

Illustration of the Ear (Auricle)

The Auricle, also called pinna, is commonly known as the ear and is formed in the 20th week of embryological development. The auricle is a convoluted plate of elastic cartilage covered with skin and fixed in position by muscles and ligaments. The major landmarks of the auricle are the helix, the antihelix, the scaphoid fossa, triangular fossa, the tragus and the antitragus, the concha, which is the funnel like depression leading into the external canal, and the lobule. (See Fig. 1)

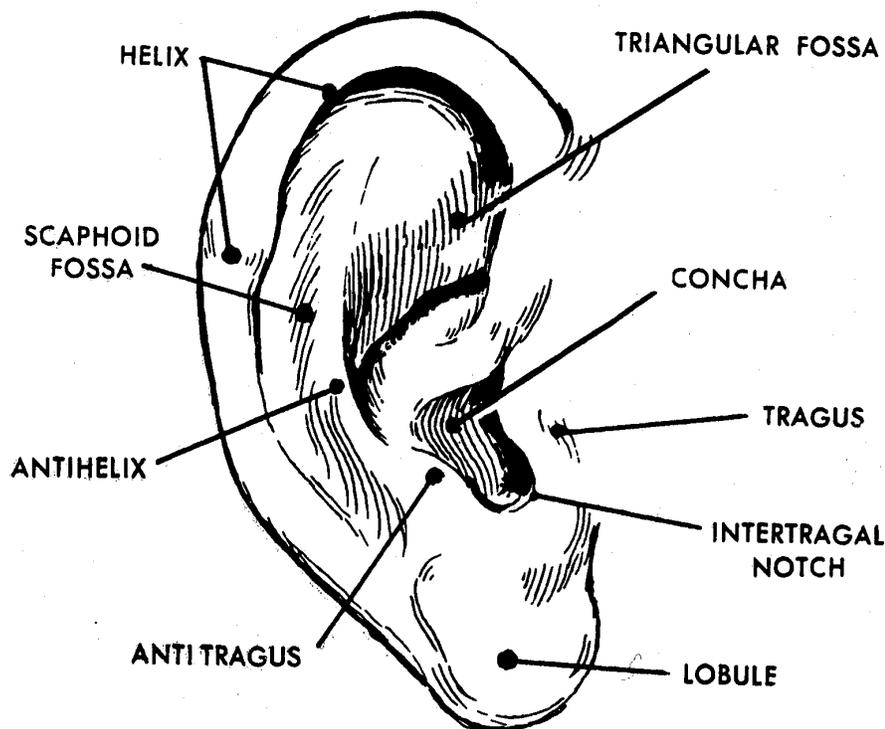


FIG. 1 Anatomy of the auricle

The lobule is the only portion of the auricle that contains no cartilage. Strong hairs project from the tragus, particularly in men after middle age, forming a tuft like a goatee (tragus—a goat). The cartilage of the auricle is continuous with that of the external canal.