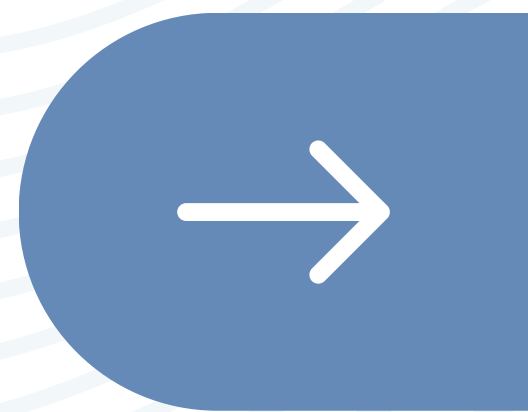


#DIBS BY NEXTILLO

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SERVICE

PHARYNGEAL CONSTRICTORS





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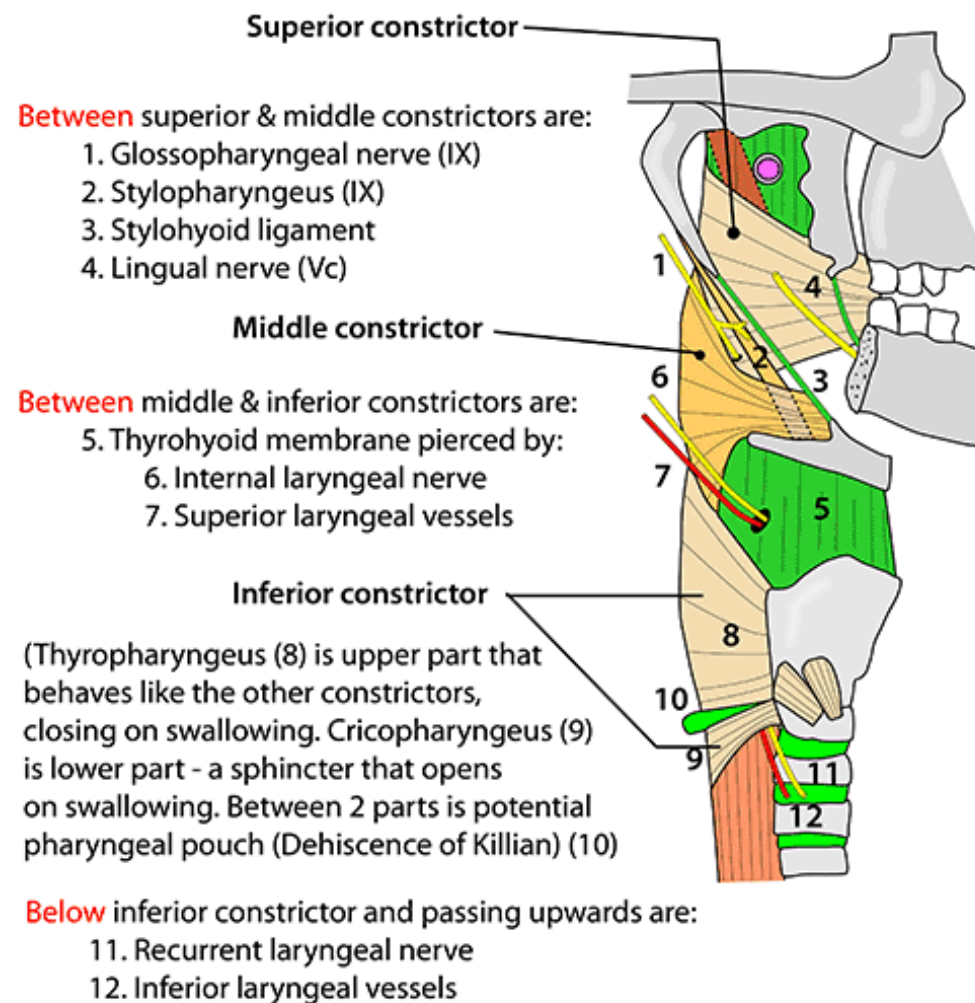
DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SERVICE

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

