

External jugular vein

The external [jugular vein](#) receives the greater part of the blood from the exterior of the cranium and the deep parts of the [face](#), being formed by the junction of the posterior division of the retromandibular vein with the posterior auricular vein.

It commences in the substance of the [parotid gland](#), on a level with the angle of the mandible, and runs perpendicularly down the neck, in the direction of a line drawn from the angle of the [mandible](#) to the middle of the clavicle at the posterior border of the [sternocleidomastoid muscle](#).

In its course it crosses the sternocleidomastoideus obliquely, and in the subclavian triangle perforates the deep fascia, and ends in the subclavian vein lateral to or in front of the scalenus anterior, piercing the roof of the posterior triangle.

It is separated from the sternocleidomastoideus by the investing layer of the deep cervical fascia, and is covered by the platysma, the superficial fascia, and the integument; it crosses the cutaneous cervical nerve, and its upper half runs parallel with the great auricular nerve.

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