

The deep cervical artery usually arises from the costocervical trunk but may also arise as a direct branch of the subclavian artery. From its origin, it ascends postero-medially, superior to the eighth cervical spinal nerve, usually between the seventh cervical transverse process and the neck of the first rib. It continues to ascend between semispinalis capitis and cervicis to the level of C2 (axis), where it supplies adjacent muscles and commonly anastomoses with the deep branch of the descending branch of the occipital artery.

**Branches**

Between the first thoracic and seventh cervical vertebrae, the deep cervical artery gives rise to a spinal branch, which enters the vertebral foramen (canal) through the intervertebral foramina.