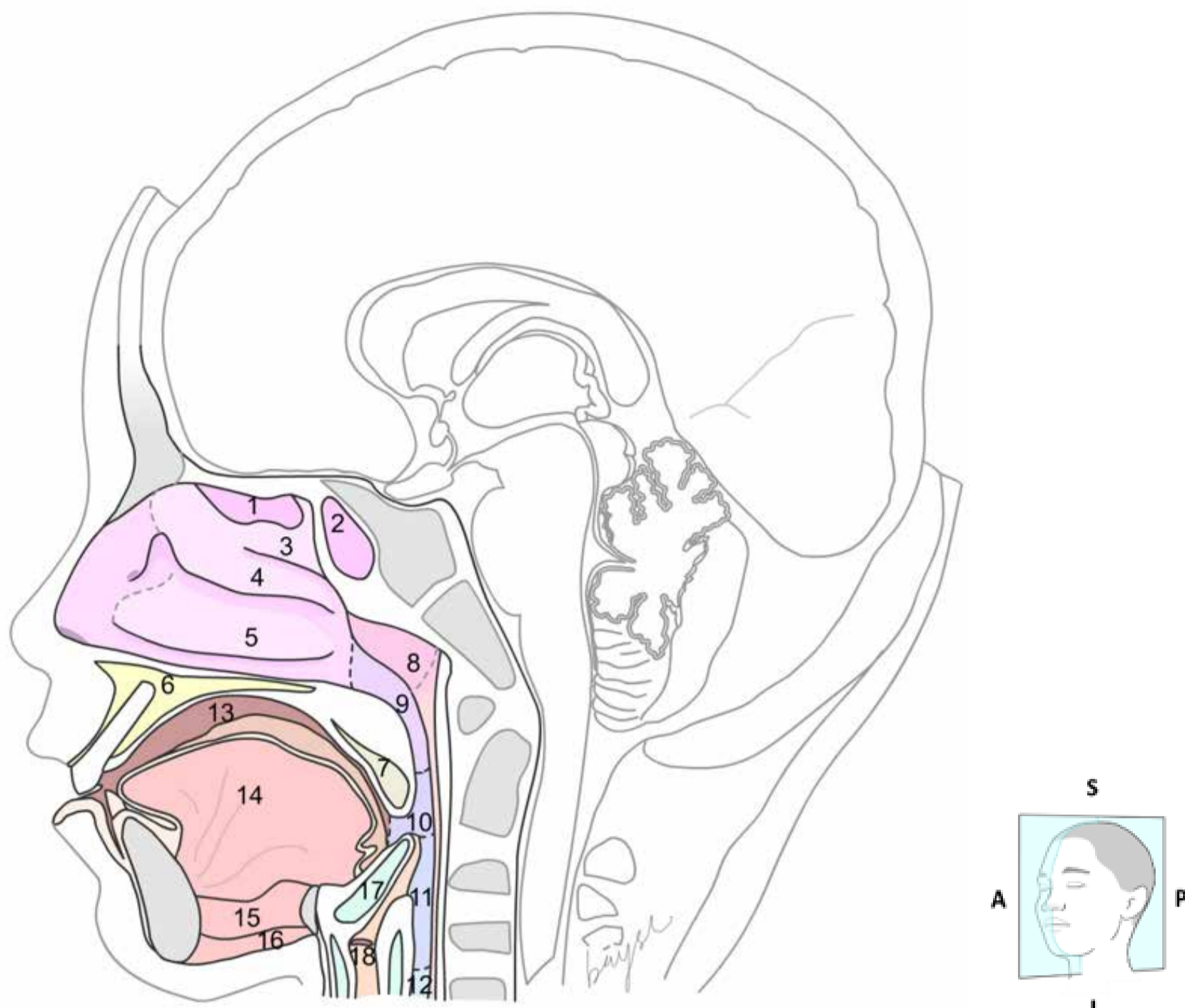


NASAL CAVITY, ORAL CAVITY AND PHARYNX

(HEAD & NECK)



Sagittal section of the head, showing the nasal cavity, oral cavity and pharynx.

Paranasal sinuses	[	1. Ethmoidal sinuses (air cells)
	]	2. Sphenoidal sinus
Nasal cavity	[	3. Superior concha
	]	4. Middle concha
	]	5. Inferior concha
Pharynx	[	6. Hard palate
	]	7. Soft palate
	]	8. Pharyngeal tonsil
	]	9. Nasopharynx
	]	10. Oropharynx
	]	11. Laryngopharynx
	]	12. Esophagus
	]	13. Oral cavity
	]	14. Tongue
	]	15. Geniohyoid
	]	16. Mylohyoid
	]	17. Epiglottis
	]	18. Larynx

1. Nasal cavity – serves as the air passage, warming and moisturising the air and olfaction (smell). Its mucous membrane is mainly lined by the respiratory epithelium, but over the superior concha it is lined by the olfactory epithelium.
2. Oral cavity – site of mastication (chewing function) and deglutition (swallowing). The main organ is the tongue whose muscles are mainly supplied by the hypoglossal nerve (XII cranial nerve). Taste sensation: anterior 2/3 is by the facial nerve (VII cranial nerve), while the posterior 1/3 is by the glossopharyngeal nerve (IX cranial nerve).
3. Pharynx – has 3 parts: Nasopharynx (behind the nasal cavity); Oropharynx (behind the oral cavity) and Laryngopharynx (behind the laryngeal inlet).

Clinical Correlation – Nasopharynx is the common site of nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC); Oropharynx is the common site of “sore throat” and tonsillitis; Laryngopharynx is the common site where foreign objects may be lodged e.g. fish bone.

Q: Where are the carotid body and carotid sinus located?