ANT Sternum and sternal angle

Ni Anterior cutaneous branches of intercostal nn.
Aa Internal thoracic a.: sternal and perforating branches
Vv Internal thoracic vv.; parasternal lymph nodes
C Sternal marrow puncture; median sternotomy

Manubrium L T3–T4 vertebrae Ar Clavicles, 1st costal cartilages, part of the 2nd

Sternal angle M 2nd costal cartilage; T4–T5 disc P Superior/inferior mediastinum; ends of arch; tracheal bifurcation No Azygos v. joins the SVC; pulmonary trunk bifurcates

Xiphoid L Xiphisternal joint at T9 At Sternal part of the diaphragm, linea alba, rectus abdominis

LAT Ribs and costal cartilages

Ni Intercostal n. in the costal groove of each rib
Aa Posterior and anterior intercostal aa.
Vv Intercostal vv. to the azygos system and internal thoracic v.
T True 1–7; false 8–10; floating 11–12; arch: cartilages 7–10
Ff Inspiration: pump handle (ribs 2–6), bucket handle (7–10)
C Fracture just anterior to the angle; flail chest if segmental

Typical rib P Head (2 facets), neck, tubercle, angle, body Ar Head: own and superior vertebra; tubercle: own transverse process

First rib Fe Scalene tubercle; subclavian v. groove anterior, a. groove posterior R Neck: sympathetic trunk, supreme intercostal v. and a., T1 ramus

Costal groove C Intercostal v., a., n. (VAN), superior to inferior No Needles pass at the superior border of the inferior rib

POST Thoracic vertebrae and costovertebral joints

Ni Joints: dorsal rami of thoracic spinal nn.
Aa Posterior intercostal aa.: dorsal and spinal branches
Vv Vertebral venous plexuses to posterior intercostal vv.
C Compression fracture at the thoracolumbar junction

Thoracic vertebra Fe Heart-shaped body; long sloping spine; 3 costal facets At T1: full facet rib 1; T10–T12: single facets; T11–12: no transverse facet

Head joint T Synovial; rib head to two bodies and the disc L Radiate lig.; intra-articular lig. splits the cavity

Costotransverse joint T Rib tubercle to the transverse costal facet No Absent at ribs 11–12; superior and lateral ligg.

DEEP Intercostal muscles

Ni Intercostal nn.; subcostal n. (T12)
Aa Posterior (aorta) and anterior (internal thoracic) aa.
Vv Intercostal vv. with the arteries
L External, internal, innermost; bundle between the last two
Ff Accessory inspiration: SCM, scalenes, pectorals, levatores

External intercostal
O Inferior border of a rib
I Superior border of the next rib
F Elevates ribs: inspiration · Fibres inferoanterior; membrane anteriorly

Internal intercostal
O Costal groove of a rib
I Superior border of the next rib
F Depresses ribs: forced expiration · Fibres inferoposterior; interchondral part elevates

Innermost intercostal P Deepest layer, lateral part of the space No Layer with subcostales and transversus thoracis F As internal intercostals: depresses ribs, expiration

Transversus thoracis
O Posterior surface of the inferior sternum and xiphoid
I Costal cartilages 2–6
F Weakly depresses costal cartilages: expiration

DEEP Intercostal nerves and vessels

Ni Anterior rami T1–T11 = intercostal nn.; T12 = subcostal n.
Aa Posterior 1–2: supreme intercostal a.; 3–11: aorta · Anterior: internal thoracic (1–6), musculophrenic (7–9)
Vv Posterior vv. to azygos/hemiazygos; anterior to internal thoracic v.

Intercostal n. C Costal groove, between internal and innermost layers B Muscular, collateral, lateral and anterior cutaneous F Intercostal mm.; skin and parietal pleura of the space

Intercostobrachial n. Ar Lateral cutaneous br. of T2: skin of axilla, medial arm

Posterior intercostal aa. Ar Thoracic aorta, spaces 3–11 B Dorsal, collateral, lateral cutaneous

ANT Internal thoracic vessels

Ni Phrenic n. crosses the artery near its origin
Aa From the first part of the subclavian a.
Vv Internal thoracic vv. to the brachiocephalic v. · Parasternal nodes along the vessels: medial breast drains here
C Bypass graft: internal thoracic a. to anterior interventricular branch

Internal thoracic a. C 1 cm lateral to the sternum, posterior to cartilages 1–6 E 6th space: musculophrenic and superior epigastric aa.

Musculophrenic a. C Along the costal arch; anterior intercostal aa. 7–9

Superior epigastric a. C Sternocostal triangle to rectus sheath; meets inferior epigastric a.

INF Diaphragm and its openings

Ni Motor: phrenic nn. (C3–C5) · Sensory periphery: inferior intercostal and subcostal nn.
Aa Sup. and inf. phrenic, pericardiacophrenic, musculophrenic aa.
Vv Phrenic vv. with the arteries
L IVC T8, oesophagus T10, aorta T12
C Referred shoulder-tip pain (C4) from diaphragmatic irritation

Diaphragm
O Xiphoid, cartilages and ribs 7–12, crura, arcuate ligg.
I Central tendon
F Main muscle of inspiration

Right crus
O Bodies L1–L3; left crus L1–L2
I
F Encircles the hiatus: anti-reflux sphincter

Caval opening C T8, central tendon: IVC, right phrenic n. branches

Oesophageal hiatus C T10, right crus: oesophagus, vagal trunks

Aortic hiatus C T12, median arcuate lig.: aorta, thoracic duct, ± azygos v.

Pleura and recesses

Ni Parietal: intercostal and phrenic nn., pain-sensitive · Visceral: autonomic, pain-insensitive
Aa Parietal: intercostal, internal thoracic aa.; visceral: bronchial aa.
Vv Parietal: intercostal, parasternal nodes; visceral: bronchopulmonary
L Rib 8 midclavicular, 10 midaxillary, 12 paravertebral; lung 6, 8, 10
Ff Frictionless gliding; surface tension couples lung to wall
C Pleural tap: 9th space, midaxillary line, superior rib border

Parietal pleura P Costal, mediastinal, diaphragmatic, cervical

Cervical pleura P 2–3 cm superior to medial third of clavicle; suprapleural membrane

Costodiaphragmatic recess P Deepest recess; midaxillary line ribs 8–10; fluid collects here

Pulmonary ligament S Pleural fold hanging from the lung root

Lungs, lobes and fissures

Ni Pulmonary plexus: vagus constricts, sympathetic dilates bronchi
Aa Bronchial aa. nourish lung; pulmonary aa. bring blood to oxygenate
Vv Pulmonary vv. to the left atrium; bronchial vv. to the azygos system · Lymph: bronchopulmonary then tracheobronchial nodes
Ff Gas exchange; elastic recoil drives quiet expiration
C Pancoast tumour at the apex: Horner syndrome, T1 pain

Right lung L 3 lobes, oblique and horizontal fissures; 10 segments No Shorter and wider: right dome more superior

Left lung L 2 lobes, oblique fissure; 8–10 segments Fe Cardiac notch; lingula of the superior lobe

Apex P Into the neck, 2–3 cm superior to the clavicle R Subclavian a. grooves it; cervical pleura covers it

Oblique fissure M T2–T3 spine to the 6th costal cartilage; isolates the inferior lobe

Horizontal fissure M Right only: 4th rib and cartilage, midaxillary line to sternum

MED Root, hilum and mediastinal surfaces

Ni Phrenic n. anterior, vagus posterior to the root; pulmonary plexus
Aa Pulmonary a.: superior on the left, anterior on the right
Vv Pulmonary vv. most anterior and most inferior

Lung root L T5–T7 vertebrae C Bronchus, pulmonary a., 2 pulmonary vv., bronchial vessels, nodes, plexus

Right hilum Or Superior lobar bronchus eparterial; veins anteroinferior

Left hilum Or Pulmonary a. superior; bronchus posterior; veins anteroinferior

Right mediastinal surface G Right atrium, SVC, azygos arch, oesophagus, IVC

Left mediastinal surface G Left ventricle, aortic arch, descending aorta, left subclavian a.

Trachea and main bronchi

Ni Vagus and recurrent laryngeal nn.; sympathetic trunk
Aa Inferior thyroid and bronchial aa.
Vv Inferior thyroid vv.; paratracheal and tracheobronchial nodes
C Inhaled bodies enter the right main bronchus

Trachea E C6 (cricoid) to the sternal angle, T4–T5 F 16–20 C-rings keep airway open; trachealis narrows it

Carina P Internal ridge at the bifurcation C Widened by an enlarged left atrium or nodes

Right main bronchus Fe Shorter, wider, more vertical; azygos arch over it

Left main bronchus Fe Longer, horizontal; inferior to arch, anterior to oesophagus

Mediastinum and its divisions

Ni Phrenic nn. pass anterior, vagi posterior to the lung roots
Aa Aorta: ascending (middle), arch (superior), descending (posterior)
Vv SVC, brachiocephalic vv. (superior); azygos, thoracic duct (posterior)
P Transverse thoracic plane: sternal angle to the T4–T5 disc

Superior mediastinum C Thymus, great vessels, trachea, oesophagus, thoracic duct, nn.

Anterior mediastinum C Sternopericardial ligg., fat, nodes; thymus in children

Middle mediastinum C Pericardium, heart, roots of great vessels, phrenic nn.

Posterior mediastinum C Descending aorta, oesophagus, thoracic duct, azygos, vagi, splanchnic nn.

SUP Aorta and arch branches

Ni Left vagus and phrenic nn. cross the left side of the arch · Left recurrent laryngeal n. loops posterior to the ligamentum
Aa Arch: brachiocephalic trunk, left common carotid, left subclavian
Vv Left brachiocephalic v. crosses anterior to the branches
C Coarctation at isthmus: rib notching (intercostal collaterals)

Ascending aorta C Left ventricle to the sternal angle, in the pericardium B Right and left coronary aa. only

Aortic arch C Begins and ends at the sternal angle plane R Arches over the left main bronchus and pulmonary a.

Brachiocephalic trunk E Divides posterior to the right sternoclavicular joint

Ligamentum arteriosum J Arch to the left pulmonary a.: ductus arteriosus remnant

Thoracic aorta C T4–T12, left of the bodies, then midline at the hiatus B Posterior intercostal, subcostal, bronchial, oesophageal, sup. phrenic

POST SVC, brachiocephalic and azygos veins

Ni Right phrenic n. descends on the SVC
Aa Right posterior intercostal aa. cross posterior to the azygos v.
Vv Azygos: from right ascending lumbar and subcostal vv.
C SVC obstruction: azygos and thoracoepigastric collaterals

SVC C Formed at the right 1st cartilage; enters right atrium at the 3rd

Left brachiocephalic v. C Posterior to the manubrium, anterior to the arch branches

Azygos v. C Right of bodies; arches over right root to SVC at T4

Hemiazygos v. C Left side; crosses to the azygos v. at T9

R superior intercostal v. D Spaces 2–4 to the azygos arch

L superior intercostal v. C Crosses the aortic arch to the left brachiocephalic v.

Nerves of the mediastinum

Ni Phrenic C3–C5 somatic; vagus slows heart; trunk (T1–L2) speeds it
Aa Pericardiacophrenic a. runs with the phrenic n.
Vv Pericardiacophrenic vv. with the artery
C Left recurrent n. compressed by aneurysm or nodes: hoarseness

Phrenic n. C Anterior to the lung root, on the pericardium S Diaphragm (motor); pericardium, mediastinal, diaphragmatic pleura

Vagus n. C Posterior to the lung root; forms the oesophageal plexus S Right on the trachea; left crosses the aortic arch

Left recurrent laryngeal n. C Loops inferior to the arch at the ligamentum arteriosum F Motor: intrinsic laryngeal mm. except cricothyroid

Sympathetic trunk P On rib heads; white and grey rami to spinal nn.

Greater splanchnic n. C Ganglia T5–T9; pierces the crus to the coeliac ganglion F Preganglionic sympathetic to foregut viscera

POST Oesophagus, thoracic duct and thymus

Ni Oesophageal plexus (vagi) and sympathetic trunks
Aa Oesophageal brr. of thoracic aorta; left gastric a. inferiorly
Vv Azygos and left gastric vv.: portosystemic anastomosis
C Oesophageal varices in portal hypertension

Oesophagus C C6 to the cardia; posterior to the trachea and left atrium F Peristalsis carries the bolus to the stomach C Pharyngo-oesophageal junction, aortic arch, left bronchus, diaphragm

Thoracic duct C Aortic hiatus; between aorta and azygos v., posterior to oesophagus F Lymph and chyle of all but right upper quadrant E Crosses left at T4–T6; enters the left venous angle

Thymus P Superior and anterior mediastinum, posterior to the manubrium F T-lymphocyte maturation; involutes after puberty