

## Q8 – Posterior Triangle of Neck – Boundaries and Contents

### Definition Note

The posterior triangle of the neck is a triangular region situated on the lateral aspect of the neck. It is bounded by sternocleidomastoid muscle anteriorly, trapezius muscle posteriorly, and clavicle inferiorly. It contains important nerves, blood vessels, and lymph nodes.

### Boundaries of Posterior Triangle

Anterior boundary is formed by the posterior border of sternocleidomastoid muscle. Posterior boundary is formed by the anterior border of trapezius muscle. The base is formed by the middle one-third of the clavicle. The apex is formed by the meeting of sternocleidomastoid and trapezius near the superior nuchal line. The roof is formed by skin, superficial fascia with platysma, and investing layer of deep cervical fascia. The floor is formed by splenius capitis, levator scapulae, scalenus medius, and scalenus posterior muscles covered by prevertebral fascia.

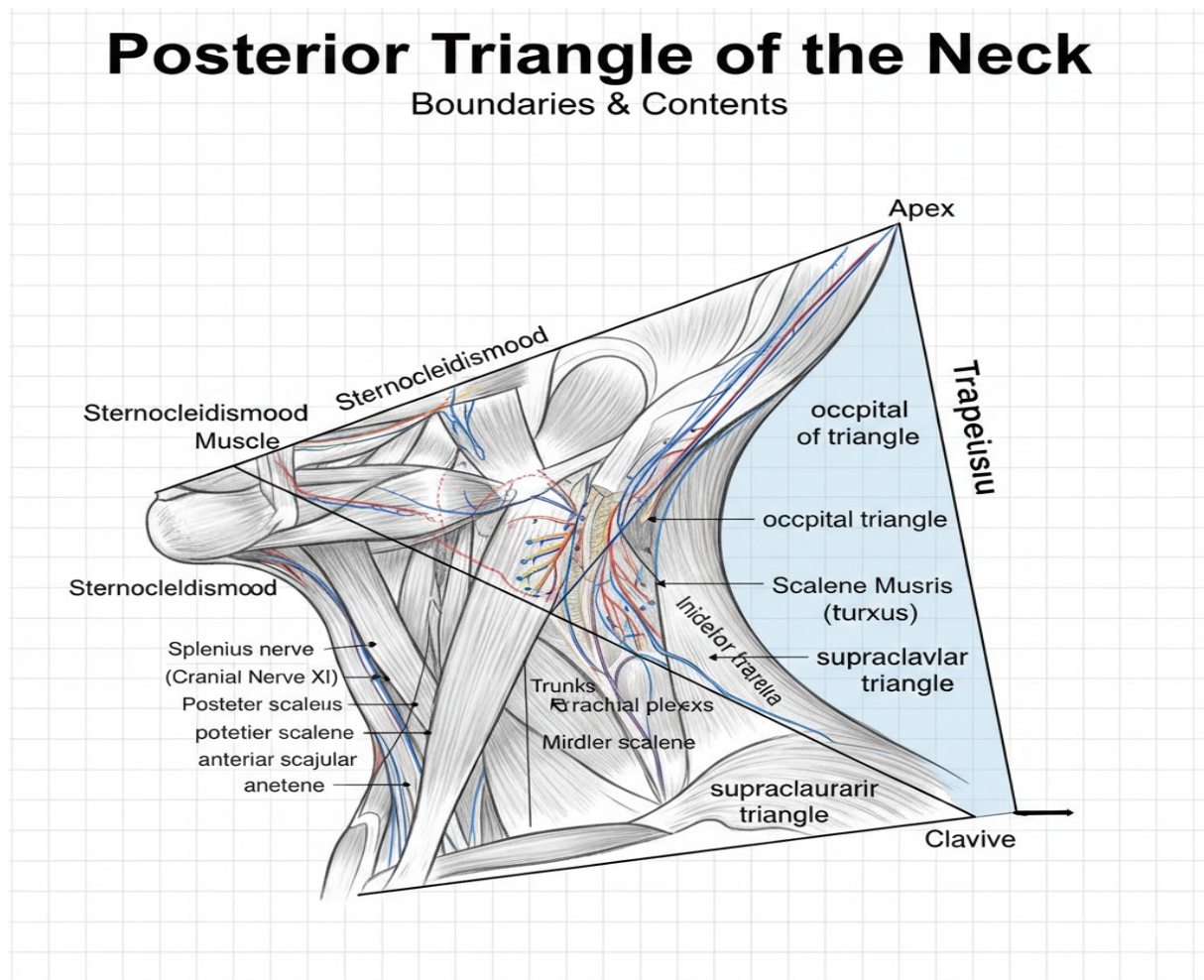
### Contents of Posterior Triangle

The muscular content includes the inferior belly of omohyoid muscle. The nerve contents include spinal accessory nerve, cutaneous branches of cervical plexus (lesser occipital, great auricular, transverse cervical, and supraclavicular nerves), trunks of brachial plexus, and phrenic nerve. The vascular contents include external jugular vein, subclavian artery, and branches of thyrocervical trunk such as transverse cervical and suprascapular arteries. Lymphatic content includes occipital and supraclavicular lymph nodes.

### Clinical Importance

Injury to spinal accessory nerve results in trapezius paralysis and drooping of shoulder. Posterior triangle is used for cervical nerve block and examination of lymph nodes. Enlargement of supraclavicular lymph nodes may indicate underlying malignancy.

## Labeled Diagram – Posterior Triangle of Neck (Boundaries and Contents)



Conclusion: The posterior triangle of the neck is an important anatomical region due to the presence of vital nerves, vessels, and lymph nodes. Clear understanding of its boundaries and contents is essential for anatomy examinations and clinical procedures.