Introduction

• There are two palatine tonsils.

• Each palatine tonsil is a mass of lymphoid tissue.

Location-

• In tonsillar fossa, which is situated in the lateral wall of oropharynx between anterior and posterior faucial pillars.

Shape- Almond shaped.
Boundaries of Tonsillar Fossa

**Anterior**- Anterior faucial pillar (palatoglossal arch).

**Posterior**- Posterior faucial pillar (palatopharyngeal arch).

**Apex**- Soft palate.

**Base**- Dorsal surface of posterior 1/3rd of tongue.

**Lateral wall [Tonsillar Bed]**- Superior Constrictor Muscle (mainly).
Tonsillar Bed

- Following structures form the tonsillar bed (from inside outwards):
  - Pharyngobasilar fascia.
  - Superior Constrictor muscle.
  - Buccopharyngeal fascia.
Presenting Parts

- 2 surfaces- Medial & Lateral
- 2 borders- Anterior & Posterior
- 2 Poles- Upper & Lower

**Medial Surface**
- It bulges into oropharynx.
- It is covered by epithelium.
- It has crypts.
- There are ~ 12-15 crypts.

**Crypta Magna**
- A very large and deep crypt located near upper pole.
- It represents the remnant of 2\textsuperscript{nd} pharyngeal pouch.
Lateral Surface

- It is covered by fibrous capsule.

Peritonsillar Space-

- A space between fibrous capsule and tonsillar bed.
- It is filled with loose areolar tissue.
- It is the site of collection of pus in peritonsillar abscess.
- During tonsillectomy, tonsil is dissected in this plane.

Internal Carotid Artery is ~2.5 cm posterolateral to the tonsil
TONSILLITIS
Asterisks show the region where peritonsillar abscesses collect
Lateral Surface contd...

- Superior constrictor separates the lateral surface from following structures:
  - Facial artery and its ascending palatine and tonsillar branches.
  - Styloglossus muscle.
  - Glossopharyngeal nerve.
  - Angle of mandible.
  - Medial Pterygoid muscle.
  - Submandibular salivary gland.
Presenting Parts contd...

**Anterior Border**-
- Passes underneath the palatoglossal arch.

**Posterior Border**-
- Passes underneath the palatopharyngeal arch.

**Upper Pole** - extends up into the soft palate.

**Lower Pole**-
- It is attached to the tongue by a band of fibrous tissue called *suspensory ligament of tonsil*. 
Arterial Supply

- **Facial Artery**-
  - Tonsillar branch.
  - Ascending Palatine branch.
- **Lingual Artery**-
  - Dorsalis Linguae branches.
- **Ascending Pharyngeal Artery**.
- **Maxillary Artery**-
  - Greater Palatine Branch.
Venous Drainage

- Paratonsillar Vein.

- Paratonsillar Vein drains into pharyngeal venous plexus.
Lymphatic Drainage

• Upper deep cervical lymph nodes [mainly Jugulo-digastric nodes].

• Jugulo-digastric nodes are called ‘Tonsillar Lymph Nodes’.
Nerve Supply

- Glossopharyngeal nerve.

- Pterygopalatine ganglion-
  - Lesser palatine branches.
**Acute Tonsillitis**
- Palatine tonsils are frequent sites of acute infection.

**Age group**
- School-going children.

**Etiology**
- Mostly viral.

**Acute Follicular Tonsillitis**
- Infection spreads into crypts.
- Crypts become filled with purulent material, which presents at the opening of the crypt as yellowish spots.
Tonsillectomy -

- Surgical removal of tonsil.

- If paratonsillar vein gets damaged during tonsillectomy, severe bleeding occurs from tonsillar fossa.

- To check bleeding, blood clots should be removed because they interfere with retraction of walls of vein.

- Blood clots prevent the contraction of surrounding muscles.

- After tonsillectomy, postoperative edema of tonsillar bed can affect the Glossopharyngeal nerve.