



Mediastinum

Lecture 5



Please check our [Editing File](#).

هذا العمل لا يغني عن المصدر الأساسي للمذاكرة

Objectives

- At the end of the lecture, students should be able to:
- Define the “Mediastinum”.
- Differentiate between the divisions of the mediastinum.
- List the boundaries and contents of each division.
- Describe the relations between the important structures in each division.

- Text in **BLUE** was found only in the boys' slides
- Text in **PINK** was found only in the girls' slides
- **Text in RED is considered important**
- Text in **GREY** is considered extra notes

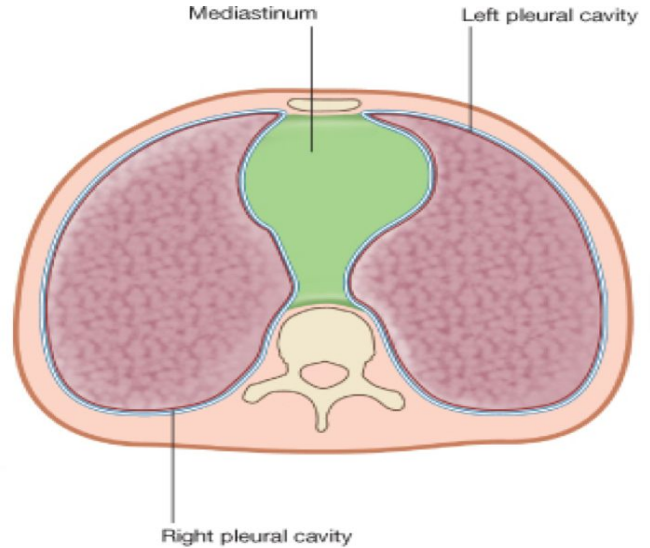
The Mediastinum

Definition

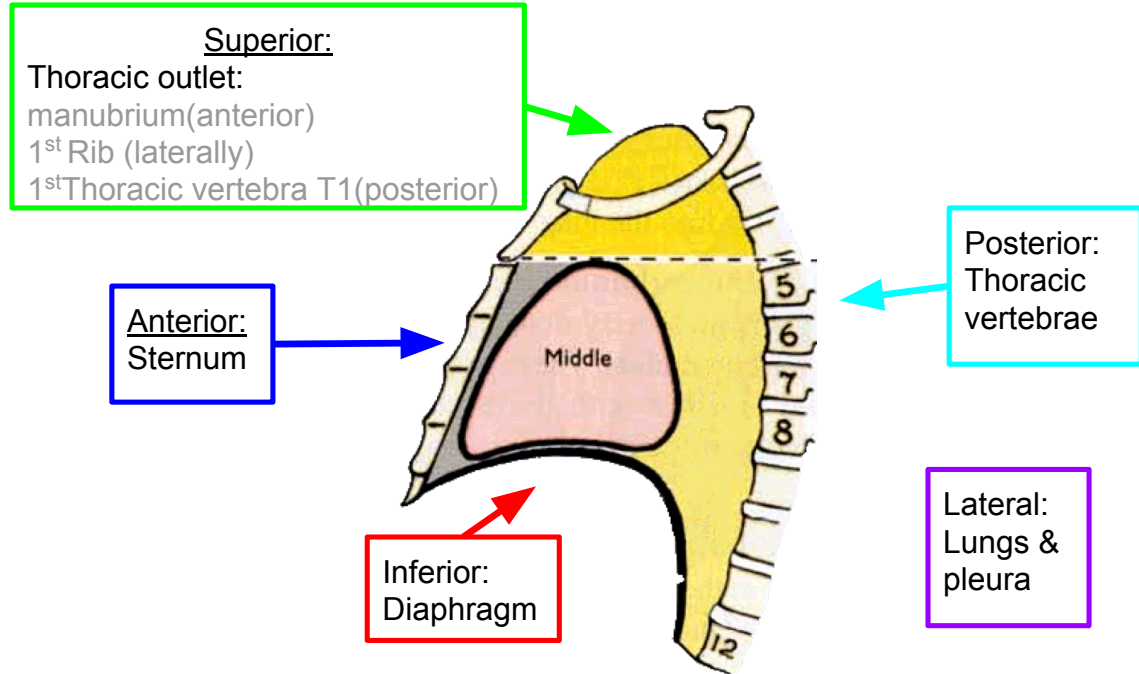
It is a thick movable partition between the two pleural sacs & lungs.

It contains all the structures which lie in the intermediate compartment of the thoracic cavity.

Any structure in the thoracic cavity except the lungs and their pleura



BOUNDARIES OF MEDIASTINUM



DIVISIONS OF THE MEDIASTINUM

The mediastinum is subdivided by a Horizontal plane (extending from the Sternal angle* to the lower border of T4) into:

Superior mediastinum (S): above the plane

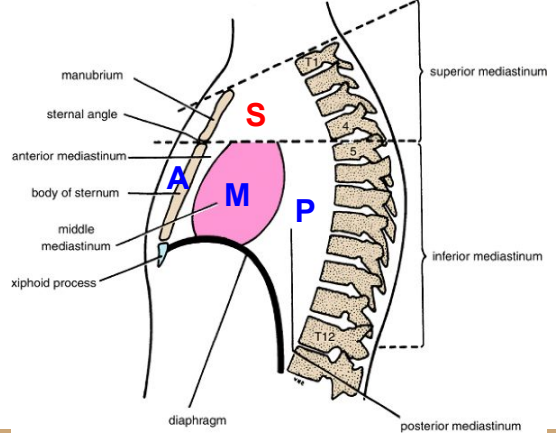
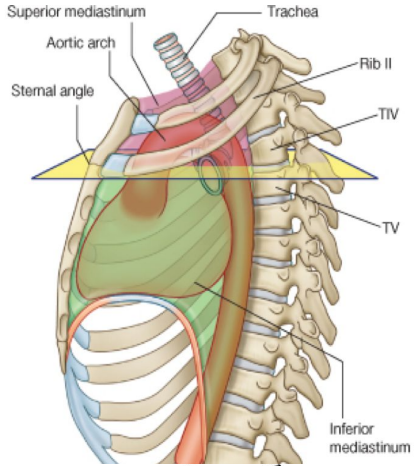
Inferior mediastinum: below the plane.

Inferior mediastinum is subdivided into:

Middle mediastinum (M): contains heart

Anterior mediastinum (A): in front of heart

Posterior mediastinum (P): behind heart



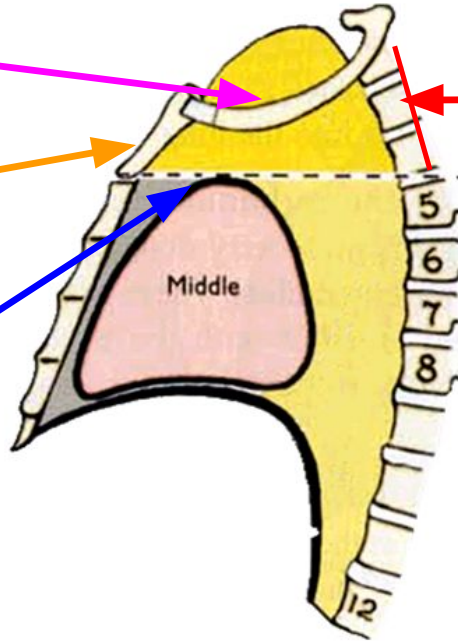
*Sternal angle is at the junction of the manubrium and the body of the sternum

BOUNDARIES OF SUPERIOR MEDIASTINUM

Superior: Thoracic outlet

Anterior: Manubrium of sternum

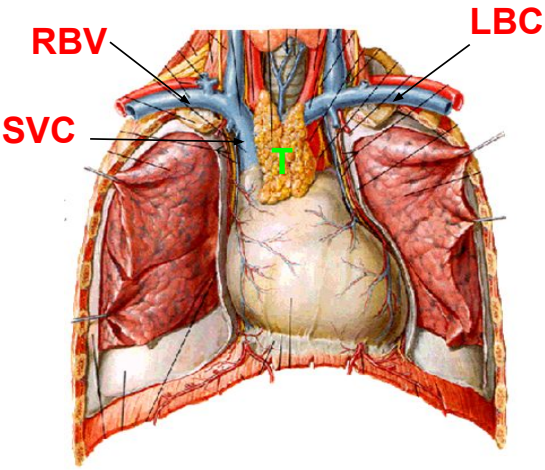
Inferior: Horizontal plane



Posterior: Upper 4 thoracic vertebrae

Lateral: lungs & pleurae

CONTENTS OF SUPERIOR MEDIASTINUM



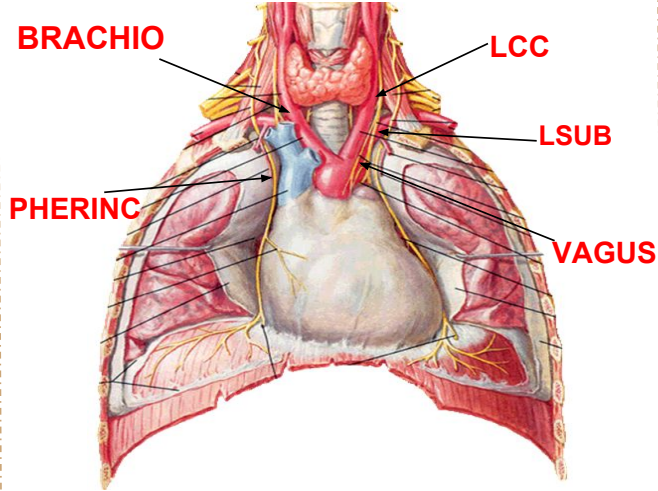
(A) Superficial:

Thymus Gland.

Three Veins:

- Left brachiocephalic vein
- Right brachiocephalic vein
- Superior vena cava

Left brachiocephalic vein and Right brachiocephalic vein join together to give superior vena cava.



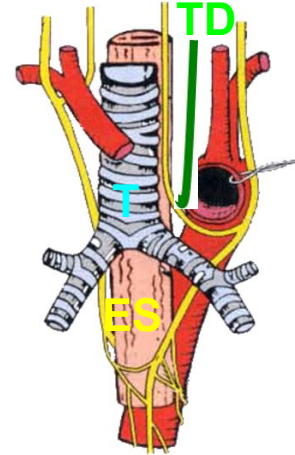
(B) Intermediate:

Arch of aorta & its 3 branches:

- Brachiocephalic artery.
- Left common carotid artery.
- Left Subclavian artery

Nerves:

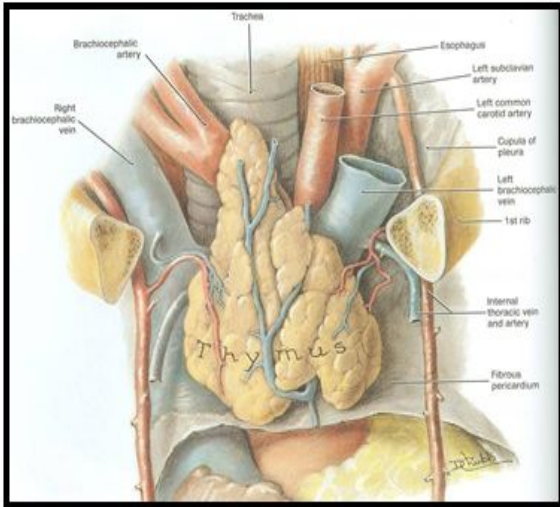
- Left & Right Phrenic
- Left & Right Vagus



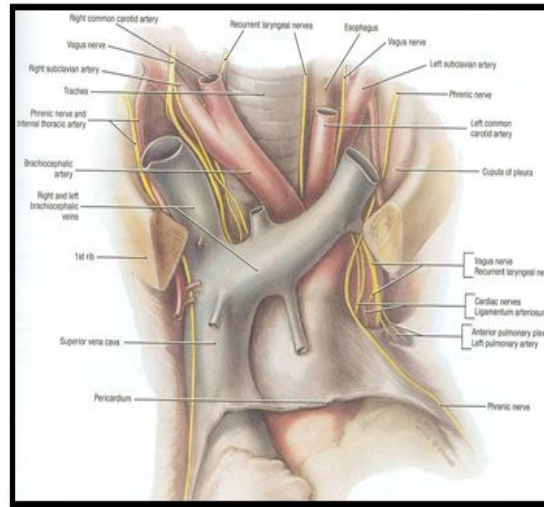
(c) Deep:

- Trachea
- Esophagus
- Thoracic Duct

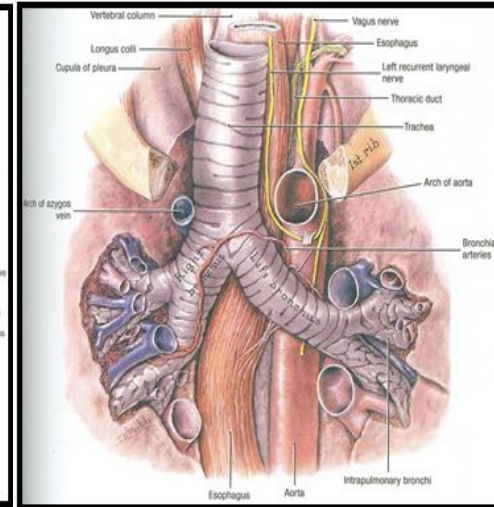
CONTENTS OF SUPERIOR MEDIASTINUM



(A) Superficial:



(B) Intermediate:



(C) Deep:

CONTENTS OF SUPERIOR MEDIASTINUM

• **4 ARTERIES:** arch of aorta, brachiocephalic, left common carotid, left subclavian

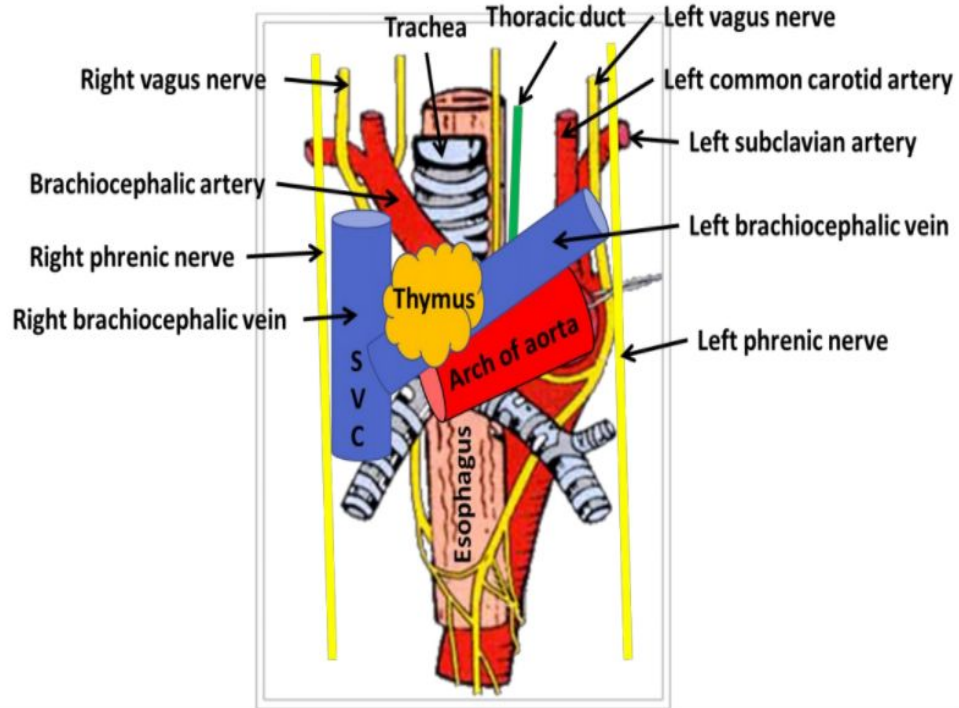
• **4 NERVES:** right & left vagus, right & left phrenic

• **3 VEINS:** right & left brachiocephalic, Superior Vena Cava

• **2 TUBES:** trachea & esophagus

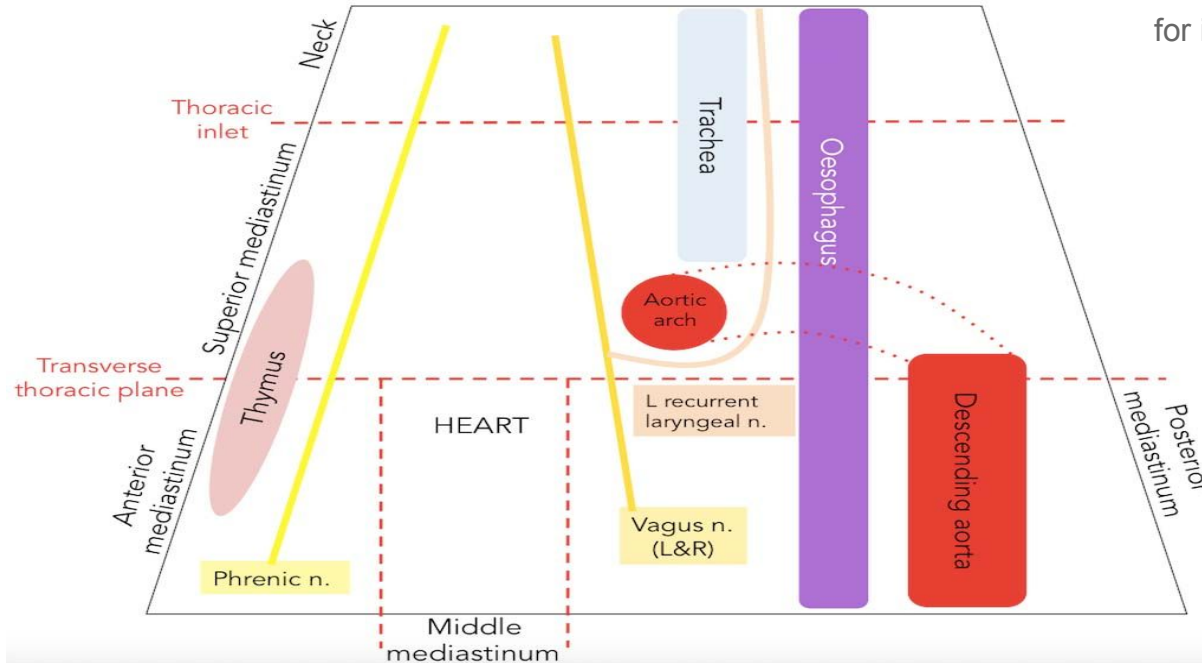
• **1 GLAND:** thymus

• **1 DUCT:** thoracic duct



CONTENTS OF SUPERIOR MEDIASTINUM

**Extra picture for illustration



Level of T4

Level Of:

1- Sternal angle

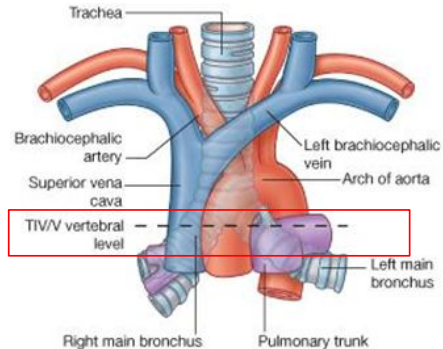
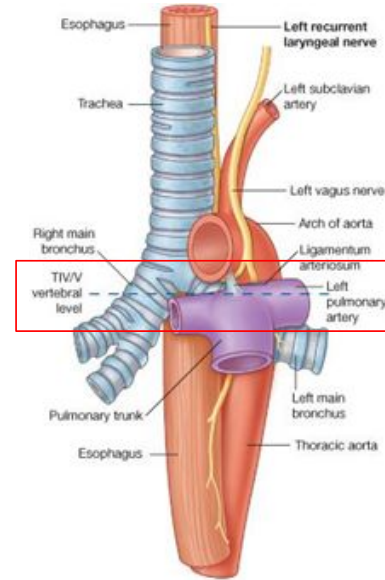
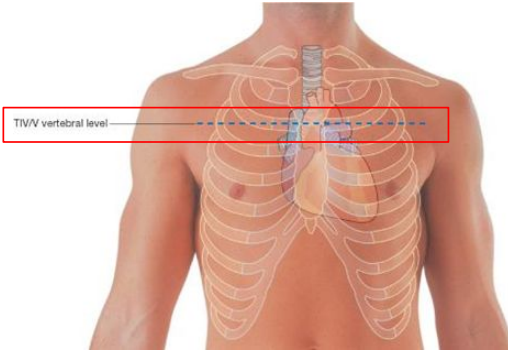
2- Second costal cartilage

Why is it important?

1-Bifurcation of pulmonary trunk.

2-Beginning & termination of arch of aorta.

3-Bifurcation of Trachea.



Boundaries of Posterior Mediastinum Behind the heart

Superior: Horizontal Plane.

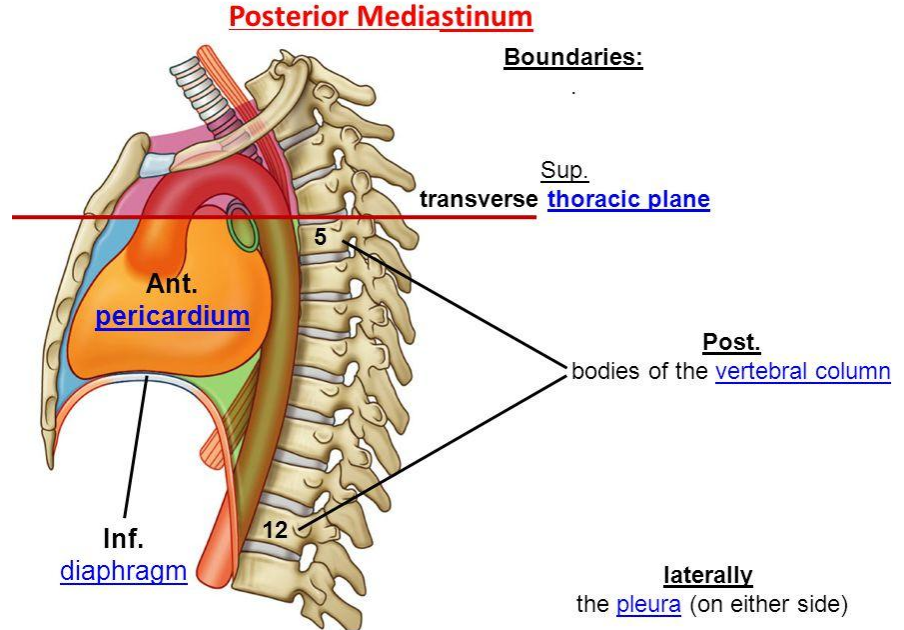
*Superior mediastinum.

Inferior: Diaphragm

Anterior: Heart

Posterior: Thoracic vertebrae
From T5 to T12

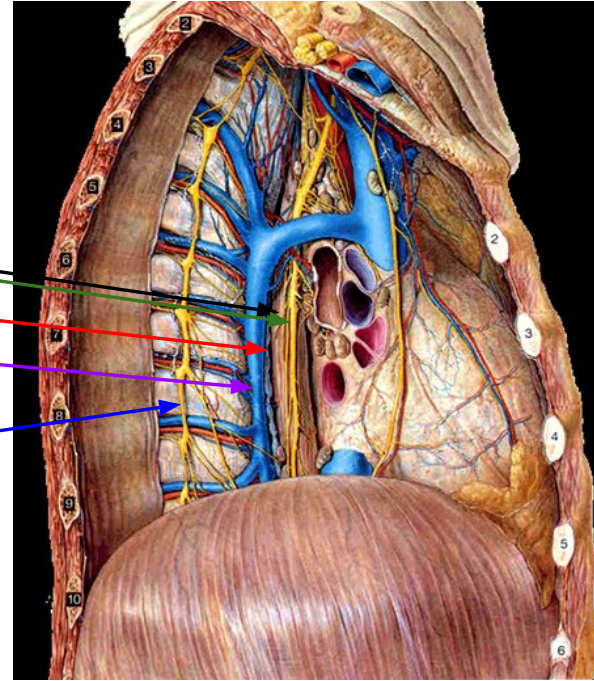
Lateral: Lungs & Pleurae



Contents of Posterior Mediastinum

- Esophagus*
- Vagus nerve*: around esophagus
- Thoracic duct*: posterior to esophagus
- Azygos vein: posterior & to the right of esophagus
- Descending aorta: posterior & to the left of esophagus
- Right & Left sympathetic trunks
- Lymph nodes

*pass through both the superior & posterior mediastina



MIDDLE MEDIASTINUM (الأكبر) contains the heart.

Site: Between anterior & posterior mediastinum

Contents :

1- **Heart** & Pericardium (all the big vessels entering and leaving the heart)

2- **Ascending Aorta** (from left ventricle)

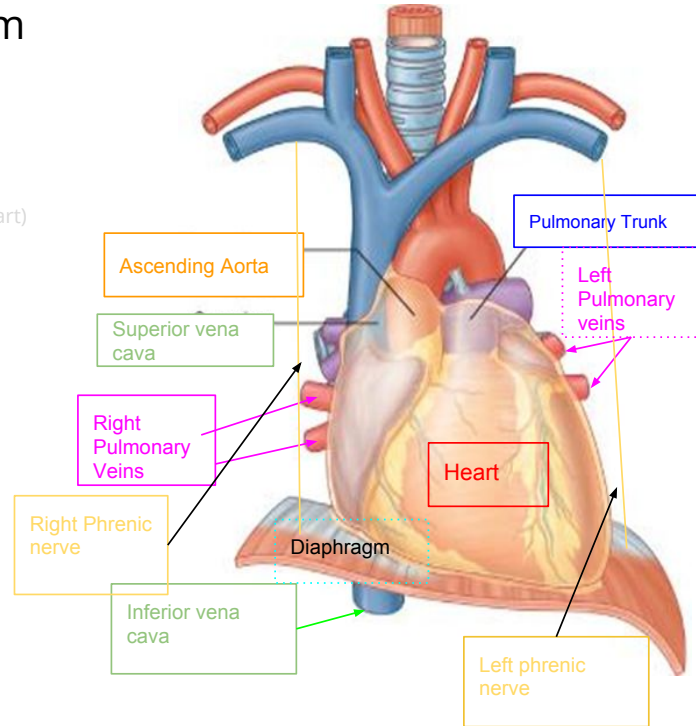
3- **Pulmonary trunk** (at the level of T4)

4- **Superior* & inferior vena cava**

5- **Right & Left pulmonary veins**

6- **Right & Left phrenic nerve**

7- **lymph nodes** (it will be in all the mediastinum)* The superior vena cava appears in BOTH the superior (upper part of SVC) and middle (lower part SVC) mediastinum



ANTERIOR MEDIASTINUM

Boundaries :

Superior: Horizontal plane

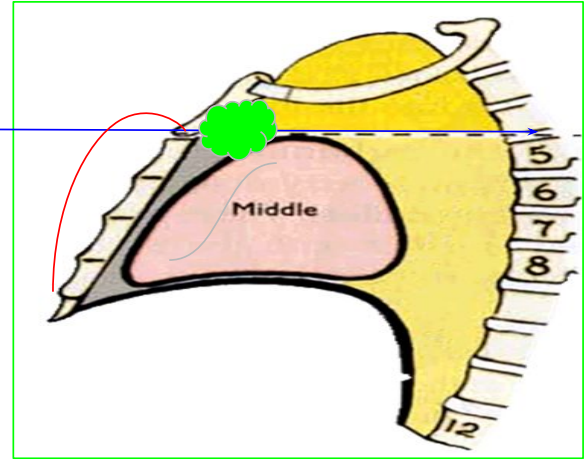
Inferior: Diaphragm

Anterior: Body & xiphoid process of sternum*

Posterior: Heart

Lateral: Lungs & Pleurae

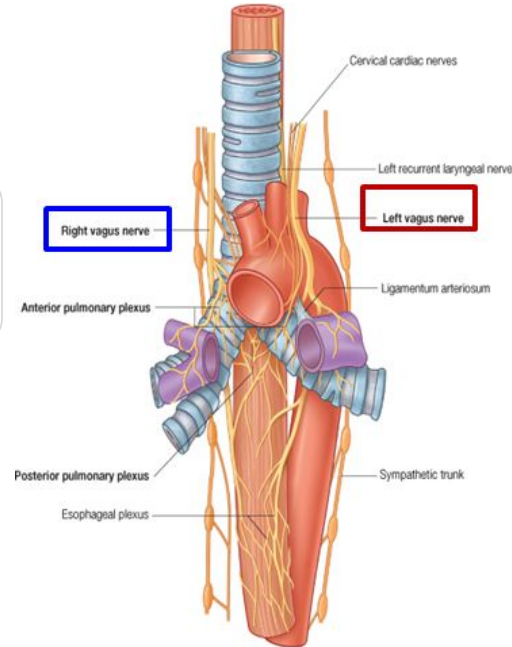
Content: 1- Thymus gland** 2-Lymph Nodes



- *Do not say the manubrium
- **Appears in both the superior and the anterior mediastinum
- ** the thymus is most anterior of superior and most superior of anterior

Vagus nerve

- ✦ It is the **10th** cranial nerve.
- ✦ The **right vagus** descends to the right side of trachea, forms the posterior esophageal plexus & continues in abdomen as posterior gastric nerve.
- ✦ The **left vagus** descends between left common carotid & left subclavian arteries, forms the anterior esophageal plexus & continues in abdomen as anterior gastric nerve.



Phrenic nerve

Root value

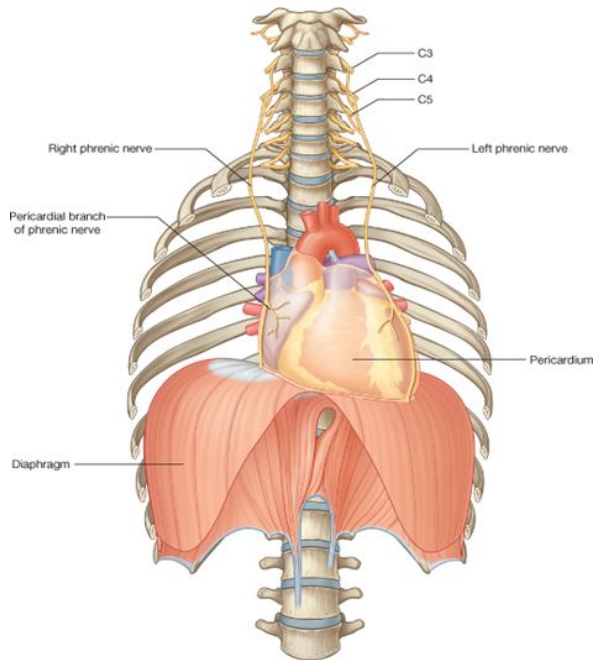
C3 - C4 - C5

Course in the thorax:

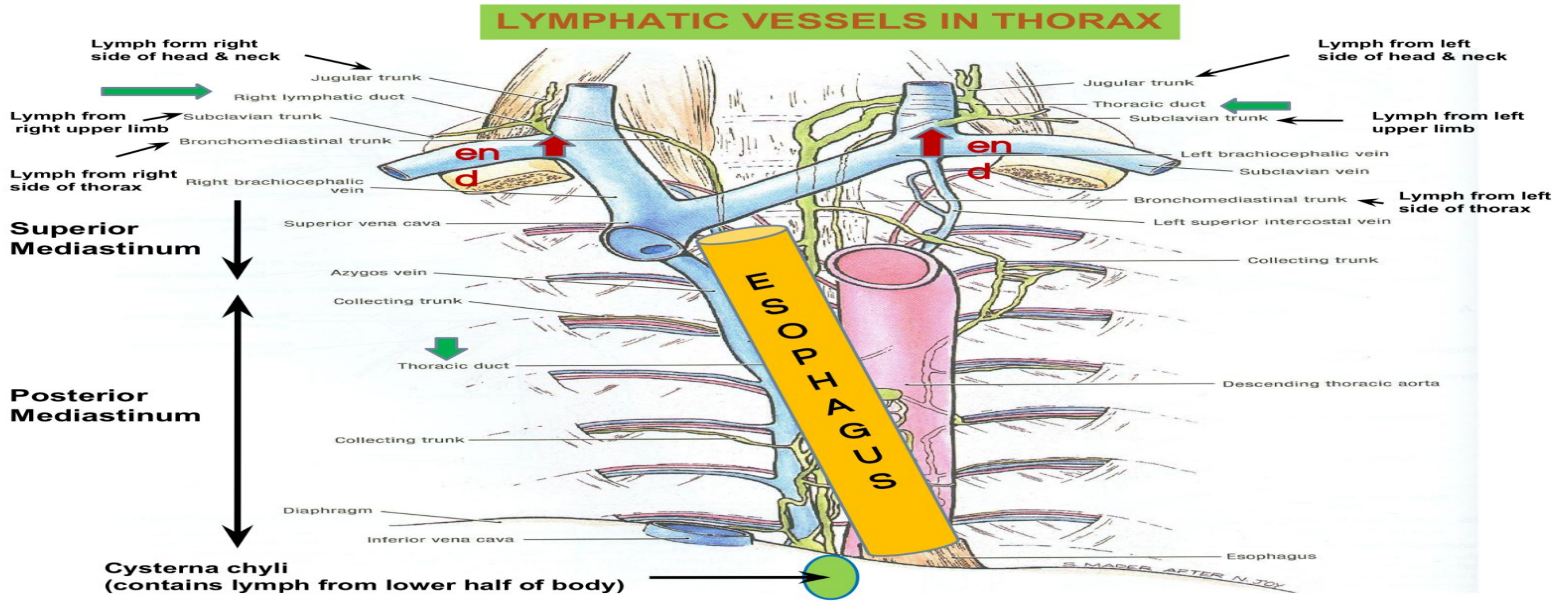
- The right phrenic descends on the right side of SVC and heart.
- The left phrenic descends on the left side of heart.
- Both nerves terminate in the diaphragm.

It supplies:

1. Motor and sensory fibers to **diaphragm**.
2. Sensory fibers to **pleura** and **pericardium**.



Lymphatic vessels in the thorax



Thoracic duct

BEGINNING:

It is the continuation of **cisterna chyli** (At the level of L1).

COURSE:

It passes through aortic opening of diaphragm.

It ascends in **posterior** mediastinum (posterior to esophagus).

It ascends in **superior** mediastinum (to the left of esophagus).

TRIBUTARIES:

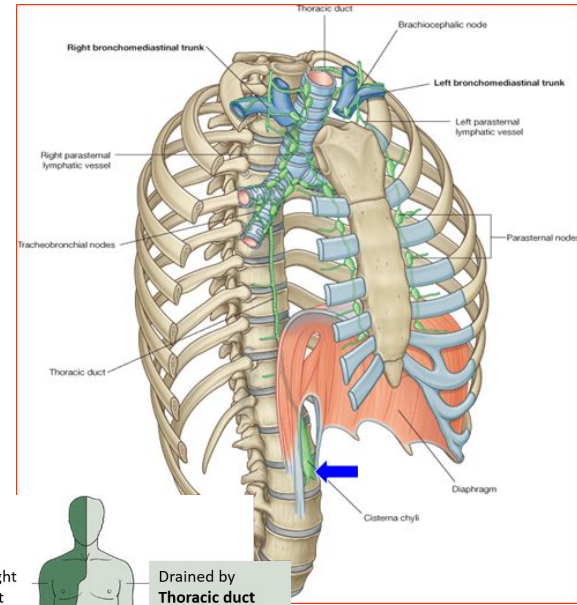
It receives:
Lymphatics from all body **EXCEPT**:
right side of thorax.

right upper limb.

right side of head & neck.

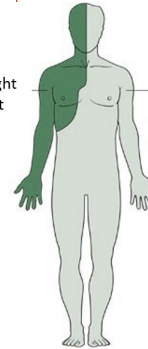
End:

It ends in the left brachiocephalic vein.



Drained by right lymphatic duct

Drained by **Thoracic duct**



Aorta

Ascending aorta:

Beginning: at aortic orifice of left ventricle.

Course: in middle mediastinum

End: continues as arch of aorta (at level of T4)

Arch or aorta:

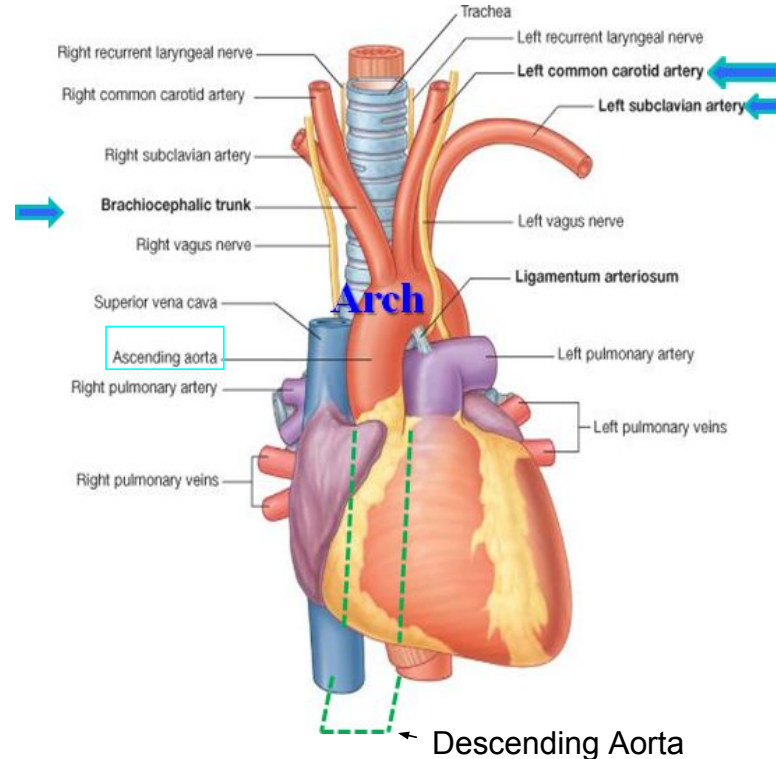
Course: in superior mediastinum

End: continues as descending thoracic aorta (at level of T4)

Descending aorta:

Course: in posterior mediastinum

End: continues as abdominal aorta through diaphragm



Questions

1-How many boundaries surround the mediastinum

A-2 b-3 c-4 d-5

2-How many main divisions for the mediastinum:

A-2 b-3 c-4 d-5

3-The horizontal plane is extending from:

A-sternal angle to the upper border of T4

B-sternal angle to the lower border of T4.

C-manubrium to the lower border of T4

D-manubrium to the upper border of T4

4-Which of the following is the most superior vein of the mediastinum?

A-inferior vena cava B-azygos vein

C-ascending aorta D-brachiocephalic veins

5-How many nerves are in the superior mediastinum?

A-2 B-3 C-4 D-5

6- Which structure appears in both the superior and posterior mediastinum

A-azygos vein B-thymus gland
C- thoracic duct D- descending aorta

7- Which of the following is in the posterior border of the anterior mediastinum:

A- lung pleura B-heart
C- vertebral column D-trachea

8- Which of the following is at the level of T4:

A- Bifurcation of the larynx B-Bifurcation of aorta
C- Bifurcation of pulmonary trunk D-1st costal cartilage

9- The vagus nerve is the:

A- 9th cranial nerve B- 10th cranial nerve
C- 11th cranial nerve D- 8th cranial nerve

10- The phrenic nerve gives only sensory fibers to:

A-diaphragm B-lungs and trachea
C-pleura and pericardium D-esophagus

Answers:
1-D
2-A
3-B
4-D
5-C
6-C
7-B
8-C
9-B
10-C

Team Members

Lamia Abdullah Alkuwaiz (Team Leader)

Rawan Mohammad Alharbi
Abeer Alabduljabbar
Afnan Abdulaziz Almustafa
Ahad Ahmed Algrain
Albandari Alshaye
AlFhadah abdullah alsaleem
Ghaida Alsanad
Lojain Azizalrahman
Maha Barakah
Majd Khalid AlBarrak
Nouf Alotaibi
Rinad Musaed Alghoraiby
Wejdan Fahad Albadrani

Faisal Fahad Alsaif (Team Leader)

Abdulaziz Al dukhayel
Abdulelah Aldossari
Abdulrahman Alduhayyim
Hamdan Aldossari
Mohammed Alomar
Saud Alghufaily
Hassan Aloraini
Abdullah Alomar
Fahad Alfaiz
Saad Aloqile
Abdulmajeed Alwardi
Rayyan Almousa
Sultan Alfuhaid
Ali Alammari
Fahad alshughhaithry

Fayez Ghiyath Aldarsouni
Mohammed Alquwayfili
Saleh Almoaiqel
Abdullah Almeaither
Abduljabbar Al-yamane
Sultan Al-nasser
Majed Aljohani
Zeyad
Al-khenaizan
Mohammed Nouri
Abdulaziz Al-drgam
Fahad Aldhowaihy
Omar alyabis
Akram Alfandi
Abdulhaziz Alabdulkareem