

Fascias

I. Fascias of the neck

A. Superficial cervical fascia

details – between the dermis and deep fascia; contains the platysma muscle

B. Deep cervical fascia

1. Superficial (investing) layer (lamina)

details – extends from the mastoid & mandible to the clavicle & acromion, and from the ligamentum nuchae and spinous processes to the midline; surrounds the trapezius, SCM and inferior portion of the parotid gland; continuous with remainder of the parotid fascia

2. Carotid sheath

details – surrounds the common & internal carotid a., internal jugular v. and the vagus n.

3. Prevertebral fascia

details – extends lateral & anterior to levator scapulae, longus colli & capitis, and scalene muscles to form the floor of the posterior triangle; from base of skull to mediastinum; continuous with axillary sheath and anterior longitudinal ligament; defines the posterior boundary of the retropharyngeal space

4. Pretracheal (visceral) fascia (lamina)

details – surrounds the infrahyoid muscles, thyroid gland, esophagus and trachea; continuous with the buccopharyngeal fascia

C. Pharyngobasilar fascia

details – internal epimysium of the constrictor muscles; extends from the base of the skull (pharyngeal tubercle) to the pterygomandibular raphe & pharyngeal raphe

D. Buccopharyngeal fascia

details – external epimysium of the constrictor muscles; continuous with the pretracheal fascia