

Suboccipital triangle

SUBOCCIPITAL SPACE (TRIANGLE)- BOUNDARIES AND CONTENTS (SE)

Boundaries:

Superomedial

rectus capitis posterior major, rectus capitis posterior minor

Superolateral

obliquus capitis superior

Inferior

obliquus capitis inferior

Roof

medially semispinalis capitis, laterally longissimus capitis

Floor-

posterior atlanto-occipital membrane, posterior arch of atlas

Contents:

3rd part of vertebral artery-

branch from subclavian artery extends from the foramina transversarium of C1 to the posterior atlanto occipital membrane

Greater occipital nerve (C2)-

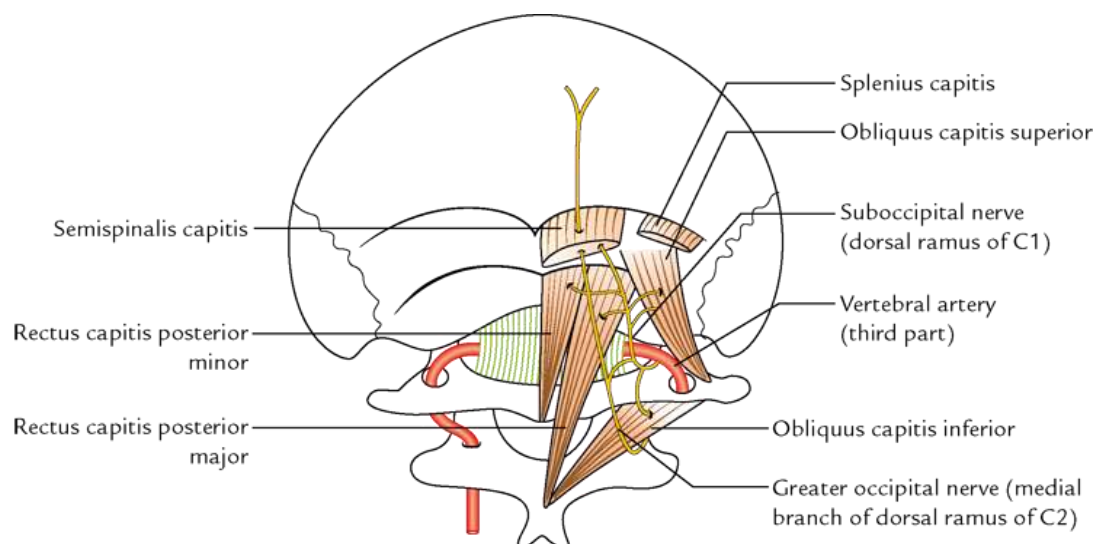
winds round the inferior border of obliquus capitis inferior, pierces the semispinalis capitis, becomes superficial and supplies skin of back of scalp

Dorsal ramus of 1st cervical nerve-

passes between the 3rd part of vertebral artery and posterior arch of atlas, splits into 5 muscular branches for rectus capitis posterior major, rectus capitis posterior minor, obliquus capitis superior, obliquus capitis inferior, and semispinalis capitis.

suboccipital plexus of veins-

drains into deep cervical veins, external vertebral venous plexus.

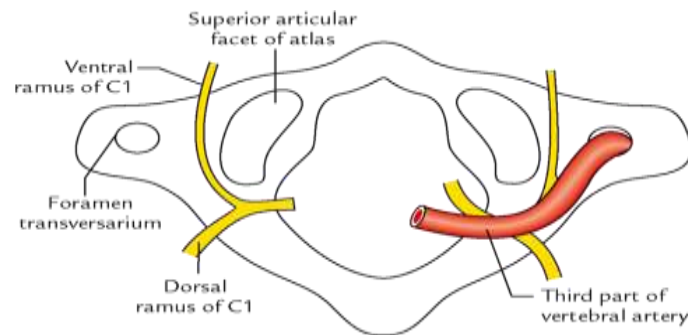


SUBOCCIPITAL NERVE(SE)

The suboccipital nerve is the dorsal ramus of the first cervical spinal nerve. It enters the suboccipital triangle between the posterior arch of atlas and 3rd part of vertebral artery.

It splits into 5 muscular branches to supply rectus capitis posterior major, rectus capitis posterior minor, obliquus capitis superior, obliquus capitis inferior, semispinalis capitis. The nerve to the obliquus capitis inferior gives off a communicating branch to the greater occipital nerve.

The suboccipital nerve has no cutaneous branch.



SUBOCCIPITAL TRIANGLE (SA)

Boundaries:

Superomedial- rectus capitis posterior major, rectus capitis posterior minor

Superolateral- obliquus capitis superior

Inferior- obliquus capitis inferior

Roof- medially semispinalis capitis, laterally longissimus capitis

Floor- posterior atlanto-occipital membrane, posterior arch of atlas

Contents:

3rd part of vertebral artery, greater occipital nerve, dorsal ramus of 1st cervical nerve, suboccipital plexus of veins

SUBOCCIPITAL NERVE (SA)

The suboccipital nerve or the dorsal ramus of C1 emerges between the posterior arch of atlas and 3rd part of vertebral artery and splits into 5 muscular branches to supply Rectus capitis posterior major, Rectus capitis posterior minor, Obliquus capitis superior, Obliquus capitis inferior, Semispinalis capitis.

It does not have a cutaneous branch.