

The superficial cervical artery arises from the thyrocervical trunk at the level of the first thoracic vertebra. It passes anterior to the phrenic nerve, scalenus anterior and the brachial plexus and posterior to the internal jugular vein, sternocleidomastoid and platysma. It ascends to the anterior border of levator scapulae and pierces the anterior part of trapezius, supplying it and adjacent muscles. The superficial cervical artery commonly anastomoses with the superficial ramus of the descending branch of the occipital artery.