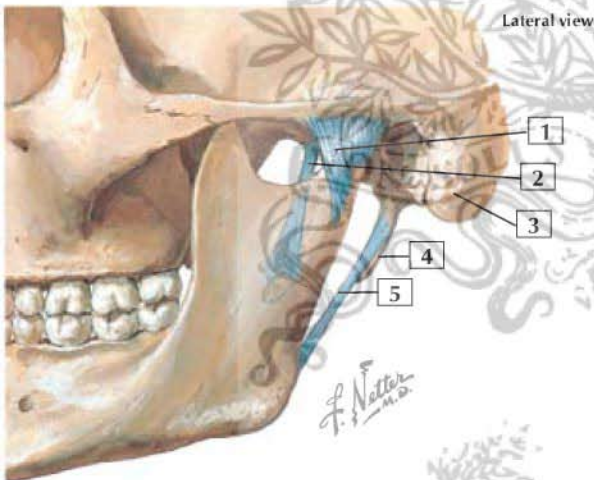


## Extrinsic Ligaments of the Temporomandibular Joint



1. Lateral (temporomandibular) ligament
2. Sphenomandibular ligament
3. Mastoid process
4. Styloid process
5. Stylomandibular ligament

### Temporomandibular (Lateral) Ligament

The temporomandibular (lateral) ligament is the thickened ligament on the lateral aspect of the capsule that prevents lateral and posterior displacement of the condyle. It is composed of 2 separate bands:

- Outer oblique part—the largest portion; attached to the articular tubercle and travels posteroinferiorly to attach immediately inferior to the condyle, limiting the opening of the mandible
- Inner horizontal part—the smaller band attached to the articular tubercle running horizontally to attach to the lateral part of the condyle and disc, limiting posterior movement of the articular disc and the condyle

### Stylomandibular Ligament

The stylomandibular ligament is composed of a thickening of deep cervical fascia and extends from the styloid process to the posterior margin of the angle and the ramus of the mandible, helping to limit anterior protrusion of the mandible.

### Sphenomandibular Ligament

The sphenomandibular ligament is a remnant of Meckel's cartilage. It extends from the spine of the sphenoid to the lingula of the mandible. It may help act as a pivot on the mandible by maintaining the same amount of tension during opening and closing of the mouth.