

The medial branches of the third cervical dorsal spinal rami emerge with the lateral branches posterior to the articular pillars of C3. Each medial branch passes between the spinalis capitis and semispinalis cervicis muscles to pierce the splenius capitis and trapezius muscles, where it supplies the overlying skin. Deep to trapezius, the medial branch also gives rise to the third occipital nerve, which pierces trapezius to supply the skin over the lower occipital region medial to the medial branch of the dorsal ramus of C2 (greater occipital nerve), with which it may communicate.

**Supply**

The medial branches of the third cervical dorsal spinal rami supply the skin overlying the trapezius muscle and skin of the lower occipital region.