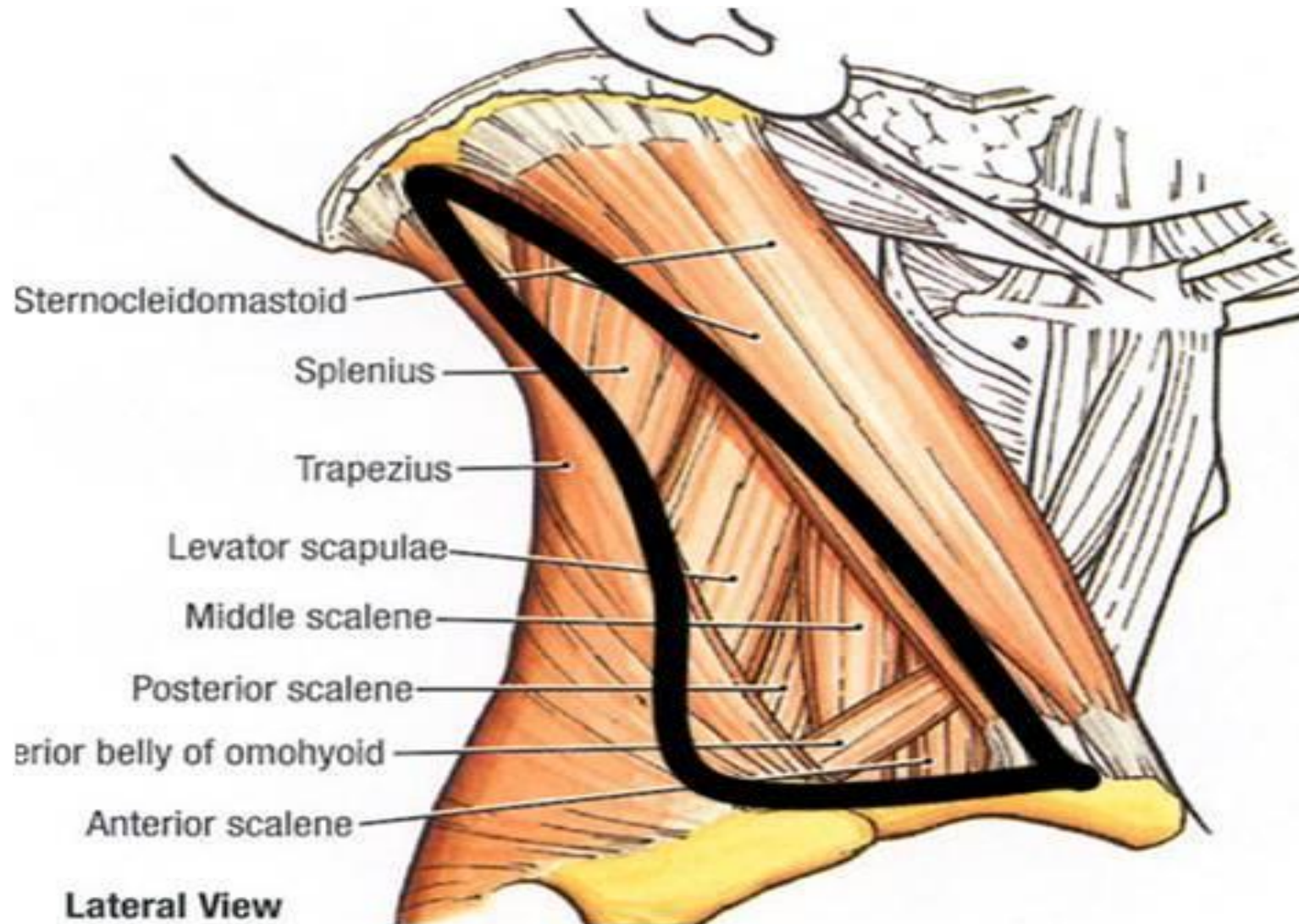


001B - Superficial and Deep Structure



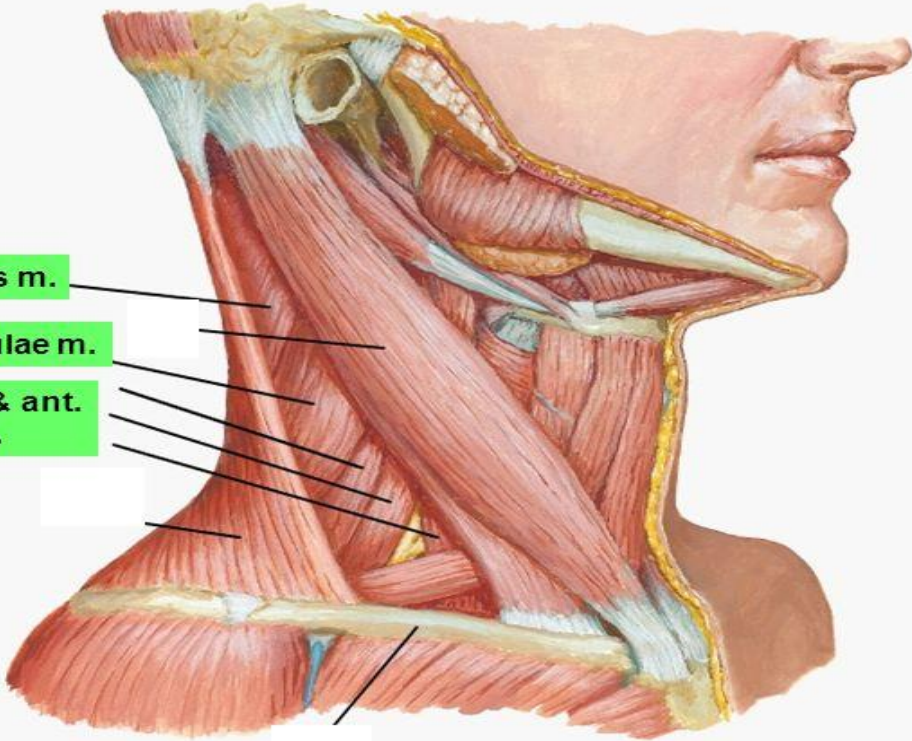
# MUSCLES OF FLOOR OF POSTERIOR TRIANGLE

Muscles of floor

Splenius capitis m.

Levator scapulae m.

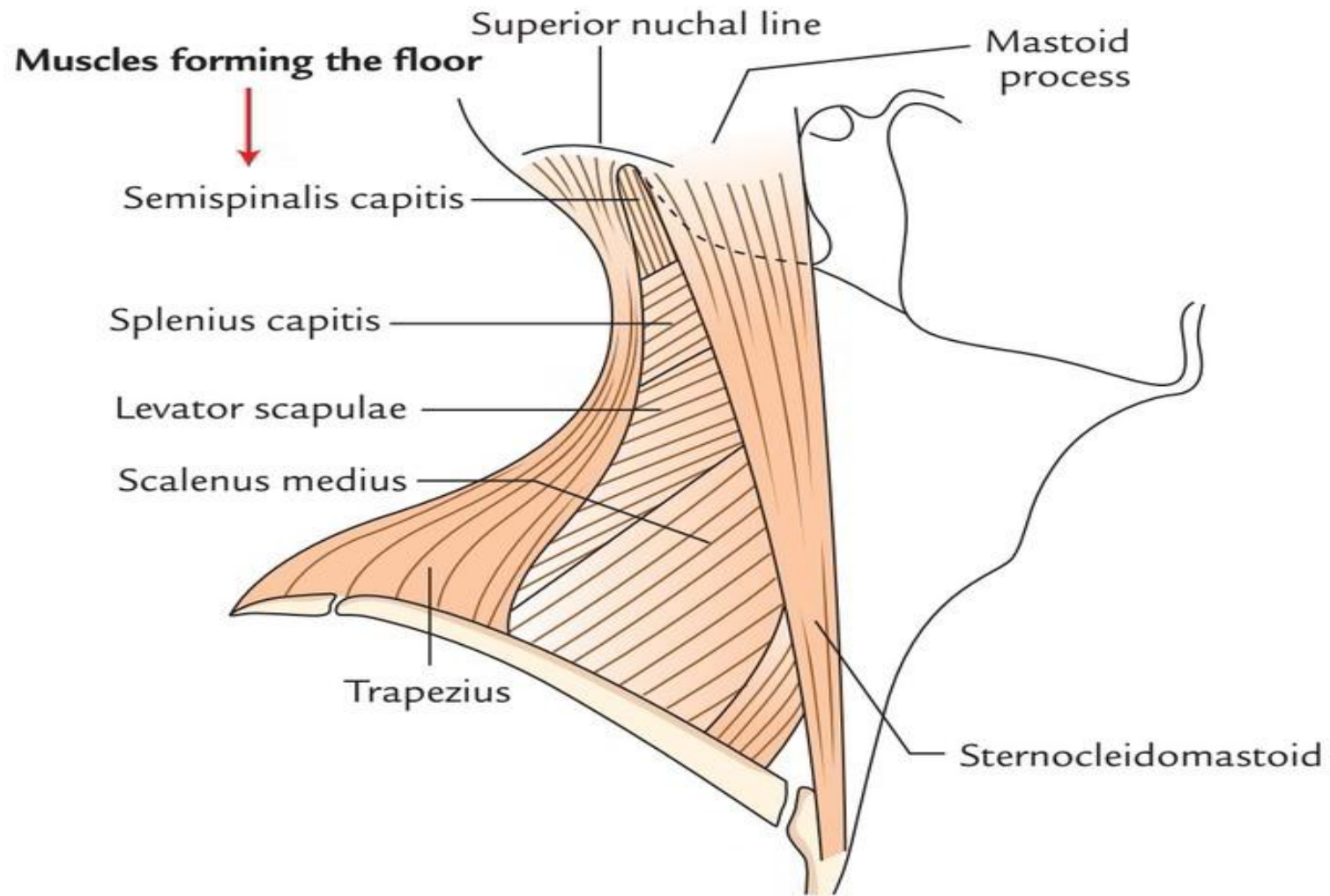
Post., mid., & ant. scalene mm.



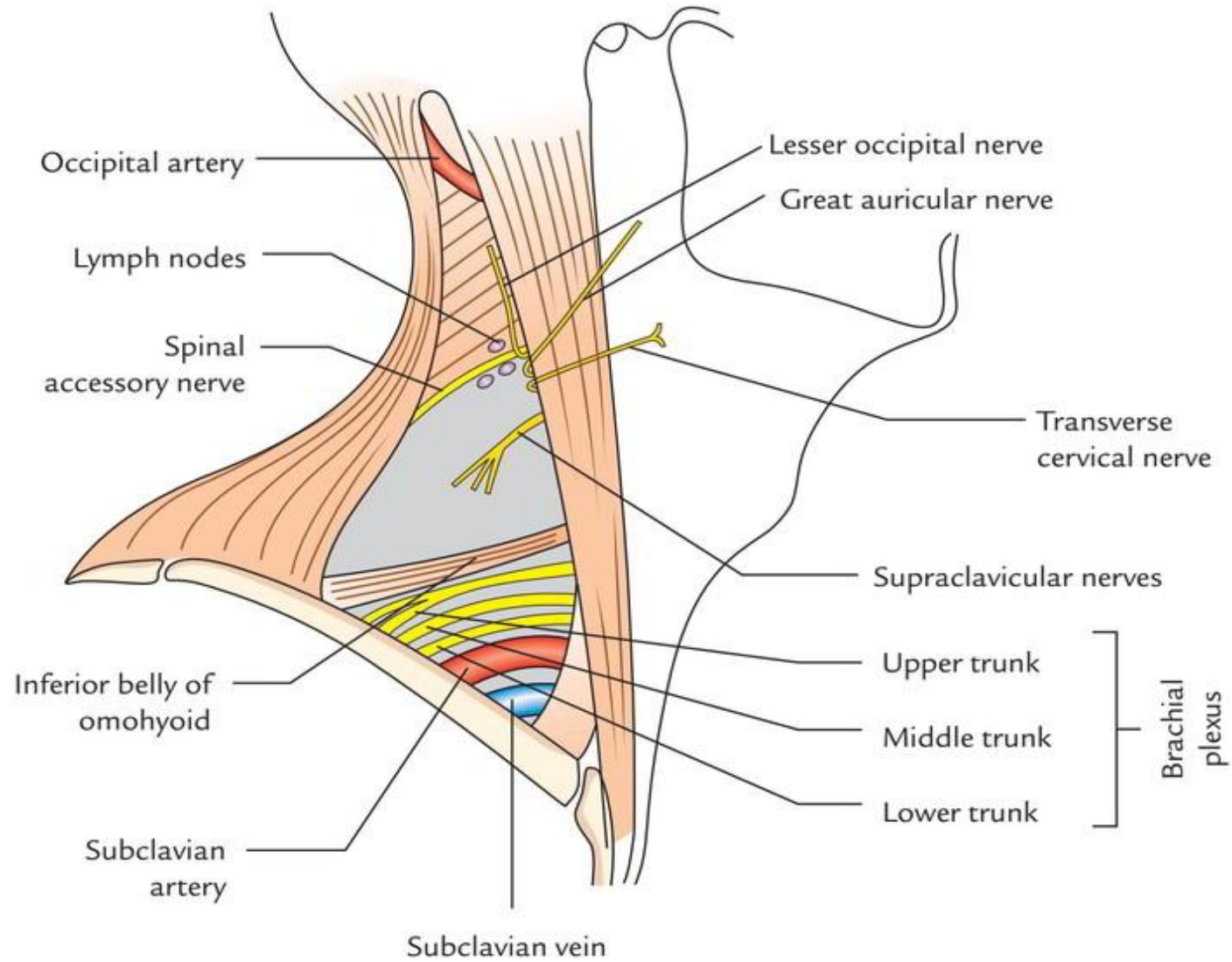
F. Netter  
M.D.  
© 1974

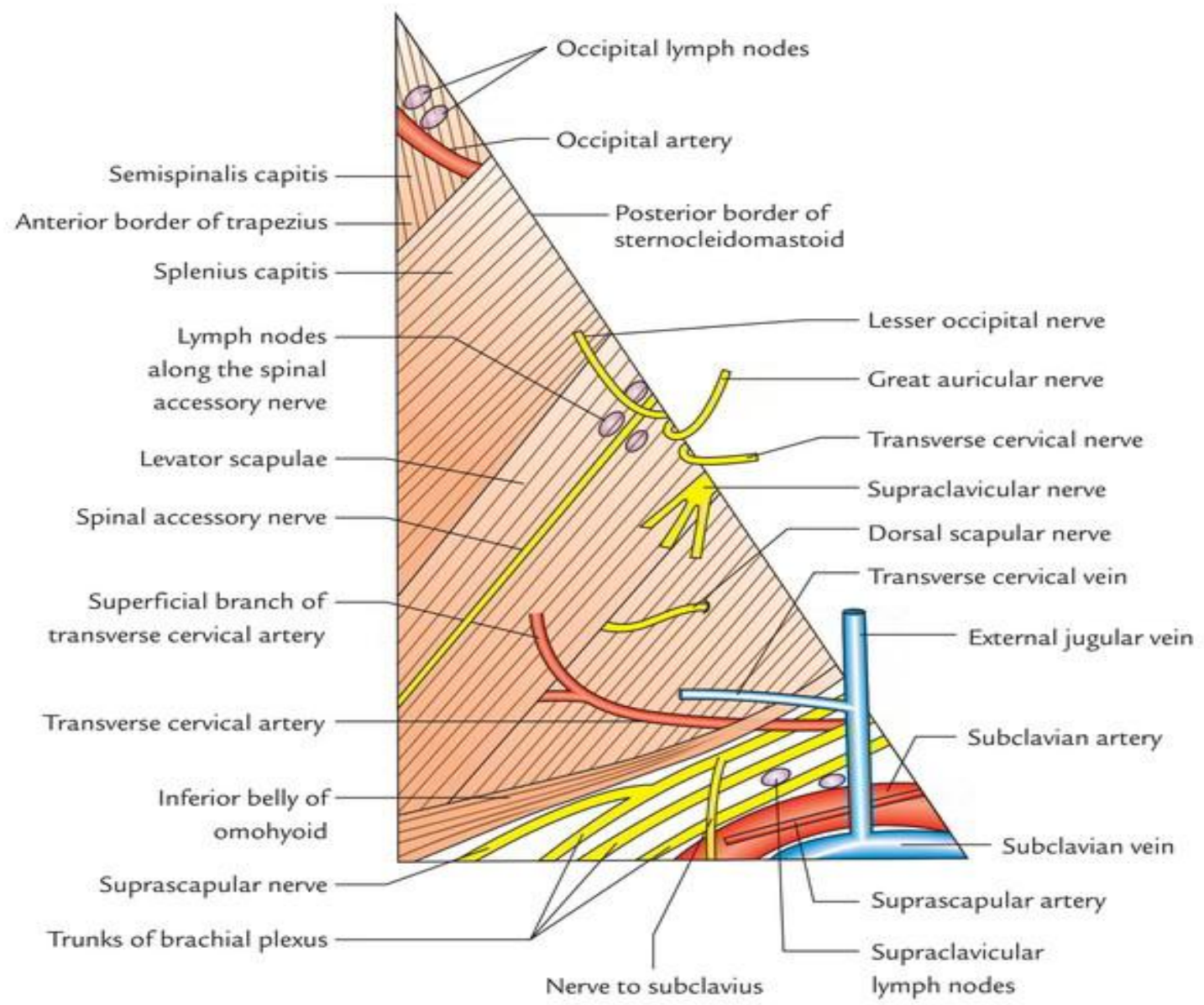
# FLOOR

- The floor of posterior triangle is muscular and is composed from above downwards by these muscles:
- **Semispinalis capitis.**
- **Splenius capitis.**
- **Levator scapulae.**
- **Scalenus medius.**
- First digitation of **serratus anterior** (occasionally)



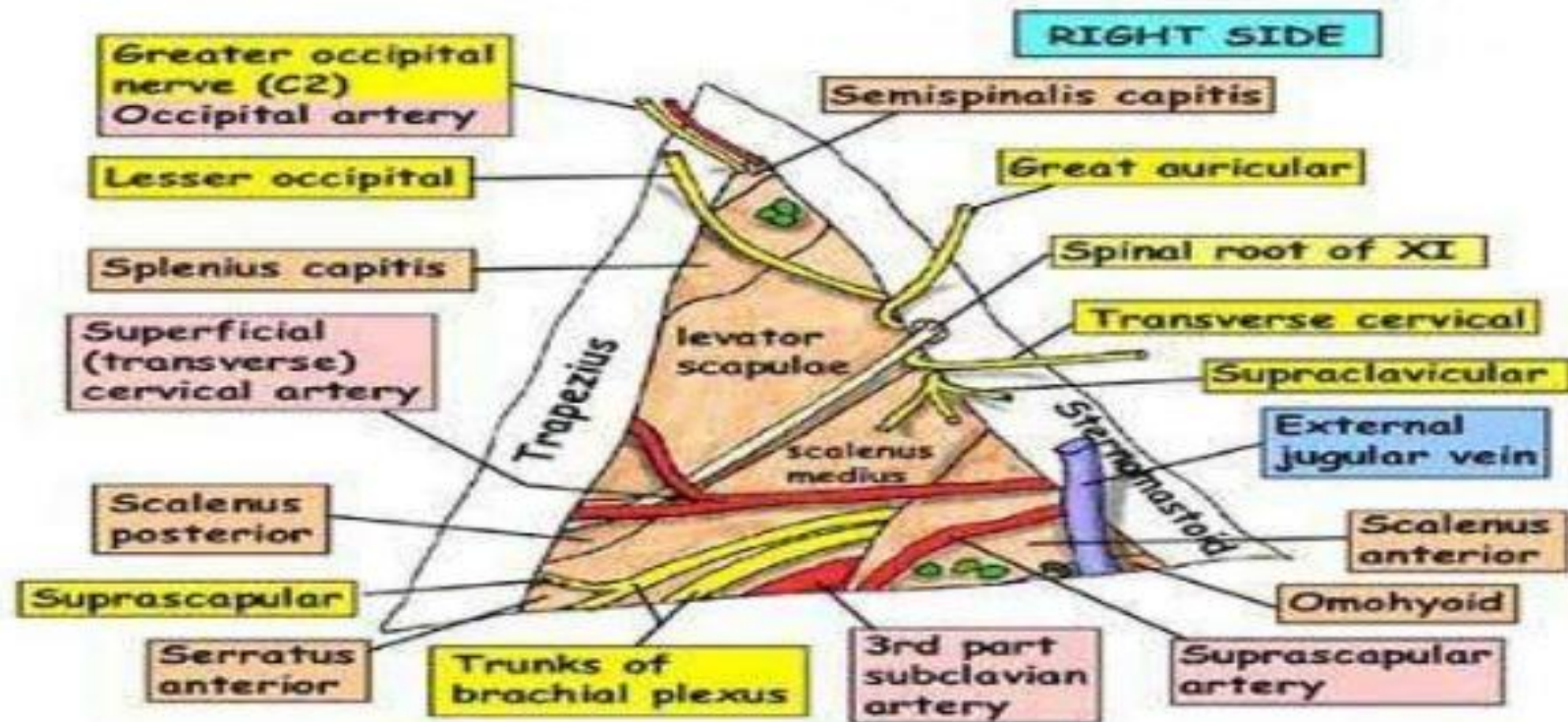
# CONTENTS



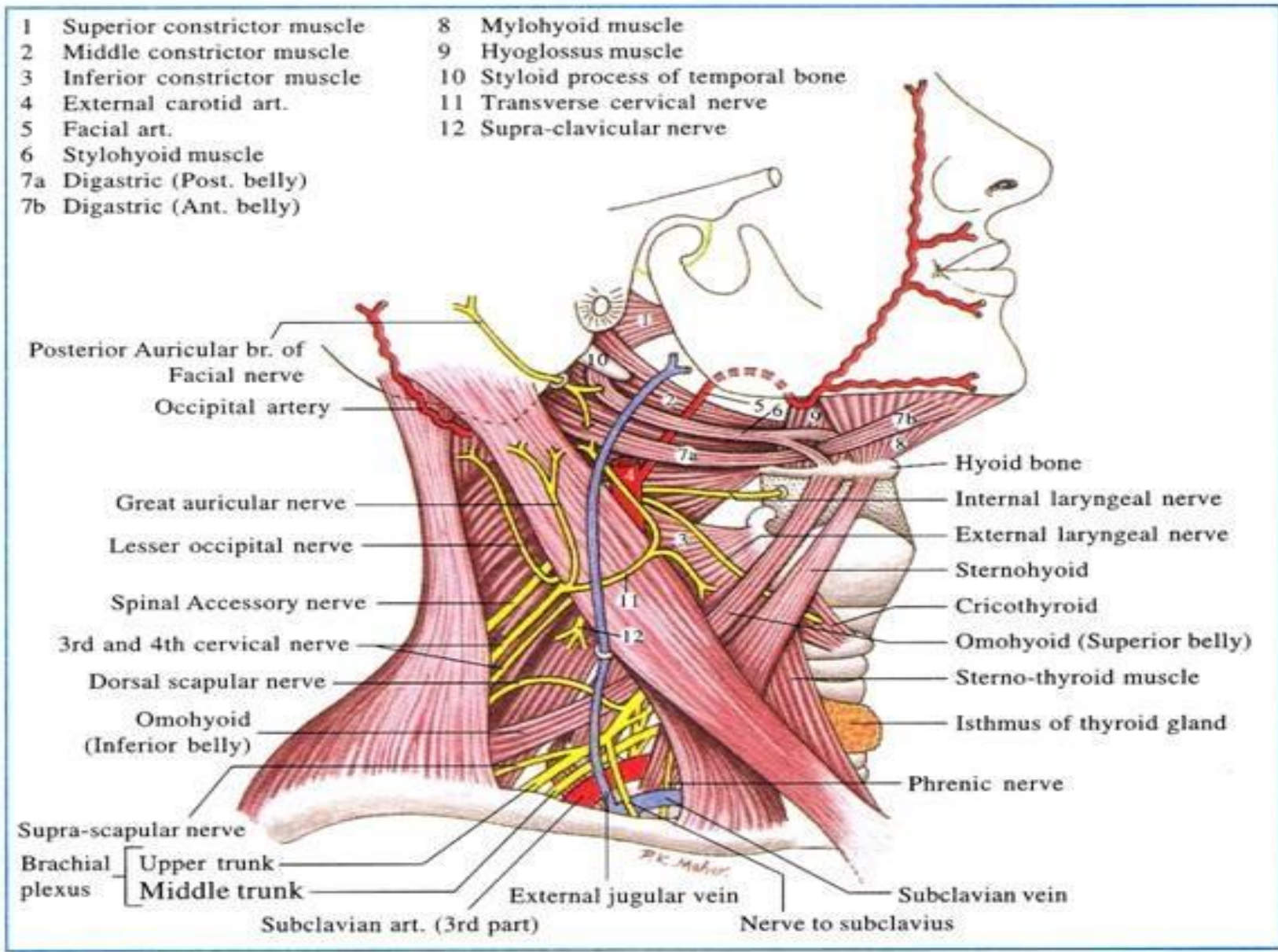


## POSTERIOR TRIANGLE OF NECK

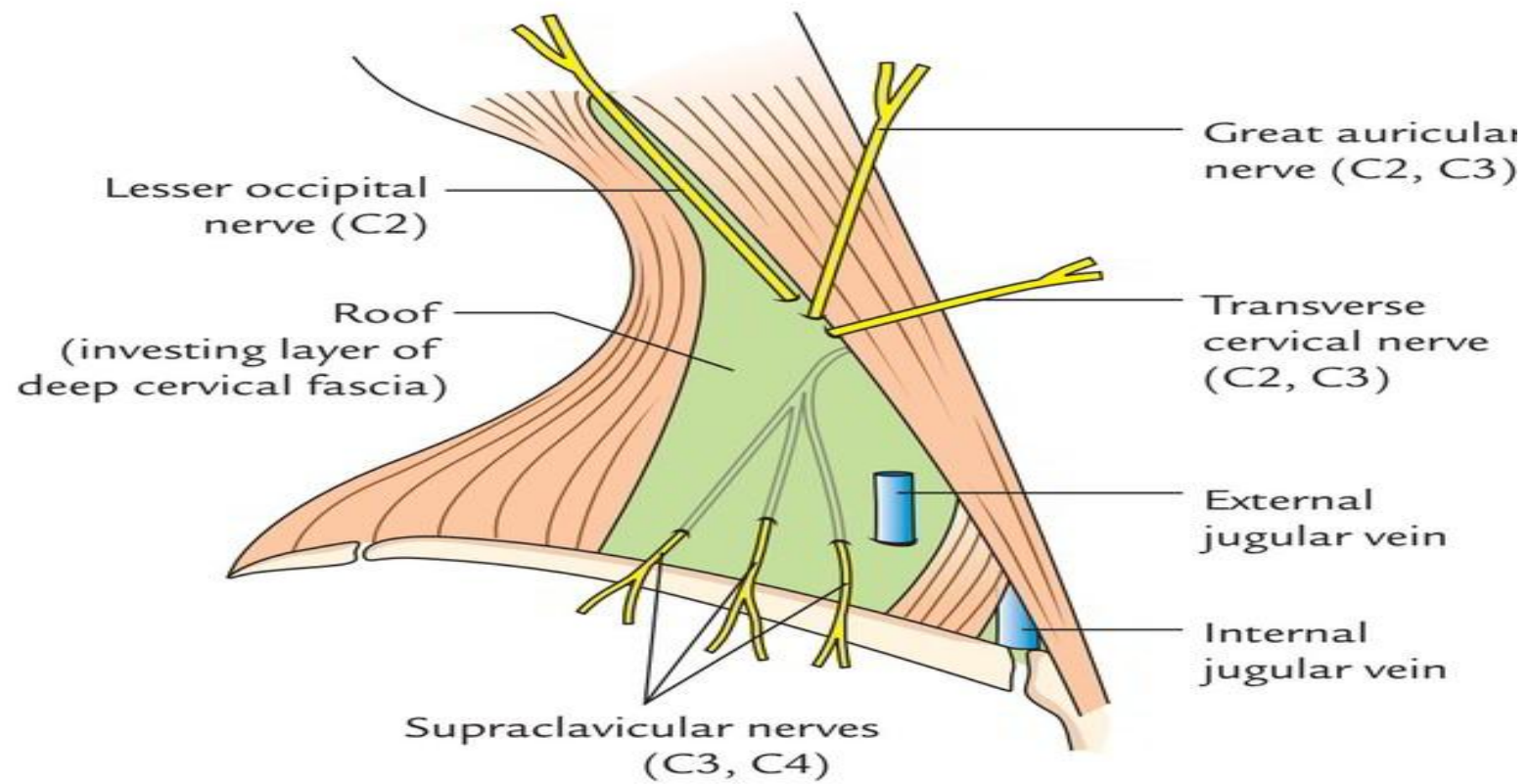
- **Boundaries:** Posterior border of sternocleidomastoid, anterior border of trapezius, mid 1/3 clavicle
- **Shape:** Spiral
- **Roof:** Investing fascia, platysma, external jugular vein
- **Floor:** Prevertebral fascia covering muscles, subclavian artery, trunks of brachial plexus & cervical plexus
- **Contents:**
  - **Arteries:** Occipital, superficial cervical, suprascapular
  - **Veins:** Transverse cervical, suprascapular, external jugular
  - **Nerves:** Branches of cervical plexus, spinal root of accessory
  - **Muscle:** Omohyoid with its sling
  - **Lymph nodes:** Occipital (rubella/scalp infections)  
Supraclavicular (part of the deep chain)







**Fig. 3.5. Contents of the Posterior triangle.**



## FASCIAL CARPETING OF THE POSTERIOR TRIANGLE

- The muscular floor of posterior triangle is covered by **prevertebral layer of deep cervical fascia**, which creates the fascial carpeting of the floor of the posterior triangle. It creates axillary sheath around subclavian artery and **brachial plexus** going from the **root of the neck** to the **upper limb**.
- The lower part of the posterior triangle is crossed by **inferior belly of omohyoid** superficial to the fascial carpeting.

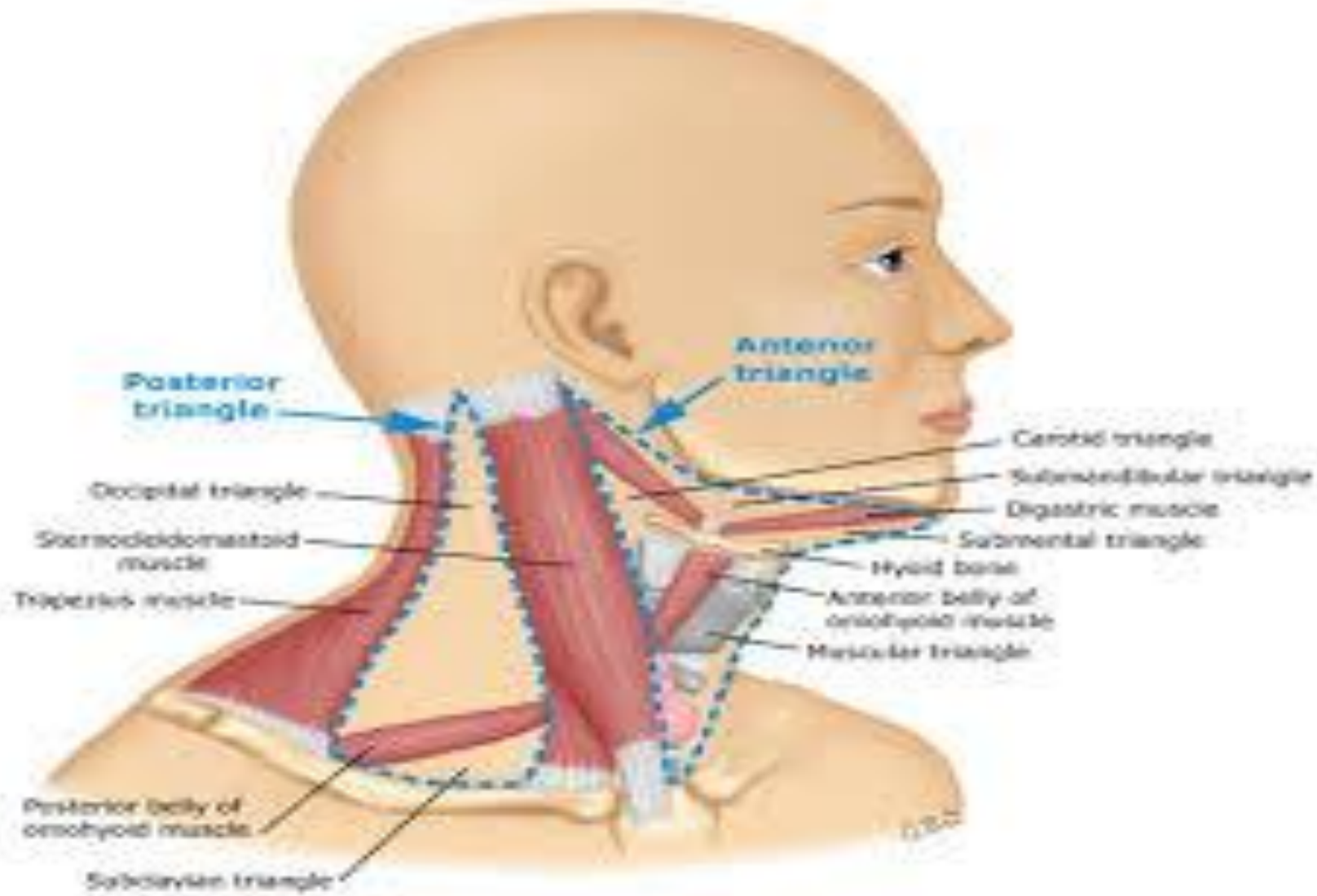
## CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE

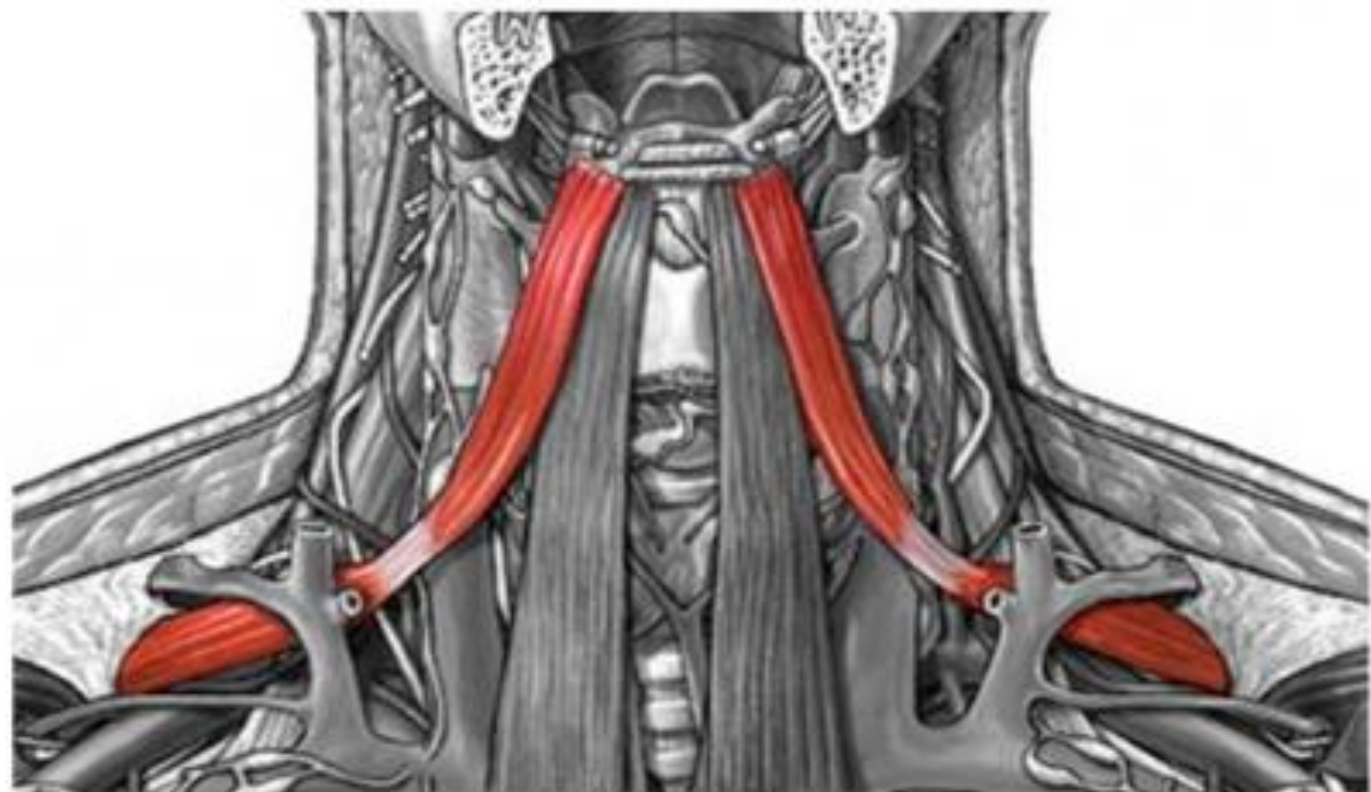
- Pus gathered in the posterior triangle deep to its fascial carpeting from tubercular cervical vertebrae may track downwards and laterally along the axillary sheath to first appear in the axilla or even in the arm afterwards.

## SUBDIVISIONS

- The posterior triangle is subdivided into 2 parts by the **inferior belly of the omohyoid**,
- which crosses the lower part of the triangle **obliquely upwards and forwards**
  - (a) a bigger upper part named **occipital triangle** and
  - (b) a small lower part termed subclavian (**supraclavicular**) triangle. These parts are thus termed since they include occipital and subclavian arteries, respectively.

# SUBDIVISIONS





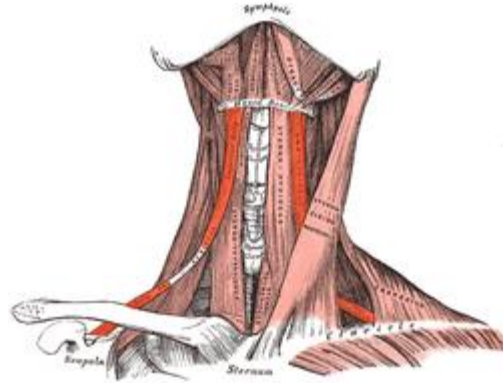
*{<http://studydroid.com/imageCards/05/er/card-5729629-front.jpg>}*

- The **omohyoid muscle** is a muscle that depresses the hyoid.
- It is located in the front of the neck and consists of two bellies separated by an intermediate tendon.
- Its superior belly serves as the most lateral member of the infrahyoid muscles, located lateral to both the sternothyroid and thyrohyoid muscles.
- Its name derives from the Greek "omos" meaning shoulder, giving one of its attachments, and "hyoid", giving the other attachment - the hyoid bone.



- It arises from the upper border of the [scapula](#), and occasionally from the [superior transverse scapular ligament](#) which crosses the [scapular notch](#), its extent of attachment to the scapula varying from a few millimetres to 2.5 cm.
- This muscle has two separate bellies: superior and inferior.<sup>[1]</sup>
- From this origin, the *inferior belly* forms a flat, narrow [fasciculus](#), which inclines forward and slightly upward across the lower part of the neck, being bound down to the clavicle by a fibrous expansion; it then passes behind the [sternocleidomastoid](#), becomes tendinous and changes its direction, forming an obtuse angle.
- It ends in the *superior belly*, which passes almost vertically upward, close to the lateral border of the [sternohyoid](#), to be inserted into the lower border of the body of the [hyoid bone](#), lateral to the insertion of the [sternohyoid](#).

- The central tendon of this muscle varies much in length and form, and is held in position by a process of the deep cervical fascia, which sheaths it, and is prolonged down to be attached to the clavicle and first rib; it is by this means that the angular form of the muscle is maintained. The tendon overlies the internal jugular vein, and can be used as a landmark for this vein during surgery.



Muscles of the neck. Anterior view. Omohyoid is labeled on both sides.

#### Details

[Origin](#)

[Upper border of the scapula](#)

[Insertion](#)

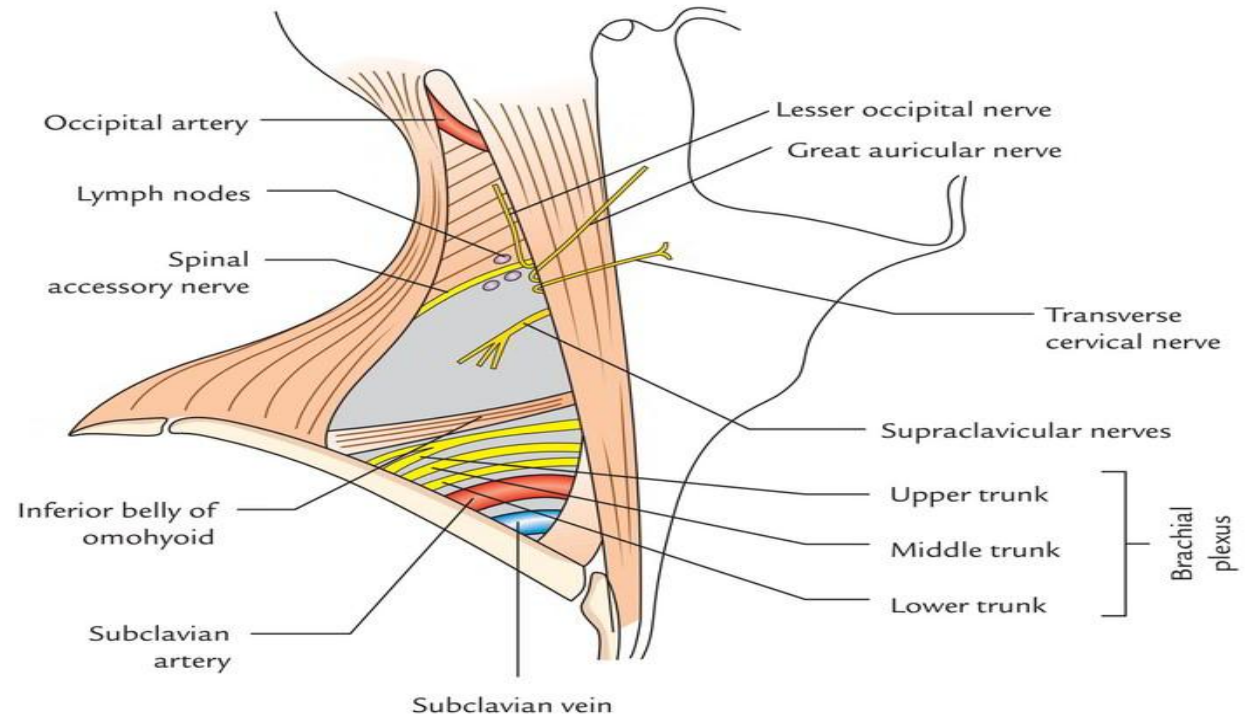
[Hyoid bone](#)

[Nerve](#)

[Ansa cervicalis \(C1-C3\)](#)

[Actions](#)

Depresses the larynx and hyoid bone. Also carries hyoid bone backward and to the side



# CONTENTS

