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Periodic No. 05 : Anatomy Based Model

Facial Muscles

The facial muscles, or the muscles of facial expression, are subcutaneous muscles.

They bring about different facial expressions.

These have small motor units.

Embryologically, they develop from the mesoderm of the second branchial arch, and are, therefore, supplied by the facial nerve.

Functionally, most of these muscles may be regarded primarily as regulators of the three openings situated on the face, namely the palpebral fissures, the nostrils and the oral fissure.

Each opening has a single sphincter, and a variable number of dilators.

Sphincters are naturally circular and the dilators radial in their arrangement.

These muscles are better developed around the eyes and mouth than around the nose

