Superficial Back

Major Dissection Objectives

1. Mark the skin into 6-8 panels
2. Perform a skin only dissection on one panel & remove skin and superficial fascia on the others
3. Clean and reveal trapezius and latissimus dorsi. Then reflect them laterally just off the midline. Remove trapezius from the spine of the scapula so it can be reflected superiorly.
4. Locate & clean the neurovascular unit for each muscle.
5. Clean and reveal the medial border muscles of the scapula. Then reflect them laterally.
6. Locate & clean the neurovascular unit for them.

Pearls & Problems

Do
1. Use this dissection to hone your dissection techniques. Make sure everyone practices.
2. Look for some dorsal rami as you remove the skin and sup. fascia. They are about 2 finger widths apart.
3. Cut a superficial muscle like trapezius as you reveal a deeper one like lat dorsi. Know roughly where muscles cross one another.
4. Make circular cuts until you know and save the structures that could be damaged when making it.

Don't
Mark the skin into 6–8 panels

Perform a skin only dissection on one panel & remove skin and superficial fascia on the others

Clean and reveal trapezius and latissimus dorsi, reflect & remove from spine of the scapula
Locate & clean the neurovascular unit for each muscle.

Lat. Dorsi = thoracodorsal n.a.v.
Trapezius = CN XI, transverse cervical a.

Clean and reveal the medial border muscles of the scapula. Then reflect them laterally.

Levator scapula m.
Rhomboid minor m.
Rhomboid major m.

Locate & clean the neurovascular unit for them.

Levator scapula m.
Rhomboid minor m.
Rhomboid major m.

All three supplied by = Dorsal scapular n.a.v.