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Human Anatomy

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Common Carotid Artery

- The **right common carotid artery** arises from a **bifurcation** of the **brachiocephalic trunk** (the right subclavian artery is the other branch). This bifurcation occurs roughly at the level of the right sternoclavicular joint
- The **left common carotid artery** branches directly from the **arch of aorta**. The left and right common carotid arteries ascend up the neck, **lateral** to the trachea and the oesophagus. They do not give off any branches in the neck.

Relations

- Anterolaterally: The skin, fascia, sternocleidomastoid, sternohyoid, sternothyroid, and posterior belly of omohyoid
- Posteriorly: The transverse processes of lower four cervical vertebrae, the prevertebral muscles, sympathetic trunk, vertebral vessels in the lower part of the neck

Branches of Maxillary Artery

- Inferior alveolar artery
- Middle meningeal artery
- Small branches to the external auditory meatus and the tympanic membrane
- Small muscular branches supply the muscles of mastication

Internal Carotid artery

- It is one of the terminal branches of the common carotid artery
- It supplies the brain, the eye, the forehead, and the part of nose
- It begins at the level of the upper border of the thyroid cartilage
- Ascends in the neck to the base of the skull

Relations

- Posteriorly: The sympathetic trunk, longus capitis muscle, and the transverse processes of the upper three cervical vertebrae
- Medially: The pharyngeal wall and the superior laryngeal nerve
- Laterally: The internal jugular vein and the vagus nerve

Internal Jugular Vein

- It then descends through the neck in the carotid sheath lateral to the vagus nerve and the internal and common carotid arteries
- It ends by joining the subclavian vein behind the medial end of the clavicle to form the brachiocephalic vein

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