Submandibular gland

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The submandibular glands originate from the junctional tissue between ectoderm and endoderm from the floor of the mouth. They grow from the 18th to the 25th embryonic week and acquire connective capsules. They lie in the submandibular space between the digastric muscles and extend upwards deep to the mandible. They con sist of a larger superficial and a smaller deep lobe that is con tinuous around the posterior bor der of the mylohyoid muscle. The deep part of the gland lies on the hyoglossus muscle in close relation to the lingual nerve. The submandibular gan glion innervates the submandibular gland by the postganglionic parasympathetic fibres from the superior salivatory nucleus of the pons, through the chorda tympani and lingual nerve. The ganglion connections are r equired to be separated to free the gland and preserve the lingual nerve during excision. The gland is surrounded by a well-defined capsule derived from the deep cervical fascia, which splits to enclose it. Whar ton’s (submandibular) duct lies between the hyoglossus and mylohyoid muscle after arising from the deep part of the gland. It drains at the sublingual papilla into the anterior floor of the mouth. The facial vein lies superficial to the g land to reach the anterior border of the mandible. The facial artery enters deep to the posterior belly of the digastric and stylohyoid mus cles and passes through or superficial to the gland to reach the anterior border of the mandible. The glandular branches need to be ligated when preserving the facial artery during subman dibular gland removal. The facial artery is commonly used as the recipient artery in microvascular anastomosis in free tis sue transfer in head and neck reconstruction. The marginal mandibular branch of the facial nerve lies in the superficial Hayes Martin , 1892–1977 Attending Surgeon, Memorial Hospital; Chief, Head and Neck Surgery , Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre; Professor of Sur gery , Cornell University Medical College, New Y ork, NY , USA. Augustus Quirinus Rivinus , 1652–1723, German physician and botanist, studied the anatomy of salivary glands and also developed ways of classifying plants. T homas Bartholin , 1616–1680, Professor of Anatomy , Copenhagen University , Copenhagen, Denmark. technique of ligating these vessels and flipping them abov e in order to preserve the mandibular division of the facial nerve during neck dissection. Submandibular gland

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