

THORAX 5

You are supposed to learn about:

1. Thoracic aorta: anatomy, course, topography, branches and their area of supply
2. Azygos system: azygos vein, hemiazygos vein, accessory hemiazygos vein; tributaries, area of drainage
3. Esophagus: anatomy, course, constrictions, topography, arterial supply, venous drainage, innervation
4. Thoracic duct: origin from chyle cistern, anatomy, course, topography, area of drainage
5. Vagus nerves: course, topography, plexuses, vagal trunks
6. Sympathetic trunk: anatomy, course, topography, branches, area of innervation
7. Lymph nodes of posterior mediastinum
8. Diaphragm: anatomy, openings (apertures) and structures passing through them, arterial blood supply, venous drainage, innervation, function

Always read the relevant clinical blue boxes to have an idea about clinical significance of structures you learn about.

In the dissection room, you are supposed to recognize:

1. Thoracic aorta and its branches
2. Azygos vein: tributaries, arch of azygos vein
3. Hemiazygos vein and accessory hemiazygos vein
4. Esophagus, esophageal plexus, vagal trunks
5. Thoracic duct in posterior and superior mediastinum (not always visible)
6. Vagus nerve: its course in the posterior mediastinum
7. Sympathetic trunk: ganglia, interganglionic branches, white and grey communicating rami, greater, lesser and least splanchnic nerves
8. Diaphragm: parts, central tendon, crura, arcuate ligaments, caval opening, esophageal hiatus, aortic hiatus, other small openings, sternocostal triangles, lumbocostal triangles

Always investigate the topography of structures!