

LYMPH NODES

- The size of the lymph nodes varies greatly in normal animals; even in individual members of the same species the lymph nodes are by no means equal in size.
- They are usually larger in young animals than in adults and are comparatively large in the dog. Normal lymph nodes are firm in consistency; the smaller nodes appear to have a smooth structure on palpation, but lobulation is distinctly palpable in the larger nodes, e.g. the submaxillary lymph node in the horse. The skin is always freely movable over a superficially situated lymph node, and the node itself is somewhat mobile in relation to the neighbouring tissues.

Submaxillary lymph nodes. In the horse these nodes are situated beneath the skin towards the posterior part of the intermaxillary space; they are as thick as a finger and converge anteriorly. In the ox and dog the corresponding lymph nodes lie behind the intermaxillary space near the angle of the mandible. There are at least two, more often even four or five, nodes in this group in the dog.

Pharyngeal lymph nodes.

The ***subparotid (parapharyngeal in the horse)*** lymph nodes are situated on the posterior part of the masseter muscle beneath the parotid salivary gland. In the horse the nodes lie on the upper part of the lateral surface of the pharynx, just below the guttural pouch, where they are not directly palpable. They are readily palpable in the ox and dog.

The ***retropharyngeal (or suprpharyngeal) lymph nodes*** in the horse and ox are situated on the posterior part of the pharynx; in the dog the relationship is dorsal to the pharynx. The nodes are comparatively small in the horse and because of their situation they are sometimes known as the guttural pouch lymph nodes.

Anterior, middle and posterior cervical (prepectoral) lymph nodes, which are situated respectively in the vicinity of the thyroid gland (under cover of the posterior part of the parotid salivary gland in the horse), in the middle of the neck on the trachea and near the entrance to the thorax, ventral to the trachea. These lymph nodes are not present as definitely recognizable masses in the dog.

Prescapular lymph nodes, which are situated in front and slightly dorsal to the point of the shoulder. In the horse they lie on the anterior border of the anterior deep pectoral muscle; in the ox and dog, at the anterior border of the supraspinatus muscle.

Cubital lymph nodes (regularly present only in the horse), which are situated on the medial aspect of the humerus between the elbow and the wall of the thorax; they are covered by muscle and are palpable only in a lean animal.

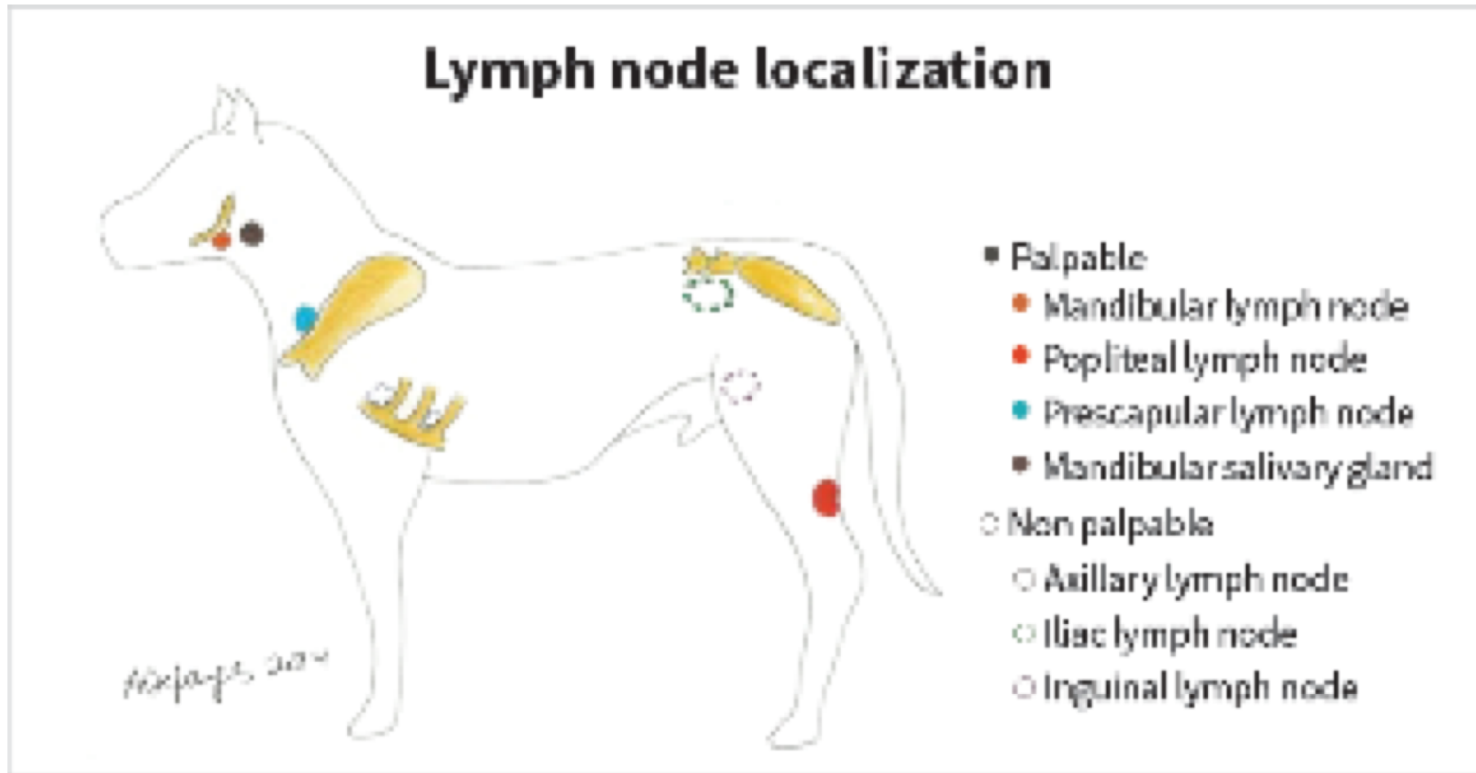
Axillary lymph nodes are situated deeply in the axilla beneath muscle masses which prohibit effective palpation in the horse and ox. In the dog, abduction of the limb enables these nodes to be recognized by palpation, more readily in lean animals

Precurral (prefemoral) lymph nodes, which are situated above the fold of the flank on the anterior border of the tensor fasciae latae, dorsal to the stifle. They are absent in the dog.

Popliteal lymph nodes, which are situated between the biceps femoris and semitendinosus muscles posterior to the gastrocnemius muscle. In the dog, these nodes are relatively superficially situated on the gastrocnemius muscle, at the level of the stifle joint, where they can be palpated.

Clinical Examination of the Lymph Nodes

- Inspection
- Palpation
 - Sizes
 - Pain reaction
 - Lobulation
 - Consistency
 - Temperature of the overlying skin
 - Abscess formation
 - Maturation and discharge
 - Unilateral or bilateral



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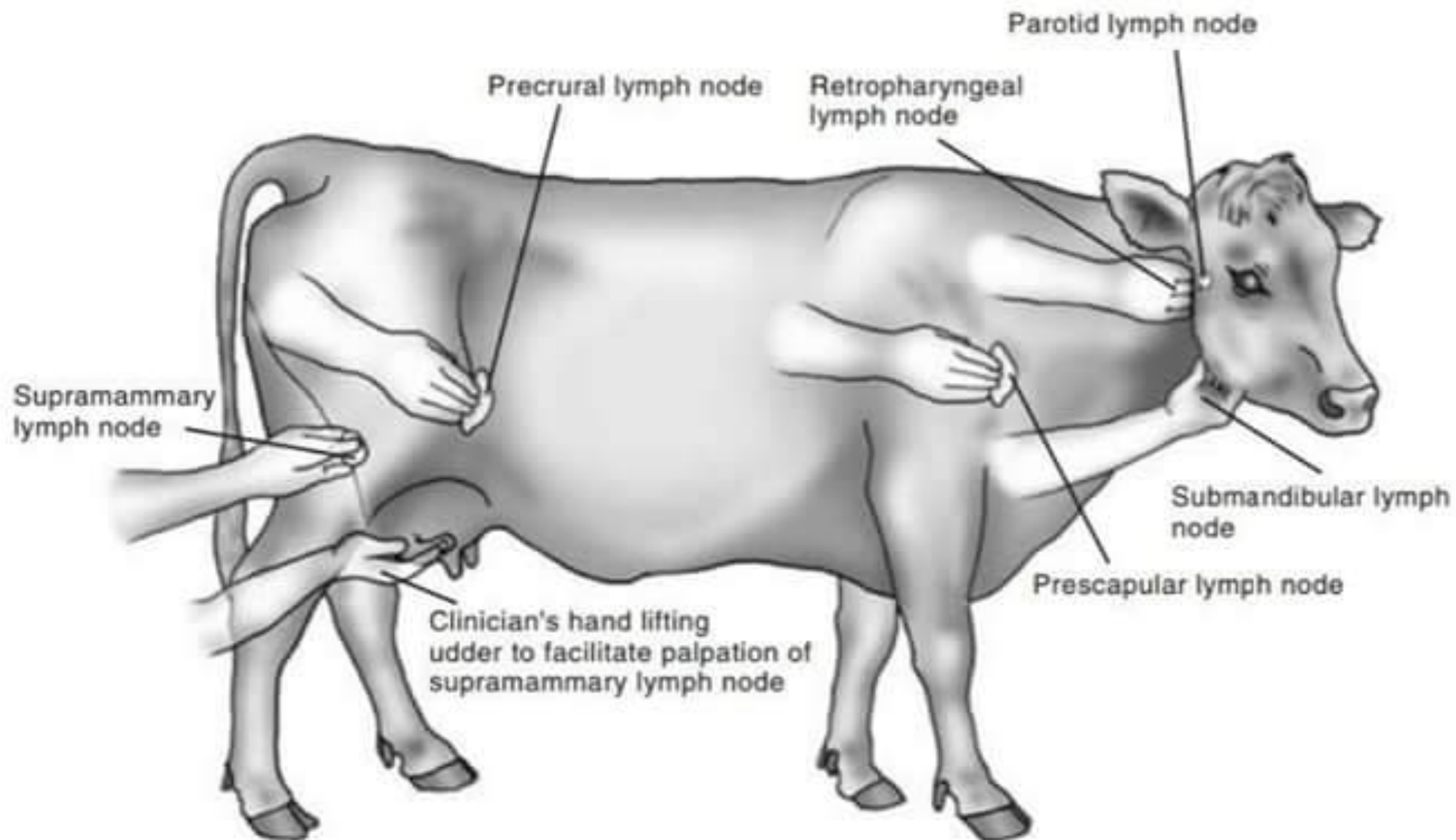


Figure 3.1 Locations of the readily palpable lymph nodes in cattle showing placement of the clinician's hand. See text for details.