TERMINOLOGY, PLANES & DIRECTIONS

Pages 1 - 4

Anatomical position

All anatomical descriptions are expressed in relation to one consistent position, ensuring that descriptions are not ambiguous

Standing erect with

- head, eyes and toes directed forward
- arms adjacent to the sides with the palms facing forward
- lower limbs close together with the feet parallel

Anatomical cuts and planes

Median plane

- the vertical plane passing longitudinally through the body
- divides the body into right and left halves

Sagittal planes

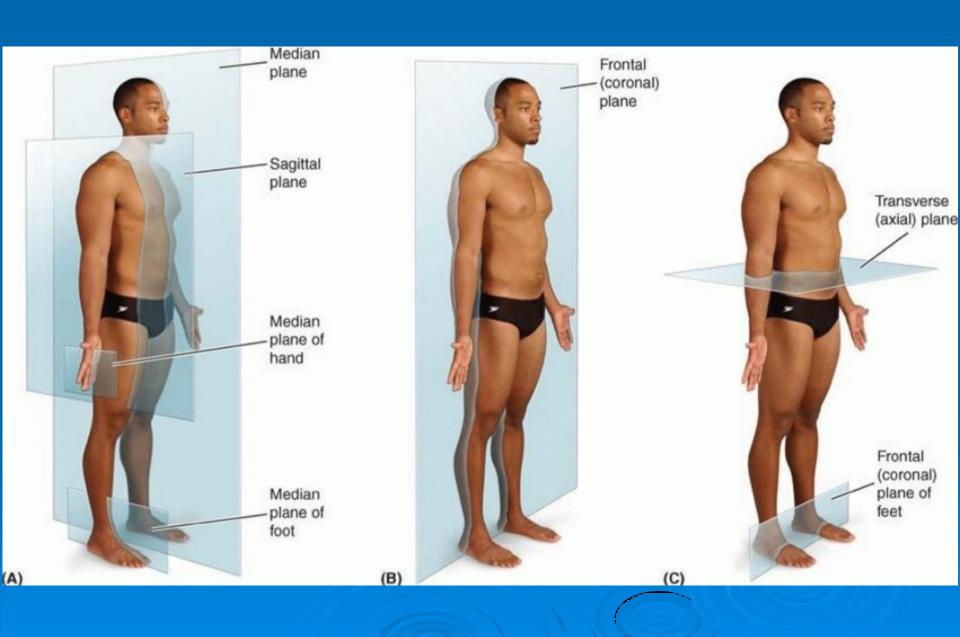
- vertical planes passing through the body parallel to the median plane
- divides the body into unequal right and left parts

Frontal (coronal) planes

- vertical planes passing through the body at right angles to the median plane
- divides the body into anterior (front) and posterior (back) parts

Transverse planes

- horizontal planes passing through the body at righ angles to the median and frontal planes
- divides the body into superior (upper) and inferior (lower) parts



Longitudinal sections

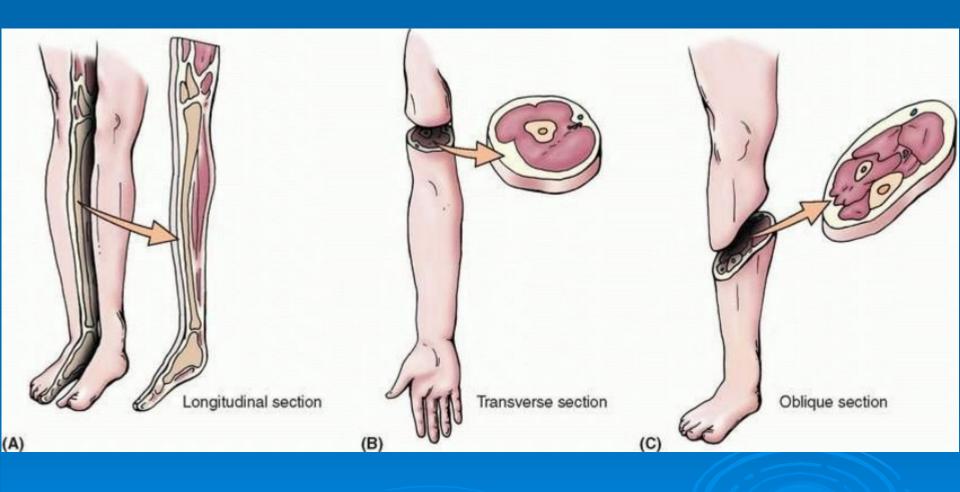
 run lengthwise or parallel to the long axis of the body or of any of its parts

Transverse (cross) sections

 run at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the body or of any of its parts

Oblique sections

 slices of the body or any of its parts that are not cut along the previously listed anatomical planes



Terms of relationship

Anterior or ventral

toward the front of the body

Posterior or dorsal

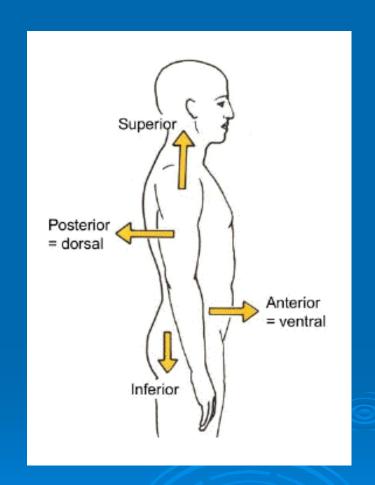
toward the back of the body

Superior or cranial

toward the top of the body

Inferior or caudal

toward the soles of the body



Plane	Also Known As	Divisions
Sagittal plane	lateral or median plane	divides body into left and right parts
Frontal plane	coronal plane	divides body into anterior and posterior (front and back) parts
Transverse plane	axial or horizontal plane	divides body into superior and inferior (upper and lower) parts

Medial

toward the median plane

Lateral

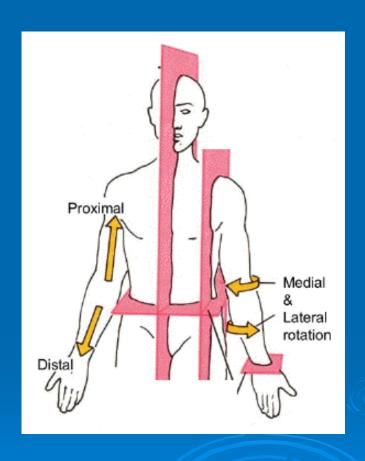
away from the median plane

Proximal or central

toward the trunk

Distal or peripheral

away from the trunk



Superficial

toward the skin of the body surface

Deep

toward the inferior of the body

Ipsilateral or homolateral

on the same side

Contralateral

on the opposite side

Palmar surface of hand

anterior surface of hand

Dorsal surface of hand

posterior surface of hand

Plantar surface of foot

inferior surface of foot

Dorsal surface of foot

superior surface of foot

Terms of movement

Flexion

decreasing the angle between the bones of the body

Extension

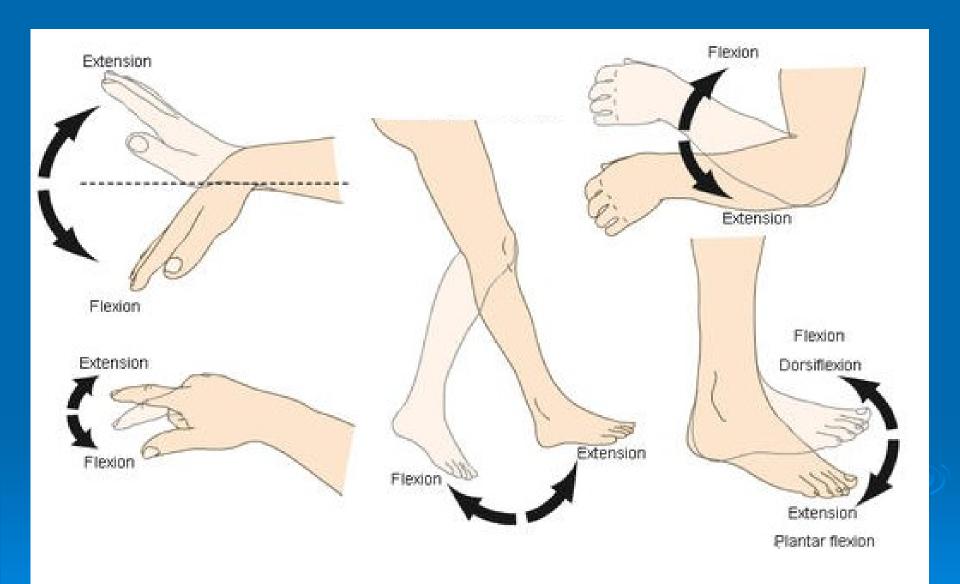
increasing the angle between the bones of the body

Dorsiflexion

 flexion at the angle joint, occurs when lifting the front of the foot off the ground

Plantarflexion

bends the foot toward the ground



Abduction

moving away from the median plane

Adduction

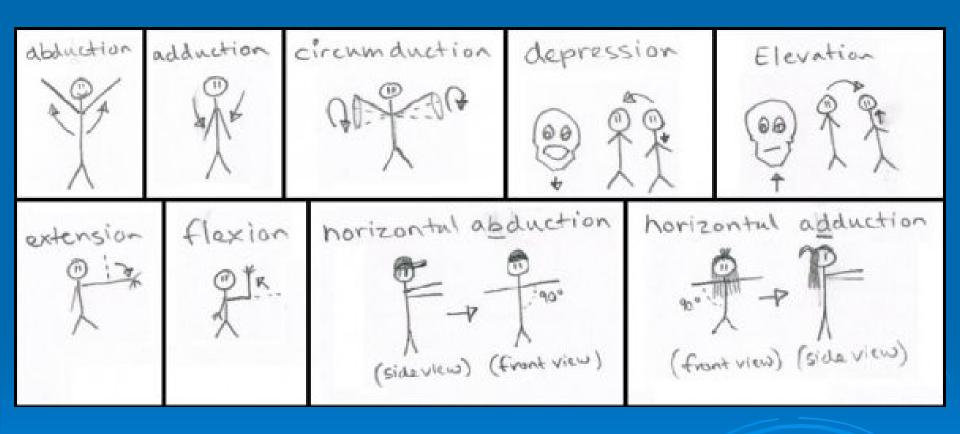
moving toward the median plane

Circumduction

circular motion which creates a cone like shape

Rotation

turning a part of the body around longitudinal axis



Pronation

 rotates radius medially – palm of the hand faces posteriorly and its dorsum faces anteriorly

Supination

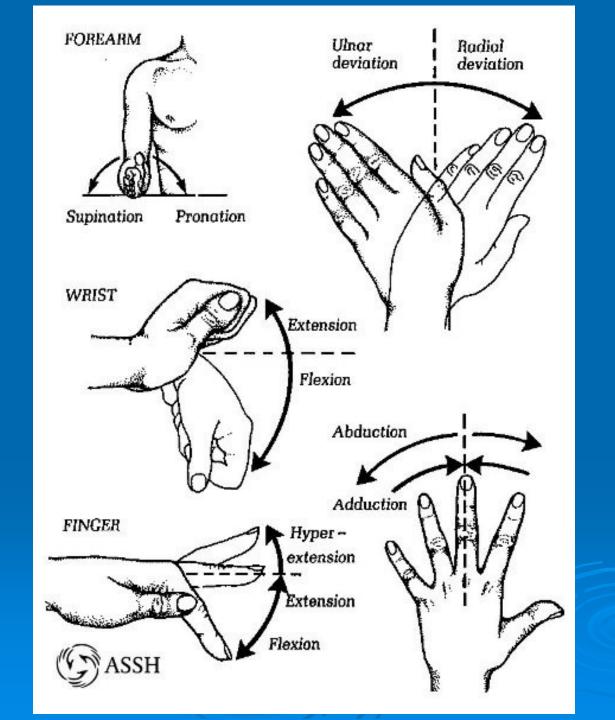
rotating radius laterally and uncrossing it from the ulna,
returning the pronated forearm to the anatomical position

Eversion

 moves the sole of the foot away from the median plane, turning the sole laterally

Inversion

moves the sole of the foot toward the median plane



Anteposition or opposition

 movement by which the pad of the 1st digit is brought to another digit pad

Reposition

movement of the 1st digit back to its anatomical position

Elevation

moves a part superiorly

Depression

moves a part inferiorly

