

ANATOMY OF THE CLITORIS

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: We present a comprehensive account of clitoral anatomy, including its component structures, neurovascular supply, relationship to adjacent structures (the urethra, vagina and vestibular glands, and connective tissue supports), histology and immunohistochemistry. We related recent anatomical findings to the historical literature to determine when data on accurate anatomy became available.

Materials and Methods: An extensive review of the current and historical literature was done. The studies reviewed included dissection and microdissection, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), 3-dimensional sectional anatomy reconstruction, histology and immunohistochemical studies.

Results: The clitoris is a multiplanar structure with a broad attachment to the pubic arch and via extensive supporting tissue to the mons pubis and labia. Centrally it is attached to the urethra and vagina. Its components include the erectile bodies (paired bulbs and paired corpora, which are continuous with the crura) and the glans clitoris. The glans is a midline, densely neural, nonerectile structure that is the only external manifestation of the clitoris. All other

ne with the composition of the bulbar erectile tissue
toral and perineal neurovascular bundles are large,
vascular bundles. The clitoral neurovascular bundles
each other and pass along the superior surface of the
ural trunks pass largely intact into the glans. These

