

Anterior Spinal Artery

The blood supply to the spinal cord is predominantly from the anterior spinal artery. It runs the length of the cord, but its feeding arteries are variable.

The artery can be damaged by trauma, however its flow can be blocked by pathology within the canal such as infection, inflammatory tissue and tumor. It can also be compromised by damage to the extra-spinal (segmental) supply. This can occur with vascular disease and also during surgery of the spinal cord itself.

Thrombosis or occlusion of the anterior spinal artery can lead to '**Anterior Spinal Syndrome**' but can have more devastating effects should it occur in the upper cervical spine.