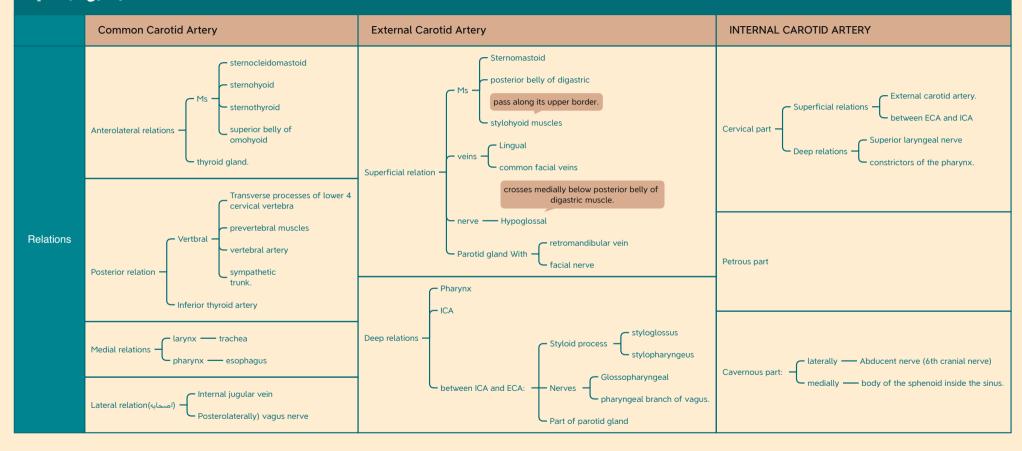
|           | Common Carotid Artery  | External Carotid Artery  | INTERNAL CAROTID<br>ARTERY (I. C. A)  |  |
|-----------|--|--|---|--|
| Beginning | the right arises from the brachiocephalic trunk behind the right sternoclavicular joint.   | It begins at the level of the upper border of  | at the upper border of thyroid cartilage (disc<br>between C3 & C4)  |  |
|           | The left arises directly from the arch of aorta in the superior mediastinum of thorax.   | thyroid cartilage.   |   |  |
| End       | at the level of the upper border of thyroid cartilage (disk between c3&c4) by dividing into internal and external carotid arteries.    | It ends behind the neck of mandible inside<br>the substance of parotid gland by dividing<br>into superficial temporal and maxillary<br>arteries. | below the base of the brain in the cranial cavity by dividing into anterior and middle cerebral arteries. |  |
| Note      | At its end (or beginning of internal carotid) there is a dilatation called carotid sinus which is sensitive to blood pressure changes. | is crossed by the posterior belly of digastric and stylohyoid muscles.   | The ICA has bends that damp down the pulsation and give more a regular stream of blood for brain          |  |
|           |  | ascends anteromedial to internal carotid artery outside carotid sheath.  |   |  |



| Common Carotid Artery  | External Carotid Artery  | INTERNAL CAROTID ARTERY  |
|--|--|--|
| It ascends in the neck, enclosed in the carotid sheath with internal jugular vein and vagus nerve. | It ascends anteromedial to internal carotid artery outside carotid sheath. | ascends inside the carotid sheath  Sympathetic chain posterior to it.  At the base of the skull: ICA lies anterior to the IJV with the lower 4 cranial nerves in between.  The artery runs upwards in carotid foramen passes forwards and medially in the carotid canal reach the foramen lacerum  |
|  | crossed by the posterior belly of digastric and stylohyoid muscles.        | passes upwards in the foramen lacerum to enter the cavernous sinus.  Cavernous part:  Inside the cavernous sinus  artery runs in a sinuous course — upwards, then forwards and finally upwards)  leaves the sinus through its roof.  After leaving the roof of cavernous sinus  artery ends just below the anterior perforated substance of the base of the brain by dividing into its two terminal branches ( anterior & middle cerebral arteries). |

