The pharynx is a common aerodigestive tract, which is subdivided anatomically into the nasopharynx, oropharynx, and laryngopharynx (hypopharynx). At approximately the level of the sixth cervical vertebra the pharynx becomes the esophagus, and anterior to the pharynx the larynx becomes the trachea.

**Nasopharynx**: from base of the skull to the level of the hard palate  
**Oropharynx**: from the level of the hard palate to the level of hyoid bone  
**Hypopharynx**: from the level of the hyoid bone to the level of the cricoid cartilage.

**NASOPHARYNX**

Dimensions  
4 cm height, 4 cm width, 3 cm anteroposterior length

**RELATIONS**  
Anterior wall: choana & posterior margins of the septum  
Flore: soft palate  
Roof and posterior wall: form a continuation of bones  
- Body of the sphenoid  
- Basiocciput  
- First 2 cervical vertebrae

In the upper portion of the posterior wall there is a lymphoid mass embedded in the mucosa which is the ADENOID

**THE LATERAL WALL:**  
There is opening of the Eustachian Tube, and the fossa of Rosenmuller
OROPHARYNX
Subdivided to:
ANTERIOR WALL: base of the tongue and the valecula
LATERAL WALL: palatine tonsils and the facial pillars
SUPERIOR WALL: the soft palate and the Uvula
POSERIOR WALL: which is the posterior pharyngeal wall

PALATINE TONSILS
Oval masses of specialized subepithelial lymphoid tissue lining between the anterior and the posterior pillars on each side of the oropharynx, the free surface is covered by stratified squamous epithelium, the deep surface is separated from the superior constrictor muscle by connective tissue capsule.

HYPOPHARYNX
Is divided in to:
PYRIFORM FOSSA: extend from the pharyngoepiglottic fold to the upper end of the esophagus

POSTCRICOID AREA: which is the pharyngo-osophageal junction extend from the level of the arytenoids posteriorly to the beginning of the esophagus

POSTERIOR PHARYNGEA WALL: continuity from the nasopharynx and oropharynx

MUSCLES OF THE PHARYNX
1. Superior constrictor muscle
2. Middle constrictor muscle
3. Inferior constrictor muscle

Muscles of the soft palate
1. levator veli palatine
2. palatoglossus
3. palatopharyngeus
4. stylophayngeus
5. salpenggopharyngeud
ARTERIAL SUPPLY OF THE PHARYNX
1. Ascending pharyngeal artery branch of external carotid artery
2. Ascending Palatine artery branch of facial artery
3. Descending Palatine artery branch of maxillary artery
4. Dorsal linguae branch of lingual artery

NERVE SUPPLY OF THE PHARYNX
1. motor supply: by the pharyngeal plexus (X and XI cranial nerve), only stylopharyngeus muscle is supplied by IX cranial nerve.
2. sensory supply: both taste and common sensations are carried through the glossopharyngeal IX nerve
THE LARYNX

THE CARTILIGENOUS FRAMWORK
A. Unpaired cartilages
   1. Epiglottis
   2. The cricoid cartilage
B. Paired cartilages
   1. The arytenoids cartilages
   2. The thyroid cartilages

INTERINSIC MUSCLES OF THE LARYNX
I – Muscle that open the vocal cords
   Posterior cricoarytenoid muscle
II- Muscles that close the vocal cords
   Lateral cricoarytenoid muscle
   Interarytenoid muscle
   Cricothyroid muscle
III-Muscles that increase the tension of the vocal cords
   Thyroarytenoid(vocalis) muscle

ARTERIAL SUPPLY OF THE LARYNX
Superior Laryngeal artery: branch of superior thyroid artery
Inferior Laryngeal artery: branch of inferior thyroid artery
Cricothyroid artery: branch of superior thyroid artery

NERVE SUPPLY OF THE LARYNX
Motor innervations by the recurrent laryngeal nerve that supplies all the intrinsic muscles of the larynx except the cricothyroid muscle which is supplied by the external laryngeal nerve which is branch of superior laryngeal nerve
Sensory innervations of the larynx for the area above the vocal cords is supplied by the internal laryngeal branch of superior laryngeal nerve while the area below the vocal cords is supplied by the recurrent laryngeal nerve.
FUNCTIONS OF THE PALATE

1. Closure of the nose during swallowing
2. Phonation of nasal sounds
3. Prevention of passage of fluids to the nose

FUNCTIONS OF THE LARYNX

1. Closure of the nose during swallowing
2. Phonation of nasal sounds
3. Prevention of passage of fluids to the nose