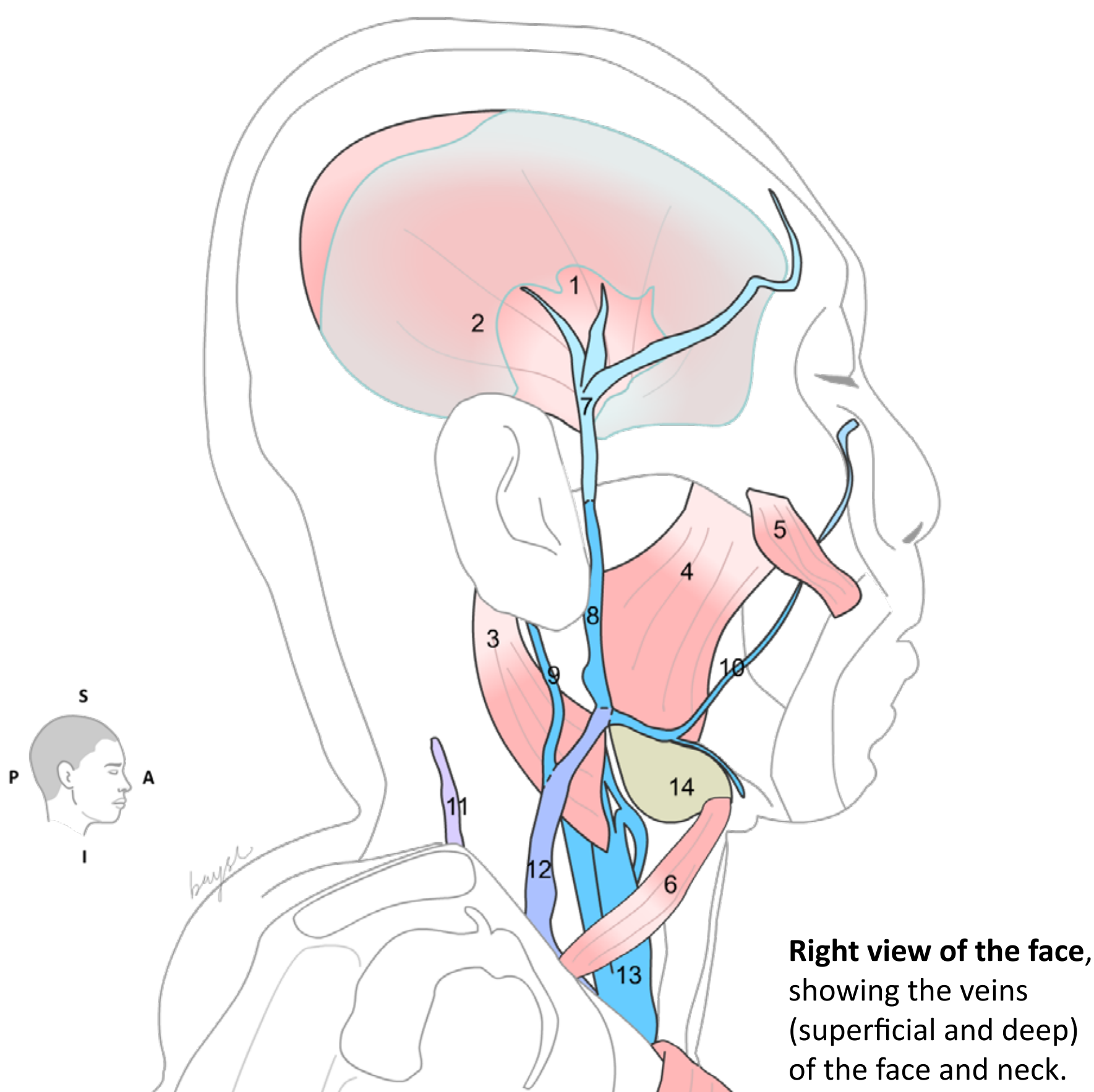


VENOUS DRAINAGE OF THE FACE AND NECK



Muscles

1. Temporalis muscle (exposed)
2. Temporalis fascia
3. Sternocleidomastoid muscle
4. Masseter muscle
5. Zygomaticus major muscle
6. Omohyoid muscle (superior belly)

Veins

7. Superficial temporal vein
8. Retromandibular vein
9. Posterior auricular vein
10. Facial vein
11. Transverse cervical vein
12. External jugular vein
13. Internal jugular vein
14. Submandibular gland

1. Veins of the facial region are largely tributaries that ultimately collect in the **internal jugular vein** in the neck. In the infratemporal region deep to the ramus of the mandible, a pterygoid venous plexus communicates with the cavernous sinus as well as the facial vein via the superior ophthalmic vein in the orbit.

2. The **retromandibular vein** receives tributaries from the temporal and infratemporal regions (pterygoid plexus), nasal cavity, pharynx and oral cavity. The internal jugular vein drains the brain, face and neck. The **external jugular vein** drains the superficial neck, shoulder and upper back; it often communicates with the retromandibular vein.

Clinical Correlation – These veins do not have valves and provide avenues for the spread of infection. For example, the facial vein communicates with the cavernous sinus via the superior ophthalmic vein; hence, infection from the face from the so-called “danger area” of the face may be spread to the cavernous sinus. The “danger area” of the face covers the upper lip and also the external nose.

Q: Where does the facial vein drain into?