

The **brachiocephalic trunk** is the first and largest branch of the arch of the aorta. It arises posterior to the manubrium sterni and ascends postero-laterally to the level of the upper border of the right sternoclavicular joint, where it divides into the right common carotid and right subclavian arteries. The brachiocephalic trunk lies posterior to the left brachiocephalic and right inferior thyroid veins, the sternohyoid and sternothyroid muscles and the thymus and anterior to the trachea. Laterally, on the right, are the right brachiocephalic vein and the superior part of the superior vena cava; laterally, on the left, are the left common carotid artery and the inferior thyroid veins.

Supplies

The brachiocephalic trunk and its tributaries supply the right side of the head and neck as well as the right arm.