

The **ascending cervical artery** originates posterior to the carotid sheath as a small branch of the inferior thyroid artery. It ascends on the anterior tubercles of the cervical transverse processes, between the scalenus anterior and longus capitis muscles.

Branches

It gives rise to one or two spinal branches, which enter the vertebral column through the intervertebral foramina; it anastomoses with the vertebral, occipital, ascending pharyngeal and deep cervical arteries.

Supply

The ascending cervical artery and its tributaries supply the muscles of the neck, cervical vertebrae and the contents of the vertebral foramen (canal).