



Airway nerves in order down the neck

Tongue, Top, Tune, Tail

Tongue

CN IX: posterior tongue, tonsils, pharynx. Gag afferent

Top

Internal SLN: sensation from epiglottis to the top of the cords

Tune

External SLN: cricothyroid, the pitch muscle

Tail

RLN: below the cords, plus every other intrinsic muscle



Mallampati classes

PUSH

P

U

S

H

P

Class I: Pillars (faucial) and everything above them visible

U

Class II: Uvula fully visible, pillars hidden

S

Class III: Soft palate and base of the uvula only

H

Class IV: Hard palate only