Cartilages of the Larynx

(funcional model)

1. The thyroid cartilage, Cartilago thyr-idea, the largest of all the cartilages of the larynx, consists of two quadrilateral plates, which are joined together in the front. Above and below the junction both plates are separated from each other by a notch (a) Incisura thyrroidea superior and (b) inferior. The nearly straight posterior margin of both thyroid cartilage plates shows in its upper and lower margin a prolongation (c) the upper long horn, Cornu superior, (d) the lower short horn, Cornu inferior. The latter one shows an articular surface for the connection with the cricoid cartilage.

2. The cricoid cartilage, Cartilago cricoi-dae, has the form of a signet ring, of which the signet is directed to the back, the hoop to the front. On the upper margin of the cricoid cartilage plate are situated the two articular surfaces for the articulation with the arytenoid cartilages.

3. The cartilage of the epiglottis, Carti-lago epiglottica, is a thin nearly saddle-shaped curved plate, which ends below in a stem, termed Pectolus epiglottidis, fixed to the Incisura thyrroidea superior.

4. The arytenoid cartilages, Cartilagines arytenoidea, are smaller cartilages of pyramidal form, which are flexibly united with the cricoid cartilages. They are distinguished by a base, Basis cartilaginis arytenoidea, surmounting the cricoid cartilage and an apex, Apex cartilaginis arytenoidea, directed upwards.

The base of the arytenoid cartilage shows two prolongations, one, termed (e) Processus vocalis; gradually loosing itself in the tissue of the vocal cord and the other, termed (f), Processus muscularis, lying outwards slightly rounded and directed backwards.

The apex, Apex cartilaginis arytenoidea, is blunted and bent backwards, it has a short cone-shaped process (g) the cartilage of Santorini, Cartilago corniculata. In the Plicae arypeglopliticae near the frontal margin of the arytenoid cartilage are two small rod-shaped cartilages, termed Wisberg’s cartilages, Cartilagines cuneiformes, but they are not always present.

5. The tracheal cartilages, Cartilagines tracheales, are cylindrical in shape and form the front and side walls of the trachea, the posterior portion being flattened.

The upper tracheal ring is united by the Ligamentum crico-tracheale with the lower margin of the cricoid cartilage.

6. The hyoid bone, Os hyoideum, consists of (h) a body, Corpus, and four pro-
cesses, annexed to it, termed horns, Cornua (i) the greater horns, Cornu majus, (k) the lesser horns, Cornu minus.

1. Thyroid cartilage, Cartilago thyrroidea
   a) Superior thyroid incisure
   b) Inferior thyroid incisure
   c) Upper long horn, Cornu superior
   d) Lower short horn, Cornu inferior
   2. Cricoid cartilage, Cartilago cricoidea
   3. Cartilage of the epiglottis, Cartilago epiglottica
   4. Arytenoid cartilages, Cartilagines arytenoidea
   e) Vocal process, Processus vocalis
   f) Muscular process, Processus muscularis
   g) Cartilage of Santorini, Cartilago corniculata
   5. Tracheal cartilages, Cartilagines tracheales
   6. Hyoid bone, Os hyoideum
      h) Corpus
      i) Greater horn, Cornu majus
      k) Smaller horn, Cornu minus

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