## The Language of Anatomy

- Special terminology is used to prevent misunderstanding
- Exact terms are used for
  - Position
  - Direction
  - Regions
  - Structures

### **Directional Terms**

TABLE 1.1	Orientation and Directional Terms		
Term	Definition	Illustration	Example
Superior (cranial or cephalad)	Toward the head end or upper part of a structure or the body; above		The forehead is superior to the nose.
Inferior (caudal)*	Away from the head end or toward the lower part of a structure or the body; below		The navel is inferior to the breastbone.
Ventral (anterior) <sup>†</sup>	Toward or at the front of the body; in front of		The breastbone is anterior to the spine.

<sup>\*</sup>The term caudal, literally "toward the tail," is synonymous with inferior only to the inferior end of the spine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> Ventral and anterior are synonymous in humans; this is not the case in four-legged animals. Ventral refers to the "belly" of an animal and thus is the inferior surface of four-legged animals. Likewise, although the dorsal and posterior surfaces are the same in humans, the term dorsal refers to an animal's back. Thus, the dorsal surface of four-legged animals is their superior surface.

Term	Definition	Illustration	Example
Dorsal (posterior) <sup>†</sup>	Toward or at the backside of the body; behind		The heart is posterior to the breastbone.
Medial	Toward or at the midline of the body; on the inner side of		The heart is medial to the arm.
Lateral	Away from the midline of the body; on the outer side of		The arms are lateral to the chest.
Proximal	Close to the origin of the body part or the point of attachment of a limb to the body trunk		The elbow is proximal to the wrist (meaning that the elbow is closer to the shoulder or attachment point of the arm than the wrist is).

<sup>\*</sup>The term caudal, literally "toward the tail," is synonymous with inferior only to the inferior end of the spine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> Ventral and anterior are synonymous in humans; this is not the case in four-legged animals. Ventral refers to the "belly" of an animal and thus is the inferior surface of four-legged animals. Likewise, although the dorsal and posterior surfaces are the same in humans, the term dorsal refers to an animal's back. Thus, the dorsal surface of four-legged animals is their superior surface.

Term	Definition	Illustration	Example
Distal	Farther from the origin of a body part or the point of attachment of a limb to the body trunk		The knee is distal to the thigh.
Superficial (external)	Toward or at the body surface		The skin is superficial to the skeleton.
Deep (internal)	Away from the body surface; more internal		The lungs are deep to the rib cage.

<sup>\*</sup>The term caudal, literally "toward the tail," is synonymous with inferior only to the inferior end of the spine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Ventral and anterior are synonymous in humans; this is not the case in four-legged animals. Ventral refers to the "belly" of an animal and thus is the inferior surface of four-legged animals. Likewise, although the dorsal and posterior surfaces are the same in humans, the term dorsal refers to an animal's back. Thus, the dorsal surface of four-legged animals is their superior surface.

<u>Directions</u>: Use the words listed below to label the diagram.

#### **Regional Terms: Anterior View**

#### **Answers:**

1. Nasal

2. Oral

3. Cervical

4. Acromial

5. Thoracic

6. Brachial

7. Antecubital

8. Abdominal

9. Umbilical

10. Carpal

11. Digital

12. Pubic

13. Patellar

14. Crural

15. Tarsal

16. Frontal

17. Orbital

18. Buccal

19. Sternal

20. Axillary

21. Antebrachial

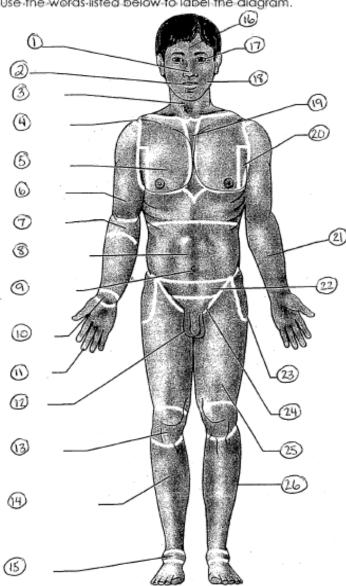
22. Pelvic

23. Coxal

24. Inguinal

25. Femoral

26. Fibular



### **Regional Terms: Anterior View**

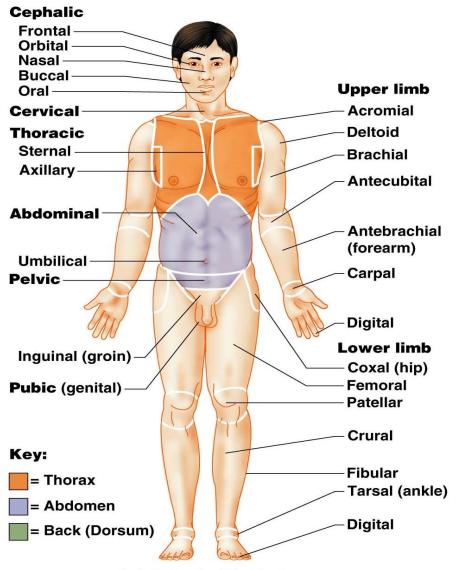


Figure 1.5a

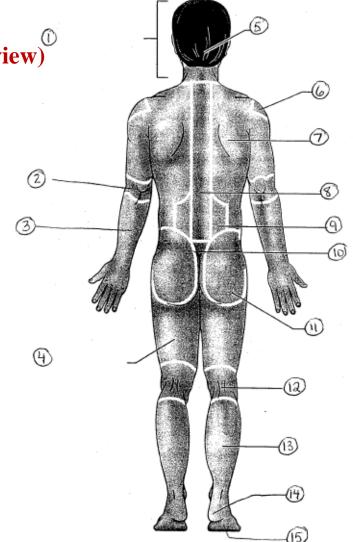
(a) Anterior/Ventral

#### <u>Directions:</u> Use the words listed below to label the diagram.

# **Regional Terms: Posterior View**

**Answers:** (\*also on anterior view)

- 1. Cephalic
- 2. Olecranal
- 3. Antebrachial\*
- 4. Femoral\*
- 5. Occipital
- 6. Deltoid
- 7. Scapular
- 8. Vertebral
- 9. Lumbar
- 10. Sacral
- 11. Gluteal
- 12. Popliteal
- 13. Sural
- 14. Calcaneal
- 15. Plantar



# **Regional Terms: Posterior View**

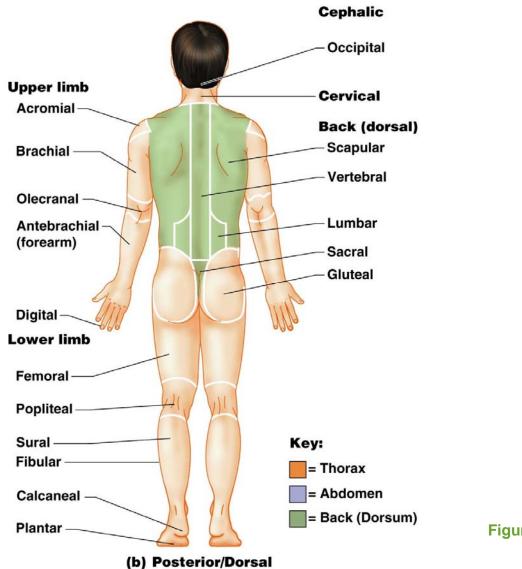
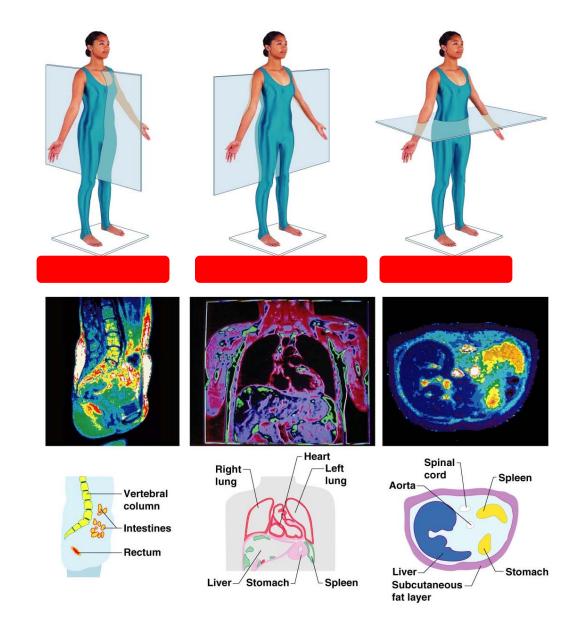


Figure 1.5b

### **Body Planes and Sections**

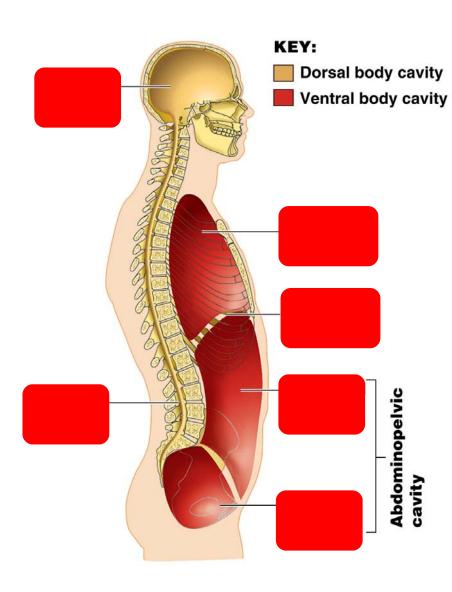
- A <u>sagittal</u> or parasagittal section divides the body (or organ) into left and right parts
- A median, or midsagittal, section divides the body (or organ) into equal left and right parts
- A <u>frontal</u>, or <u>coronal</u> section divides the body (or organ) into anterior (front) and posterior (back) parts
- A <u>transverse</u>, or <u>cross</u>, section divides the body (or organ) into superior (upper) and inferior (lower) parts
- An <u>oblique</u> section divides the body (or organ) diagonally

### **Body Planes** and Sections (cont.)

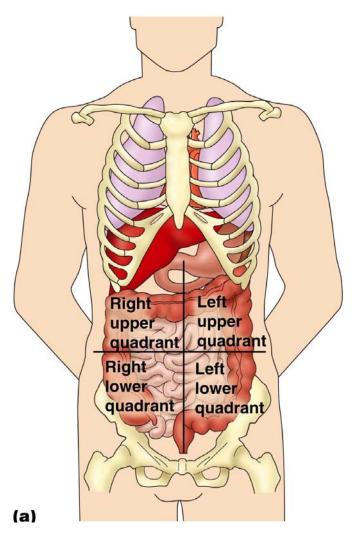


### **Body Cavities**

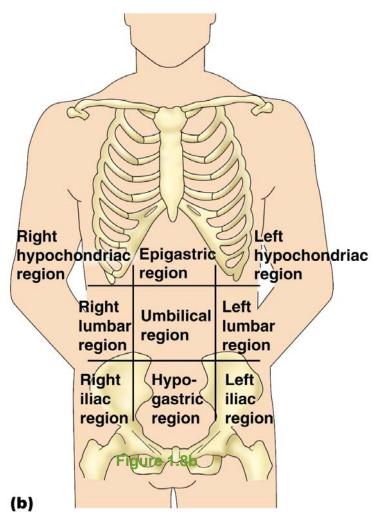
- Dorsal body cavity
  - Cranial cavity- brain
  - Spinal cavity- spinal cord
- Ventral body cavity
  - Thoracic cavity- heart & lungs
  - Abdominal cavity- most digestive organs
  - Pelvic cavity- most urinary & reproductive system organs



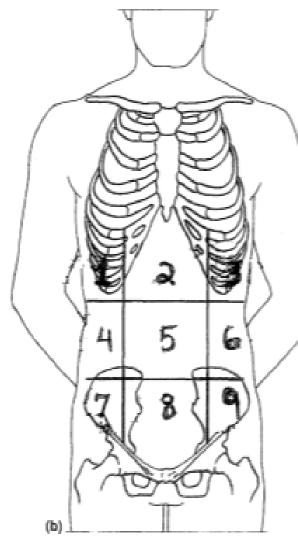
# **Abdominopelvic Quadrants**



# Abdominopelvic Regions



#### **Applying Regional & Directional Terms**

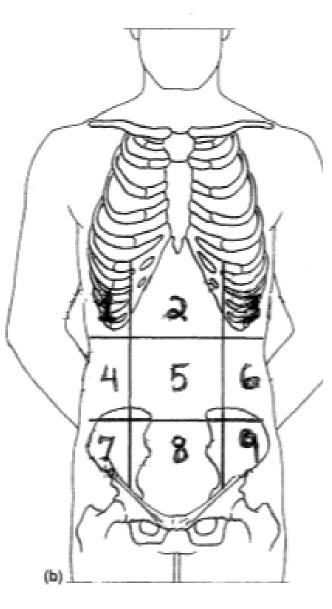


Identify each abdominopelvic cavity division by number based on the following descriptions

 The umbilical region is the centermost region, deep to and surrounding the navel #5

 The epigastric region is superior to the umbilical region #2

 The hypogastric region is inferior to the umbilical region #8



Identify each abdominopelvic cavity division by number based on the following descriptions:

- The right and left iliac or inguinal regions are lateral to the hypogastric region and superficial to the inferior parts of the hip bones
- The right and left lumbar regions are lateral to the umbilical region and overlie the superior parts of the hip bones 4 & 6
- The right and left hypochondriac regions are lateral to the epigastric region and overlie the lower ribs 1 & 3