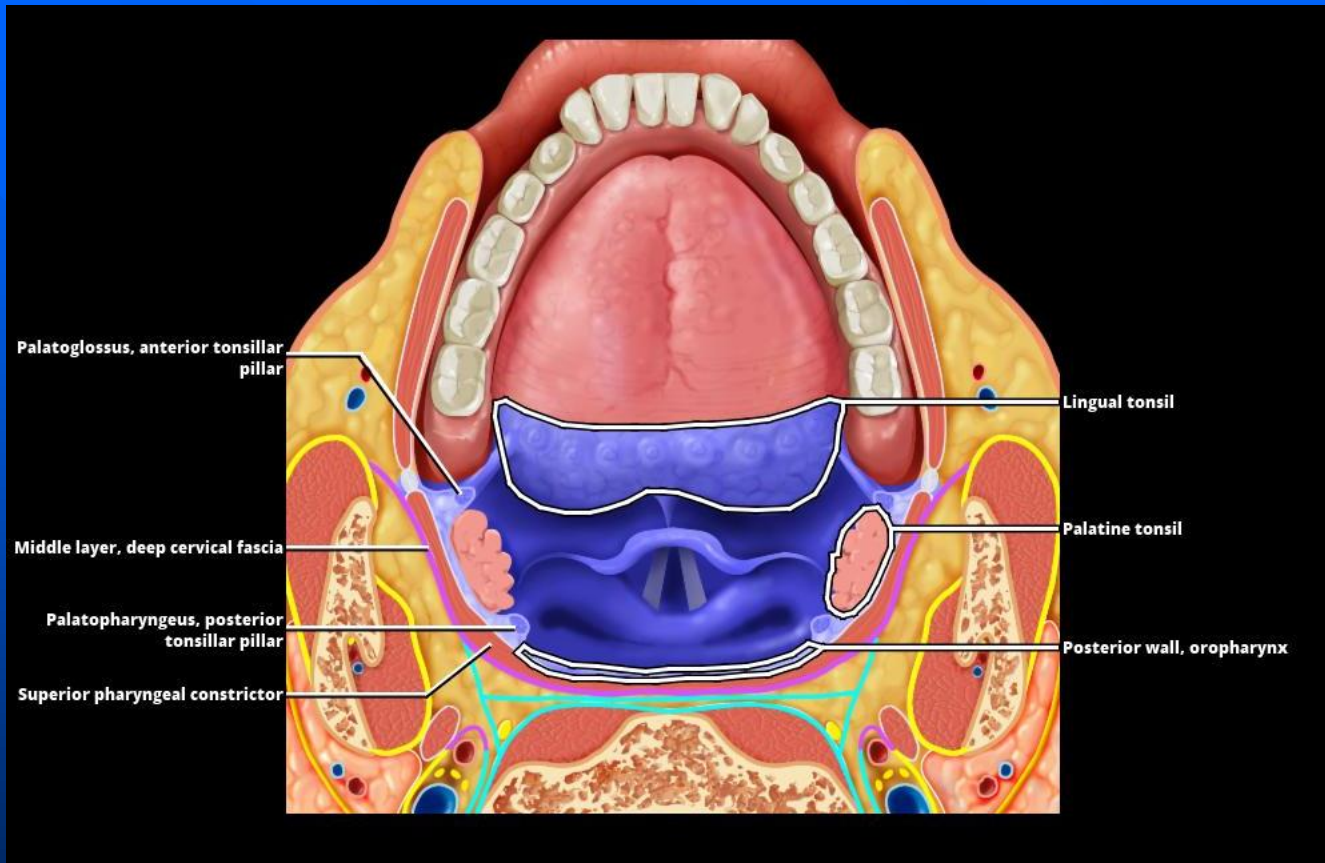
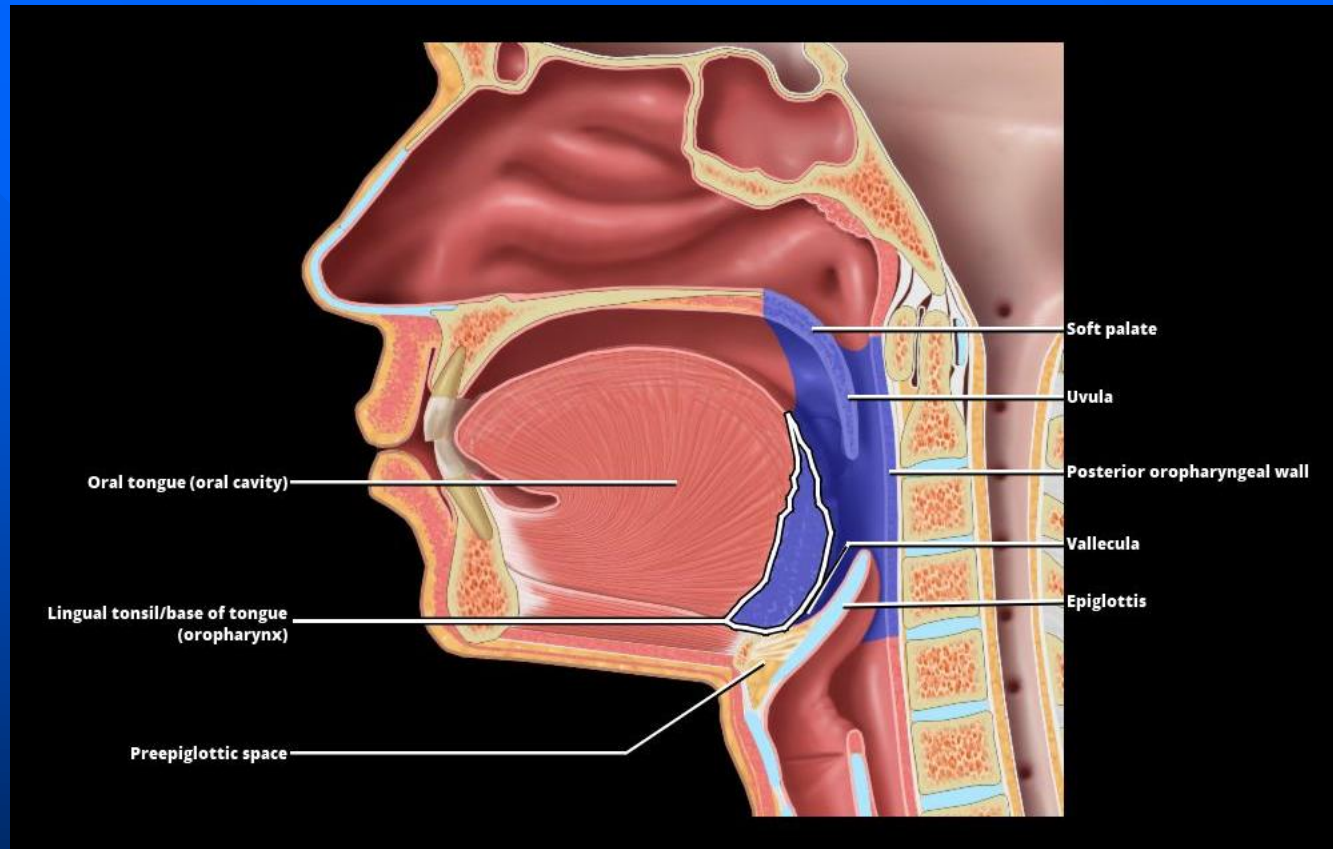




Axial graphic of the oropharyngeal mucosal space (in blue) viewed from above reveals that the superior pharyngeal constrictor and the tonsillar pillars along with the palatine & lingual tonsils are all occupants of this space. The middle layer of deep cervical fascia provides a deep margin to the space. Four subsites of the oropharynx are defined in staging of squamous cell carcinoma: The lingual and palatine tonsils, the posterior wall, and the soft palate (not shown).



Lateral view shows the pharynx with the oropharynx (oropharyngeal mucosal space) highlighted in blue.

The superior border of the oropharynx is a line drawn posteriorly from the soft palate to the posterior pharyngeal wall, while the inferior border is the superior margin of the hyoid.

Note the epiglottis is part of the normal supraglottis, not the oropharynx, although it does project into the oropharyngeal airway.

The 4 oropharyngeal subsites are 1) lingual tonsil, 2) palatine tonsils (not shown), 3) posterior pharyngeal wall, and 4) soft palate.

Oropharynx

Oropharynx-HP-SP junction to
level of pharyngoepiglottic fold
at hyoid bone

- Base of tongue-post 1/3rd
- Vallecula
- Soft Palate /Uvula
- Lateral Pharyngeal wall-
palatine tonsil and tonsillar pillars
- Posterior pharyngeal wall

0:20

