

The **lesser occipital nerve** is a superficial branch of the ascending branch of the ventral ramus of C2. It passes around the accessory nerve to ascend along the posterior border of the sternocleidomastoid muscle. It pierces the deep cervical fascia close to the back of the skull, behind the auricle to supply a strip of skin on the postero-lateral aspect of the skull and neck. An auricular branch supplies skin on the upper third of the medial aspect of the ear.

Supply

The lesser occipital nerve supplies a strip of skin on the postero-lateral aspect of the skull and neck and skin on the upper third of the medial aspect of the ear.