

# Unique feature- The arches of human foot

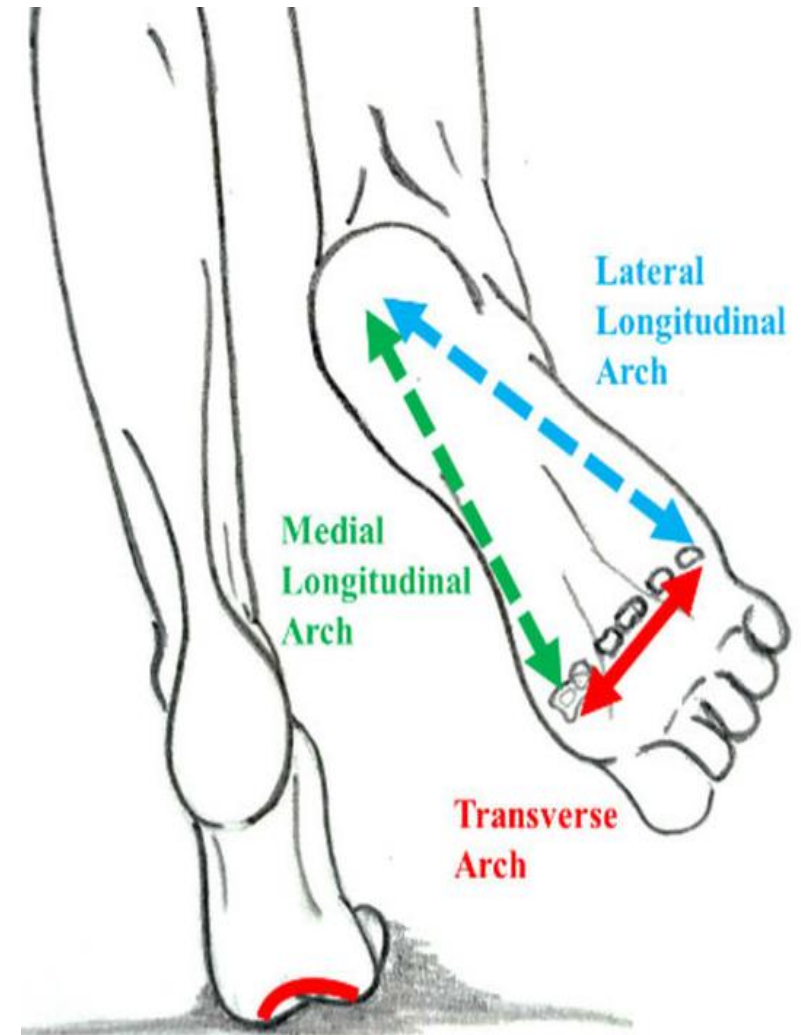


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# The arches of foot

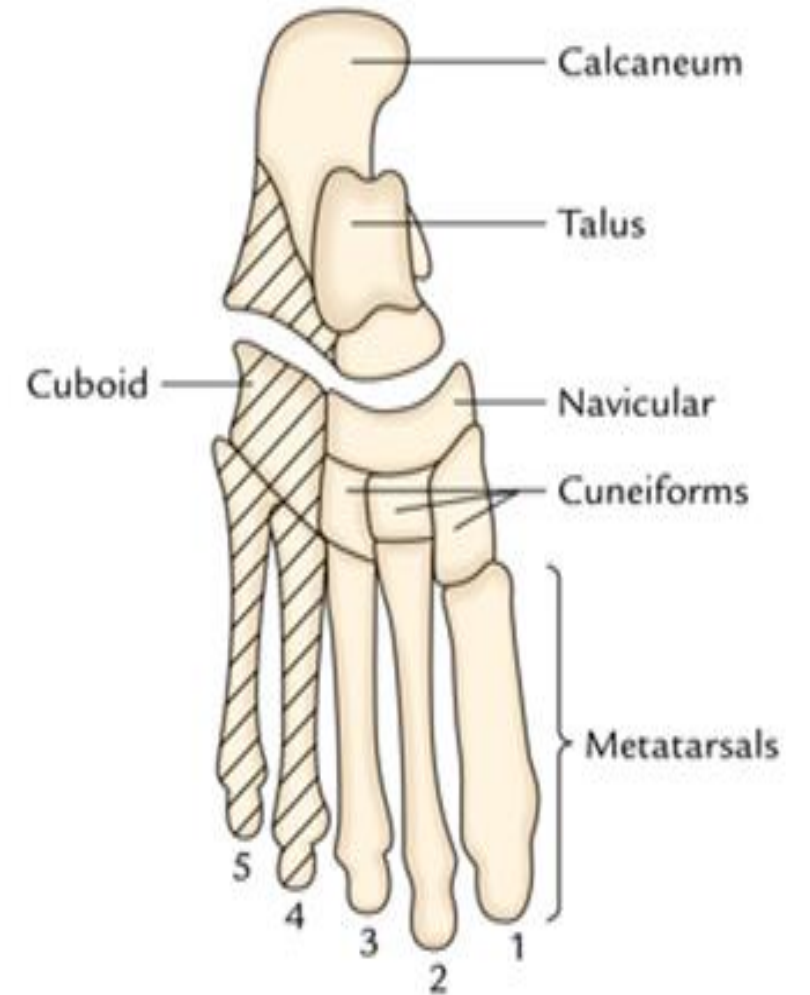
The unique arch structure of the foot plays a role in

- distributing weight
- promoting stability
- balance
- mobility



The human foot is a complex, flexible and strong structure made up of

- 26 bones
- 33 joints
- over 100 muscles, tendons, and ligaments

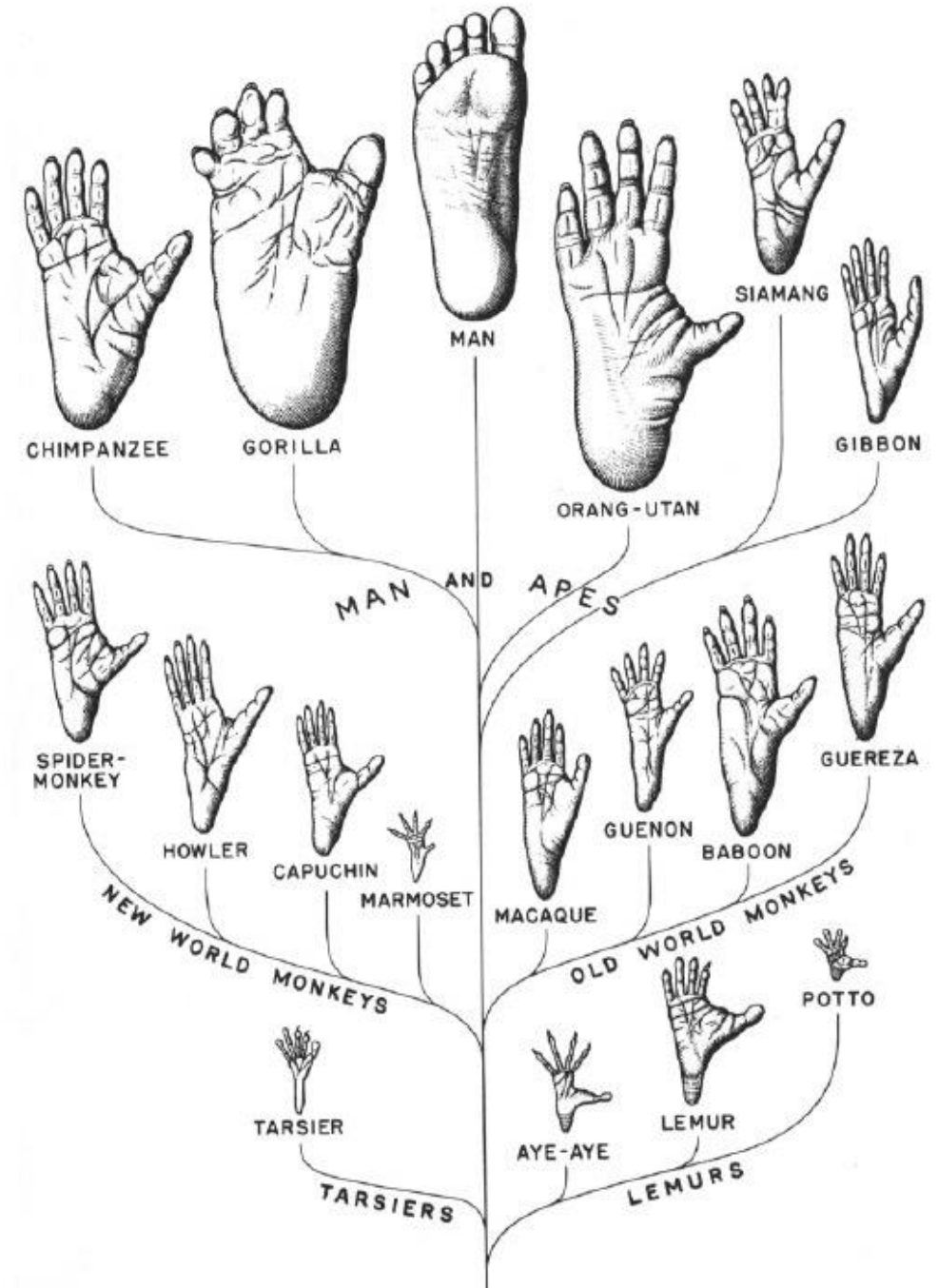


# Evolution of human foot

In **1699** **Edward Tyson** came up with an anatomical assessment of modern chimpanzees foot and labeled them quadrumanous

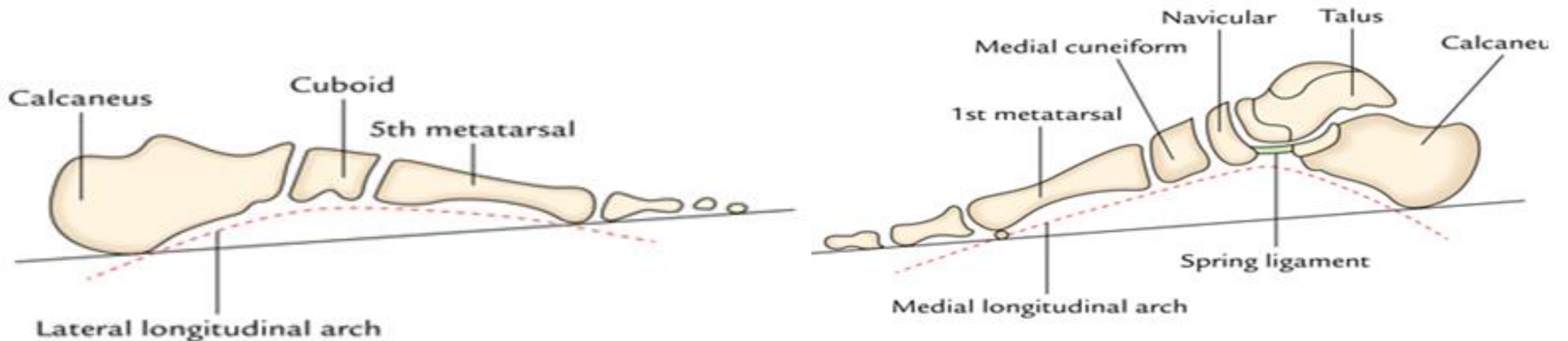
In **1863** **Thomas H. Huxley** made comparisons with gorilla foot

In **1995**, scientists proposed that the human foot evolved independently of other developments within human evolution



# Arches of Foot

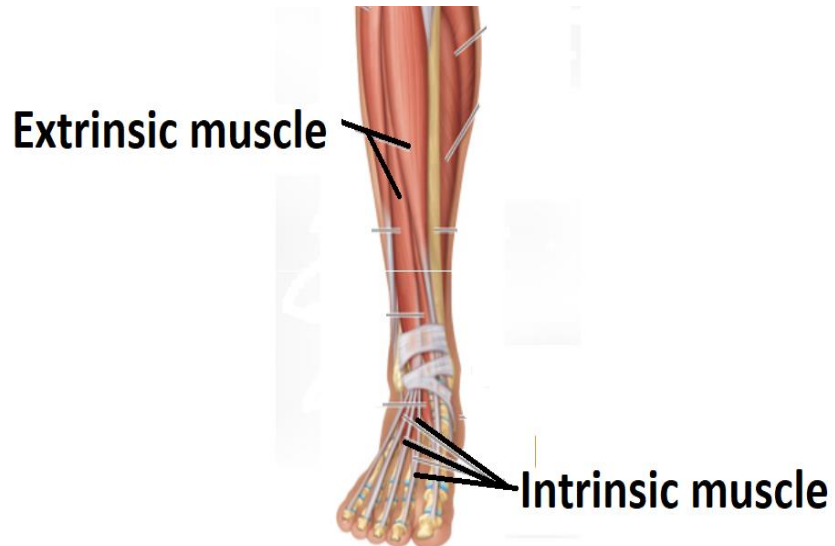
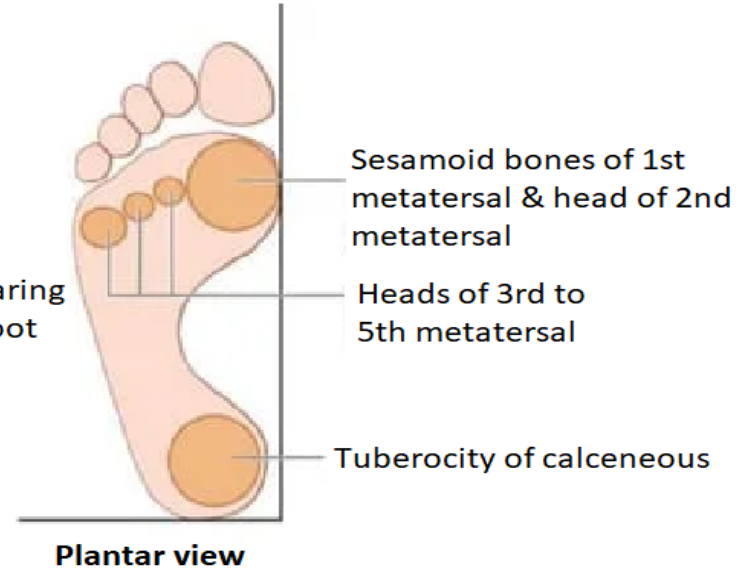
- Tarsal and metatarsal bones
- Strengthens by ligaments and tendons
- Supports the weight of the body in erect posture
- Makes the plantar surface concave



# Functions of Arches



Running ,Walking & Jumping

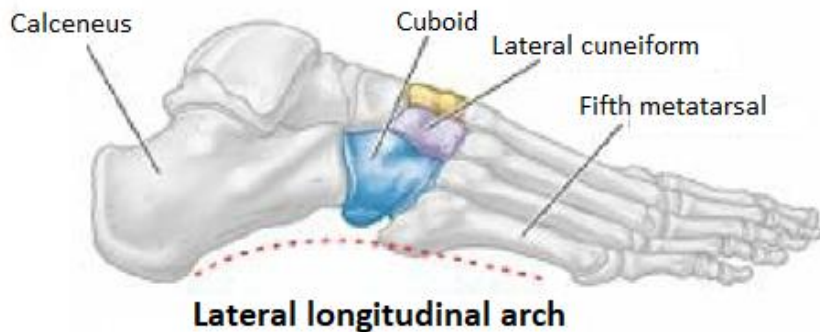
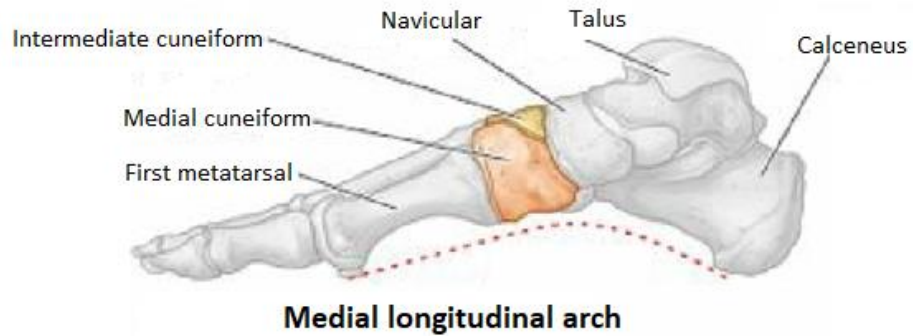


Sole is concave

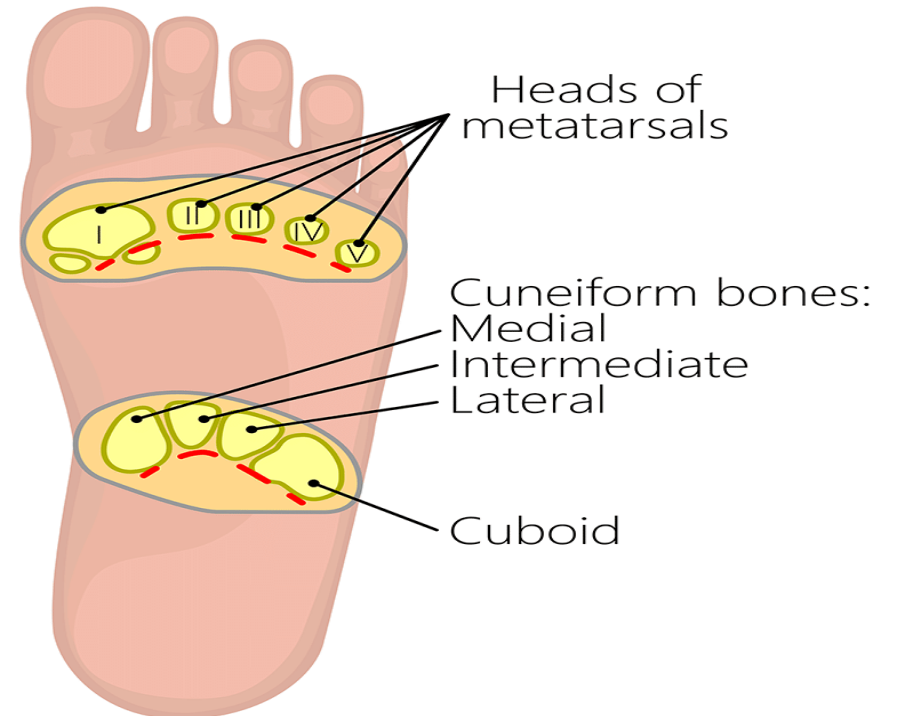
# Classification of Arches

Arches are mainly of 2 types

- Longitudinal arch



- Transverse arch

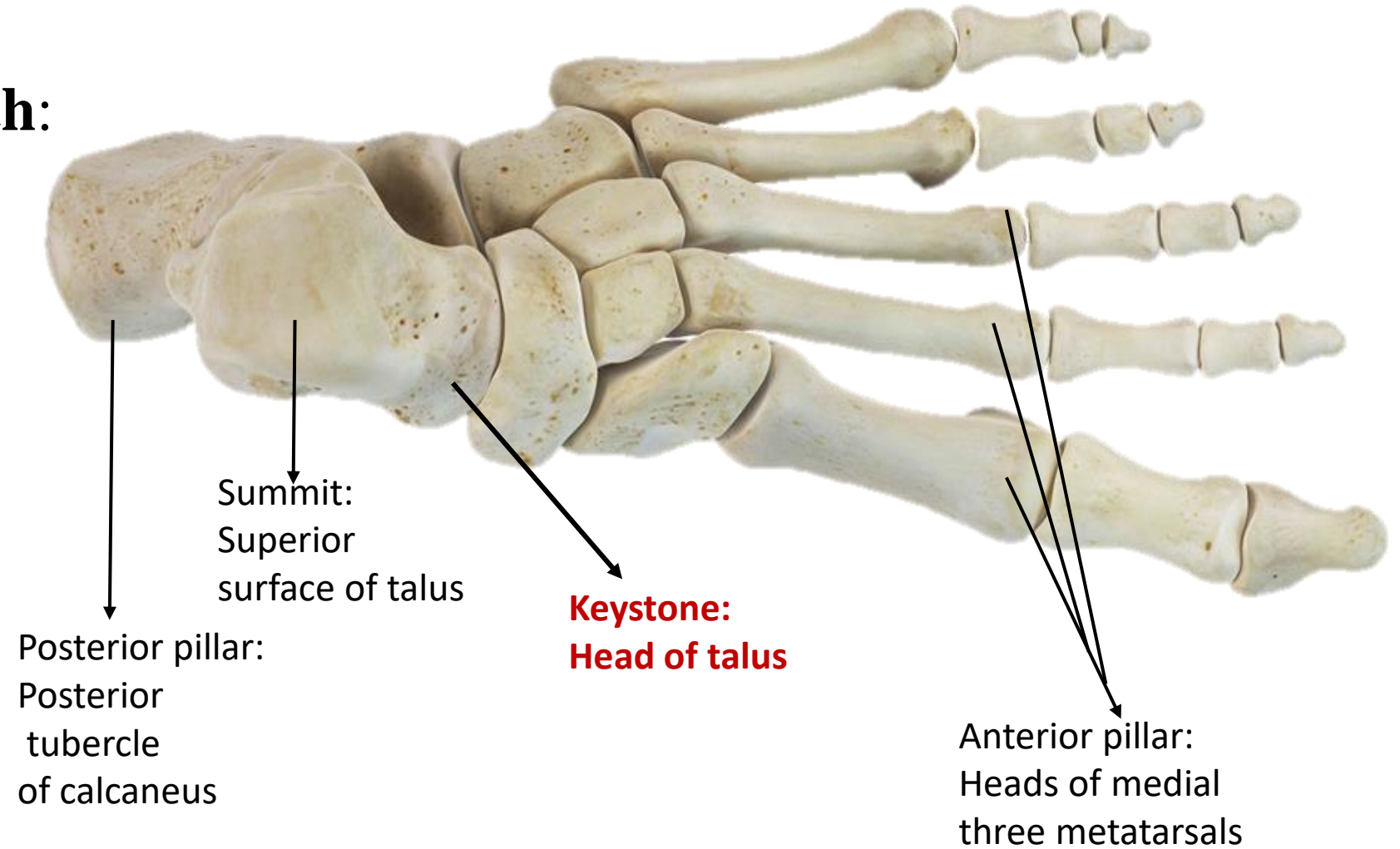


# Formation of Arch

## Medial longitudinal Arch:

formed by-

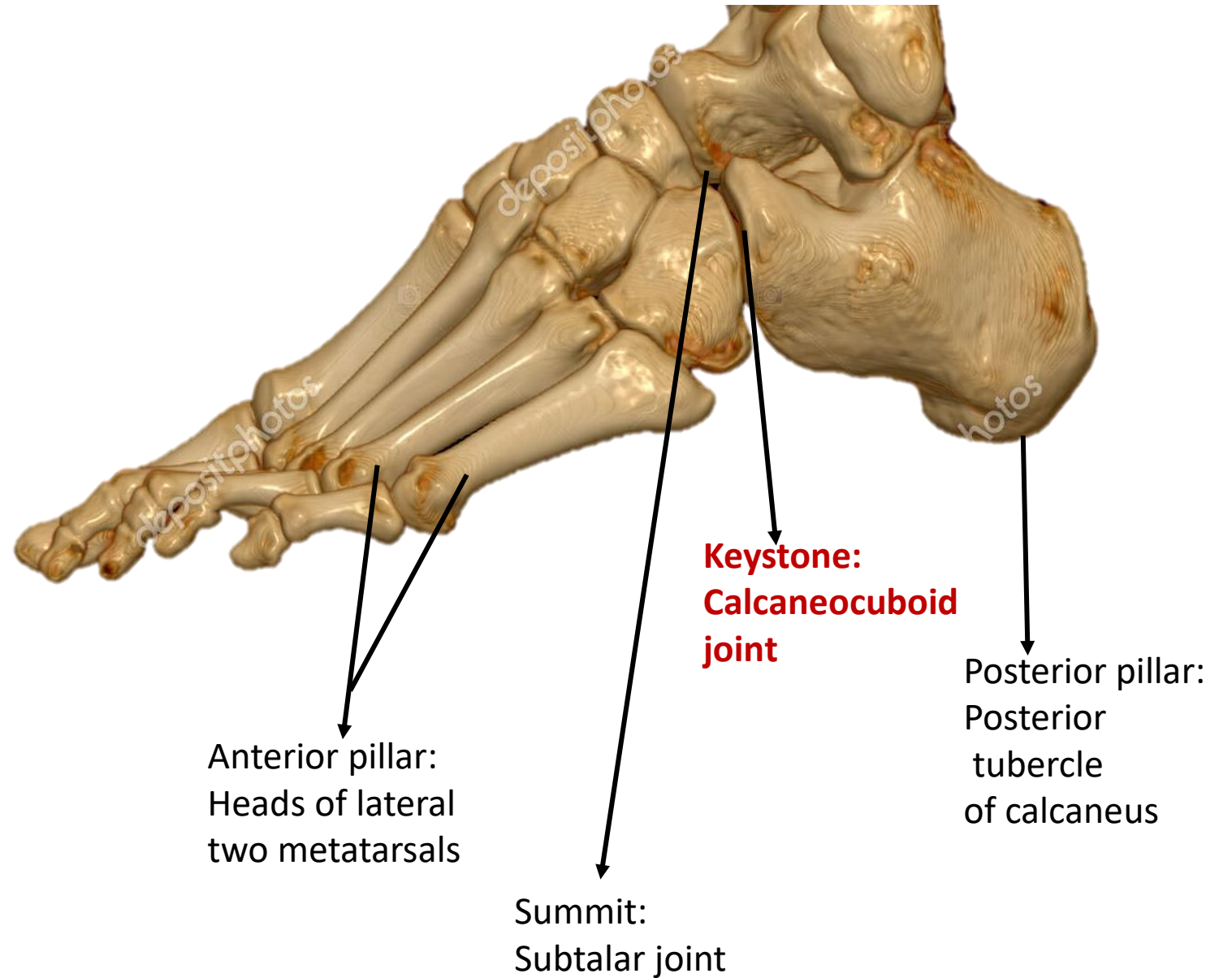
- Calcaneus
- Talus
- Navicular
- Medial 3 metatarsals





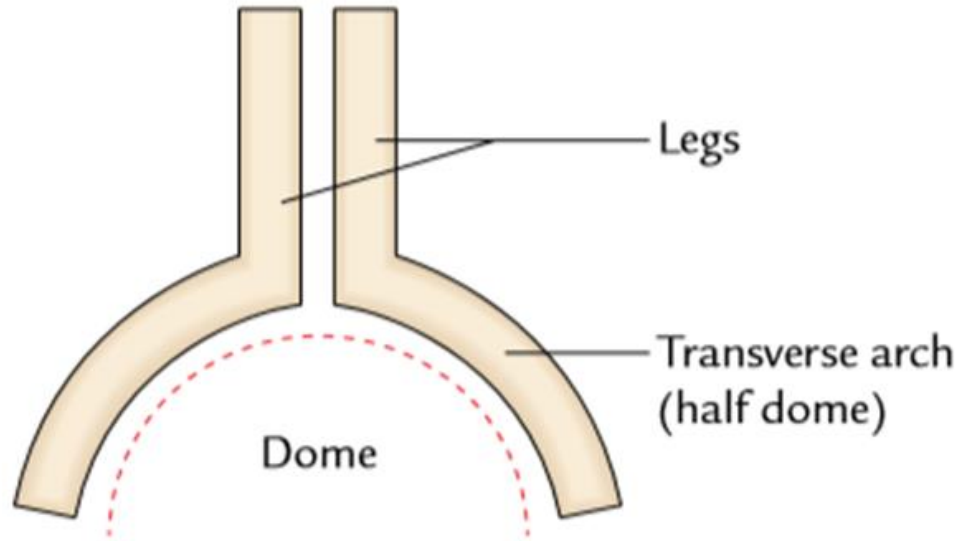
## Lateral longitudinal Arch

- Calcaneus
- Cuboid
- Lateral 2 metatarsals



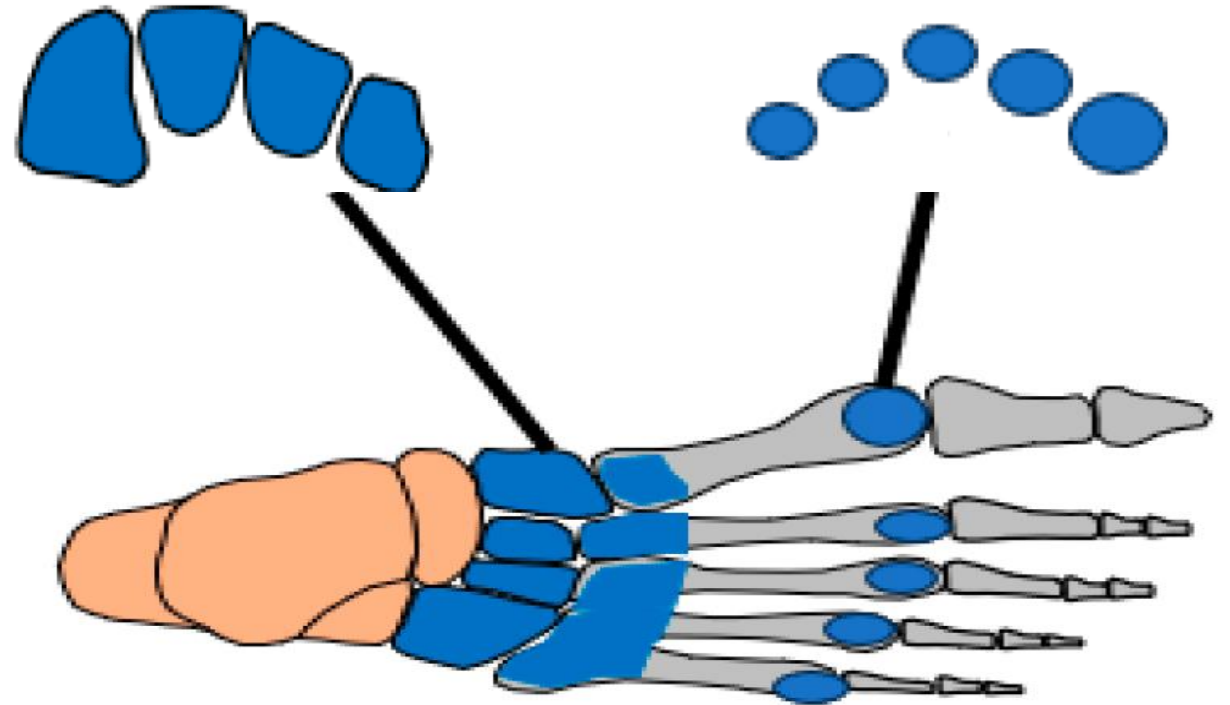
# Transverse Arch

- Tarsals &
- Metatarsals

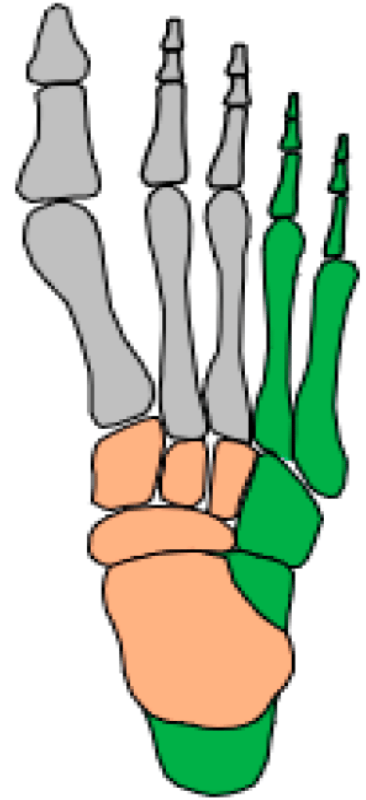
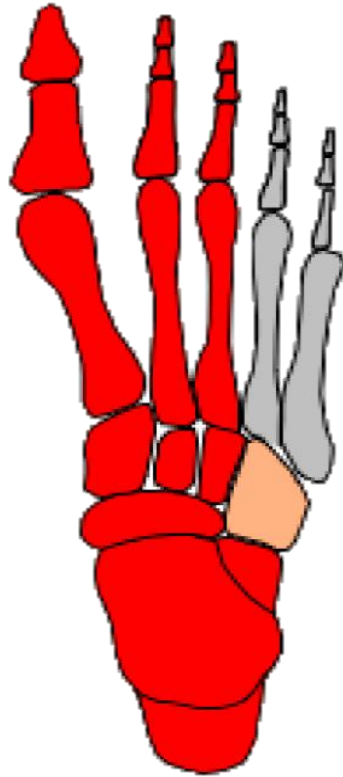


Posterior TA

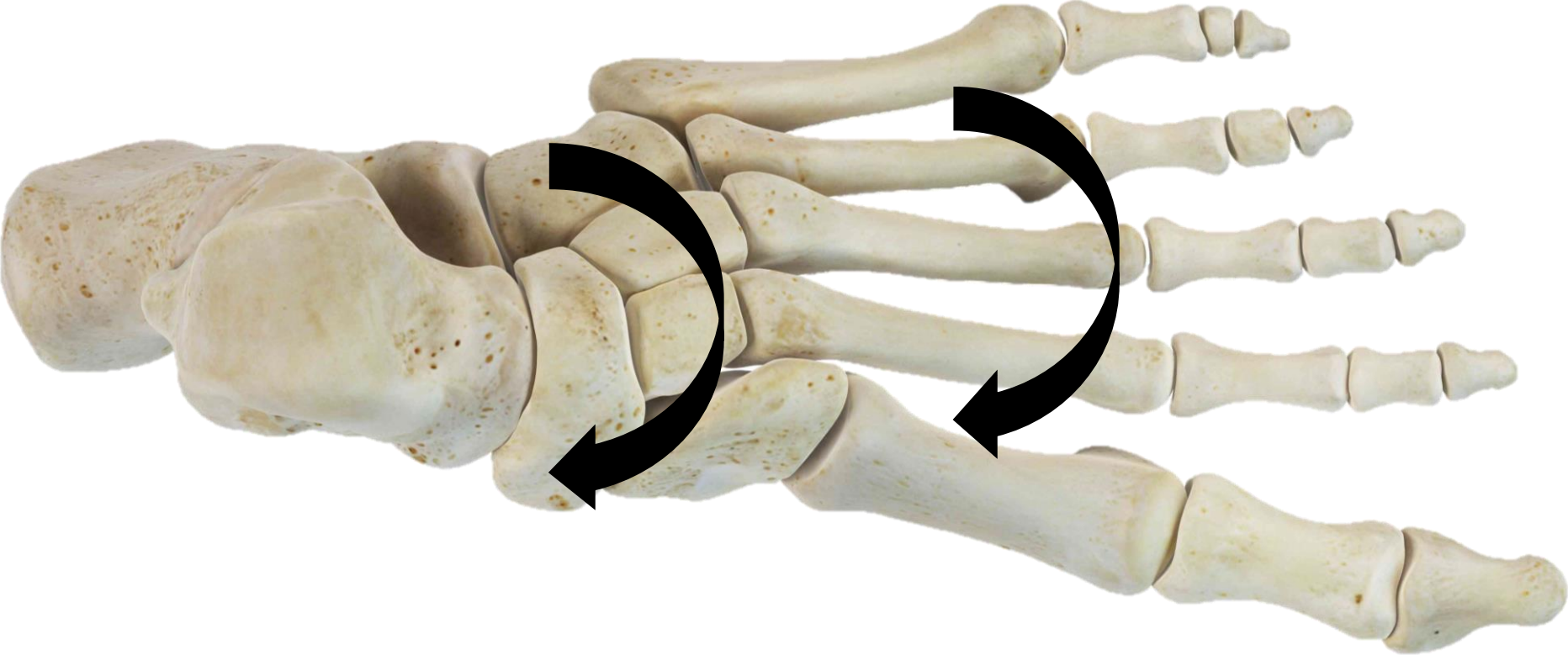
Anterior TA



# Longitudinal arch



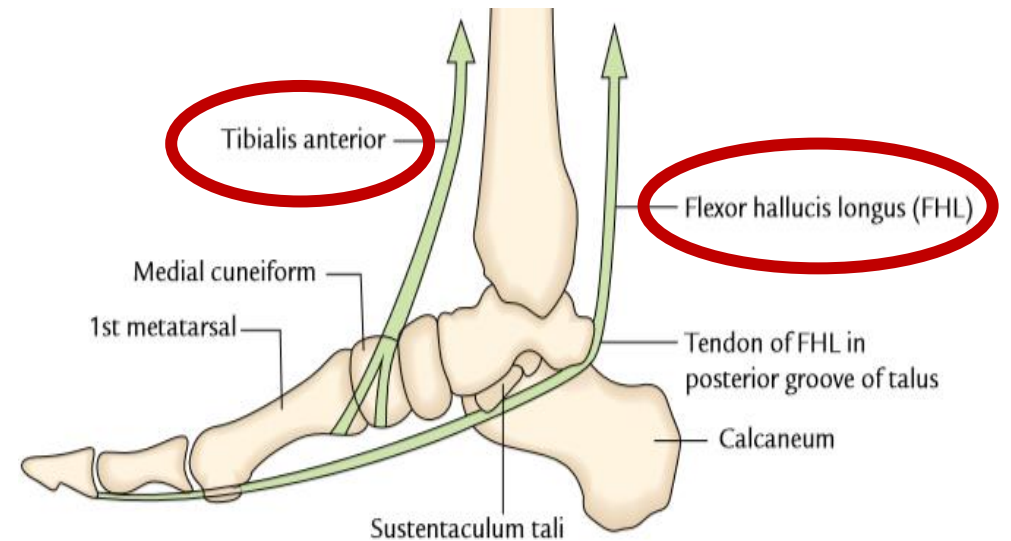
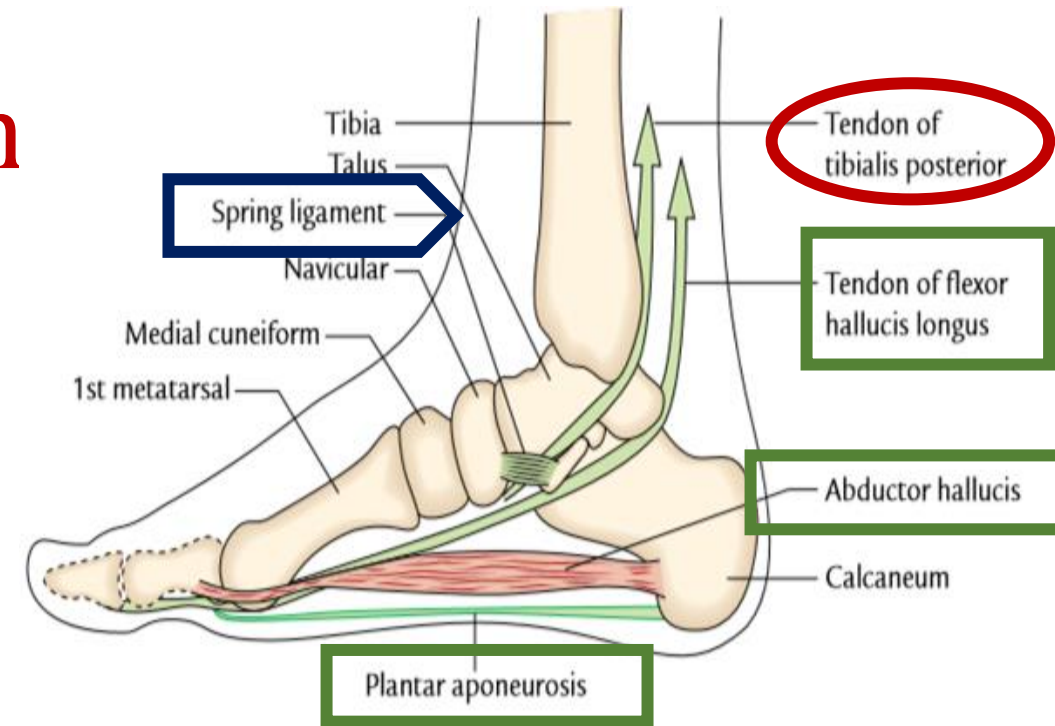
# Transverse Arch



# Factors maintaining the Arch

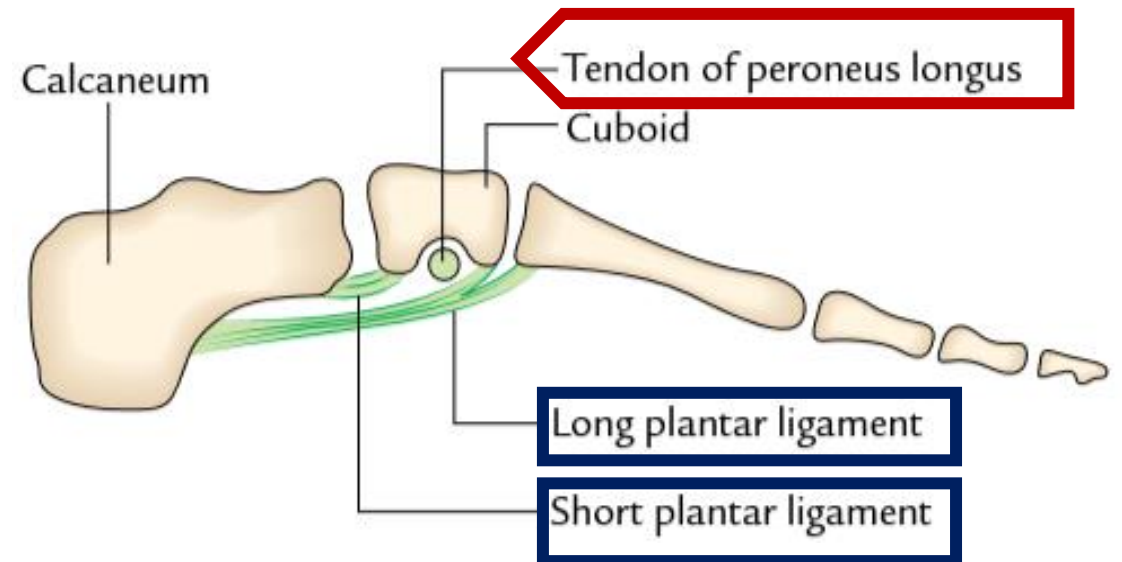
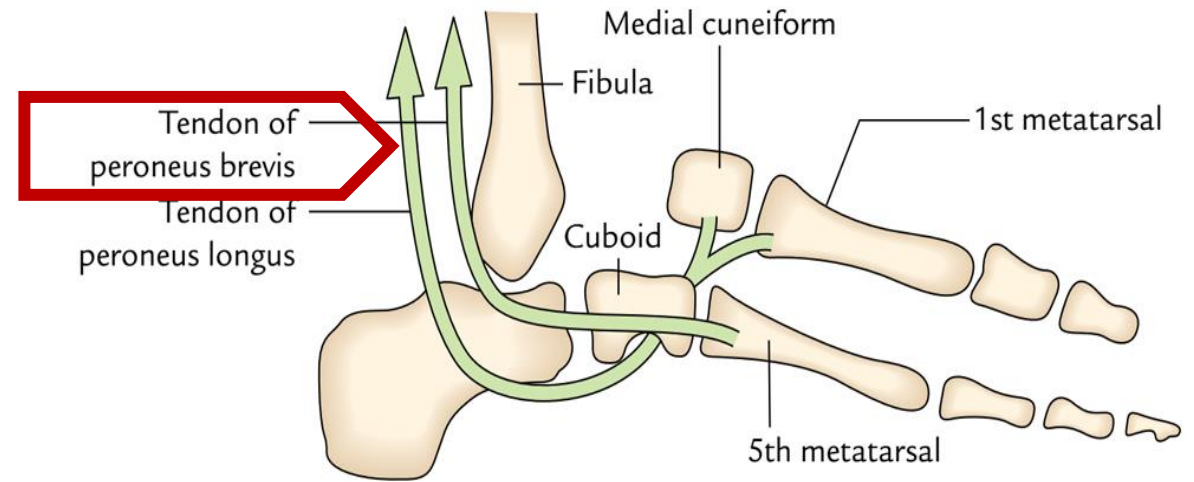
## Medial Longitudinal Arch

- Shape of bones
- Intersegmental tiers
- Factors acting as tie-beams
- Suspending the arch from above



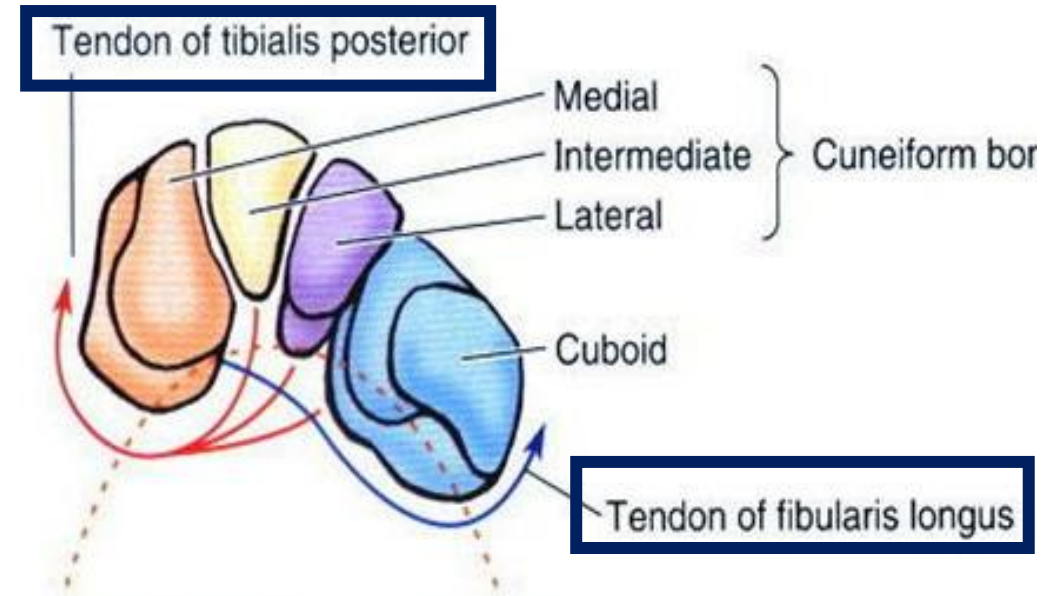
## Lateral Longitudinal Arch

- Shape of bones
- Intersegmental tiers
- Factors acting as tie-beams
- Suspending the arch from above



## Transverse Arch

- Shape of bones
- Intersegmental tiers
- Factors acting as tie-beams
- Suspending the arch from above



(C) Transverse arch (anterior view)



# Ossification of foot bones

## **Tarsals**

2-3 years after birth except (talus, calcaneus & cuboid they ossify intra uterine life)

## **Metatarsals**

Ossify from 1 primary (for shaft)  
& 1 secondary centre (directed towards head in all except 1<sup>st</sup> directed towards the base)

## **Phalanges**

They ossify from 1 primary  
& 1 secondary centre





- (a,b)- At 1 year, the talus, calcaneus, cuboid & lateral cuneiform have ossified

- (c,d)- At 5 year, all tarsal bones have ossified

- (e,f)- At 9 year, the foot has an adult configuration

# Development of arch

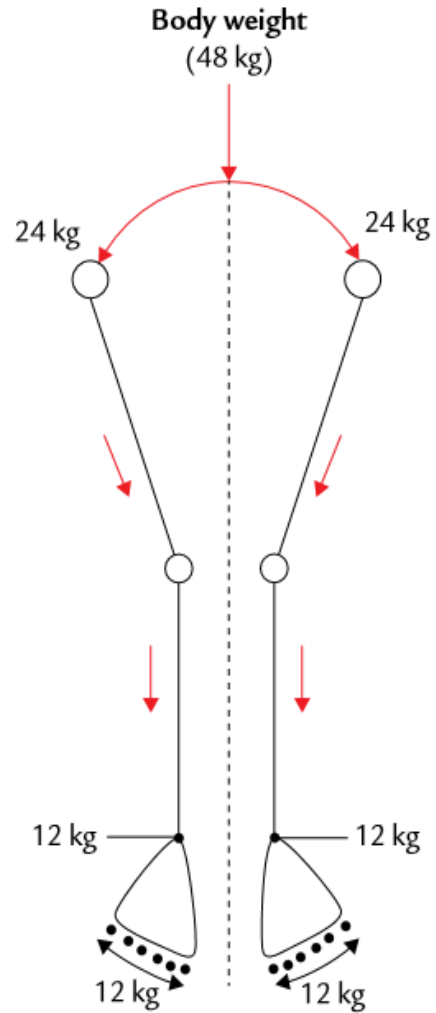


## In children

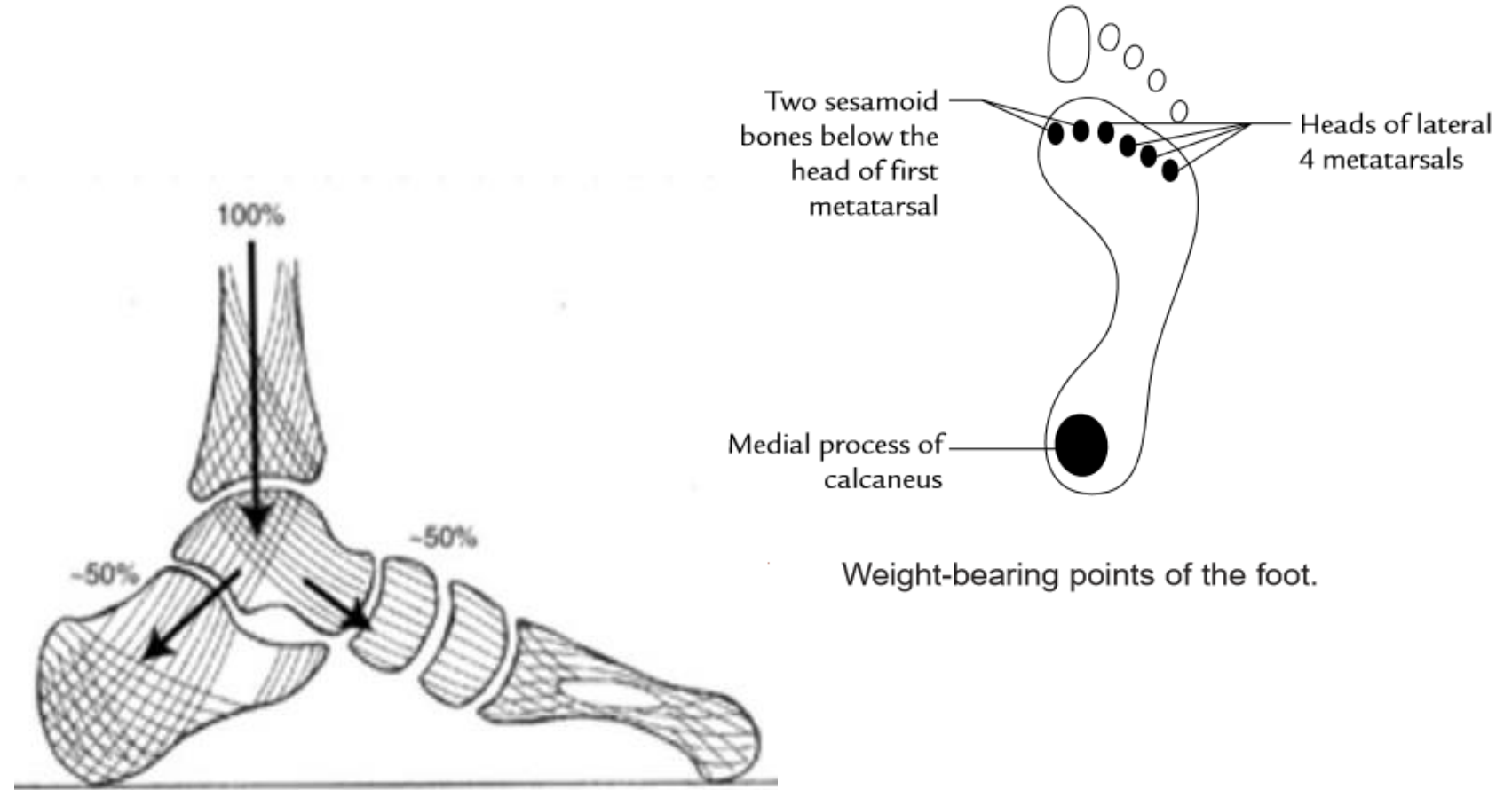
Flat feet is common in nearly all infants under 4 years due to the fat pad in the infant foot

By age 6, most children will have developed an arch in standing

# Weight transmission through lower limb



Distribution of weight to the feet.



# Congenital anomalies of foot

## **Club foot or Talipes**

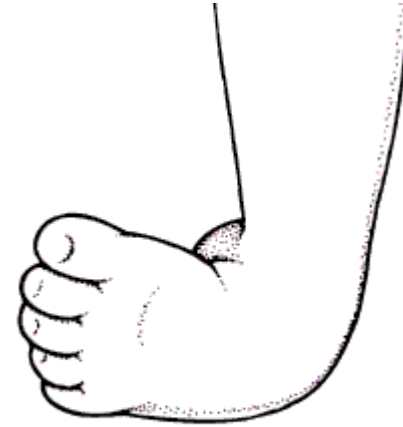
- These are the primary foot deformities
- Due to mechanical force that mold a part of fetus for a prolonged period

# Club foot or Talipes



**Equinus-** foot is fixed in plantar flexion and the person walks on the toes

Talipes Equinus



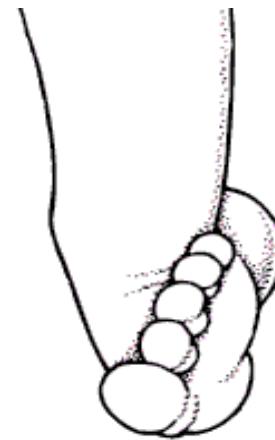
**Varus-** foot is fixed in inverted and adducted

Talipes Varus



**Calcaneus-** foot is fixed in dorsiflexed and the person walks on the heel

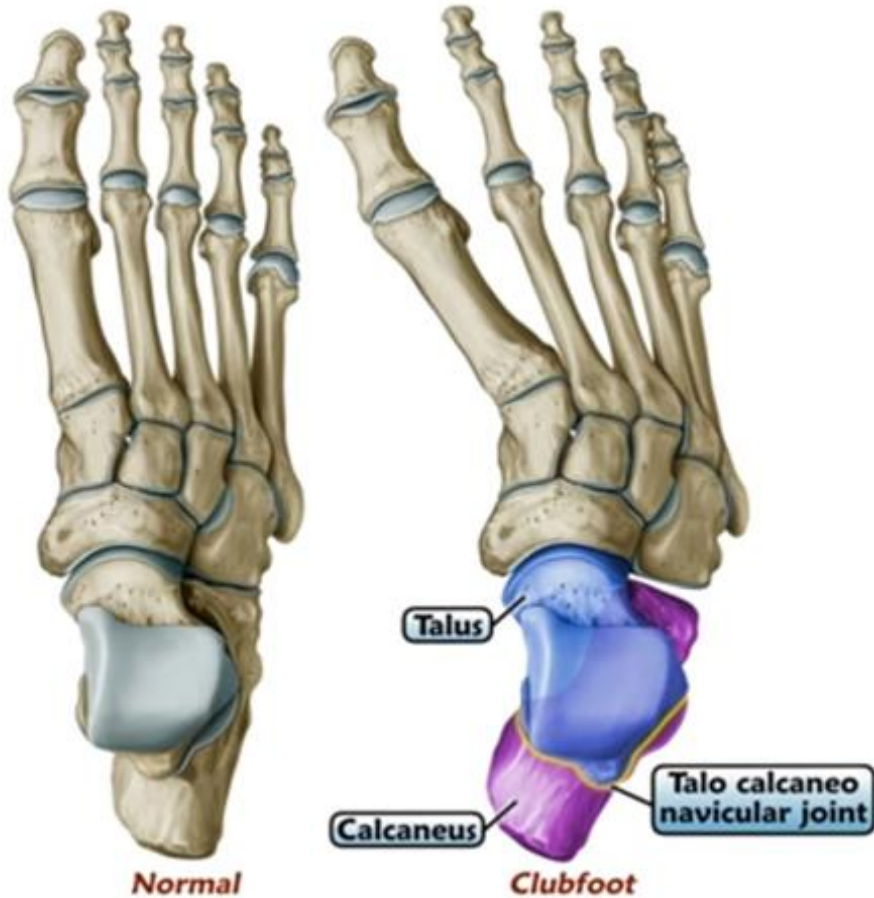
Talipes Calcaneus



**Valgus-** foot is fixed in everted and abducted

Talipes Valgus

# Talipes equinovarus (Congenital Club foot)



Talipes equinovarus- Most important congenital anomaly of foot  
Incidence rate is 1-2/ 1000 birth, boys are twice than girls

Characterized by-

- Foot is planter flexed
- Forefoot turn medially
- Sole facing inwards

Anatomical abnormality

# Congenital Club foot (Talipes equinovarus)

## Etiology of club foot



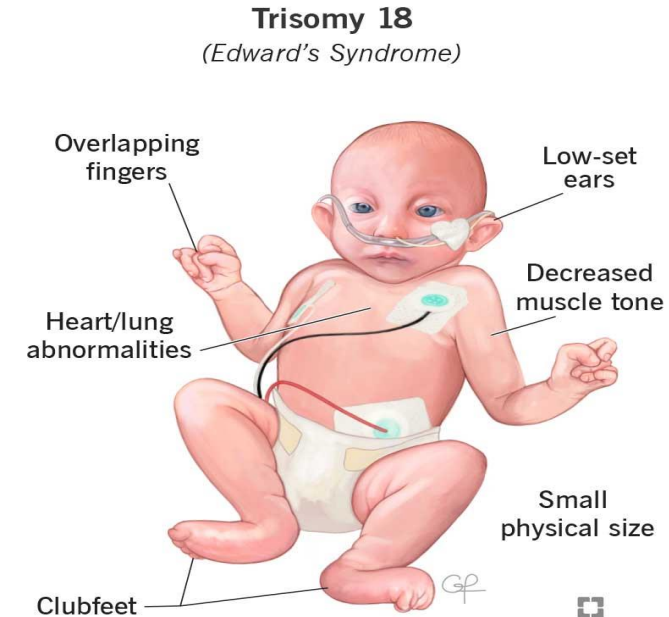
Intrauterine crowding



Breech position



## Congenital club foot



## Positional club foot

- Not a true club foot
- Corrected with mild manipulation

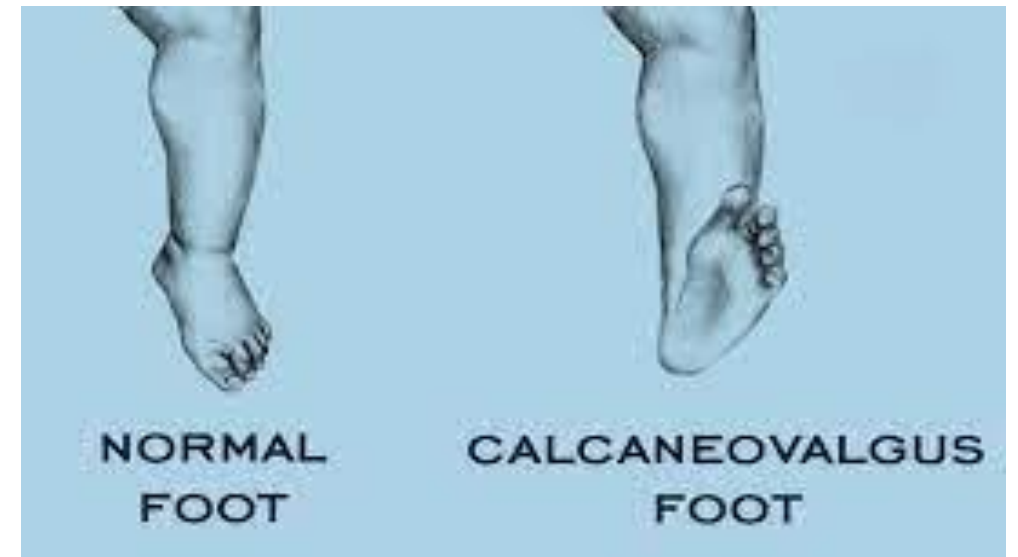
- Amniotic constricting ring
- Neural tube defect
- Genetic disorder

# Talipes calcaneovalgus

- Common deformity
- Usually bilateral
- Acutely dorsiflexed foot
- Deep crease in front of the ankle
- Calcaneus juts out posteriorly

## Causes

- Abnormal intrauterine position
- Spinal dysraphism
- Posteromedial bow of tibia





# Common deformities of the foot

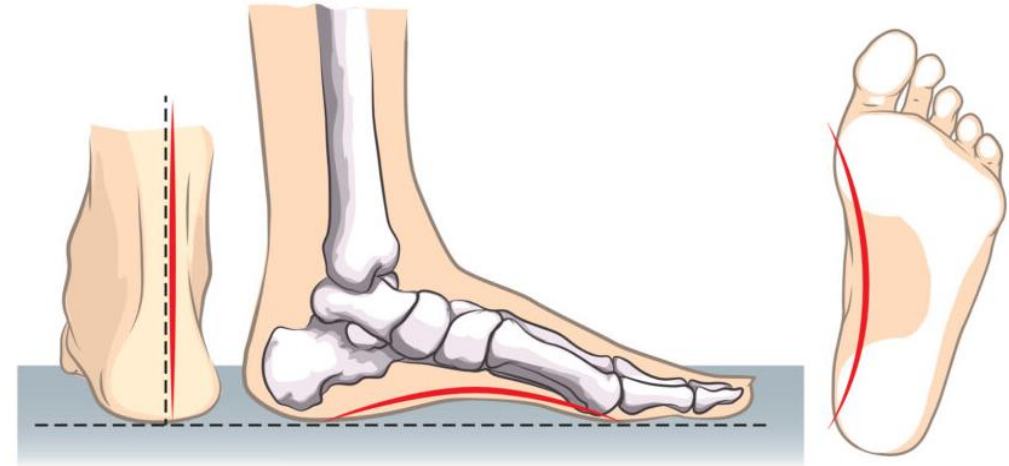


**Flat foot or pes planus-** is commonest of all foot deformities associated with disappearance of medial longitudinal arch

# Flat foot or pes planus

## Causes of flat foot

- Rapid increase of weight
- Loss of tone in leg muscle
- Faulty foot wear



Normal feet

## Painful acquired flat foot is the commonest

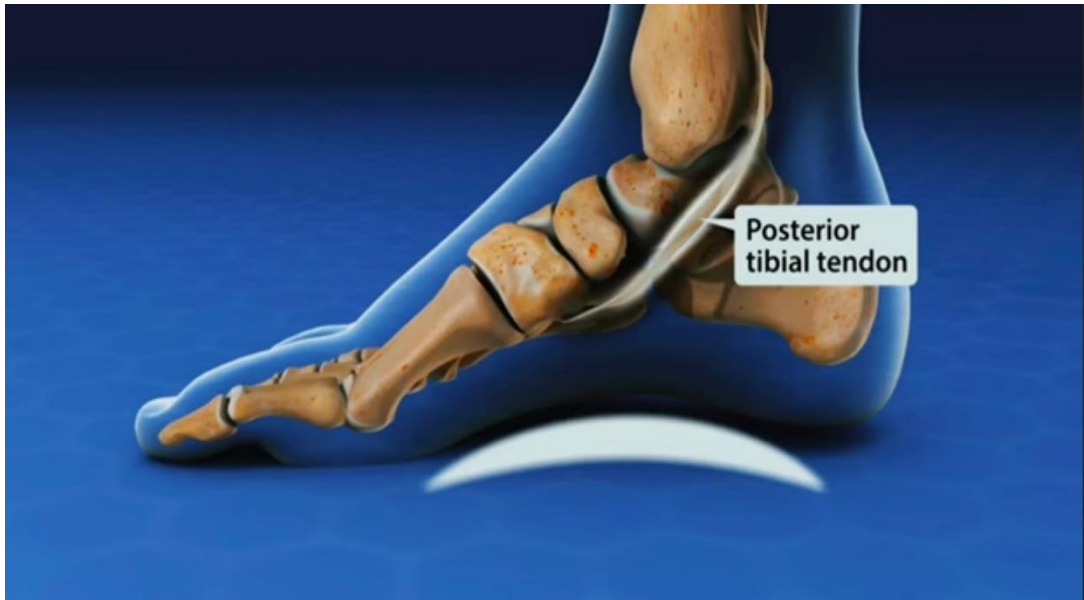
- Posterior tibial tendon dysfunction
- It is most common in women
- Insidious onset
- Associated with obesity, diabetes and steroid



Flat feet

# Mechanism of formation of flat foot





# High arch foot or pes cavus



- **High arch foot or pes cavus-** exaggeration of longitudinal arch

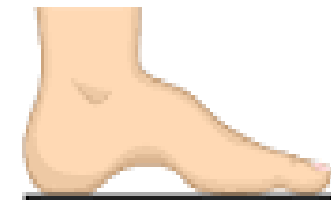
# High arch foot

Also known as Claw foot, Hollow foot or Pes Cavus

This usually occurs because of contracture at the transverse tarsal joints

## Causes of high arch foot

- Muscular dystrophies
- Hereditary motor sensory neuropathies
- Cord lesion (poliomyelitis)
- Cerebral palsy



Hollow Foot  
(High Arch)



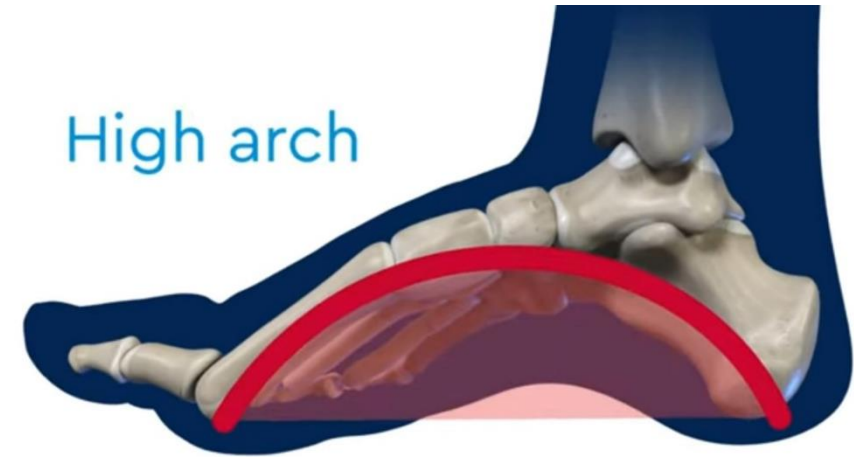
Normal Foot



# High arch foot

## Health issue associated with pes cavus

- Metatarsalgia
- Plantar fasciitis
- Ankle instability/ ankle sprains
- Hammer toe
- Metatarsal fracture



# References

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- Essentials of Human Anatomy Superior and Inferior Extremities (Vol-3)  
5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2017
- Apley & Solomon's System of Orthopedics and Trauma 10<sup>th</sup> Edition





