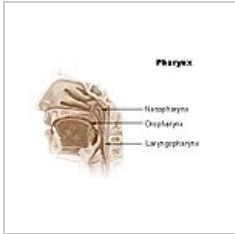


# Pharynx - description, divisions, muscles, syntopy, vascular supply, innervation

The pharynx is the transitional space between the oral cavity and the respiratory and digestive systems. The pharynx is lined by stratified, non-keratinised squamous epithelium. It is divided into three sections: nasopharynx, oropharynx and laryngopharynx.



The Pharynx

## Nasopharynx

- Base to C2
- Respiratory function
- Superior to the soft palate; posterior expansion of the nasal cavity

## Oropharynx

- C2 to C4
- Digestive function
- Superior to the soft palate; inferior to the tongue
- Lateral to it are the palatoglossal and palatopharyngeal arches

## Laryngopharynx

- C4 to C6
- Superior border is epiglottis
- Inferior border is cricoid cartilage

## Blood Supply

### Arteries

- Ascending pharyngeal artery , external carotid artery medial group
- Ascending palatine artery , from facial artery of external carotid artery
- Tonsillar artery ,
- Maxillary artery
- Lingual artery

### Veins

- Pterygoid venous plexus
- Facial vein
- Internal Jugular Vein

## Innervation

- Motor and most sensory innervation is done by glossopharyngeal nerve

### Muscular Innervation

- Stylopharyngeus - glossopharyngeal nerve
- All other muscles of the pharynx - pharyngeal plexus

### Sensory

- Nasopharynx - pharyngeal branch of the maxillary nerve
- Oropharynx - glossopharyngeal nerve

- Laryngopharynx - vagus nerve

## Swallowing Reflex

- It is the voluntary initiation of swallowing
1. Reflex closure of the airway
  2. Reflex transport of food bolus down the oesophagus; through the pharynx

## Links

## Bibliography

SNELL, Richard S. *Clinical Anatomy by Regions*. 8th Edition edition. 2004. ISBN 978-0-7817-6404-9.