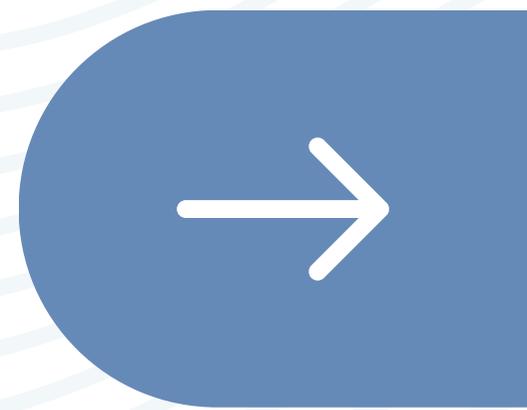


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PHARYNGEAL CONSTRICTORS





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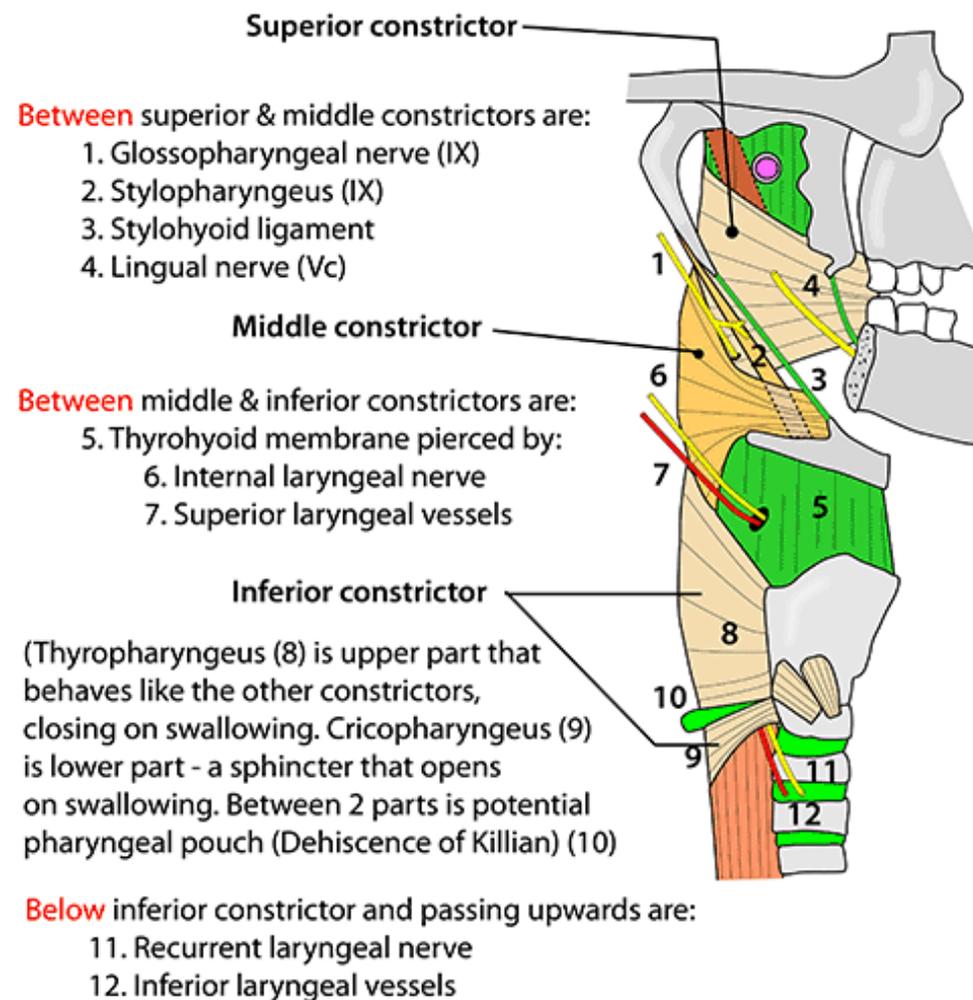
PHARYNGEAL CONSTRICTORS

Understanding the structures passing between the pharyngeal constrictors is crucial for grasping the intricate anatomy of the pharynx and its role in swallowing and vocalization.



VISUAL REPRESENTATION

PHARYNX - MUSCLES & STRUCTURES ENTERING IT





PHARYNGEAL CONSTRICTORS

OVERVIEW OF PHARYNGEAL CONSTRICTORS

- **Definition and Function:**
- *The pharyngeal constrictors are three muscles (superior, middle, and inferior) that form the muscular wall of the pharynx.*
- *They play a vital role in the process of swallowing, propelling food and liquids into the esophagus.*
- **Anatomical Arrangement:**
- *The constrictors are arranged in layers, with the superior, middle, and inferior constrictors forming a sequential muscular tube.*
- *They collaborate in a coordinated manner during the swallowing reflex*



PHARYNGEAL CONSTRICTORS

STRUCTURES PASSING B/W CONSTRICTORS

- **Superior Constrictor Gap:** Known as the gap or opening in the posterior aspect of the superior constrictor
- Allows passage for the pharyngeal branch of the vagus nerve and the stylopharyngeus muscle.
- **Middle Constrictor Gap:** Presents an opening between the superior and middle constrictors
- Accommodates the glossopharyngeal nerve and the stylopharyngeus muscle.
- **Inferior Constrictor Gap :** Formed by the cricopharyngeus muscle, an opening between the middle and inferior constrictors
- Permits the passage of the esophagus as it traverses through the pharynx.

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

- **Dysphagia Assessment:** Understanding the gaps between constrictors is crucial for assessing dysphagia, a condition affecting swallowing
- Dysphagia can result from structural abnormalities or neurological disorders impacting these passages.
- **Neurovascular Implications:** Knowledge of structures passing through these gaps is essential for avoiding complications during surgical interventions in the neck and pharynx.
- **Computed tomography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)** are employed to visualize the anatomy of the pharynx.



MCQ

Question: Which gap between pharyngeal constrictors accommodates the esophagus?

- (A) Superior Constrictor Gap**
- (B) Middle Constrictor Gap**
- (C) Inferior Constrictor Gap**
- (D) Cricopharyngeus Gap**

Answer: (C) Inferior Constrictor Gap

