Unit 31: 

Retroperitoneum and posterior abdominal wall

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

- general considerations of the organization of the posterior abdominal wall (muscles & fascia)
- vessels and nerves in retroperitoneum
- review of the anatomy of upper urinary system

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Posterior Abdominal Wall

   Lumbar Vertebrae & Intervertebral Discs (see Back)
   Fascia  Lumbar - Anterior, Middle & Posterior Layers
           Fascia Iliaca & Fascia Psoas
   Muscles  Psoas Major, Psoas Minor
           Quadratus Lumborum
           Iliacus
   Nerves  Subcostal
   Lumbar Plexus *(Ventral Rami of L:1,2,3 & 4)*
           Femoral & Obturator Nerves. Other Branches
           Lumbosacral Trunk *(from Ventral Rami L:4 & 5)*
   Vessels  Subcostal, Lumbar Arteries (-> branches to Spinal Cord)
           Subcostal, Lumbar and Ascending Lumbar veins

2. Urinary System

   Kidneys
   Position, Key Relations (of Right & of Left)
   Parts: Poles, Surfaces, Borders, Hilus (& Sinus) Contents
   Renal Fascia & Perinephric Fat
   Structure -> Capsule, Cortex & Medulla, Pelvis & Calyces
   Arteries & Veins, Vascular Segments, Lymphatics & Nerves

   Ureters (Abdominal Part)
   Origin & Course, Key Relations (of Right & of Left)
   Constrictions (of Lumen). Vessels & Nerves

Suprarenal Glands
   Position, Shape, Key Relations, (of Right & of Left), Structure (Cortex and Medulla)
   Vessels & Nerves