

• carotid triangle

The neck is divided into triangles, the two most prominent being formed as the sternocleidomastoid crosses the neck to form the **anterior** and **posterior** triangles.

The **anterior** triangle is further subdivided by the anterior and posterior bellies of the digastrics and the superior belly of the omohyoid.

(1) **Submental** triangle:

- (a) Boundaries: Anterior belly of digastric muscle, hyoid bone and the midline of the neck
- (b) Floor: Mylohyoid
- (c) Contents (main): Submental lymph nodes, floor of the mouth

(2) **Digastric** (or submandibular) triangle:

- (a) Boundaries: Anterior and posterior bellies of digastric muscle and inferior border of the body of the mandible
- (b) Floor: Mylohyoid and hyoglossus
- (c) Contents (main): Submandibular gland

(3) **Carotid** triangle:

- (a) Boundaries: Sternocleidomastoid, posterior belly of digastric and superior belly of omohyoid muscle
- (b) Floor: Thyrohyoid, hyoglossus, and pharyngeal constrictors
- (c) Contents (main): bifurcation of common carotid artery, internal jugular vein, vagus and hypoglossal nerve

(4) **Muscular** triangle:

- (a) Boundaries: Superior belly of omohyoid, sternocleidomastoid and midline of the neck
- (b) Floor: Sternohyoid and sternothyroid
- (c) Contents (main): Infrahyoid muscles, thyroid and parathyroid glands

The **posterior triangle** (**lateral cervical region**) is subdivided by the **inferior belly** of the omohyoid.

(1) **Occipital** Triangle:

- (a) Boundaries: Sternocleidomastoid, trapezius, and inferior belly of omohyoid muscle
- (b) Floor: Splenius capitis, levator scapulae, and the middle and posterior scalenes
- (c) Contents (main): Accessory nerve

(2) **Subclavian** (or supraclavicular, **omoclavicular**) triangle:

- (a) Boundaries: Sternocleidomastoid, inferior belly of omohyoid muscle and clavicle
- (b) Floor: 1st rib and serratus anterior
- (c) Contents (main): Subclavian artery and vein, brachial plexus and supraclavicular nerves