

Neck: Fascia and Posterior triangle

Curricular Objectives

By the end of this session students are expected to be able to:

Practical

- 1. Identify the platysma muscle and recall its nerve supply.**
- 2. Recognize different layers of deep cervical fascia**
- 3. Locate the retropharyngeal and parapharyngeal spaces**
- 4. Distinguish the sternocleidomastoid and trapezius muscles**
- 5. Follow the boundaries of the posterior triangle**
- 6. Locate the brachial plexus and the subclavian artery**
- 7. Distinguish the muscles forming the floor of the triangle**
- 8. Identify the 4 cutaneous branches of the cervical plexus and the accessory nerve**

Theory

- 1. Describe the location, attachment, nerve supply of platysma**
- 2. Outline the attachment of different layers of deep cervical fascia**
- 3. Summarize the communications of retro- and parapharyngeal spaces**
- 4. Discuss the boundaries, roof and floor of the posterior triangle**
- 5. List the content of the triangle**
- 6. Describe the distribution of the accessory nerve and its course within the triangle**
- 7. Outline the sensory nerves of the neck**
- 8. Comprehend the superficial course and surface anatomy of external jugular vein.**

Check List

A- Fascia of the neck

- Superficial Fascia
 - Platysma
 - External Jugular Vein
 - Anterior Jugular Vein
 - Cutaneous nerves
- Deep fascia of the neck
 1. Investing layer of deep cervical fascia
 2. Pretracheal Layer
 3. Prevertebral Layer (strong)
 - retropharyngeal space
 - parapharyngeal space
 4. Carotid Sheath
 5. Axillary Sheath

B- Posterior triangle of the neck

- Boundaries:
 1. Trapezius (supplied by Nerve)
 2. Sternocleidomastoid (divide the neck into and triangles)
 3. Clavicle

- Subdivisions by inferior belly of omohyoid
 1. Occipital triangle (bounded by)
 2. Supraclavicular triangle (bounded by)

- Roof: investing layer of deep cervical fascia

- Floor: prevertebral fascia lying on (form above down)
 1. Semispinalis capitis (may be seen)
 2. Splenius capitis
 3. Levator scapulae
 4. Scalenus medius
 5. Trunks of brachial plexus
 6. Subclavian artery (3rd part)
 7. Scalenus anterior & 1st digitation of serratus anterior (may be seen)

- Content:
 1. Accessory nerve (injury, during posterior triangle surgery, causes.....)
 2. Deep cervical Lymph nodes
 3. Inferior belly of omohyoid
 4. Transverse cervical and suprascapular vessels
 5. External jugular vein (can be seen just under the skin of your neck)
 6. Cutaneous branches of the cervical plexus
 - Lesser occipital nerve (C2) : run up along the posterior border of
 - Great auricular nerve (C2, 3, mostly 2)
 - Transverse cervical nerve (C2, 3): cross transversely superficial to..... muscle
 - Supraclavicular nerve (C3, 4, but mostly 4) : they cross superficial to the bone to reach the chest

C- Sensory nerves of the neck

1. Posterior ramus of C2 (**Greater occipital nerve**)
2. Posterior rami of C3,4,5
3. Cutaneous branches of the cervical plexus

Tricky question:

What area of skin supplied by C1 spinal nerve?