

Dorsal lingual artery

*** The **dorsal lingual artery** runs on the superficial surface of the tongue — it is a branch of the **lingual artery** that delivers blood to the posterior superficial tongue. So, this artery must be the source of the hemorrhage.

The **tongue** is supplied by the lingual artery, the tonsillar branch of the facial artery, and the ascending pharyngeal artery. The veins drain into the internal jugular vein.

The lingual artery arises from the external carotid artery at the level of the tip of the greater horn of the hyoid bone in the carotid triangle. Branches include:

- **Dorsal lingual:** supplies the base and body of the tongue (*posterior superficial tongue*)
- **Suprahyoid:** supplies the suprahyoid muscles
- **Sublingual:** supplies the mylohyoid muscle, sublingual salivary gland, and mucous membranes of the floor of the mouth
- **Deep lingual** (*terminal branch*): supplies the apex of the tongue

Remember (*information about the tongue*):

1. **Motor innervation** is from the hypoglossal nerve (*CN XII*).
2. **Sensory innervation** - lingual (*branch of trigeminal CN V-3*) supplies the anterior two-thirds, **glossopharyngeal** (*CN IX*) supplies the posterior one-third (*including vallate papillae*), **vagus** (*CN X*) through the **internal laryngeal nerve** supplies the area near the epiglottis.
3. **Taste - facial** (*CN VII*) **via chorda tympani** supplies the anterior two-thirds; **glossopharyngeal** (*CN IX*) supplies the posterior one-third.



1. The **tonsillar artery** is a branch of the facial artery that also supplies blood to the palatine tonsil.
2. The **ascending pharyngeal artery** is the smallest branch of the external carotid artery. Branches include the pharyngeal and meningeal arteries.
3. The lingual artery and facial artery often arise from a **common trunk** of the external carotid artery.