

Proximal Attachment

Scalenus anterior arises by musculotendinous fascicles from the anterior tubercles of the transverse processes of C3 to C6. These attachments are separated from those of longus capitis by the ascending cervical branch of the inferior thyroid artery.

Distal Attachment

The fascicles converge as they descend almost vertically to attach by a narrow flat tendon to the scalene tubercle on the inner border of the first rib and a ridge on the upper surface of the rib, anterior to the groove for the subclavian artery.

Anteriorly **scalenus anterior** is crossed by the subclavian vein at its attachment to the first rib, and by the phrenic nerve and prevertebral fascia. Other anterior relations are the clavicle, subclavius, sternocleidomastoid and the omohyoid muscles, the lateral part of the carotid sheath, and the transverse cervical, suprascapular and ascending cervical arteries. Posteriorly it is separated from scalenus medius by the roots of the brachial plexus and the subclavian artery.

Nerve Supply

It is supplied by the anterior rami of C4 to C6.

Action

When fixed distally scalenus anterior flexes, laterally flexes and rotates the neck to the opposite side; when fixed proximally it helps raise the first rib.