

LYMPHATIC SYSTEM ANATOMY

Major Regional Lymph Node Groups

Revision 1.0

NODE GROUP	DRAINAGE AREA	CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE / NOTES
HEAD & NECK Submandibular	Tongue, submaxillary gland, lips, mouth mucosa	Commonly enlarged in oral infections or malignancies.
HEAD & NECK Cervical (Deep/Superficial)	Scalp, neck, pharynx, tonsils, thyroid	Sentinel for respiratory infections and lymphomas.
TORSO Axillary	Upper limb, breast, upper chest wall	Critical staging site for breast cancer metastasis.
TORSO Mediastinal	Trachea, esophagus, thoracic cavity	Visible on imaging in sarcoidosis or lung cancer.
ABDOMINAL Para-aortic	Testes, ovaries, kidneys, uterus	Drains pelvic viscera; hard to palpate.
LOWER EXTREMITY Inguinal	Lower limb, external genitalia, anus	Enlarged in STIs or lower extremity cellulitis.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS & OBSERVATIONS

For educational use only. Information should be verified against current medical literature.