

Lymphatics

I. Lymphatic trunks

A. Right jugular trunk

function – drains superficial and deep nodes into the right lymphatic duct

B. Left jugular trunk

function – drains superficial and deep nodes into the thoracic duct

II. Lymph nodes

A. Superficial nodes of the head

1. Occipital nodes

function – drains occipital scalp

2. Mastoid (Retro-auricular) nodes

function – drains ear and adjacent scalp

3. Parotid nodes (G. para, beside + ous, ear)

function – drains ear, face, nose and scalp

4. Buccal (facial) nodes (L. cheek)

function – drains nose and adjacent face

B. Superficial nodes of the neck

1. Retropharyngeal nodes

function – drains nasopharynx and atlanto-occipital & atlantoaxial joints

2. Submandibular nodes

function – drains face, tongue, mouth, nose and palate

3. Submental nodes

function – drains central lower lip

4. Anterior cervical nodes (along larynx and trachea)

function – drains anterior neck

5. Lateral cervical nodes (along accessory nerve)

function – drains lateral neck

C. Deep cervical nodes

1. Superior nodes

function – drains larynx, pharynx, posterior palate, posterior tongue, and occipital, retro-auricular, parotid, buccal, retropharyngeal & submandibular nodes

2. Inferior nodes

function – drains the trachea, thyroid, esophagus, and submental, anterior neck, lateral neck & superior deep cervical nodes