

Retropharyngeal Approach

see [High Cervical Anterolateral Retropharyngeal Approach](#).

Medial extrapharyngeal approach: medial to carotid sheath. Provides a more anterior position than the lateral [retropharyngeal approach](#). Structures encountered: branches of [external carotid artery](#), upper laryngeal nerves, [hypoglossal nerve](#)

- lateral retropharyngeal approach: only the spinal accessory nerve is encountered

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