Inguinal Canal

The inguinal canal is the passage in the abdominal wall through which the spermatic cord (males) or the round ligament of the uterus (females) passes. In males, this passage marks where the spermatic cord exits the abdomen and enters the scrotum. In females, it ends blindly in the labia majora. It's boundaries, which are commonly referred to as the "floor, celing, and walls" are formed by various anatomic structures, which can be remembered by the mnemonic "2MALT": 2 Muscles, 2 Aponeuroses, 2 Ligaments, and 2 Tendons forming the ceiling (located anatomically superiorly), anterior wall, floor (located anatomically inferiorly), and posterior wall respectively.

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2MALT
Two-tutu malt liquors
The inguinal canal is the passage in the abdominal wall through which the spermatic cord (males) or the round ligament of the uterus (females) passes. The boundaries of the inguinal canal can be remembered by the mnemonic "2MALT" for 2 muscles, 2 aponeuroses, 2 ligaments, and 2 tendons.

2 Muscles Form the Roof
Two muscles over the jungle canopy
The "roof" or superior surface of the inguinal canal is formed by two muscles: The Internal oblique and transverse abdominus.

Internal Oblique
Internal Obelisks
The internal oblique muscle is one of the muscles forming the roof of the inguinal canal.

Transverse Abdominus Muscle
Train-versus-abs guy
The transverse abdominus muscle helps form the roof of the inguinal canal.

2 Aponeuroses Form the Anterior Wall
Apple-neurotic-tutu by anteater-wall
The anterior wall of the inguinal canal is formed by the aponeuroses of the external abdominal oblique and internal abdominal oblique muscles.

External and Internal Abdominal Oblique Aponeuroses
Obelisks inside and outside wall
The anterior wall of the inguinal canal is formed by the external and internal abdominal oblique aponeuroses.

2 Ligaments Form Floor
2 Ligaments
The lacunar and inguinal ligaments form the floor or anatomically inferior surface of the inguinal canal.

Lacunar Ligament
Lake-ligament
The lacunar ligament is one of the ligaments that forms the floor of the inguinal canal.

Inguinal Ligament
iguana-ligament
The inguinal ligament helps form the floor of the inguinal canal.

2 T's Form the Posterior Wall
Mr T-tutu by post-wall
The posterior wall of the inguinal canal is formed by two T's: Transversalis fascia, and the conjoint Tendon.

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Transversalis Fascia

Train-facial lotion

The transversalis fascia helps form the posterior wall of the inguinal canal.

Conjoint Tendon

Convict-joint

The conjoint tendon helps form the posterior wall of the inguinal canal.

Deep Ring is Defect in Transversalis Fascia

Deep-diver-life ring by train-facial lotion

The deep inguinal ring is formed by a defect or hole in the transversalis fascia.

Superficial Ring is Formed by Defect in the External Abdominal Oblique Aponeurosis

Super-fish-ring by external-obelisk

The superficial inguinal ring is formed by a hold in the external abdominal oblique aponeurosis. In hernias, when intestines protrude through the abdominal cavity and exit through the path of the inguinal canal, they may protrude through the superficial ring. This is in contrast to a direct inguinal hernia, which instead of traveling through the path of the inguinal canal protrudes directly through the abdominal wall.

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