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A diagram of the lymphatic system showing the lymphatic vessels, lymph nodes, and the thymus gland. The lymphatic system is a network of vessels and nodes that circulate lymph, a fluid that contains white blood cells, throughout the body. The lymphatic system is part of the immune system and helps to fight infections and disease.

Cervical lymph nodes are part of you lymphatic system which also includes other organs, tissues, and vessels. Your lymphatic system is what helps to fight infections and regulates your bodys fluid balance. The job of your lymphatic system is to drain excess fluid from the tissues and then return it to the blood that is circulating around in your body. All lymph nodes filter debris like cancer cells, viruses, bacteria, and anything else that should not be circulating throughout the body. Your cervical lymph nodes are a great indicator of an illness, especially when they are swollen. Most of the lymph nodes, including your cervical lymph nodes, are glands that are small and bean-shaped.This fluid is called lymph and is clear in color. It consists of the proteins that are taken from your blood. This excess fluid will drain out of your lymph capillaries which are thin-walled blood vessels. These types of blood vessels are located in the spaces between the cells throughout your body and are closed at one end. They are also referred to as neck lymph nodes.

When your lymph nodes become swollen it is called lymphadenopathy and is more common in children than in adults.Anatomy of cervical lymph nodesThere are six different groups of lymph nodes that are located in your neck. They are classified according to where they are located in your neck. The six groups include:Tonsillar lymph nodesThese are situated just beneath your jaw bone referred to as the mandible and are responsible for draining the posterior, or back, of your pharynx and your tonsils.Sub-mental lymph nodesThese lymph nodes are located just below your chin. They help to drain your lower lip, tongue, floor of your mouth, cheek, and teeth. If they become swollen it is usually due to dental infections, toxoplasmosis, inflammation, also known as periodontitis, herpes also known as cytomegalovirus, or mononucleosis. These are also referred to as your posterior cervical lymph nodesSub-mandibular lymph nodesThese lymph nodes lie along the bottom of your jaw bone. 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These are also referred to as your posterior cervical lymph nodes.The other two groups are posterior and anterior cervical lymph nodes that will be discussed later.Posterior cervical lymph nodesLocationOn your neckResponsibilitiesThese particular lymph nodes are responsible for filtering and draining your lymphatic fluid from the areas in your neck and head.Causes of swellingOn your neck by your jaw also known as your jugular vein, also known as German Measles and pharyngitisBack of your neck near your skull also known as occipitalsThis would be a localized infection of your head or scalp.Back behind your ears known as postauricular this is a contained infection of your scalp or ears.The front of your ears known as preauricular this is an infection in your eyelids also referred to as the mucus membrane, ear infections, or infection in your temporal region.Respiratory infectionsAnterior cervical lymph nodesLocationThese particular lymph nodes are located on the lower frontside of the neck. In this area there are two different types which are your deep anterior cervical lymph nodes and your superficial anterior cervical lymph nodes. The anterior cervical lymph nodes are found along your muscles referred to as the sternocleidomastoid muscle that enables you to swivel and flex your head.ResponsibilitiesThese particular cervical lymph nodes are responsible for the drainage of your tonsils, pharynx, and your thyroid gland.Causes of swellingBecause of their location it is very common for the swelling to be noticed and may be more noticeable when you turn your neck to the right or left.Ear infectionsThroat infectionEpstein-Barr virusRecent immunizationsHaving the flu, a cold, or allergiesCervical Lymph Nodes DiagramDiagnosisIf your physician thinks that the cause of your posterior cervical lymph node swelling is cancer to ensure it is cancer and what type it is the physician will usually request a biopsy to be done. 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To use this treatment you would place one clean washcloth in a bowl of hot water and one in a bowl of cold water. Place the damp hot washcloth on your swollen cervical lymph nodes for ten minutes and then replace it with the cold washcloth for another ten minutes. You should alternate washcloths for at least thirty minutes a few times a day. Another home remedy to help ease the pain and swelling of your cervical lymph nodes is to dissolve a teaspoon of honey in a cup of warm, not hot, tea or water. Drink this a few times during the day and in a few days you will see improvements on your swollen cervical lymph nodes. Most often, swollen lymph nodes in your neck are a sign of an upper respiratory infection (like a common cold) or an infection in nearby tissues. Viral infections are the most common cause of cervical lymphadenopathy in children. These issues are usually temporary and/or treatable.However, there are many other possible causes, and some are more serious. 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It is involved in protecting the body against infection, by delivering immune cells, known as lymphocytes, to areas where the immune response has been triggered. There are some 600 to 700 lymph nodes scattered throughout the body. Cervical lymph nodes are located in the neck region.There are two general categories of cervical lymph nodes: anterior and posterior.Anterior superficial and deep nodes include submental and submaxillary (tonsillar) nodes located under the chin and jawline, respectively. The anterior cervical lymph nodes are further down the front of the neck, divided into prelararyngeal, thyroid, pretracheal, and paratracheal, based on their position near structures of the throat. Prelaryngeal lymph nodes are located in front of the larynx, or voice box, near the middle and center of the neck. Thyroid lymph nodes lie near the thyroid gland, just above the center of the collarbone. Pretracheal nodes are positioned in front of the trachea, or windpipe, at the bottom center of the neck. Paratracheal nodes are located near the sides of the trachea.Posterior lymph nodes are located along the back of the neck.Deep cervical lymph nodes are associated with their positions adjacent to the internal jugular vein, which runs near the sides of the neck. They are known as the lateral jugular, anterior jugular, and jugulo-digastric lymph nodes. The inferior deep cervical lymph nodes, the juguloomohyoid nodes, and the supraclavicular, or scalene, nodes are considered deep jugular nodes. Swollen lymph nodes are fairly common and generally result from minor exposure to bacteria or viruses, such as thanm which causes the common cold. In rare instances, swollen nodes may indicate a more serious condition, such as cancer or an immune disorder.Most often, swollen lymph nodes in your neck are a sign of an upper respiratory infection (like a common cold) or an infection in nearby tissues. Viral infections are the most common cause of cervical lymphadenopathy in children. These issues are usually temporary and/or treatable.However, there are many other possible causes, and some are more serious. The causes fall into several general categories, described further below:Infections.Cancers.Autoimmune diseases.Other conditions.Reactions to medications.Depending on the cause, you may notice swollen lymph nodes in other areas of your body besides your neck (like your armpits or groin).InfectionsA wide range of bacterial, viral and other types of infections can cause swollen lymph nodes in your neck. Some are more serious than others. 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What is enlarged cervical lymph nodes. What is superficial cervical lymph nodes. What is posterior cervical lymph nodes. What is cervical chain lymph nodes. What is bilateral cervical lymph nodes. What is non specific cervical lymph nodes. What is the function of cervical lymph nodes. What is an important feature of the cervical lymph nodes. What is the normal size of cervical lymph nodes. What stage is cervical cancer in lymph nodes. What is reactive cervical lymph nodes. What is anterior cervical lymph nodes. What is deep cervical lymph nodes. What is prominent cervical lymph nodes. What is level 2 cervical lymph nodes.

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