

Esophagus:

It is a tubular structure about 25 cm long, begins as the continuation of the pharynx at the level of the **6th cervical vertebra**. It pierces the diaphragm at the level of the **10th thoracic vertebra** to join the stomach.

-	Cervical part (upper third)	Thoracic part (Middle third)	Abdominal part (Lower third)
Anterior relations:	Trochea, the recurrent laryngeal nerve.	Trochea, LEFT recurrent laryngeal nerve, LEFT principal bronchus, Pericardium, Left atrium.	left lobe of the liver.
Posterior relations:	Vertebral column	Bodies of the thoracic vertebrae, Thoracic duct, Azygos vein, Right posterior intercostal arteries, Descending thoracic aorta (at the lower end).	left crus of the diaphragm.
Lateral relations:	Lobes of thyroid gland	On the Right side: Rt. mediastinal pleura, Terminal part of the azygos vein On the Left side: Lt. mediastinal pleura, Left subclavian artery, Aortic arch, Thoracic duct.	-
Arterial supply:	Inferior thyroid artery.	Thoracic aorta.	Left gastric artery.
Venous drainage:	Inferior thyroid vein.	Azygos vein	Left gastric vein
Lymph drainage:	Deep cervical nodes	superior and inferior mediastinal nodes.	celiac lymph nodes in the abdomen

- The esophagus In the thorax, passes downward and to the **left** through superior & posterior mediastinum At the level of the sternal angle(T4), the **aortic arch and left bronchus** push the esophagus again to **the midline**.
- **ESOPHAGEAL CONSTRICTIONS:** The **first** is at the junction with the pharynx, The **second** is at the crossing with the aortic arch and the left main bronchus, The **third** is at the junction with the stomach, They may cause difficulties in passing an **esophagoscope**.: In case of swallowing of caustic liquids (mostly in children), this is where the **burning is the worst and strictures develop**, The esophageal strictures are a common place of the development of **esophageal carcinoma**.
- It is supplied by sympathetic fibers from the sympathetic trunks, The parasympathetic supply comes form the vagus nerves.
- Inferior to the roots of the lungs, the vagus nerves join the sympathetic nerves to form the **esophageal plexus**.
- The **left vagus** lies **anterior** to the esophagus. •The **right vagus** lies **posterior** to it.
- At the opening of the diaphragm, the esophagus is accompanied by: The two vagi, **Branches of the left gastric vessels** Lymphatic vessels.
- There is a close relationship between the left atrium of the heart and the esophagus. **What is the clinical application?** A *barium swallow* in the esophagus will help the physician to **assess the size of the left atrium (Dilation)** as in case of a heart failure, or long standing mitral stenosis.