

Sternocleidomastoid muscle

The sternocleidomastoid [muscle](#), also known as sternomastoid and commonly abbreviated as SCM, is a paired [muscle](#) in the superficial layers of the anterior portion of the [neck](#); it is one of the largest and most superficial cervical muscles.

The sternocleidomastoid is innervated by the ipsilateral [accessory nerve](#). It supplies only motor fibres. The [cervical plexus](#) supplies [sensation](#), including [proprioception](#), via the ventral primary rami of [C2](#) and [C3](#).



The sternocleidomastoid muscle obscures the [carotid artery](#). Typically, the [internal carotid artery](#) is found within the [carotid triangle](#), which is bounded by the sternocleidomastoid, [omohyoid muscle](#) and posterior digastric muscles.



The [sternocleidomastoid muscle](#) has been removed to expose the [external carotid artery](#) and [internal carotid artery](#). The [omohyoid muscle](#) defines the inferior border of the [carotid triangle](#).

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