# Q7 – Posterior Triangle of Neck

## Definition Note

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

## Situation

The posterior triangle lies on the side of the neck behind the sternocleidomastoid muscle and extends from the mastoid process to the clavicle.

## 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 clavicle. The apex is formed by the meeting of sternocleidomastoid and trapezius near the superior nuchal line.

## Roof

The roof is formed by skin, superficial fascia containing platysma, and the investing layer of deep cervical fascia.

## Floor

The floor is formed by muscles covered with prevertebral fascia, namely splenius capitis, levator scapulae, scalenus medius, and scalenus posterior.

## Subdivision

The inferior belly of omohyoid divides the posterior triangle into two parts: the occipital triangle above and the supraclavicular (subclavian) triangle below.

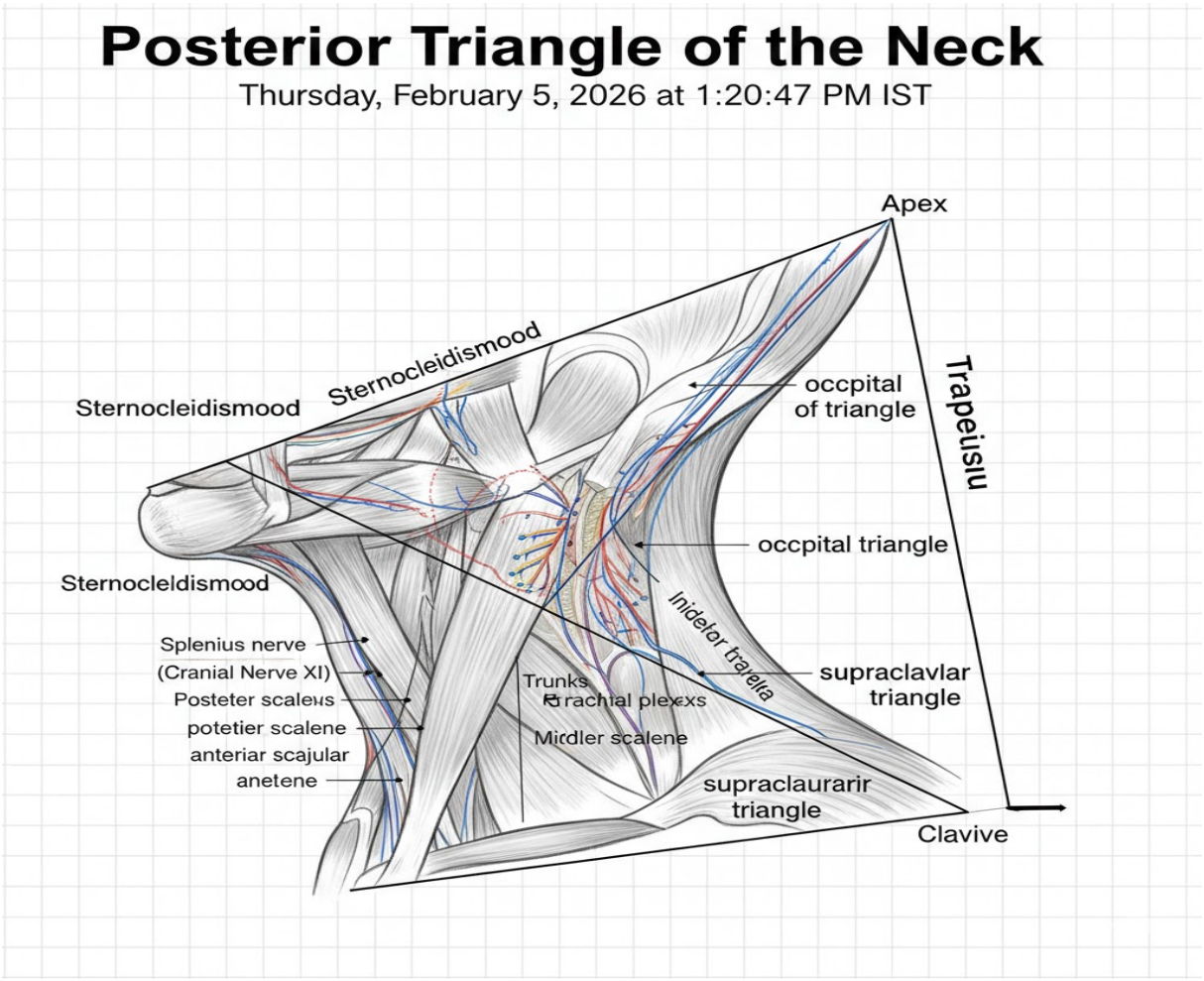
## Contents

The contents include spinal accessory nerve, cutaneous branches of cervical plexus, trunks of brachial plexus, external jugular vein, subclavian artery, branches of thyrocervical trunk, and lymph nodes.

## Clinical Importance

Injury to spinal accessory nerve causes paralysis of trapezius muscle leading to shoulder drooping. The posterior triangle is an important site for cervical nerve block and examination of lymph nodes.

## Labeled Diagram – Posterior Triangle of Neck




Conclusion: The posterior triangle of the neck is an anatomically and clinically important region containing major nerves and vessels. Proper understanding of its boundaries and contents is essential for anatomy examinations and clinical procedures.