Carotid Endarterectomy

Bifurcation of common carotid @ C4.

Nerves: hypoglossal, vagus, sympathetic chain, external laryngeal nerve, ansa cervicalis.

Indications: symptoms (TIA, amaurosis) despite medical tx; stenosis > 70%, but less than 100%.

European Carotid Surgery Trial (ECST)

- 2518 patients over 10 yrs; multicentre.
- <50% stenosis => too risky.
- 50-69% => uncertain if peri-op surgical risks balanced by risk of CVA.
- >70% = x 6 risk REDUCTION of CVA in next 3 yrs, wt. control.