

Paresis of the superior laryngeal nerve

The superior laryngeal nerve branches off from the **internal branch** to the **external branch**.

- The internal branch **sensitively** innervates the **supraglottic part of the larynx**.
- The external branch **motorically** innervates *the cricothyroid muscle*.

Paresis of the *superior laryngeal nerve* can occur:

- **damage to the nuclei vagus nerve;**
- **by damage to the vagus nerve** above the distance of the *superior laryngeal nerve* - tumor, trauma, neurological disease, skull base surgery;
- **damage to the superior laryngeal nerve** - larynx surgery, pharynx surgery (rarely thyroid surgery).

As follows from the function of the *superior laryngeal nerve*, paresis of this nerve will lead to **anesthesia of the supraglottic part of the larynx** and **paresis of the cricothyroideus muscle**.

- Anesthesia of the supraglottic part of the larynx → dysphagia, food falling into the airways with the risk of aspiration.
- Paresis of the *cricothyroid muscle* → limitation of voice range.

Therapy: swallowing rehabilitation, phoniatic care.

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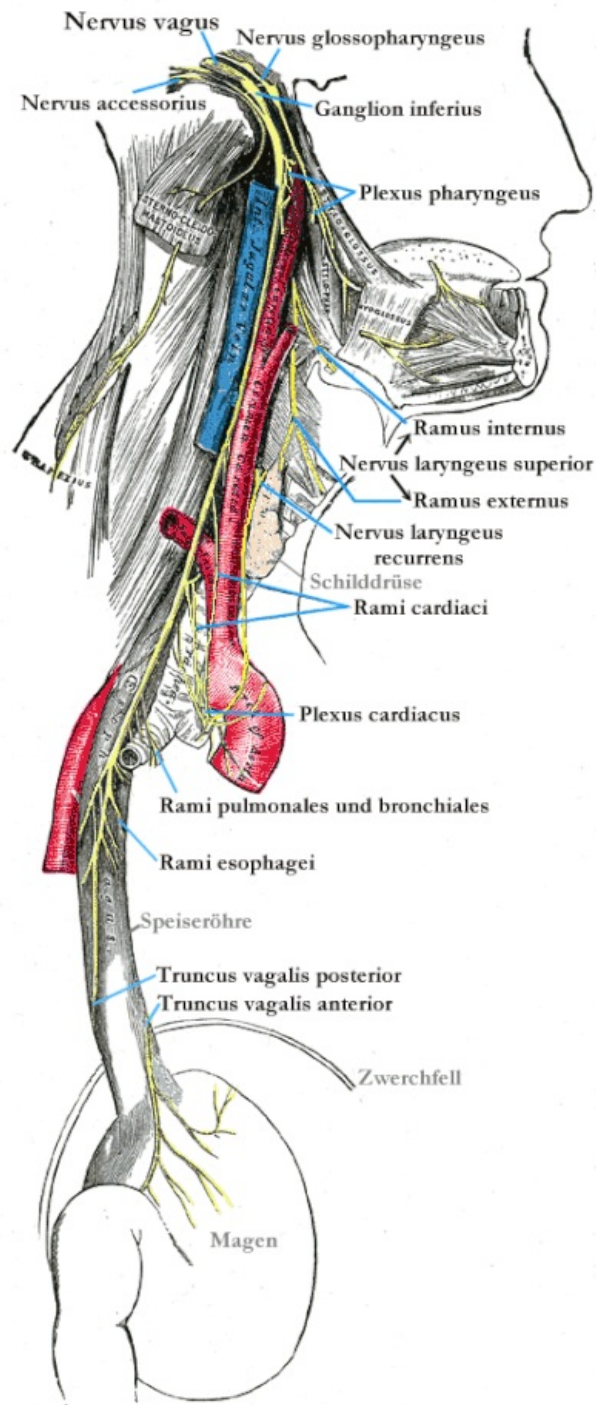
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- BENEŠ, Jiří. *Studijní materiály* [online]. ©2007. [cit. 2009]. <http://jirben2.chytrak.cz/materialy/orl_jb.doc>.

References

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