

# Arteries of head and neck

## Subclavian Artery

### ★ Origin:

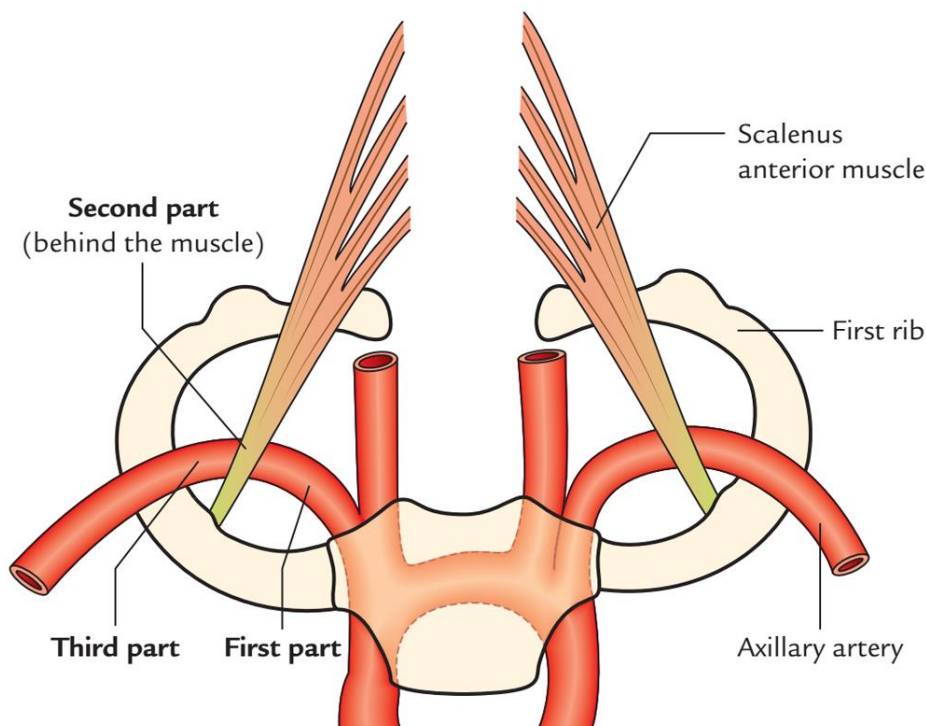
- The **right** subclavian artery arises from the **brachiocephalic** artery behind the **right sternoclavicular joint**.
- while the **left** artery arises from the **arch** of aorta behind the **manubrium sterni**.

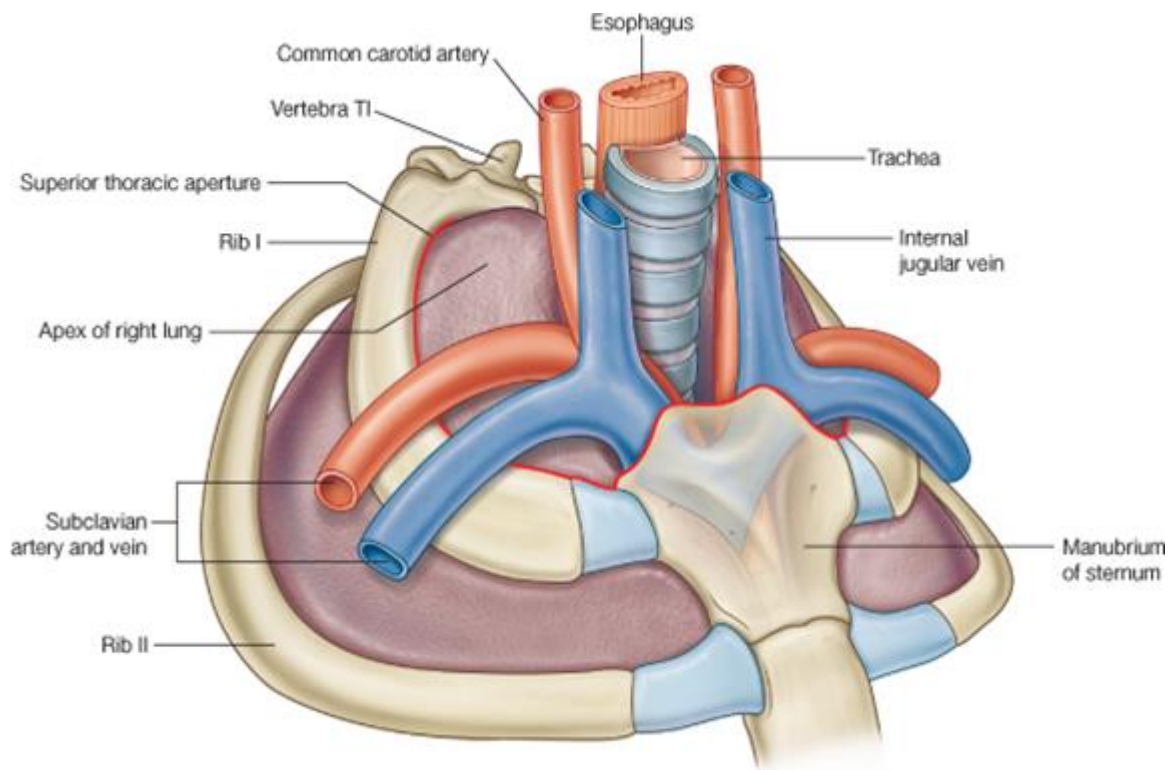
### ★ Course:

- **Both** arteries **enter** the neck behind the **sternoclavicular** joints.
- Each artery has an **arched course** in the root of the neck.
- It runs **behind scalenus anterior** muscle and in **front of the apex** of lung and cervical pleura.

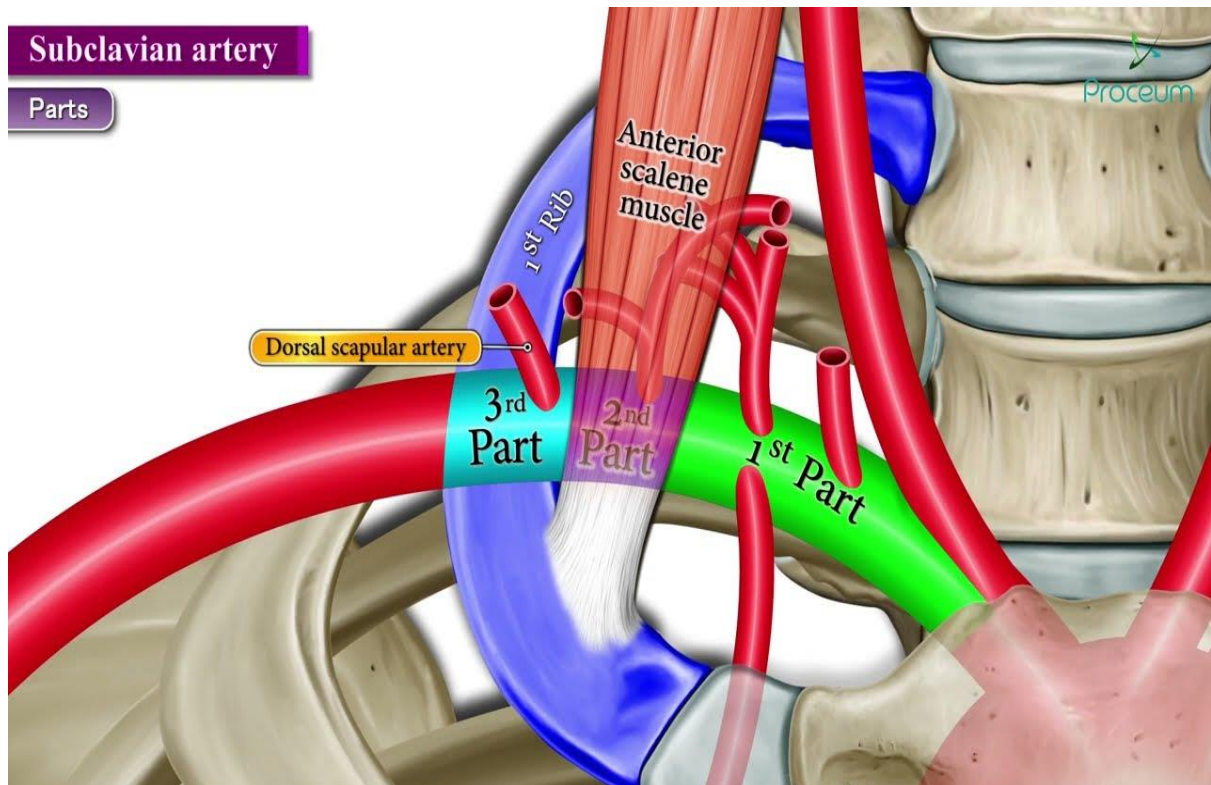
### ★ Parts:

- The scalenus anterior muscle divides the artery into **3 parts**; 1<sup>st</sup> part (medial), 2<sup>nd</sup> part (deep), and 3<sup>rd</sup> part (lateral) to the muscle.

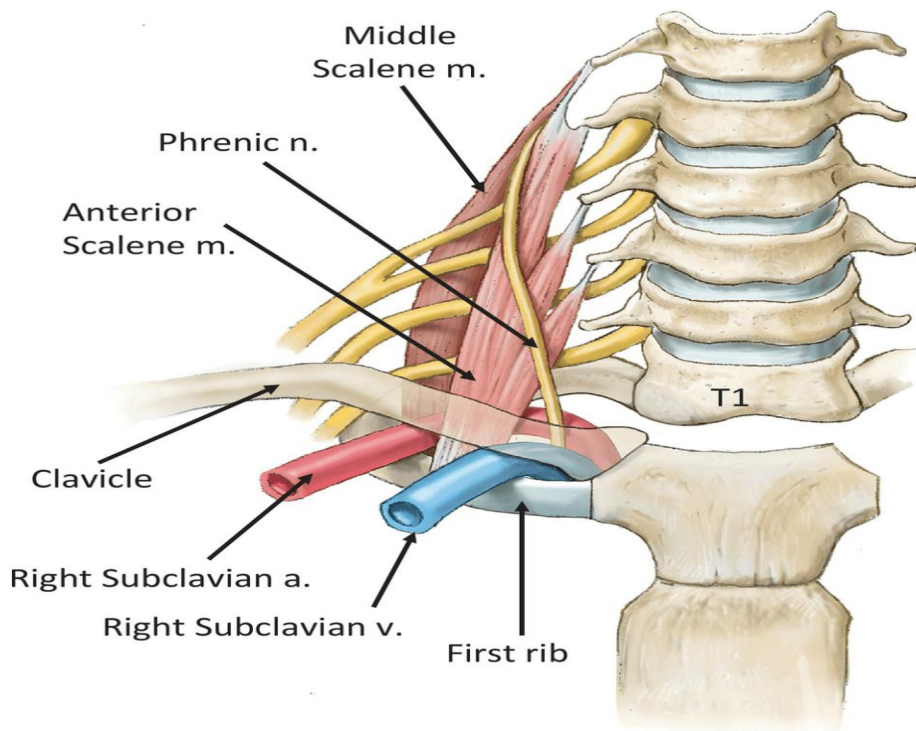




© Elsevier. Drake et al: Gray's Anatomy for Students - www.studentconsult.com



Each artery **ends** at the outer border of the **first rib** to become the **axillary** artery.



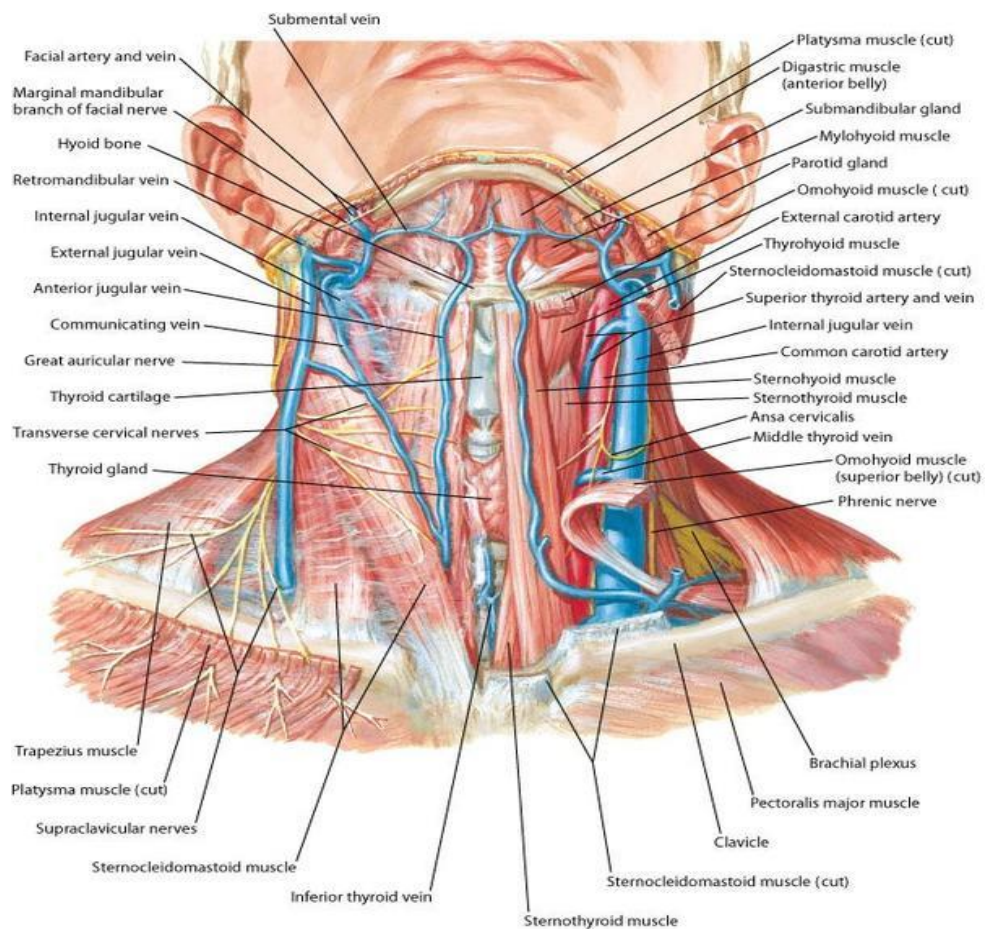
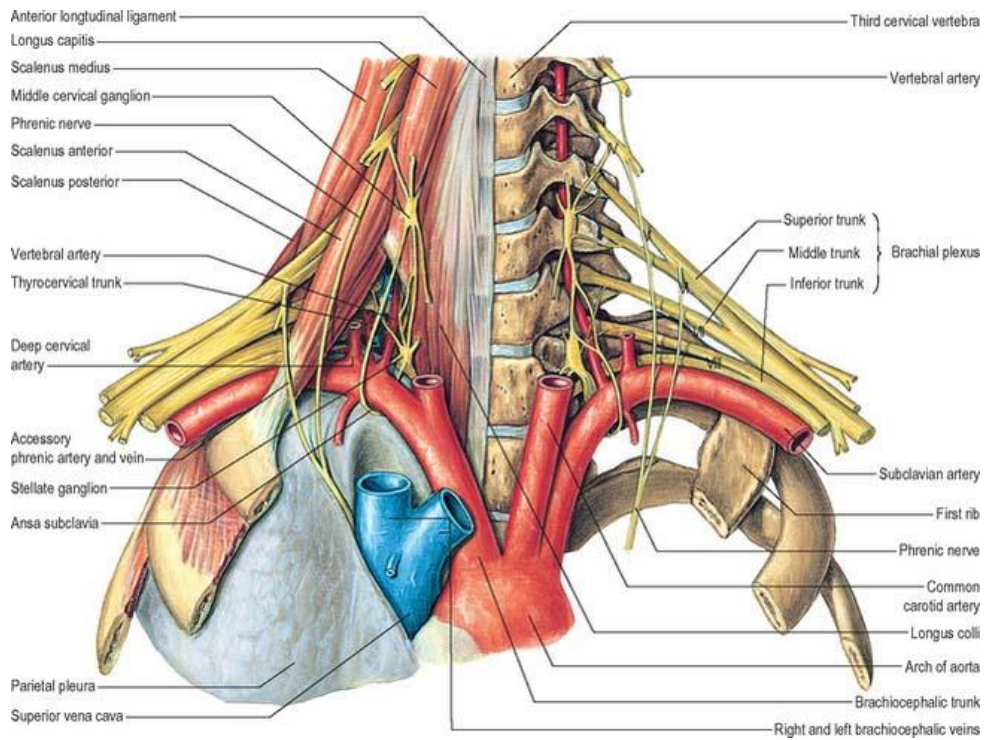
★ **Relations & branches:**

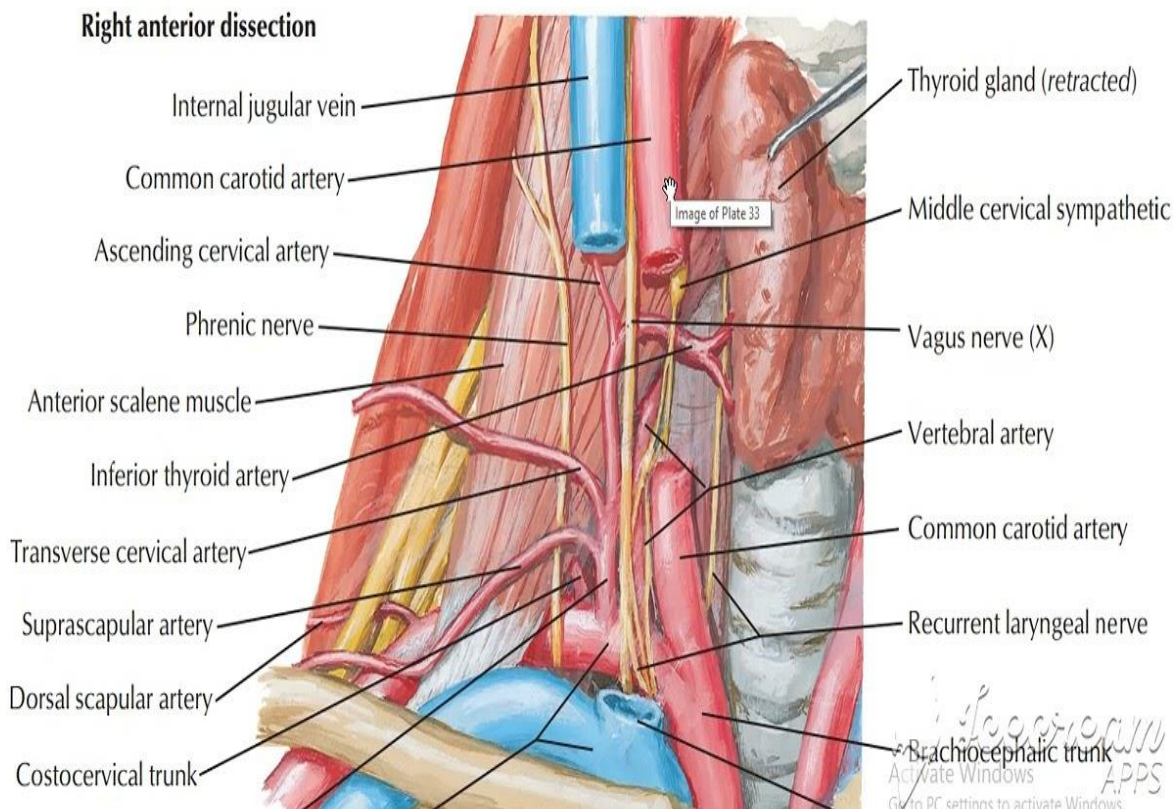
	<b>Anterior</b>	<b>Posterior</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> part</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Muscles:</b> Sterno mastoid, sternohyoid, sterno-thyroid.</li> <li><b>Nerves:</b> vagus &amp; its cardiac branch, sympathetic chain, ansa subclavian(a loop of sympathetic fibers) and phrenic nerve (on left side only).</li> <li><b>Vein;</b> internal jugular vein.</li> <li><b>Thoracic duct</b> (on left side only)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Apex of lung, cervical pleura &amp; Suprapleural membrane.</b></li> <li>Recurrent laryngeal nerve (on right side only)</li> </ol>
<b>2nd part</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sternomastoid</b></li> <li><b>Scalenus anterior muscle with right phrenic nerve only.</b></li> </ol>	<b>As (1) of 1st part</b>
<b>3rd part</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Skin and fascia of posterior triangle</b></li> <li><b>Clavicle</b></li> <li><b>Subclavian vein</b></li> <li><b>Lower part of external jugular vein.</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lower trunk of brachial plexus.</b></li> <li><b>Scalenus medius.</b></li> </ol>

★ **Surface anatomy:**



- It is represented by a convex line, one inch above the clavicle and drawn from sternoclavicular joint to mid-clavicular point.





★ **Branches:**

**I) From 1<sup>st</sup> part:**

- 1- **Vertebral artery.**
- 2- **Internal thoracic artery.**
- 3- **Thyrocervical trunk:** divides immediately into 3 branches:  
transverse cervical, suprascapular and inferior thyroid arteries.

**II) From 2<sup>nd</sup> part:**

- **Costo-cervical trunk** which divides into: deep cervical artery and superior intercostal arteries

**III) From 3<sup>rd</sup> part: Usually has no branches.**





## ★ Vertebral Artery

- It **arises** from the upper aspects of 1<sup>st</sup> part of subclavian artery.
- The 2 arteries **end** by uniting together at the lower border of pons forming the basilar artery.
- **Course and relations:** Vertebral artery is divided into **4 parts:**

### 1) First part:

- It **extends** from subclavian artery till the **foramen transversarium** of the C6 vertebra.
- It lies in the inverted **V-shaped space** medial to scalenus anterior muscle.
- **Anterior relations:**
  - Carotid **sheath:** lengthwise
  - **Inferior thyroid artery crosses** from lateral to medial in front of vertebral artery.
  - On the **left side** only, **thoracic duct** crosses from medial to latera to in front of vertebral artery.
- **Posterior relations:** the sympathetic chain, C7 and C8 nerves.

### 2) Second part:

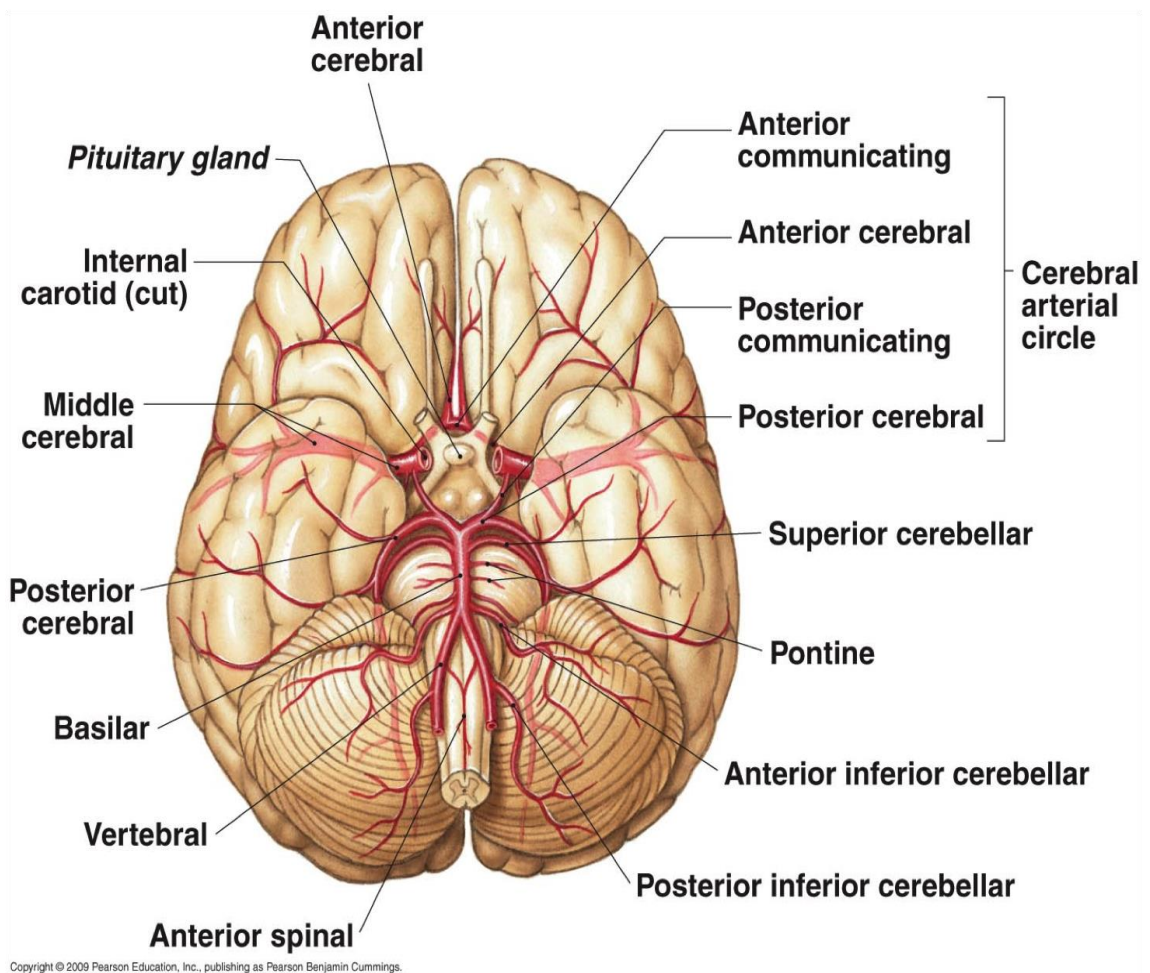
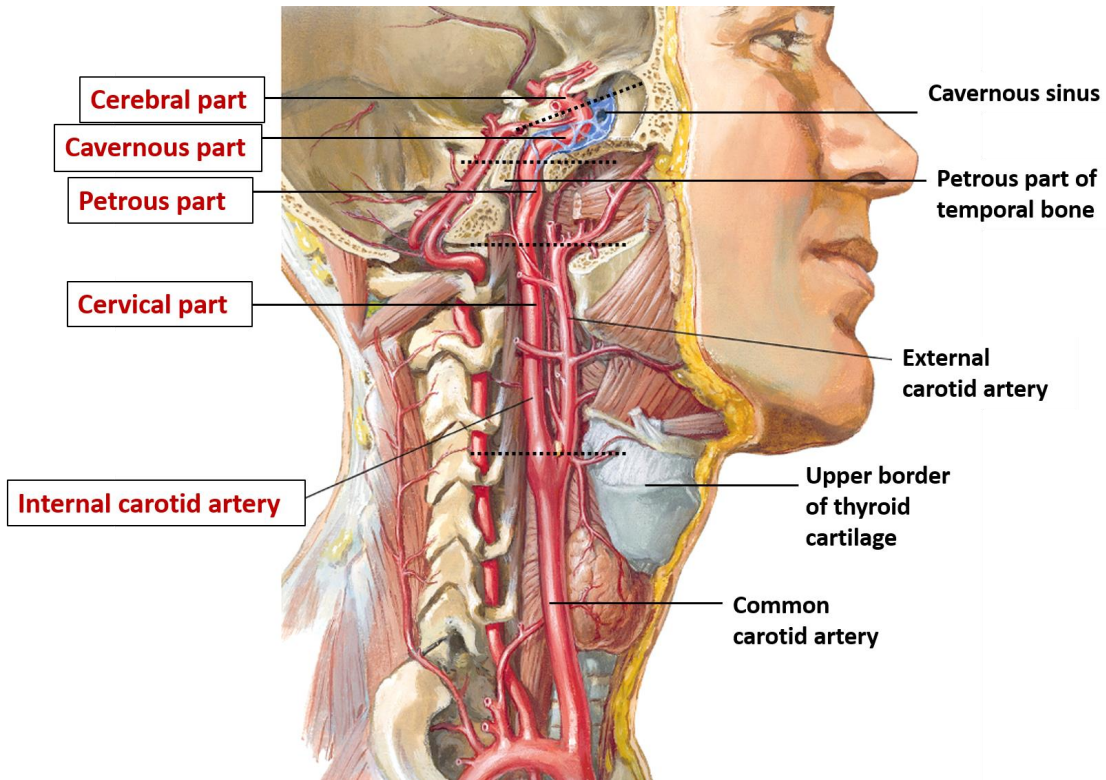
- It ascends in foramina transversaria of upper 6 cervical vertebrae surrounded by venous and sympathetic plexuses.

### 3) Third part:

- It lies in suboccipital triangle, grooving the upper surface of the posterior arch of atlas vertebra.

### 4) Fourth part:

- It enters the cranial cavity through foramen magnum.



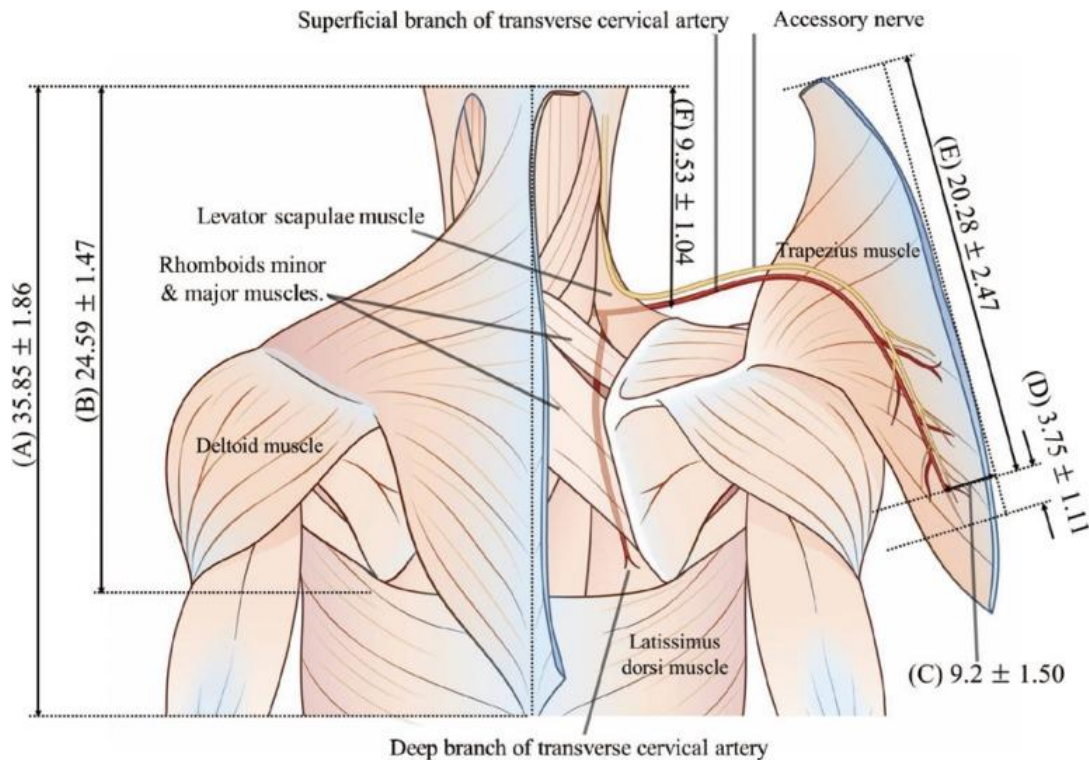


- **Branches:**

1. **From first part:** no branches.
2. **From 2<sup>nd</sup> part:** **Spinal** branches to the spinal cord and its meninges.
3. **From 3<sup>rd</sup> part:** **Muscular** branches to muscles of the suboccipital triangle.
4. **From 4<sup>th</sup> part:** Anterior and posterior **spinal** & **cerebellar** arteries

- ★ **Thyrocerivical Trunk:**

- It **arises** from the first part of subclavian artery close to the medial border of the scalenus anterior muscle **under cover** of carotid sheath.
- It **divides** immediately into **3 branches:**
  1. **Inferior thyroid artery:** (See thyroid gland).
    - It ascends along the medial border of scalenus anterior then turns medially at level of C6 vertebra between carotid sheath (anterior) and vertebral artery (posterior) to reach thyroid gland.
  2. **Transverse cervical artery:**
    - It **passes laterally**, in front of the scalenus anterior muscle **above the suprascapular** artery.
    - It then traverses the **posterior triangle** and **divides** into 2 branches (superficial and deep) in relation to **levator scapulae** muscle.
      - The **deep branch** descends along the medial border of scapula to share in the anastomosis around the scapula.
      - The **superficial branch** gives many branches to the deep surface of trapezius muscle.



### 3. **Suprascapular artery:**

- It **passes laterally** in front of scalenus anterior muscle.
- Then it crosses the lower part of **posterior triangle**, very close to the clavicle to shares in the **anastomosis around the scapula.**

### ★ **Internal thoracic artery:(see thorax)**

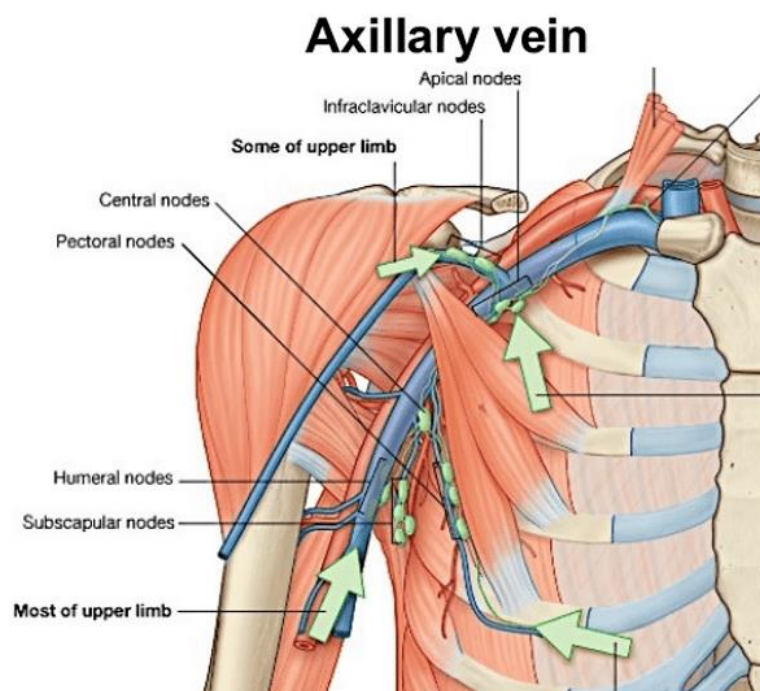
- It **arises** above the **sternal end of the clavicle.**
- Then it **descends** in the chest **behind the upper 6 costal cartilages**,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm lateral to the margin of the sternum.
- It **ends** at the **6<sup>th</sup> intercostal space** by dividing into its 2 terminal branches:
  - 1- Musculophrenic artery.**
  - 2- Superior epigastric artery.**

### ★ Costocervical trunk:

- It **arises** from the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of subclavian artery.
- It **passes backwards** over the apex of the lung and divides into:
  - 1. Deep cervical artery: Ascends** between the muscles of the back of the neck near the midline to **anastomose** with the descending branch of the occipital artery and with the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of vertebral artery.
  - 2. Superior intercostal artery:** Descends in front of the neck of the 1<sup>st</sup> rib and ends by giving **2 posterior intercostal** arteries.

### Subclavian Vein

- It **begins** as the continuation of the **axillary vein** at the outer border of the first rib.
- It **runs medially** in a groove on the upper surface of the 1<sup>st</sup> rib, in front of the **scalenus anterior** muscle till its medial border where it **joins the internal jugular** vein to form the **brachiocephalic** vein.
- The subclavian vein lies **totally behind the clavicle**.
- **Tributaries: External jugular** vein is the only tributary.





# Common Carotid Artery (CCA)

## ★ Origin:

- **Right artery:** Arises in the neck from the brachiocephalic artery behind the right sternoclavicular joint.
- **Left artery:** Arises in the thorax from the arch of the aorta, behind manubrium sterni.

★ It **ends** at the **upper border of thyroid cartilage** (at disc between C3 and C4 vertebrae) by dividing into **external and internal** carotid arteries.

★ **Course:** It ascends inside the carotid sheath medial to vagus nerve and internal jugular vein.

## ★ Relations:

### • Anteriorly:

- **Muscles:** Infrahyoid and sternomastoid muscles.
- **Gland:** Thyroid lobe.

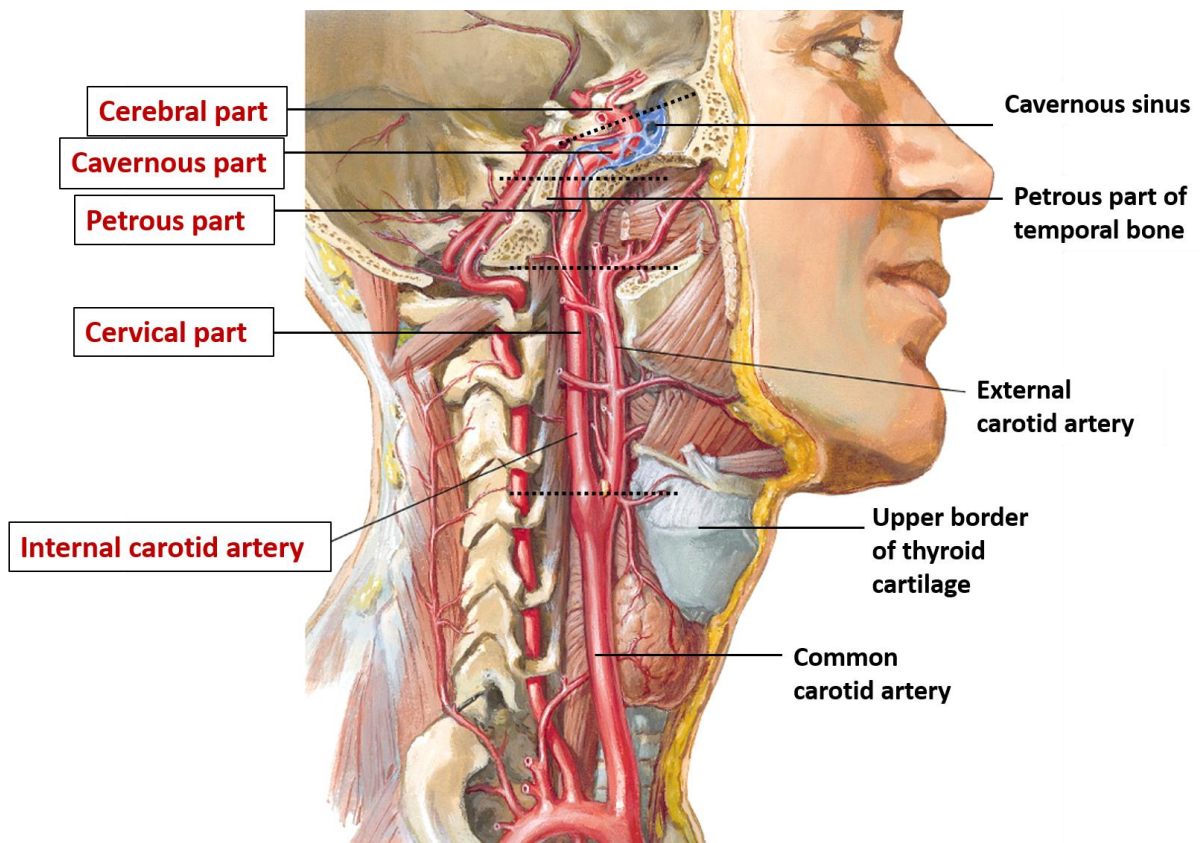
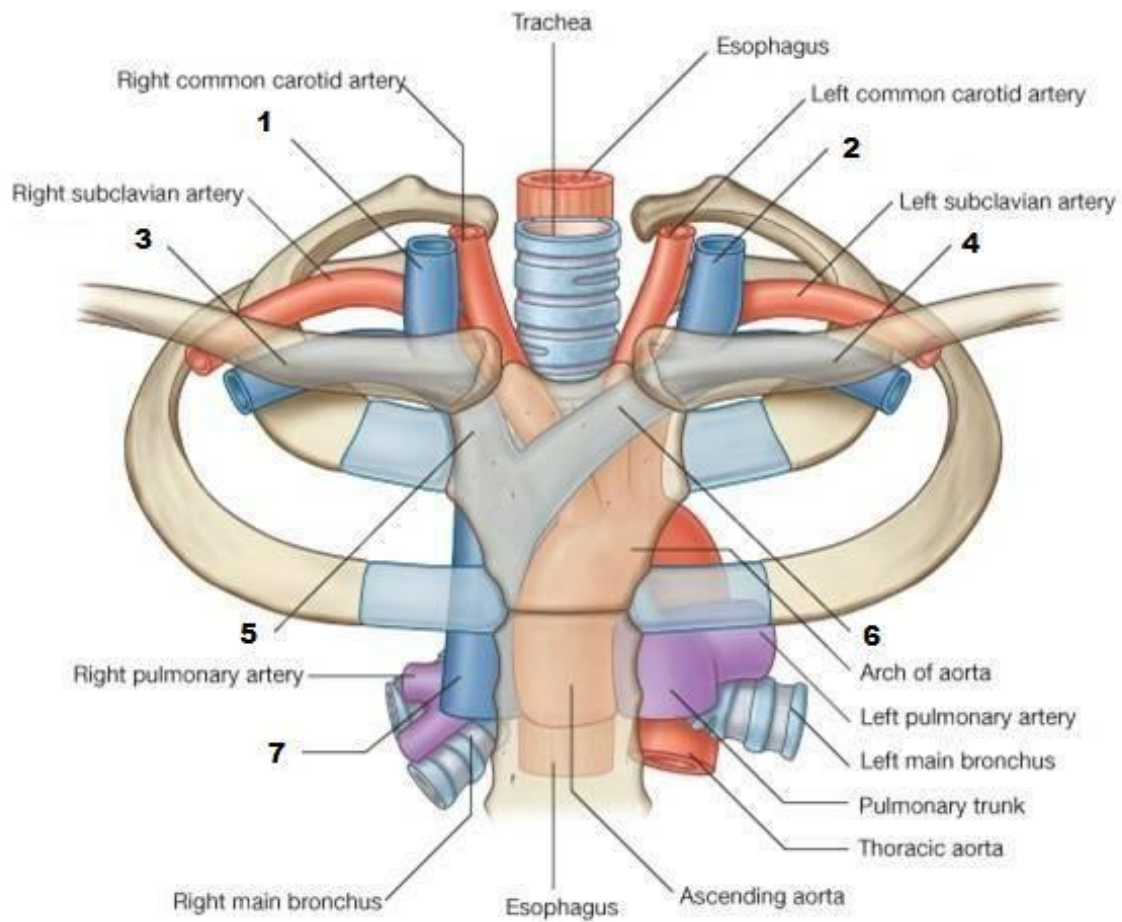
### • Posteriorly:

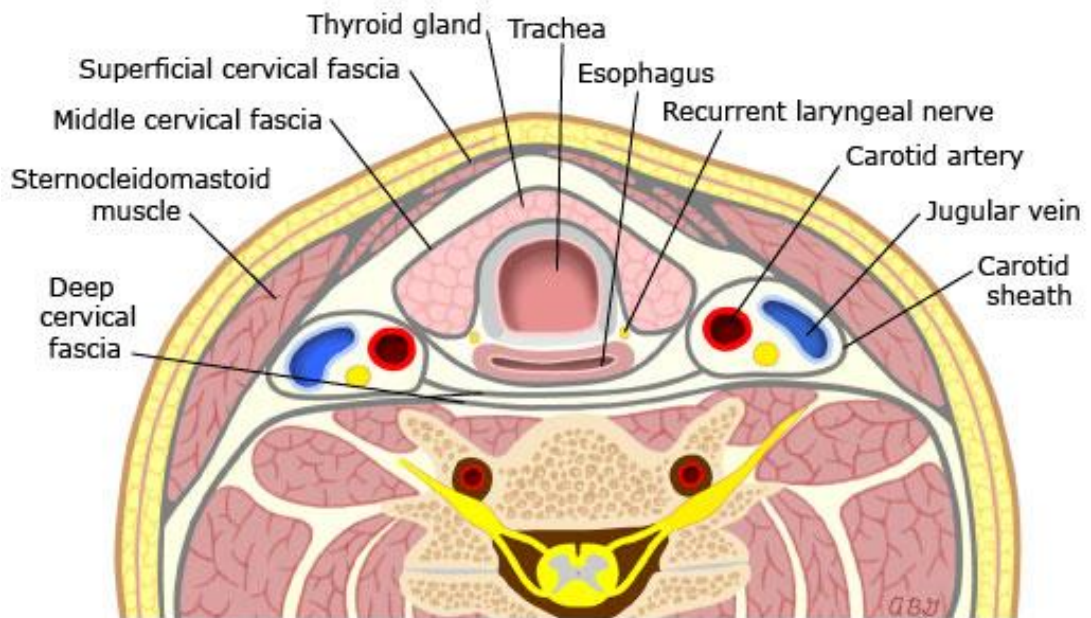
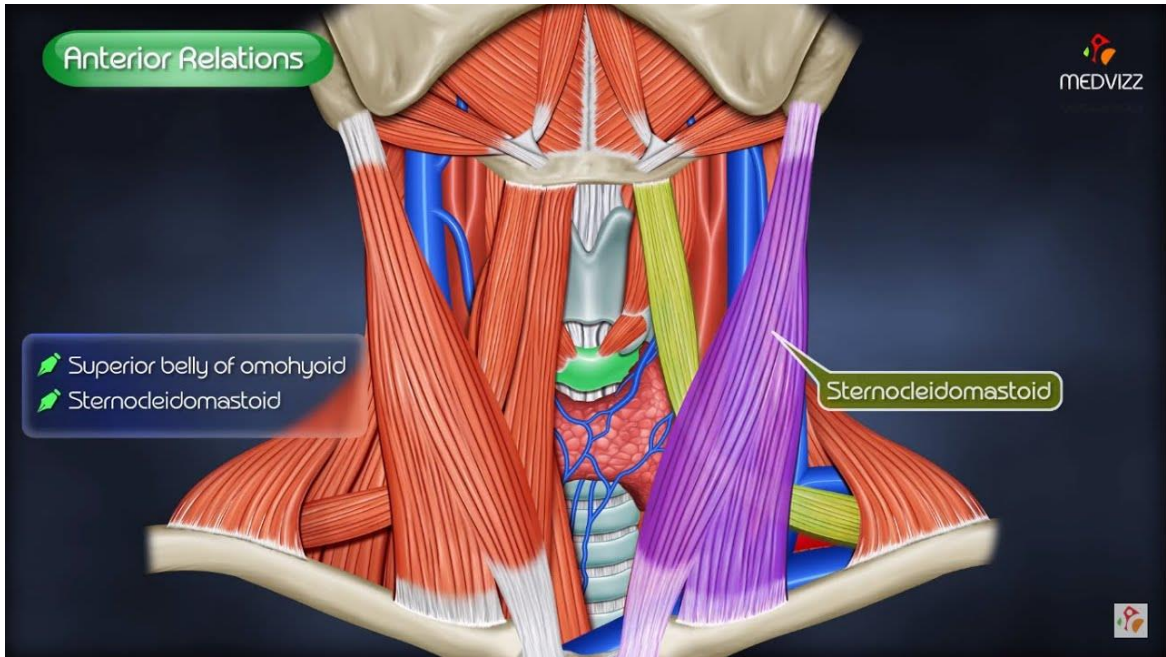
- **Cervical vertebrae** and prevertebral muscles.
- **Arteries:** Inferior thyroid artery, vertebral artery.
- **Nerves:** Sympathetic trunk and right recurrent laryngeal nerve.

### • Medially:

- **Larynx and pharynx** (above).
- **Trachea and oesophagus** with recurrent laryngeal nerve in between (below).

### • Laterally: internal jugular vein.







## External Carotid Artery

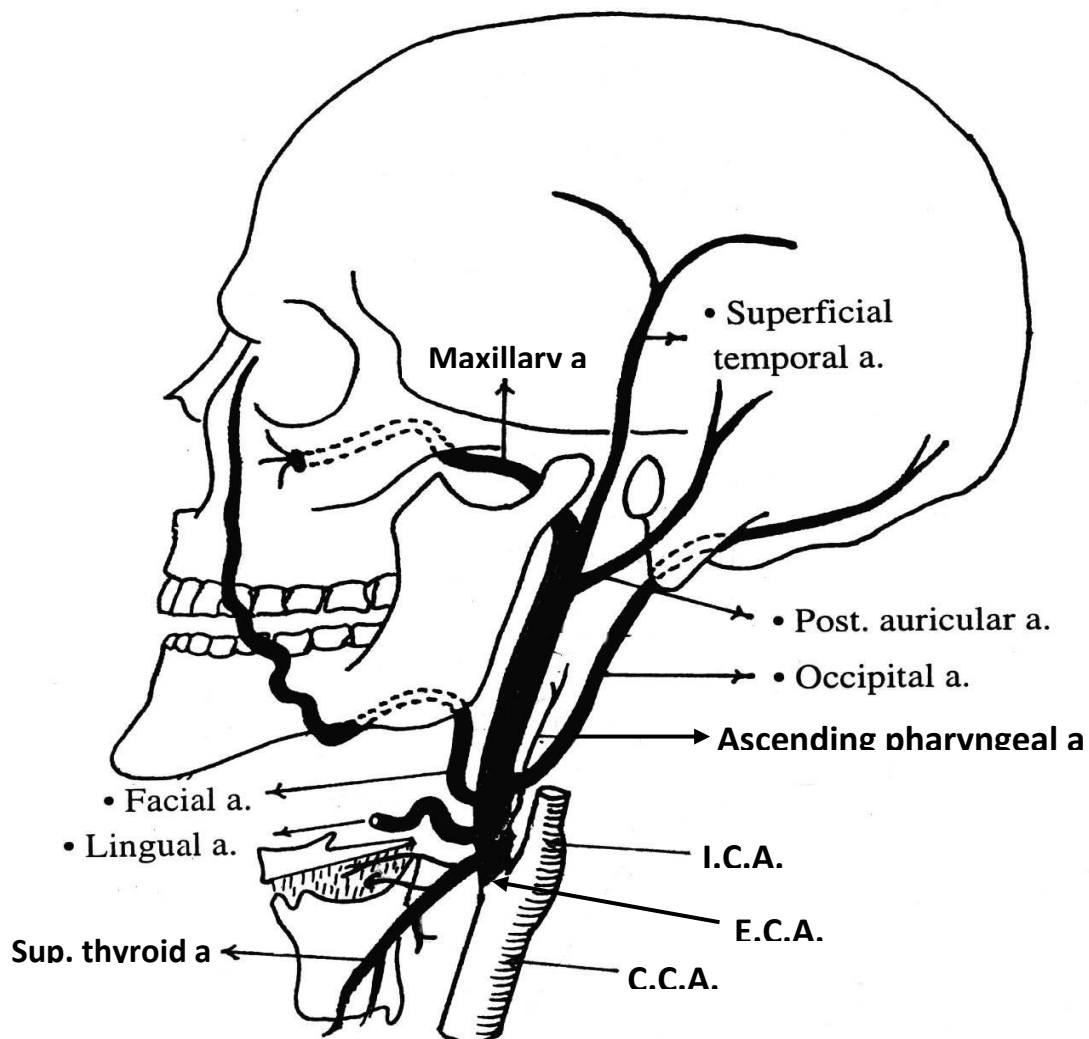
### ★ Origin:

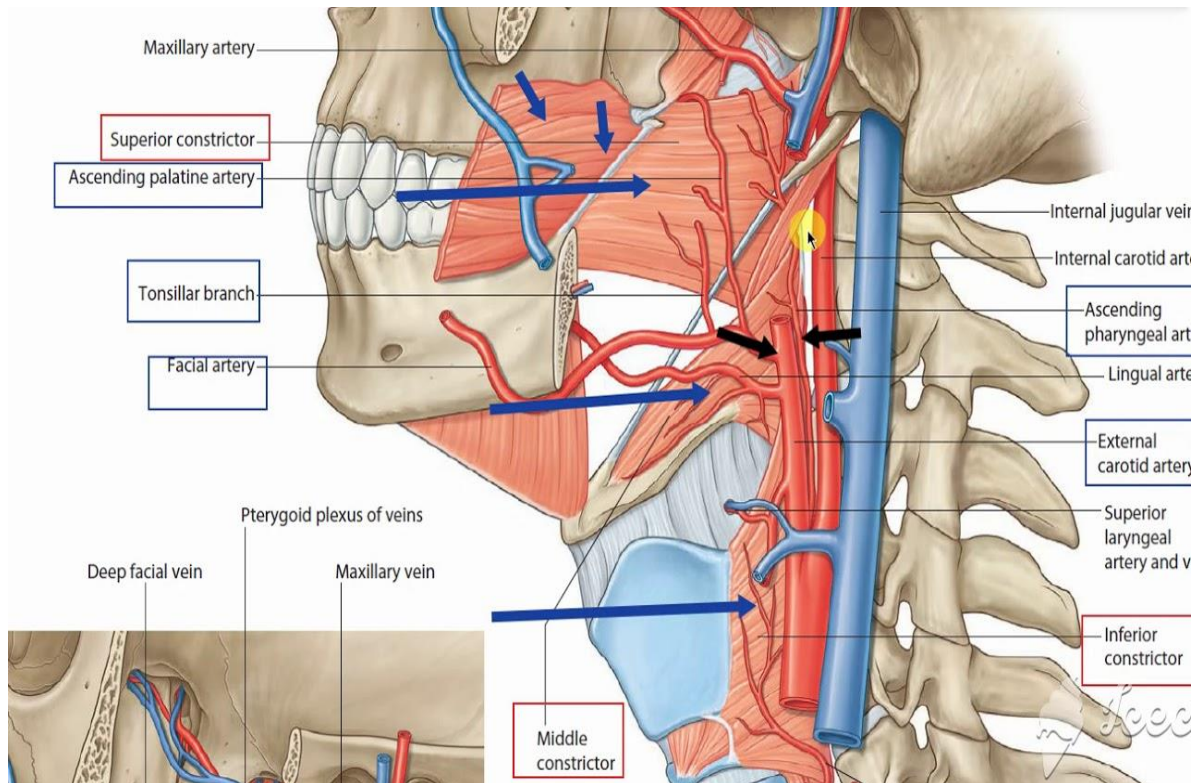
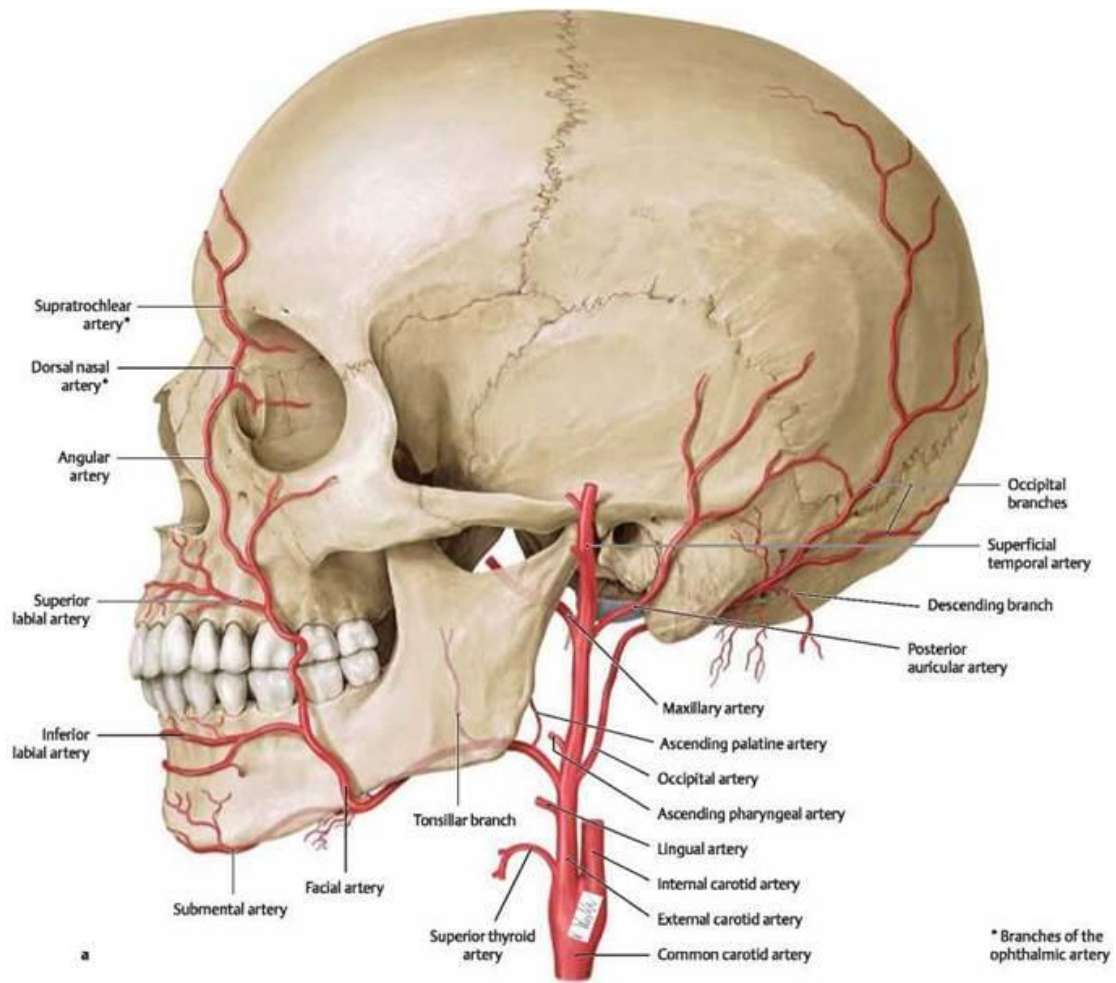
- It **arises** as one of 2 terminal branches of CCA at the level of upper border of thyroid cartilage (level of disc between C3 and C4 vertebrae).

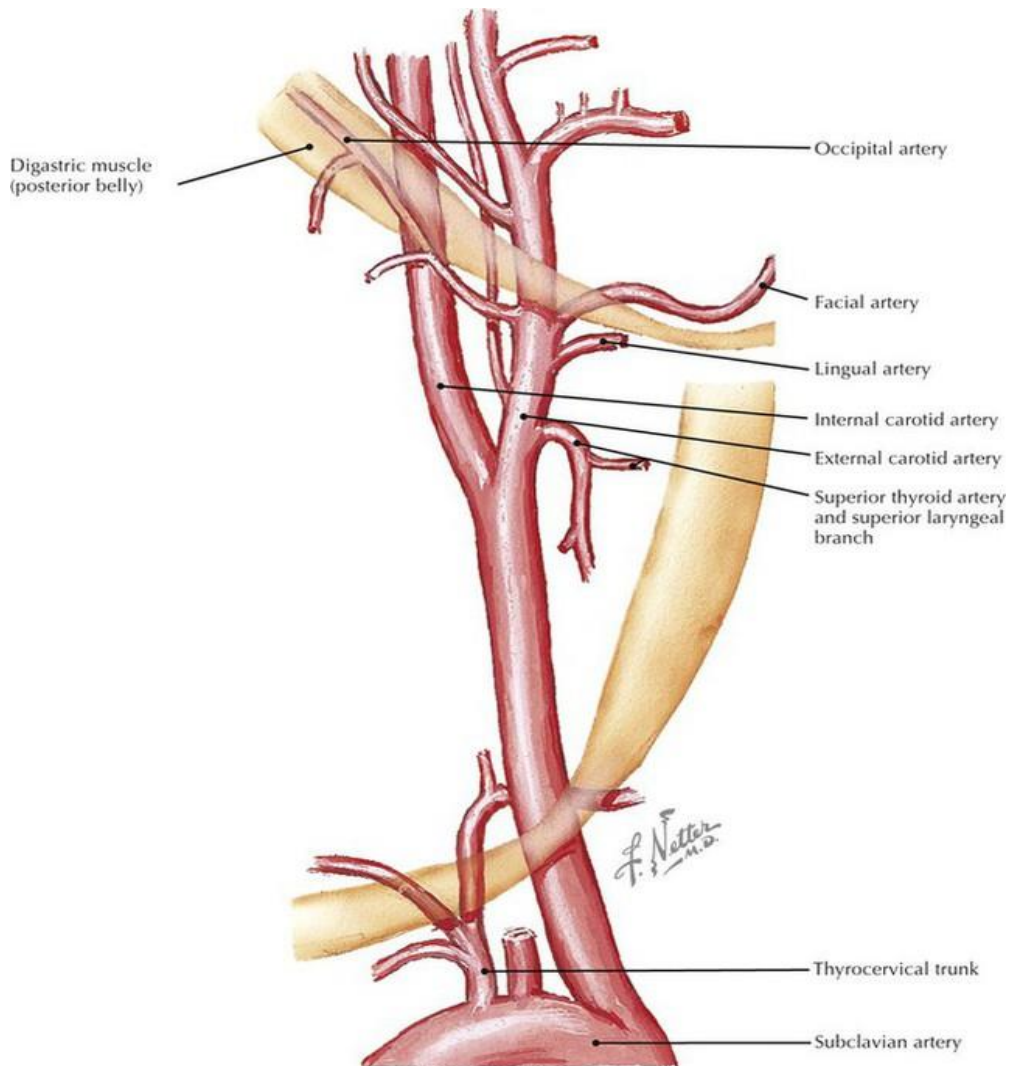
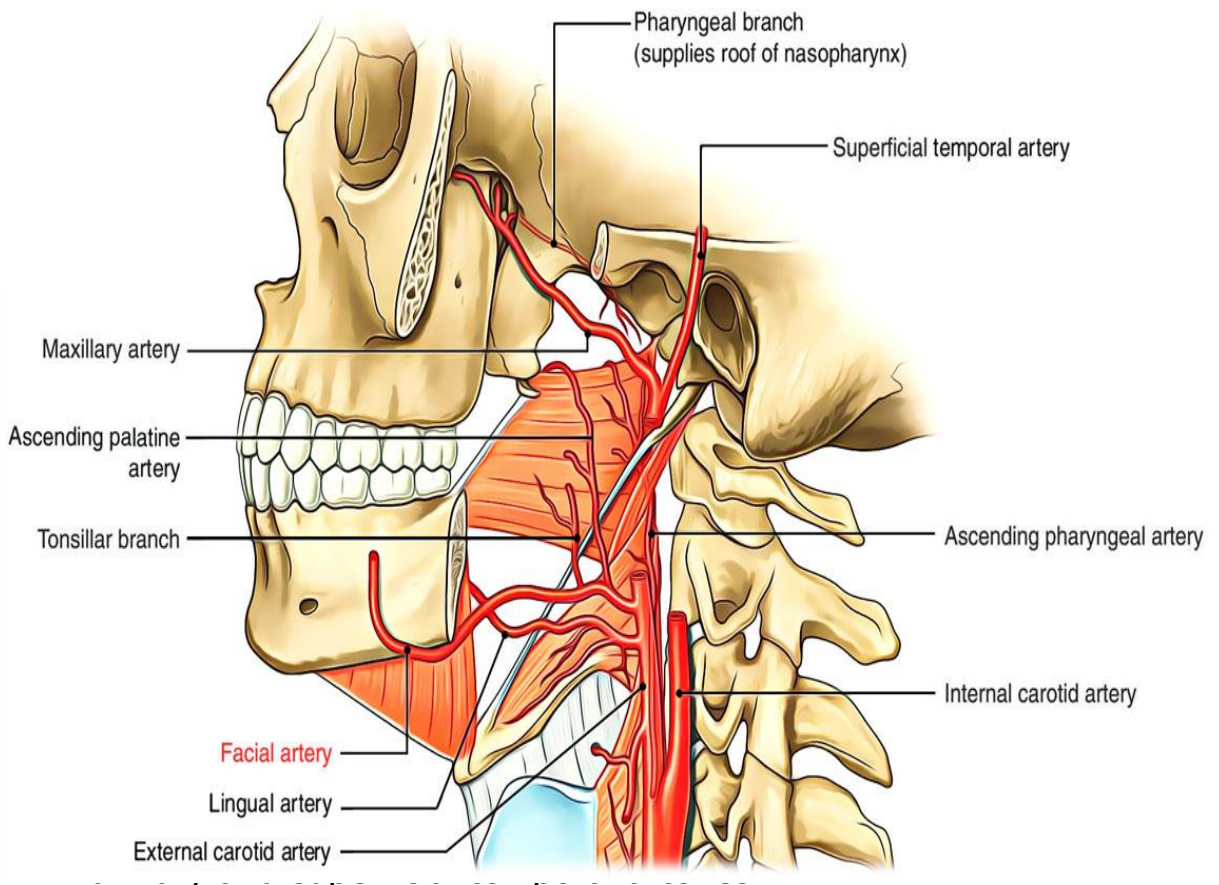
### ★ Course and termination:

- It **ascends** anteromedial to internal carotid artery outside carotid sheath.
- It **ends** behind the neck of mandible inside the substance of parotid gland by dividing into superficial temporal and maxillary arteries.

## External Carotid Artery





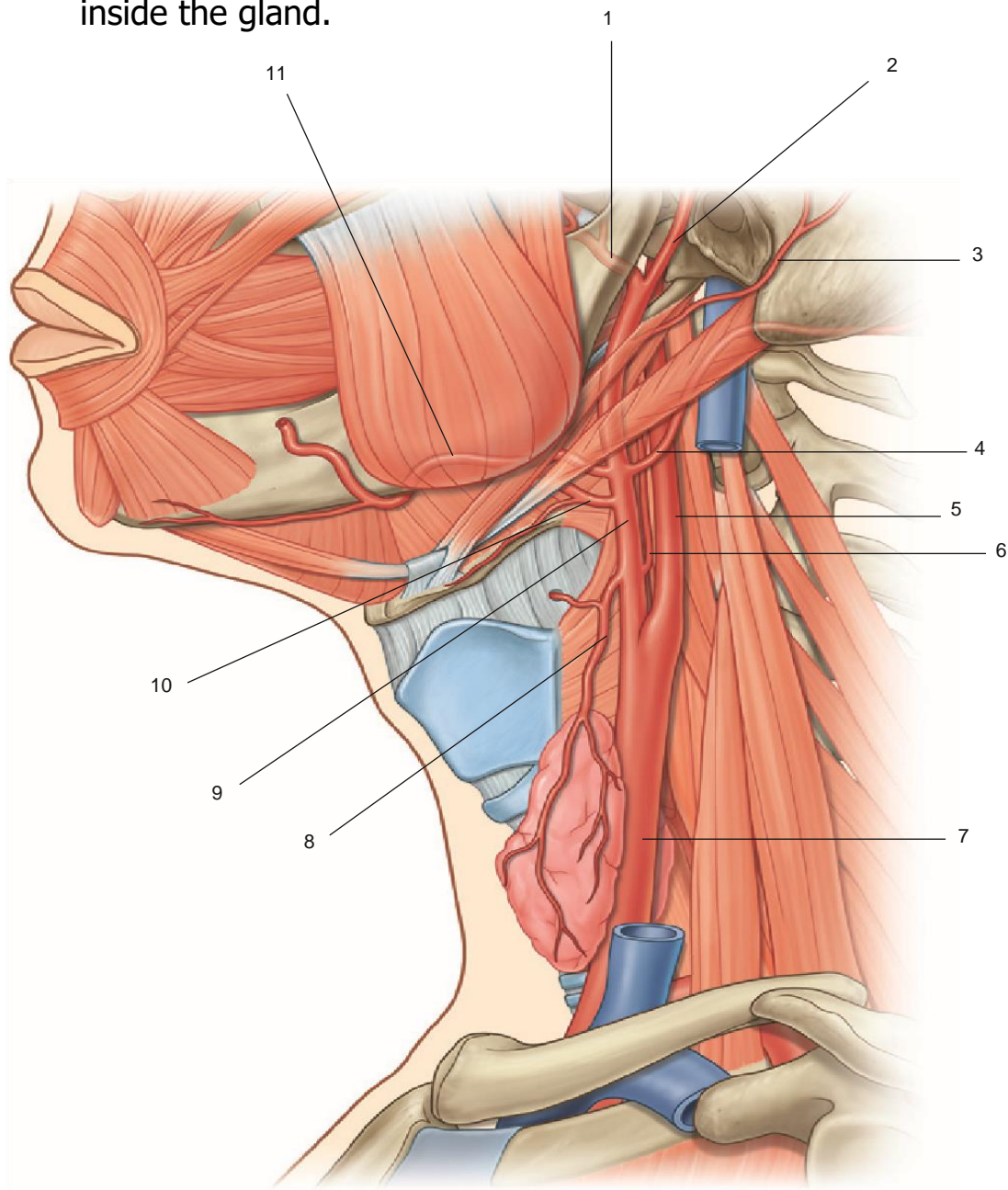


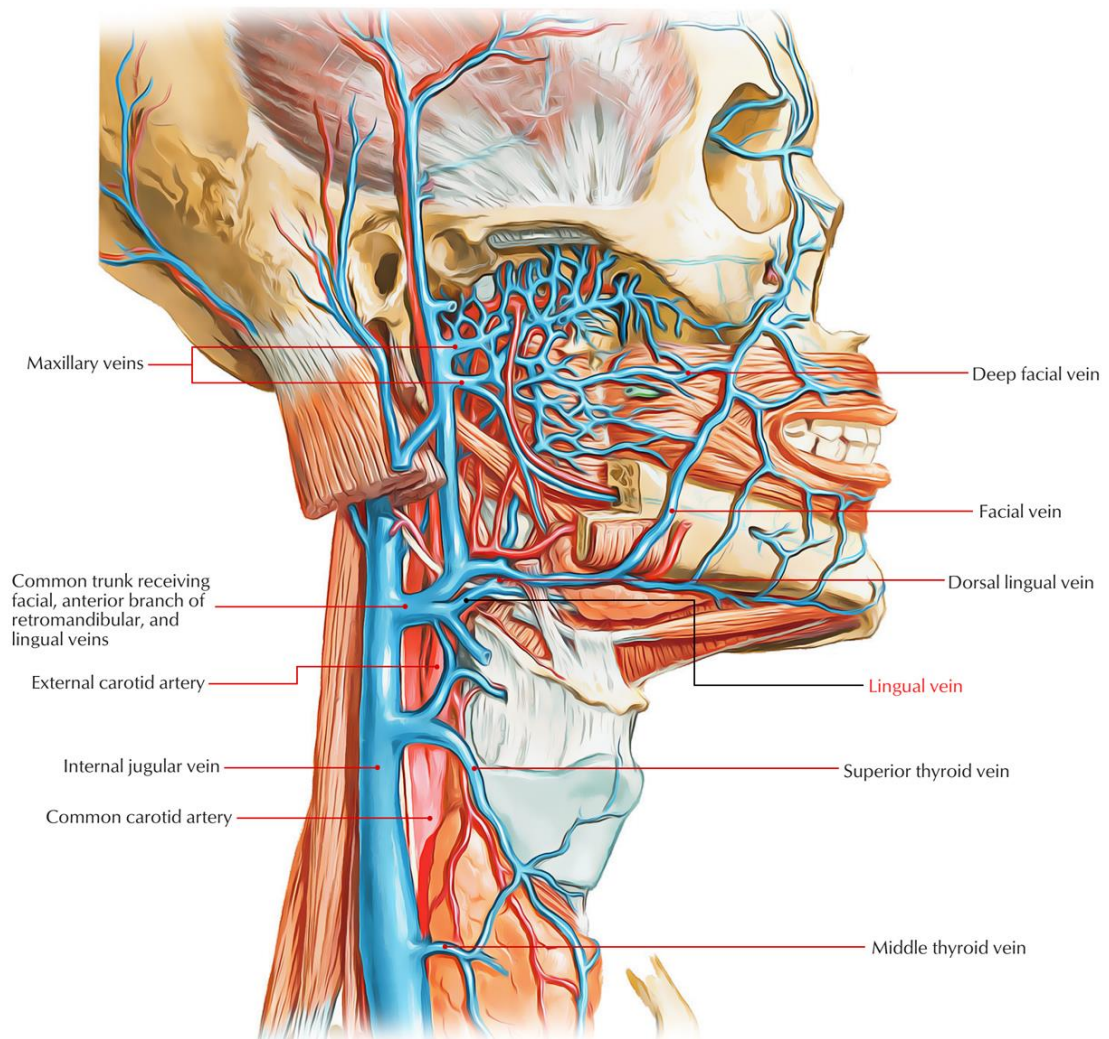


★ **Relations:**

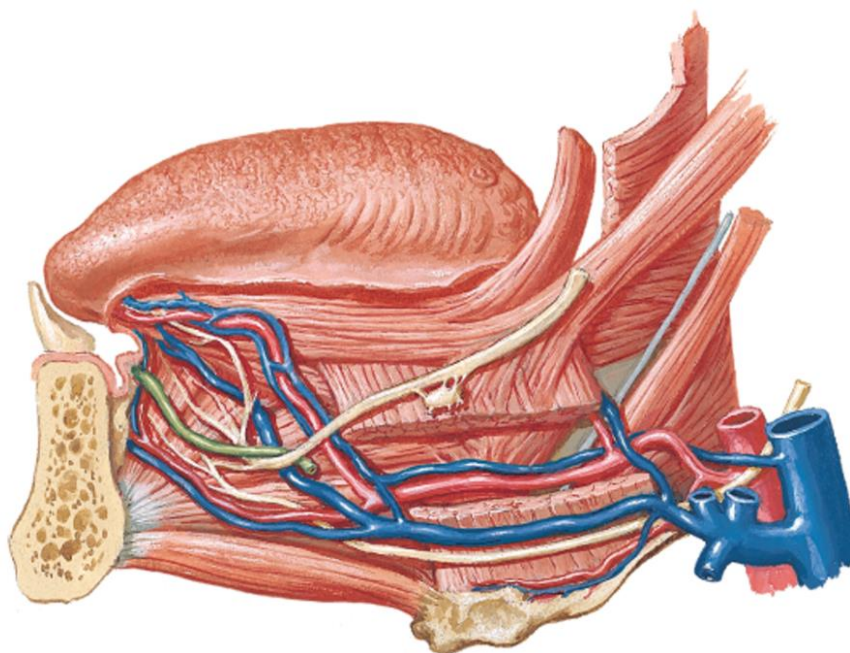
**A- Superficial relations** (3 muscles, 2 veins, one nerve, one gland):

- **Three muscles:** Sternomastoid, posterior belly of digastric with stylohyoid muscles pass along its upper border.
- **Two veins:** Lingual and common facial veins.
- **One nerve:** Hypoglossal nerve crosses medially below posterior belly of digastric muscle.
- **Parotid gland:** With the retromandibular vein and facial nerve inside the gland.

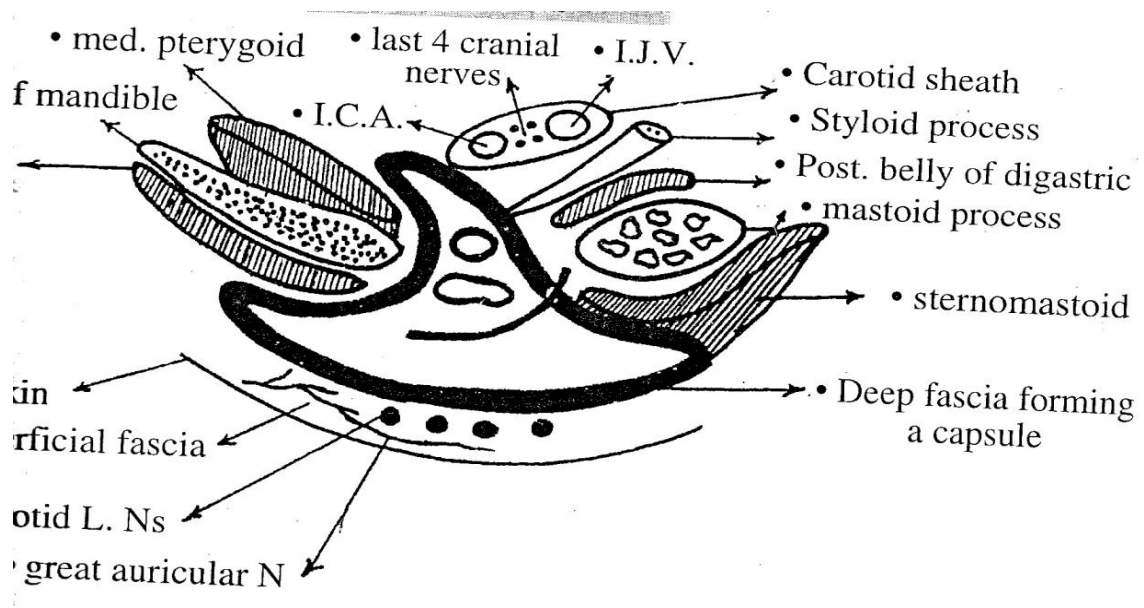
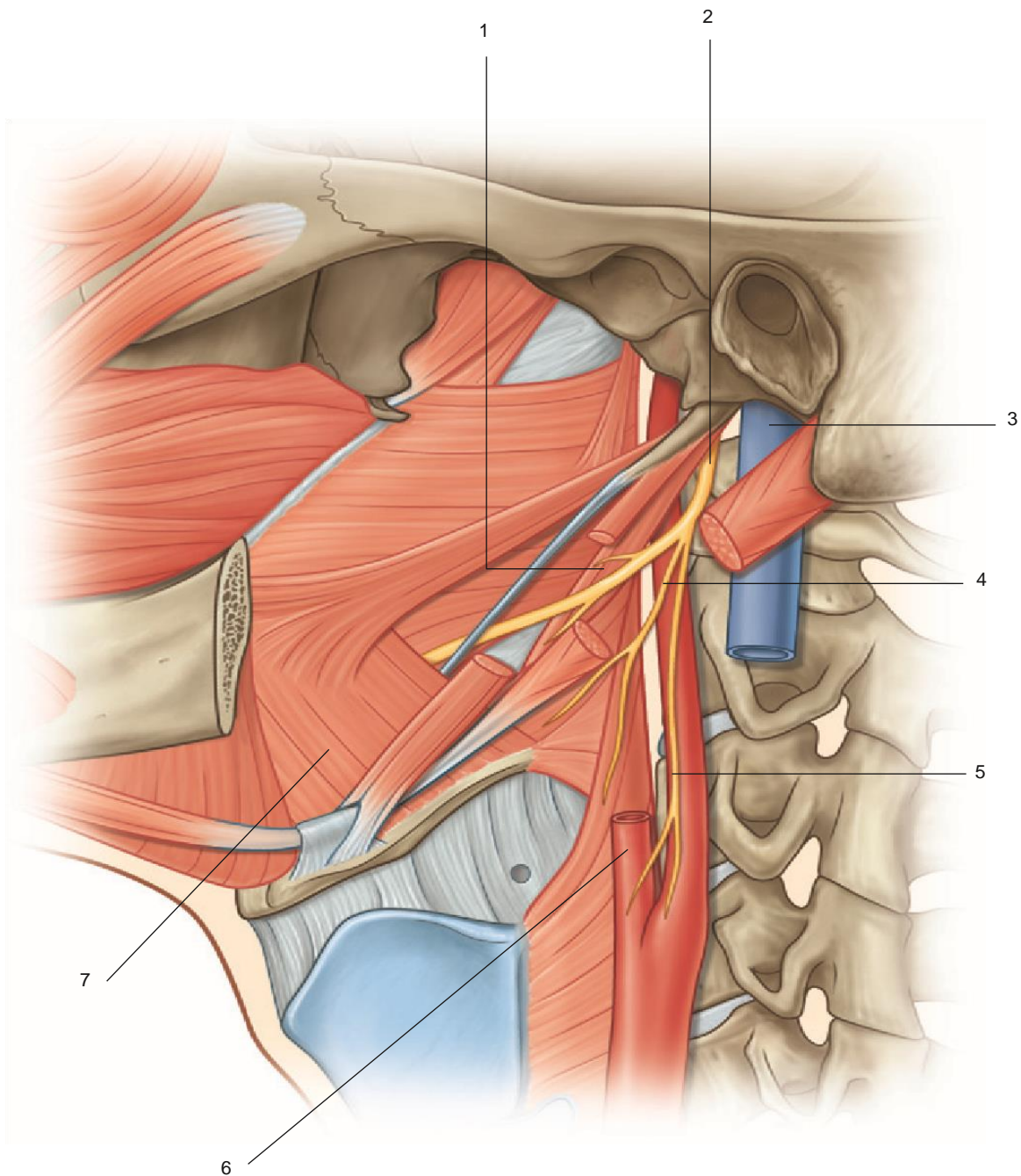




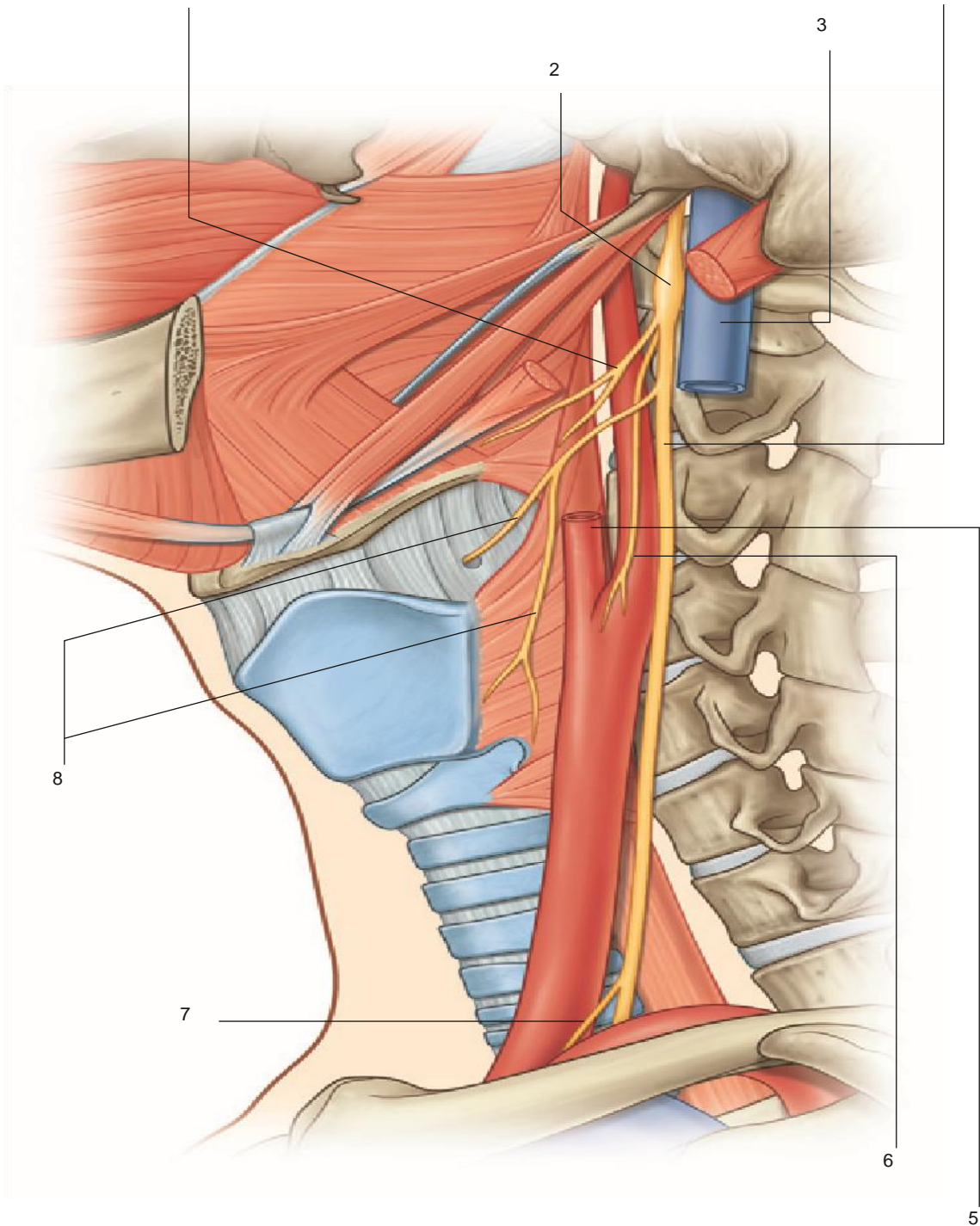
## Veins superficial to external carotid artery











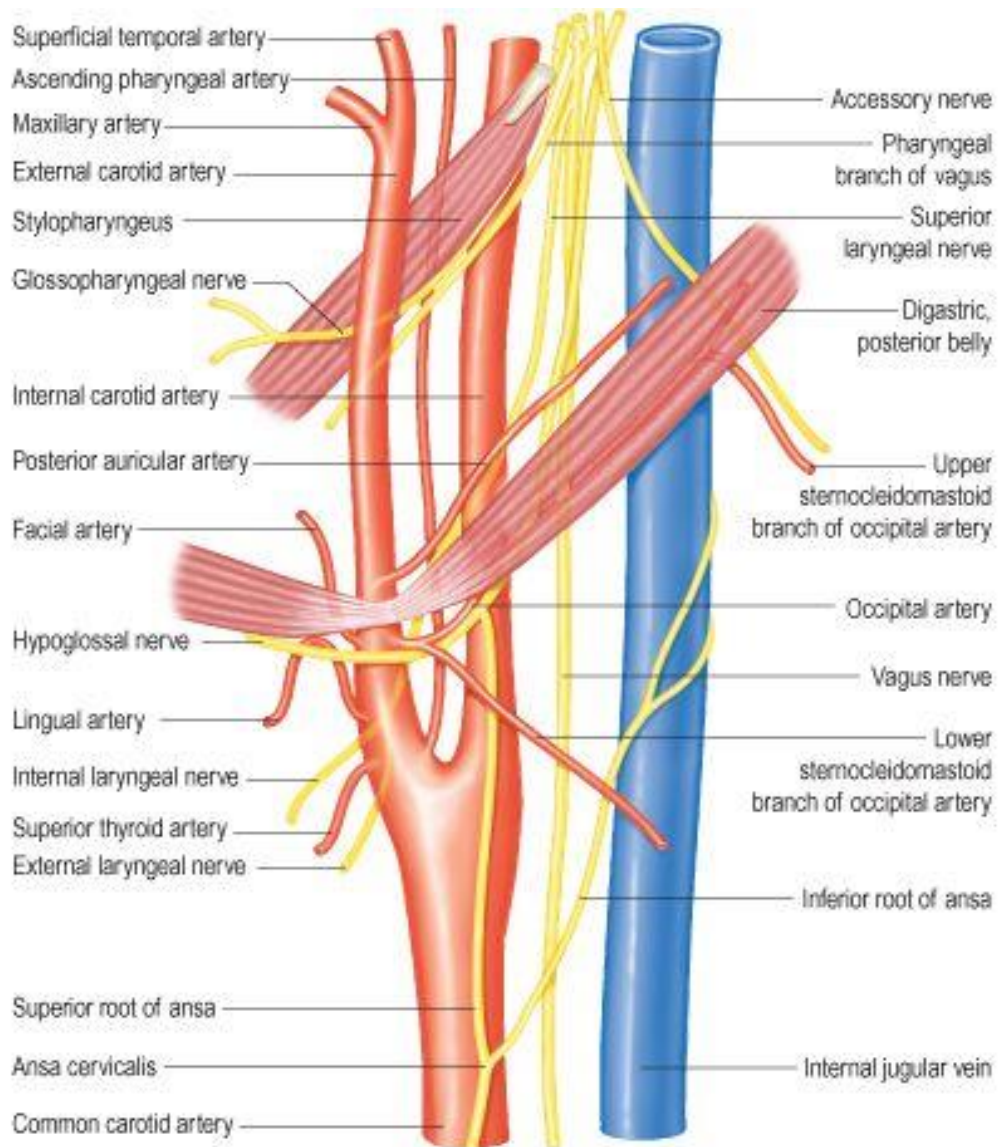
**B-Deep relations:**

1- **Pharynx.**

2- **ICA** with the following **structures passing between ICA and ECA:**

- **Styloid process with styloglossus and stylopharyngeus muscles.**

- **Glossopharyngeal nerve and pharyngeal branch of vagus.**
- **Part of parotid gland.**



© Elsevier Ltd 2005. Standing: Gray's Anatomy 39e - [www.graysanatomyonline.com](http://www.graysanatomyonline.com)

## Lingual Artery

- ★ **Origin:** It arises from the anterior aspect of external carotid artery, above superior thyroid artery, opposite the tip of the greater horn of hyoid bone.
- ★ **Course:** It is divided into **3 parts by hyoglossus muscle.**

### A- First part:

- From external carotid artery till **posterior border of hyoglossus** muscle, in the **carotid triangle**.
- It is convex upwards, lying on **middle constrictor** muscle of pharynx and crossed superficially by **hypoglossal nerve**.
- **Branch:** It gives **suprahyoid artery** which passes forwards on the **lateral surface of hyoglossus** along the upper border of hyoid bone. It **anastomoses** with the opposite artery.

### B- Second part:

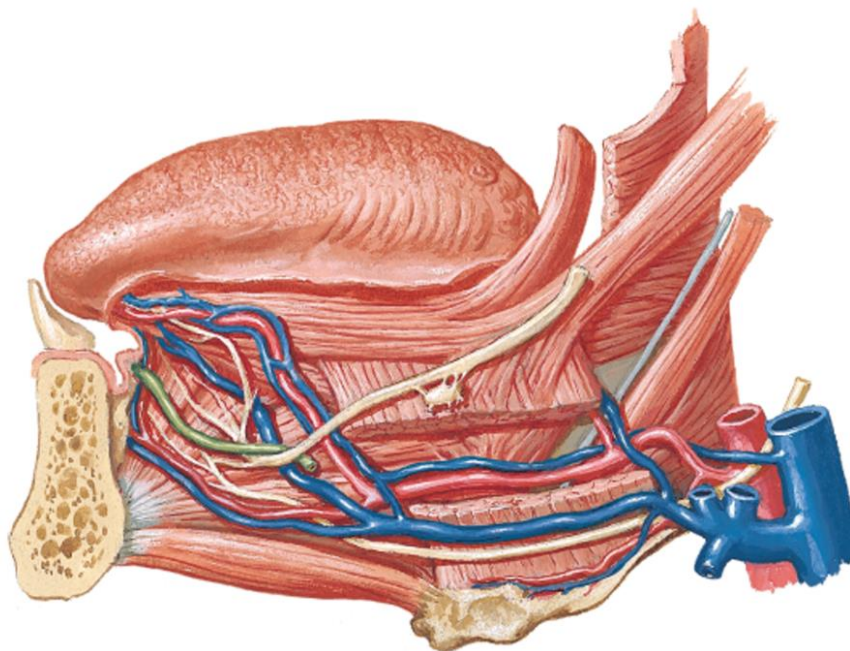
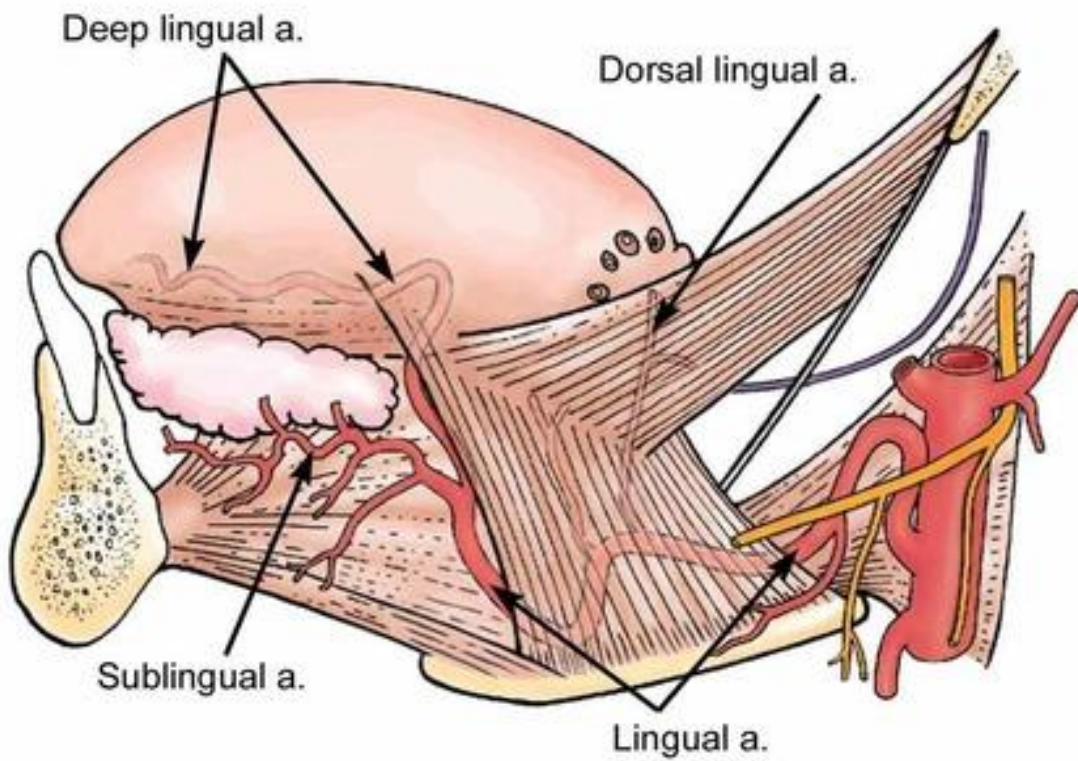
- It passes forwards **deep to hyoglossus**.
- **Branches:** It gives 2 **dorsal lingual arteries** which supply the **posterior** part of the **tongue** and end in the **palatine tonsil** supplying it.

### C- Third part:

- It **ascends along the anterior border of hyoglossus**, lying on **genioglossus**, **crossed** by the lingual nerve and submandibular duct.
- **Branch:** It gives **sublingual artery** to sublingual gland then it ends as **deep lingual artery**, which enters the tongue about its middle and runs forwards towards its tip.
  - It is a **tortuous artery separated** from the mucosa of the lower surface of the tongue by the **deep vein of the tongue**.



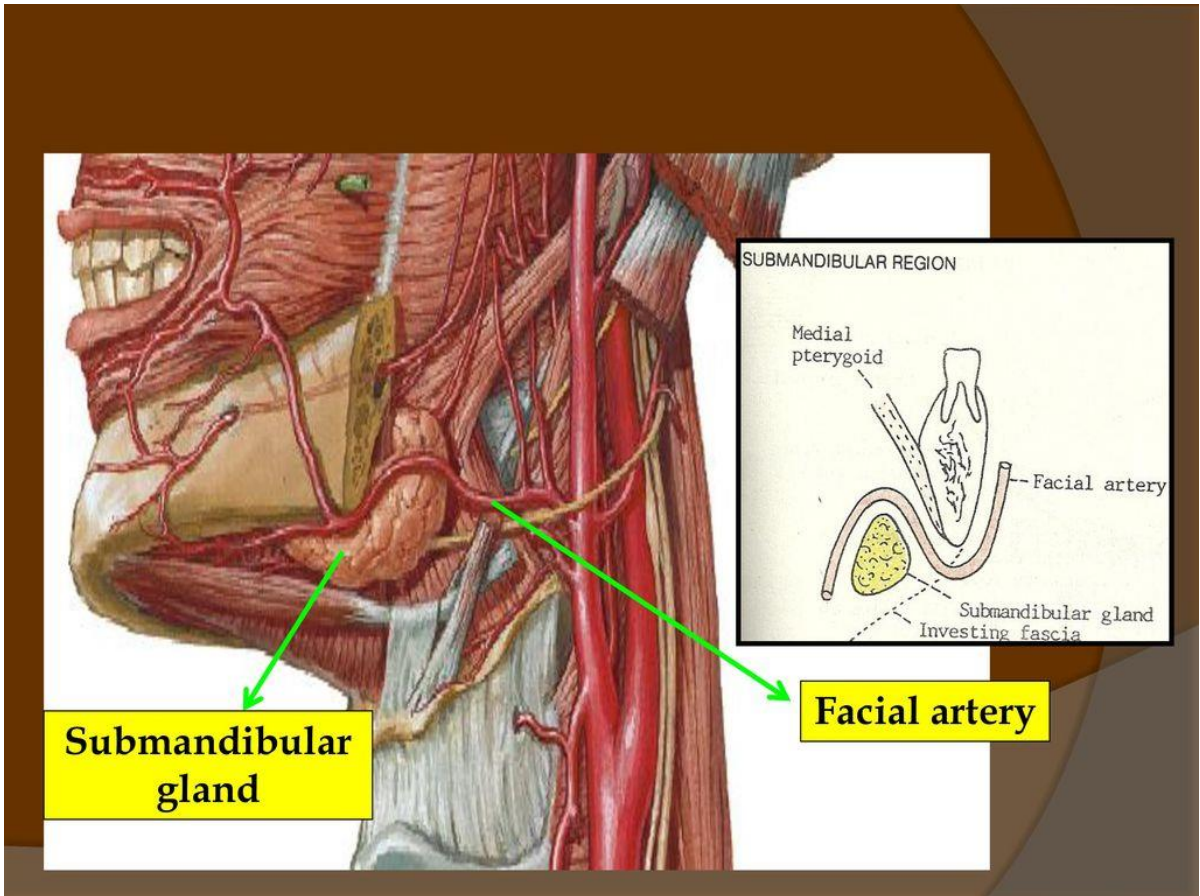
- At the **tip of the tongue**, the lingual arteries of both sides **anastomose** together.



## Facial Artery

- ★ **Origin:** It arises from the anterior aspect of **external carotid artery** immediately above the lingual artery (above the greater horn of hyoid bone).
- ★ **Parts and Course:** It has a **cervical part** in the neck and **facial part** in the face (see the face).
  - **Cervical part:**
    - From its origin, it ascends upwards on the **side of pharynx** where the **superior constrictor** muscle separates it from the palatine tonsil.
    - It then passes deep to the **posterior belly of digastric** muscle to enter the **digastric triangle** where it passes along the **posterior border of submandibular gland** grooving it.
    - The facial artery, then runs forwards between the **medial pterygoid muscle laterally** and the **gland medially** to reach the **lower border of mandible**.
    - It then **hooks** around **lower border of mandible** to enter the face at the antero-inferior angle of **masseter muscle** to become the facial part in the face.
  - ★ **Branches of the cervical part:**
    - a- **Tonsillar artery:** The main artery of the tonsil, it **pierces** the **superior constrictor** muscle to reach and supply the tonsil.
    - b- **Ascending palatine:** To the soft palate, tonsil and pharynx.
    - c- **Glandular:** To the submandibular gland and nearby muscles and skin.
    - d- **Submental:** The **largest** branch, passes along the **lower border of the mandible** to the submental triangle. It

accompanies the **nerve to mylohyoid** and supplies the chin and lower lip.





## Occipital Artery

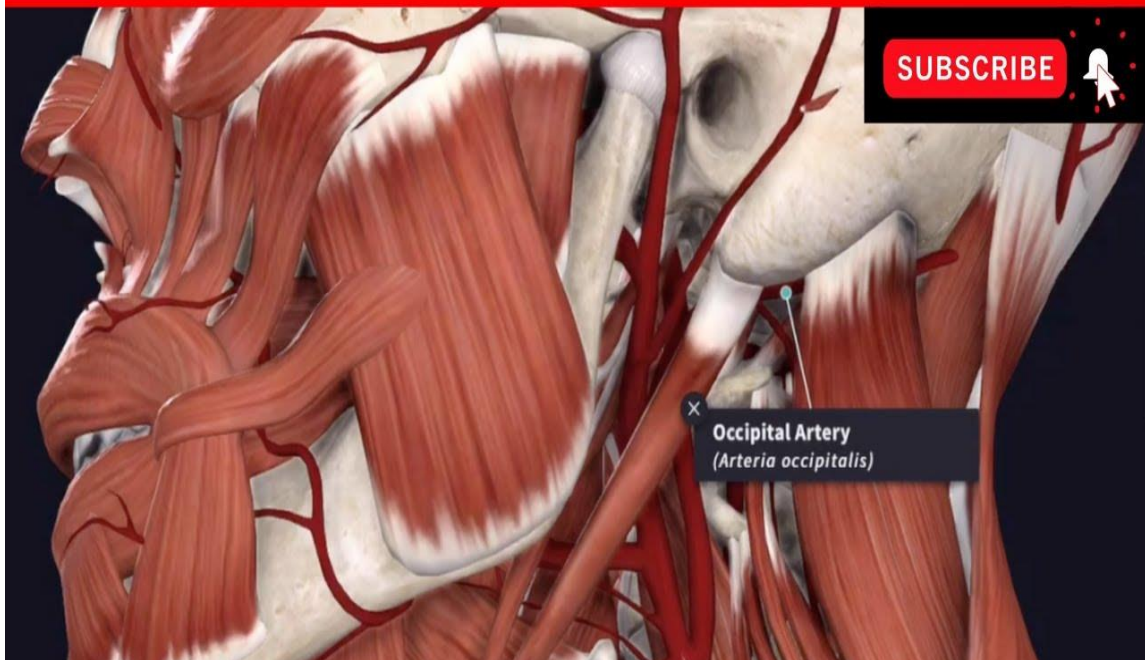
- ★ **Origin:** It arises from the posterior aspect of external carotid artery opposite the origin of facial artery.
- ★ **Course & relations:** It passes upwards and backwards along the **lower border of posterior belly of digastric** then **deep to mastoid** process. It crosses the **apex of posterior triangle** to reach and supply the posterior part of the scalp.
- ★ **Branches:**
  - **Two sternomastoid branches:** To sternomastoid muscle.
  - **Mastoid branch:** Passes in the mastoid foramen to supply mastoid air cells.
  - **Auricular branch:** Supplies the back of the auricle of the ear.
  - **Muscular branches:** To digastric and stylohyoid muscles.
  - **Stylomastoid artery (in 60% of cases):** It enters the **stylomastoid foramen** to supply the **middle ear**.

## Posterior Auricular Artery

- ★ It arises from the **posterior aspect** of external carotid artery.
- ★ It runs along its **upper border the posterior belly of digastric** muscle and then curves upwards **behind the auricle** to supply:
  - **Auricular branches:** To posterior surface of the auricle.
  - **Occipital branch:** To the scalp behind the auricle.
  - **Stylomastoid artery (in 40% of cases):** It supplies the middle ear.

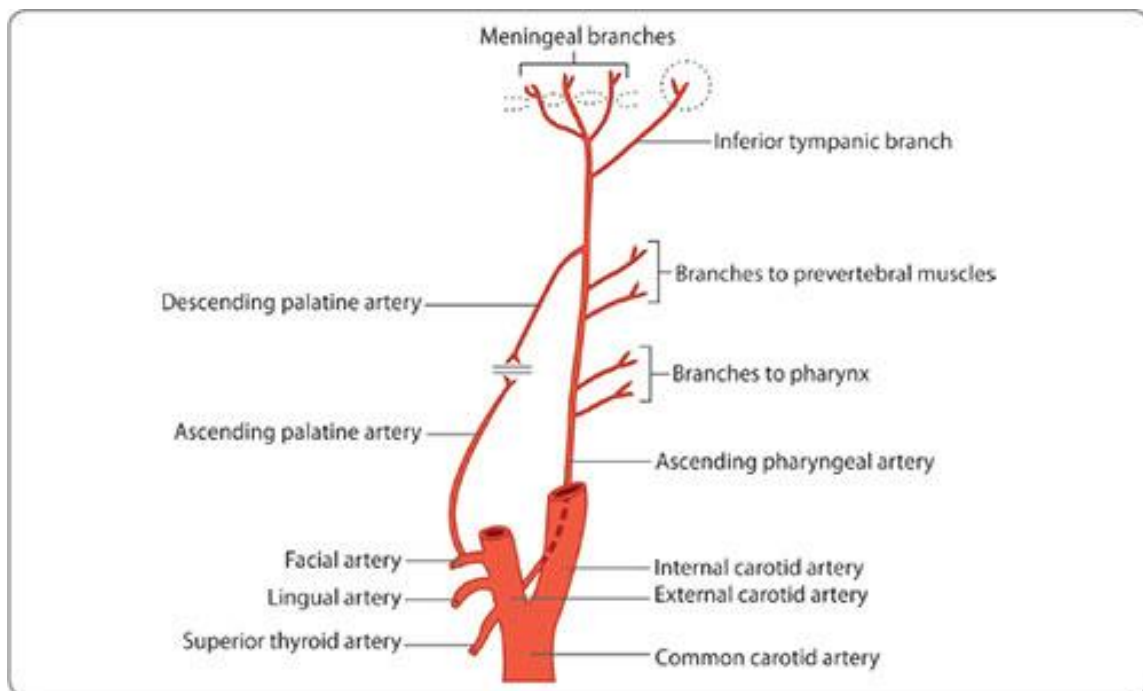


# Occipital Artery



## Ascending Pharyngeal Artery

- ★ It **arises** from the medial aspect of external carotid artery as its **smallest** branch.
- ★ It ascends on the **wall of the pharynx** to reach the base of the skull.
- ★ **Branches:**
  - **Pharyngeal branches:** To the pharynx, soft palate and tonsil.
  - **Descending palatine** artery to the palate.
  - **Inferior tympanic artery: Accompanies** the tympanic branch of the glosso-pharyngeal nerve to supply the **tympanic cavity**.
  - **Meningeal branches:** Pass through **jugular foramen** to the dura mater of posterior cranial fossa.





## Internal Carotid Artery

- ★ It **arises** as one of the 2 terminal branches of CCA at the level of upper border of thyroid cartilage (level of disc between C3 and C4 vertebrae). Its beginning shows dilatation called the **carotid sinus**.
- ★ It **ends** at the **base of brain** by dividing into **anterior and middle cerebral** arteries.
- ★ **It has 4 parts:** (Cervical-Petrous-Cavernous-Cerebral)

### I) Cervical part: It lies in the neck.

- **Relations:**

- 1) It lies **inside carotid sheath** with IJV lateral, vagus postero-lateral and sympathetic chain posterior to it.
- 2) **Superficial relations:**
  - External carotid artery.
  - Structures between ECA and ICA (See before ECA).
- 3) **Deep relations:** Superior laryngeal nerve and constrictors of the pharynx.
- 4) **At the base of the skull:** ICA lies anterior to the IJV with the lower 4 cranial nerves in between.

- **Branches:** It has no branches in the neck.

### II) Petrous part:

- ICA passes in the **carotid foramen** to the carotid **canal** inside the **petrous part of temporal bone**.
- The artery runs **upwards** in carotid foramen, then passes **forwards and medially** in the carotid canal to reach the **foramen lacerum**.
- It passes **upwards** in the **foramen lacerum** to enter the **cavernous sinus**.

- **Branches:**

- a- **Carotico-tympanic artery:** Enters tympanic cavity.

- b- **Artery of pterygoid canal:** For the pharynx.

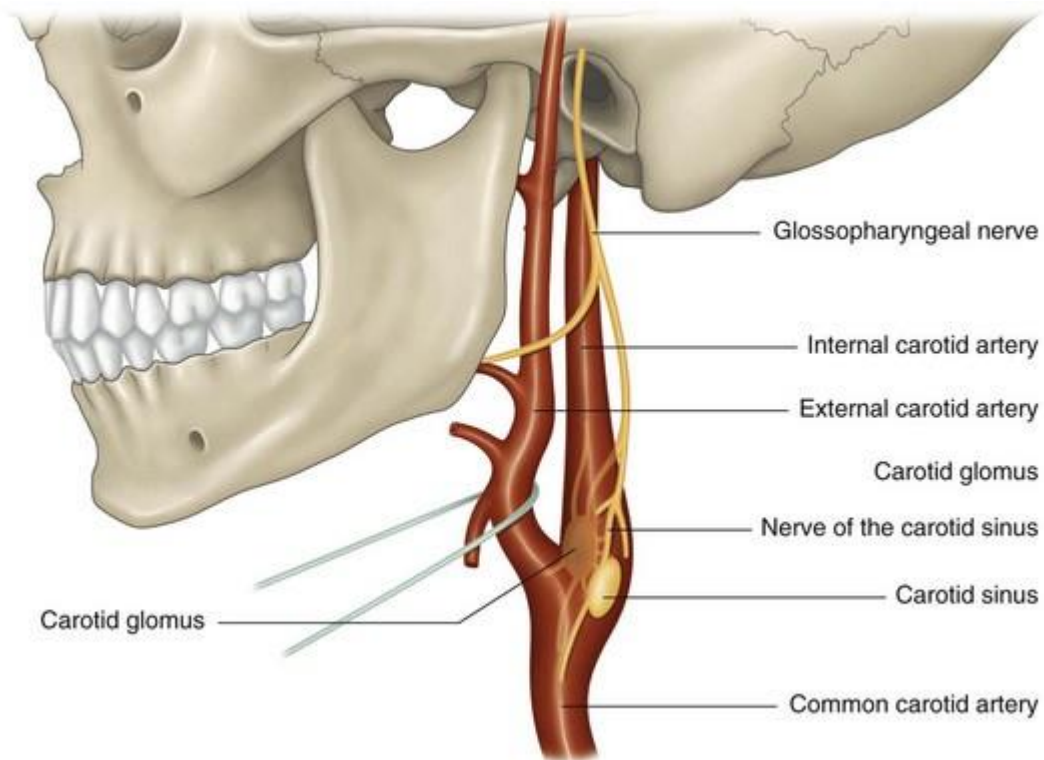
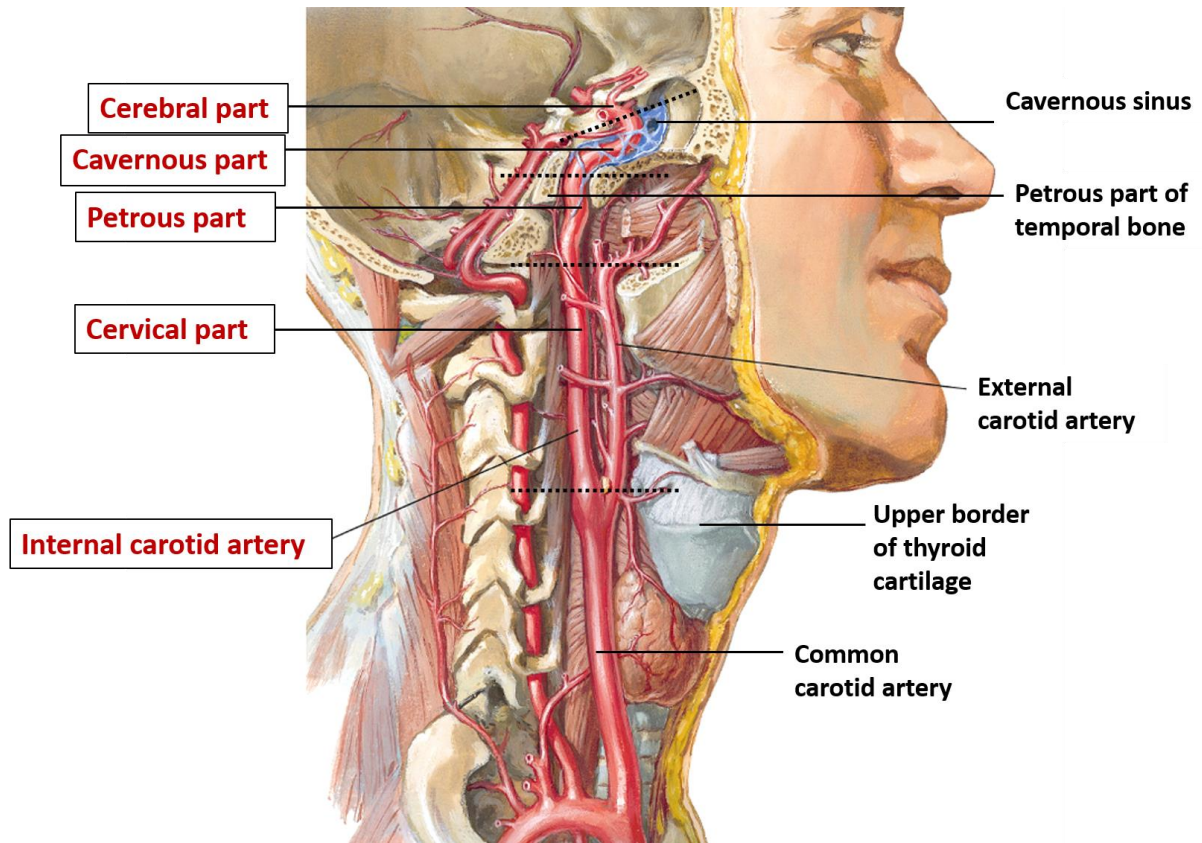
### **III) Cavernous part:**

- **Inside the cavernous sinus**, the artery runs in a sinuous course (upwards, then forwards and finally upwards).
- It **leaves the sinus** through the anterior part of its **roof**.
- The artery is related laterally to **abducent nerve** (6<sup>th</sup> cranial nerve) and medially to the **body of the sphenoid**.
- **Branches: Inferior hypophyseal** artery for the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland.

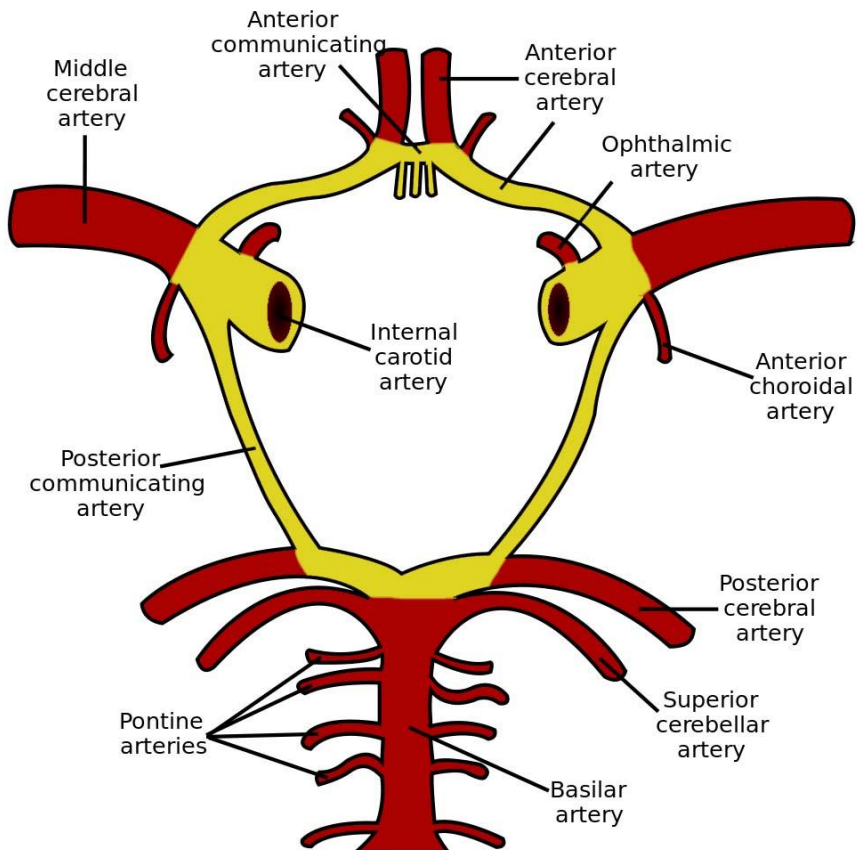
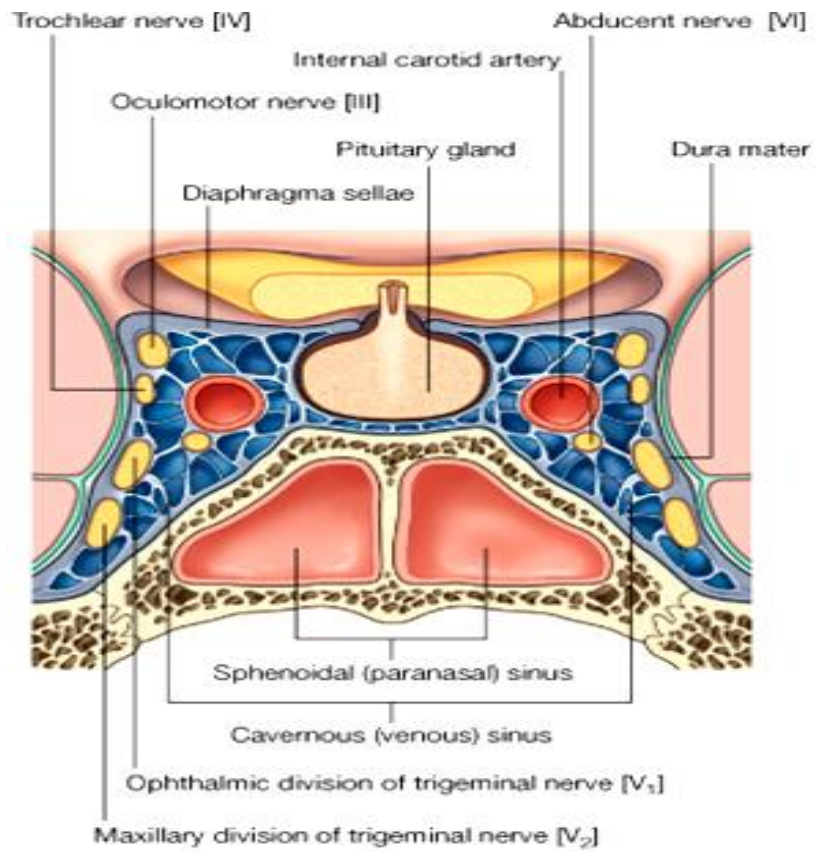
### **IV) Cerebral part:**

- **After leaving the roof of cavernous sinus**, the artery passes **backwards** above the sinus for one cm, then it turns **upwards to end just below the anterior perforated substance** of the base of the brain by dividing into anterior cerebral and middle cerebral arteries.
- **Branches:**
  - 1-Ophthalmic artery.
  - 2-Posterior communicating artery.
  - 3-Anterior choroidal artery.
  - 4- 2 terminal branches: anterior cerebral and middle cerebral arteries.

★ **N.B.:** The petrous, cavernous and cerebral parts are called together the **intracranial part** of the internal carotid artery. It shows 6 bends to damp any sudden rise of pressure inside it.



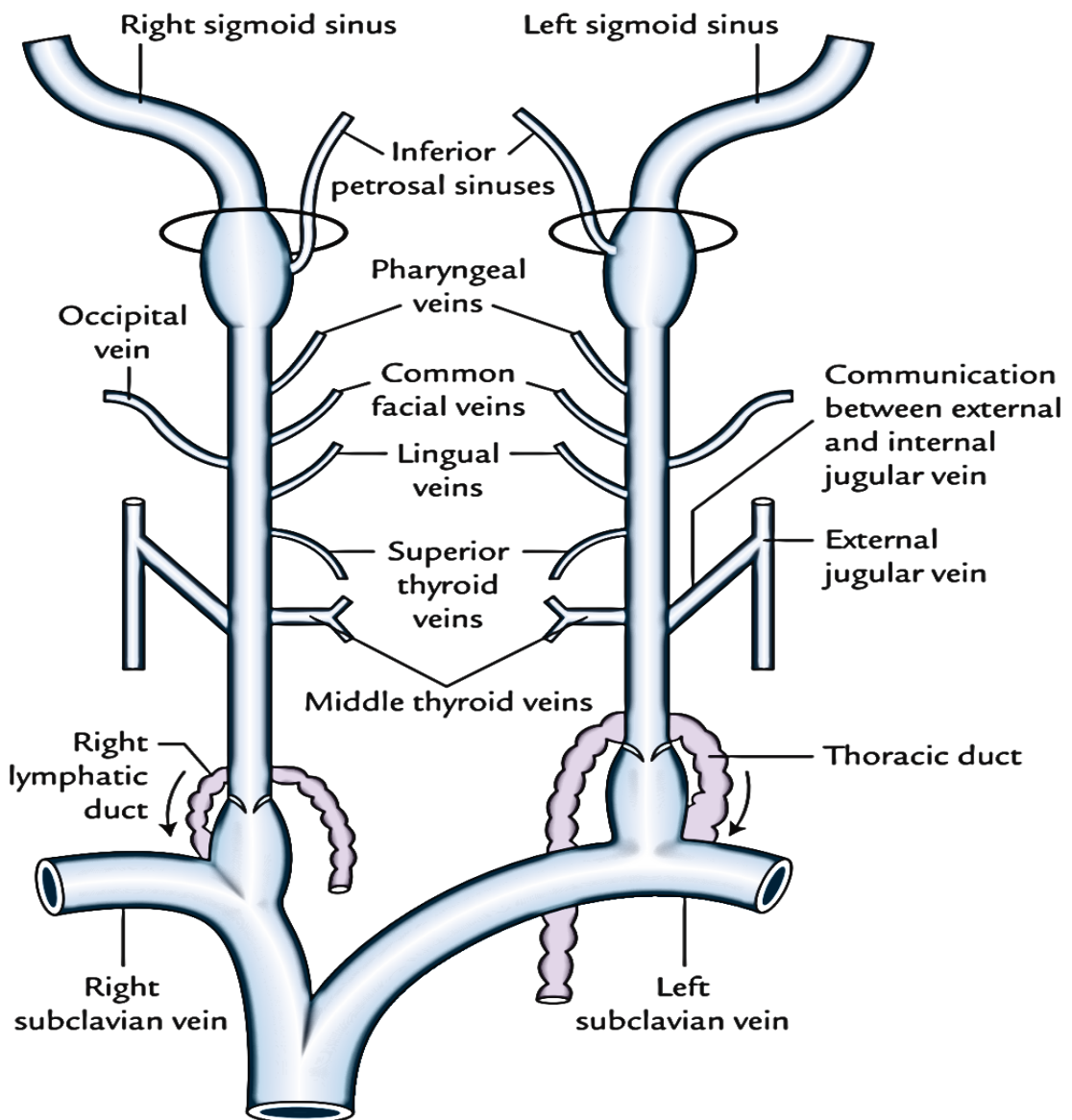
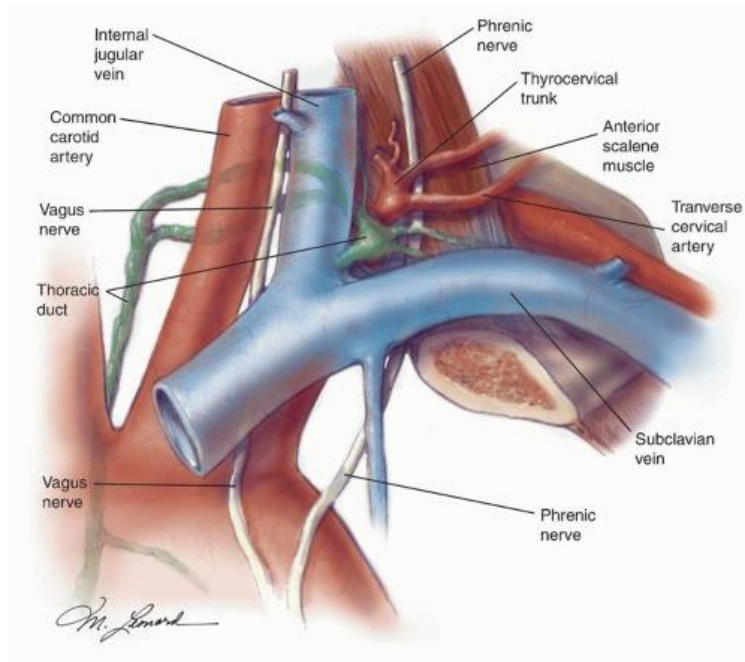




## **Internal Jugular Vein(IJV)**

- ★ It **begins** at the **jugular foramen** as a continuation of the **sigmoid sinus**. The right vein is usually larger than the left one.
- ★ It **ends** below by **joining** the **subclavian** vein to form the **brachiocephalic** vein behind the medial end of clavicle.
- ★ At its **upper and lower ends**, it forms the **superior and inferior bulbs**. The superior bulb is fixed to the margins of the jugular foramen.
- ★ It descends inside the **carotid sheath** :
  - a- **At the base of the skull** it lies posterior to ICA with the last 4 cranial nerves in between.
  - b- **Away from the skull** it lies lateral to the internal and common carotid arteries and vagus nerve.
- ★ **Surface anatomy:**
  - A line is drawn from sternoclavicular joint till point between mastoid process and angle of mandible.
  - The inferior bulb is just deep to the interval between sternal and clavicular heads of sternomastoid. This a landmark for insertion of **central venous catheter**.
- ★ **Tributaries:** From above downwards:
  1. Inferior petrosal sinus.
  2. Pharyngeal veins.
  3. Common facial vein.
  4. Lingual vein.
  5. Superior thyroid vein.
  6. Middle thyroid vein.
  7. Occipital vein.

## Ends of IJV





## ★ Relations:

### I) Anterior:

1. **Muscles:** Sternomastoid, posterior belly of digastric with stylohyoid on its upper border and inferior belly of omohyoid muscle.
2. 2 small **arteries** related to posterior belly of digastric muscle (occipital and posterior auricular).
3. **Styloid apparatus.**
4. Posteromedial surface of **parotid gland.**
5. **Spinal accessory** nerve crosses its upper part.
6. **Anterior jugular vein** crosses its lower part.
7. **Deep cervical lymph nodes** along the whole length of IJV.

### II) Posterior:

1. Transverse process of **cervical vertebrae.**
2. **Scalenus anterior** muscle.
3. **Phrenic** nerve.
4. First part of **subclavian artery & thyrocervical trunk.**
5. **Thoracic duct** (on the left side only).

### III) Relations in the carotid sheath:

1. **At the base of skull:** IJV lies behind ICA with the last 4 cranial nerves in between.
2. **Away from the base of skull:** IJV is lateral to ICA & CCA with vagus nerve in between and behind them.

