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COURSE: GROSS ANATOMY

A, The tongue is a mobile muscular organ that can assume any shape and position.It is partly in the oral cavity and also partly in the oropharynx.The tongue is involved in mastication, taste, deglutition, articulation and oral cleansing.

PARTS AND SURFACES OF THE TONGUE INCLUDES:

-root: this part rests on the floor of the mouth and it makes up the posterior third of the tongue.

-body: it makes up the anterior two thirds of the tongue.

-an apex:is the anterior end of the body which rests against the incisor teeth

-a curved dorsum:this the posterosuperior surface which is located partly in the oral cavity and partly in the oropharynx.It is also characterised by a v-shaped groove called the terminal sulcus.

-an inferior surface

\*the mucus membrane on the anterior part of the tongue is rough because of the presence of numerous small lingual papillae which are of different types:

>Vallate papillae: it is a large and flat topped which lie directly anterior to the terminal sulcus and are arranged in a v-shaped row

>filiform papillae: it is long and numerous and they contain afferent nerve endings that are sensitive to touch.

>foliate papillae: they are small lateral folds of the lingual mucosa

>fungiform papillae: are mushroom shaped pink and are scattered among the filiform papillae.

     The median sulcus is a shallow groove that divides the tongue into right and left halves. This mucus membrane has lingual papillae but has lymphoid nodules which are known as the lingual tonsil. The surface of the tongue is connected to the floor of the mouth by a midline fold called the frenulum of the tongue.

     There are four basic taste sensation: sweet; which is detected at the apex,saltiness;is detected at the anterolateral part of the tongue, sourness; is at the posterolateral part, bitterness; at the posterior part.

MUSCLES OF THE TONGUE:

The tongue is generally a mass of strained muscle. It is made up of both extrinsic and intrinsic muscles which alters the position and shape respectively. They are separated by a median fibrous lingual septum which merges posteriorly with the lingual aponeurosis.

The extrinsic muscles includes:

-genioglossus

-hyoglossus

-styloglossus

-palatoglossus

The intrinsic muscles includes:

-superior longitudinal muscle

-inferior longitudinal muscle

-transverse muscle

-vertical muscles

CLINICAL ANATOMY

1,LINGUAL CARCINOMA: This can happen both in the posterior and anterior part of the tongue. Usually the one in the posterior part metasizes to superior deep cervical lymph nodes while in the anterior does not metasizes.

2,FRENECTOMY: Tongue tie usually interferes with the tongue movements and can affect speech. This process is done to free up the tongue and is usually done in infants.