

## CN XI

Also known as the accessory nerve. This is a motor nerve that is responsible for head turning and shoulder shrugging via innervation of the sternocleidomastoid and trapezius muscles.



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### Accessory Nerve

#### Accessories

The accessory nerve arises from cranial and spinal roots; however, the cranial aspect joins the vagus nerve and is believed to actually be a part of the vagus nerve. Thus CN XI is often referred to as the spinal accessory nerve.

### Motor

#### Motor

CN XI motor function is clinically tested by assessing the ability of the patient to turn his/her head and shrug his/her shoulders against opposing pressure.

### Head Turning

#### Head Turn

CN XI innervates the sternocleidomastoid muscle which tilts and rotates the head.

### Shoulder Shrugging

#### Shoulders Shrugged

CN XI innervates the trapezius muscle which is responsible for shoulder elevation.