Lymph Drainage of Head and Neck
- are arranged as a regional collar
- extends from below chin to back of head
- as a deep vertical terminal group that is embedded in carotid sheath in neck
Regional Nodes
  • regional nodes are arranged as follows:

1. **Occipital nodes**: These are situated over the occipital bone on the back of the skull. They receive lymph from the back of the scalp.

2. **Retroauricular (mastoid) nodes**: These lie behind the ear over the mastoid process. They receive lymph from the scalp above the ear, the auricle, and the external auditory meatus.

3. **Parotid nodes**: These are situated on or within the parotid salivary gland. They receive lymph from the scalp above the parotid gland, the eyelids, the parotid gland, the auricle, and the external auditory meatus.

4. **Buccal (facial) nodes**: One or two nodes lie in the cheek over the buccinator muscle. They drain lymph that ultimately passes into the submandibular nodes.
5. **Submandibular nodes:**
   - lie superficial to the submandibular salivary gland just below the lower margin of the jaw. They receive lymph from the front of the scalp; the nose; the cheek; the upper lip and the lower lip (except the central part); the frontal, maxillary, and ethmoid sinuses; the upper and lower teeth (except the lower incisors); the anterior two thirds of the tongue (except the tip); the floor of the mouth and vestibule; and the gums.

6. **Submental nodes:**
   - lie in the submental triangle just below the chin. They drain lymph from the tip of the tongue, the floor of the anterior part of the mouth, the incisor teeth, the center part of the lower lip, and the skin over the chin.

7. **Anterior cervical nodes:**
   - lie along the course of the anterior jugular veins in the front of the neck. They receive lymph from the skin and superficial tissues of the front of the neck.

8. **Superficial cervical nodes:**
   - lie along the course of the external jugular vein on the side of the neck. They drain lymph from the skin over the angle of the jaw, the skin over the lower part of the parotid gland, and the lobe of the ear.

9. **Retropharyngeal nodes:**
   - lie behind the pharynx and in front of the vertebral column. They receive lymph from the nasal pharynx, the auditory tube, and the vertebral column.

10. **Laryngeal nodes:**
    - lie in front of the larynx. They receive lymph from the larynx.

11. **Tracheal (paratracheal) nodes:**
    - lie alongside the trachea. They receive lymph from neighboring structures, including the thyroid gland.
Deep Cervical Nodes
Deep cervical nodes

- form a vertical chain along course of internal jugular vein within carotid sheath.
- They receive lymph from all groups of regional nodes.

1. Jugalodigastric node,
   - is located below and behind angle of jaw,
   - is mainly concerned with drainage of tonsil and tongue.

2. Jugulo-omohyoid node,
   - is situated close to omohyoid muscle,
   - is mainly associated with drainage of tongue.

- Efferent lymph vessels from them join to form jugular trunk,
- which drains into thoracic duct or right lymphatic duct