

The pudendal nerve arises from the ventral branches of the ventral rami S2, S3 and S4. It enters the gluteal region through the inferior medial part of the greater sciatic foramen, between piriformis and coccygeus. It crosses the sacrospinous ligament close to the ischial spine, medial to the internal pudendal vessels. It accompanies the internal pudendal artery through the lesser sciatic foramen into the pudendal canal, on the obturator fascia, which forms the lateral wall of the ischiorectal fossa. It gives off the inferior rectal nerve, perineal nerve and the dorsal nerve of the penis or clitoris.

The **inferior rectal nerve** usually, arises from the pudendal nerve as it enters the pudendal canal. It crosses the ischiorectal fossa with the inferior rectal vessels to supply levator ani, the external anal sphincter and the fascia and skin of the lower anal canal and perianal region.

The **perineal nerve** passes forwards below the internal pudendal and perineal arteries, dividing into posterior scrotal or posterior labial nerves, which supply the skin of the perineum and scrotum or labium majus. Muscular branches supply; the superficial and deep transverse perineal muscles, bulbospongiosus, ischiocavernosus, sphincter urethrae and the external part of the anal sphincter and levator ani. A branch pierces the corpus spongiosum to supply the mucous membrane of the urethra.

The **dorsal nerve of the penis or clitoris** passes forwards, close to the medial surface of the inferior pubic ramus, above the perineal membrane and the crus of the penis or clitoris, giving a branch to the corpus cavernosum. It passes through the gap between the apex of the urogenital diaphragm and inferior pubic ligament, passing onto the dorsal surface of the penis or clitoris, lateral to the dorsal artery.