectoralis major to pass to the nipple.

The first posterior artery which passed directly to the nipple in this dissection, was the external mammary, which arises from the axillary, sometimes before, at others, after the thoracica longa, and is often a branch of the thoracica longa itself.

This artery descends to the upper part of the nipple and divides into branches which supply it, and it anastomoses

freely with the branches of the thoracica longa, and with the anterior arteries from the internal mammary. This artery is also well seen, in *Plate* 10, fig. 1, *a*, in the female, in whom the course and anastomosis is very similar, and at puberty and in lactation it becomes of very considerable size.

The thoracica longa arises from the axillary artery, and descending over the ribs behind the nipple and upon the outer side of the chest, it sends several branches to the nipple, but one or two of these larger than the rest, pass above and below the nipple and areola, and form a circle of arterial communication with the former artery and the anterior arteries around both of these parts, after which it is spent upon the serratus major muscle, upon the upper layers of the intercostal muscles, and it sends branches into the chest between the ribs, to unite with the aortic intercostal arteries.

The anterior arteries are derived from the internal mammary, which sends branches between the cartilages of the ribs.

There are four or sometimes five of these arteries, which pass upon the pectoral region.

The first is very small, and goes only to the pectoralis major and clavicular articulation.

The second is larger, and the third still larger, but neither of the above arteries pass directly to the breast itself.

But the fourth artery, passing from the internal mammary in the anterior mediastinum, between the fourth and fifth cartilages of the ribs, runs transversely to the nipple and areola, and by anastomosing with what I call the external mammary artery, and with the thoracica longa, it assists in forming a circulus arteriosus, or circle of communication around the nipple, areola, and gland, and it also sends branches to the breast above and below the nipple.

The fifth anterior artery is distributed below the breast, but some of its branches anastomose with the thoracica longa, and with the fourth anterior arteries which pass to the nipple, areola, and gland. *See Plate* 14.

Arteries from the mammary intercostal also pass into the posterior surface of the gland, the nipple, and the areola.