

Anatomy & Physiology: Bones—Hyoid.

STRUCTURE.

- Unique as the hyoid doesn't articulate with any other bone. Ligaments and muscles suspend the hyoid between the mandible and larynx.
- U-shaped.

- Body.
- Greater horns: paired; the rounded end of the side of the "U".
- Lesser horns: paired; the small triangular bump (fang-shaped) lateral to the body.

FUNCTION.

- Supports tongue.
- Serves as attachment points for the tongue muscles and muscles for the pharynx and larynx.

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

- In strangulation and hangings, the hyoid is often fractured.

References

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