

Posterior Triangles of the Neck

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Anatomy Guy

Major Dissection Objectives

1. Carefully remove ONLY the skin of the neck staying superficial to platysma muscle and ensure you leave it attached to the mandible
2. Cut both clavicles in the middle third without removing the manubrium
3. Reflect the platysma up to the mandible being careful not to cut deeper structures
4. Carefully clean the SCM up to the mastoid process, at the mid belly locate & maintain the sensory branches of the cervical plexus
5. Follow and clean the nerve branches of the cervical plexus and accessory nerves to their roots.

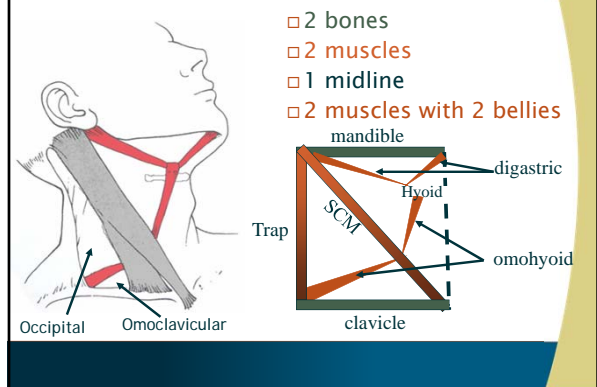
Major Dissection Objectives Scalene Triangle

1. Reflect SCM up to the mastoid process on one side but maintain the cervical plexus nerves and superficial veins for now
2. Clean and identify the muscles of the posterior triangles, omohyoid, trapezius, scalene muscles, splenius capitus and levator scapulae.
3. Clean and preserve the phrenic nerve, subclavian vein and artery and identify the transverse cervical, suprascapular and dorsal scapular arteries
4. Note the relationships of these structures to the first rib in the body and on the skeleton

Pearls & Problems

- Do 1. Stay superficial in the skin and platysma dissections
- Don't 2. Dissect into anterior triangle regions especially the carotid sheath regions
- Do 3. Look to the middle posterior portion of the SCM before cleaning
- Do 4. Find a nerve & follow it back to the plexus then back out as others are located
- Don't 5. Make your own nerves with superficial fascias of the neck. If in doubt see if it can be fanned out before spending lots of time cleaning it up

Triangles of the Neck

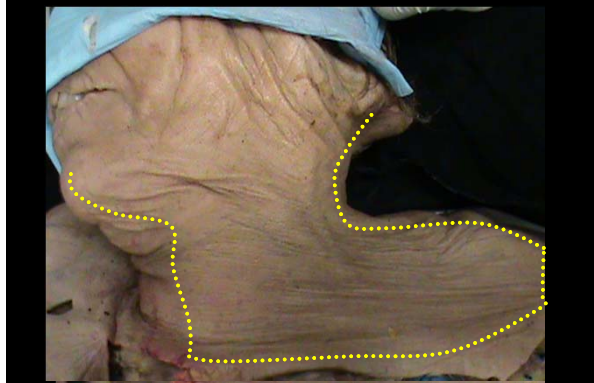


- Carefully remove **ONLY** the skin of the neck staying superficial to platysma muscle and ensure you leave it attached to the mandible

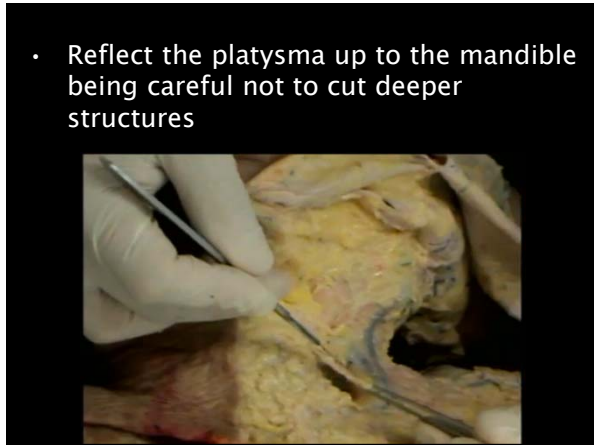
Other than the skin and platysma muscle along with some cutaneous nerves. Remember **NOT** to dissect the anterior triangle structures which means you are going to stay behind the sternocleidomastoid muscle.



- Remove the skin of the neck



- Reflect the platysma up to the mandible being careful not to cut deeper structures



Extra Notes

Depending on when you have this dissection in the course.

You may wish to cut both clavicles in the middle third without removing the manubrium. This can assist in following structures into the axilla and better exposes the upper ribs.

Depending on where your cadaver was injected for fixation you may have some bleeding and string in this area that makes it look destroyed. With a bit of clean up and removal of blood clot you will typically find that this is still OK so be patient and your dissection will look good.

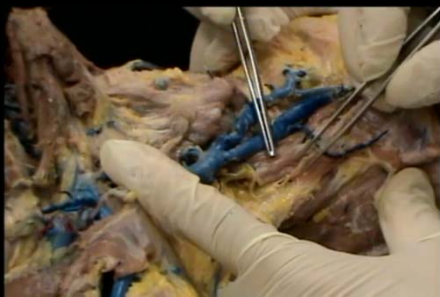
- Cut the clavicles



- Rotate the head and stay in the posterior triangle and out of the anterior triangle



- Reflect SCM up to the mastoid process on one side but maintain the cervical plexus nerves and superficial veins for now



Use the external jugular as a landmark to find the great auricular nerve.

- Find the branches of the cervical plexus by following them back to the roots



- Clean and identify the muscles of the posterior triangles, omohyoid, trapezius, scalene muscles, splenius capitis and levator scapulae.



- Clean and preserve the phrenic nerve, subclavian vein and artery and identify the transverse cervical, suprascapular and dorsal scapular arteries



Anatomy Guy Dissection Sheet
Posterior Triangle of Neck

· Note the relationships of these structures to the first rib in the body and on the skeleton

