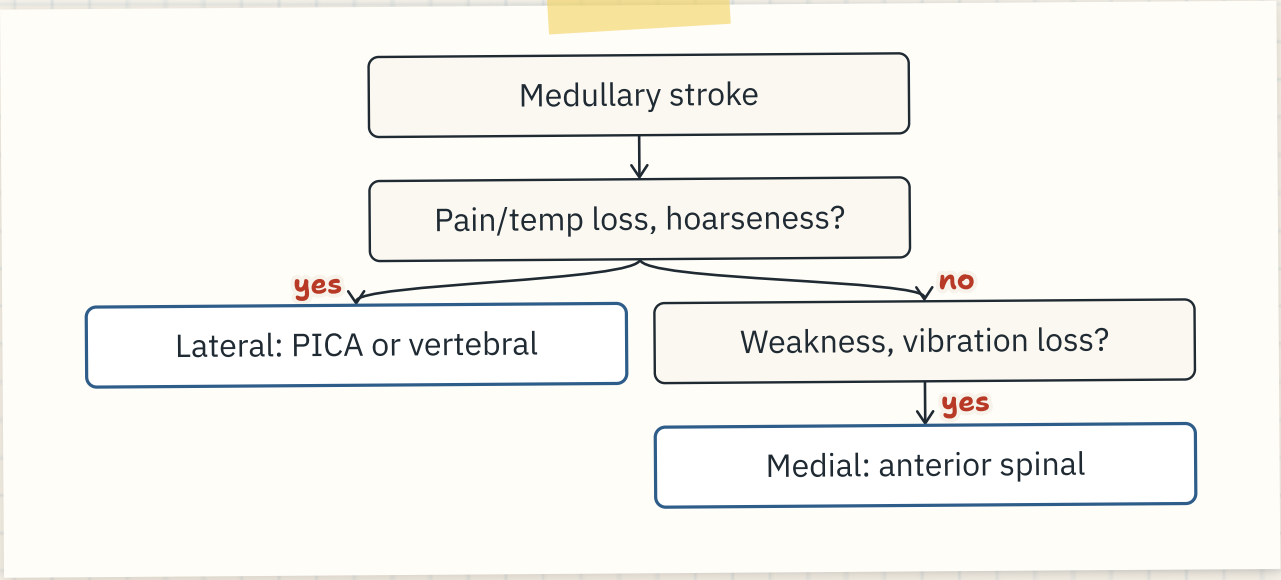
Medial vs lateral medulla

Artery, structures and signs



Step by step

1. Split the olive-level section: medial strip and lateral part
2. Name the structures in the damaged half
3. Read each sign off its structure
4. Match the half to its artery

	Medial	Lateral
Artery	Anterior spinal	PICA or vertebral
Weakness	Opposite	Classically spared
Pain and temp	Spared	Face same, body opposite
Vibration, position	Lost, opposite	Not affected
Tongue	Toward lesion	Normal
Other	Face spared	Hoarse, Horner, ataxia

Mirror-image syndromes

Rule of thumb

Medial spares pain and temperature

Lateral classically spares strength

Lateral: face same side, body opposite

Tongue deviates toward the lesion

Exam traps

- The spinothalamic tract has already crossed: body pain loss is on the opposite side to the lesion.
- Face is classically spared in the medial syndrome: the facial nucleus lies in the pons.
- Strength is classically spared in the lateral syndrome; Opalski syndrome is a rare exception.

Medial vs lateral medullary syndrome: artery, structures and signs
Video, written lesson, practice question and sources: medservatory.com/usmle-step-1/neuroanatomy-localisation/medial-vs-lateral-medullary-syndrome

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