

# Thoracic Wall

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Associate professor of anatomy

# Thoracic wall

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## **Boundaries :**

Anteriorly : sternum and costal cartilages

Posteriorly : vertebral column

On either side : ribs and intercostal spaces

The thoracic wall is composed of :

1- Skeleton (Thoracic cage)

2-Intercostal muscles

3-Intercostal vessels

4-Intercostal nerves

# **I-Skeleton of the thorax**

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This is an Osseo cartilaginous cavity composed of :

1-Sternum

2-Ribs

3-Costal cartilage

4-Thoracic Vertebrae

## Sternum

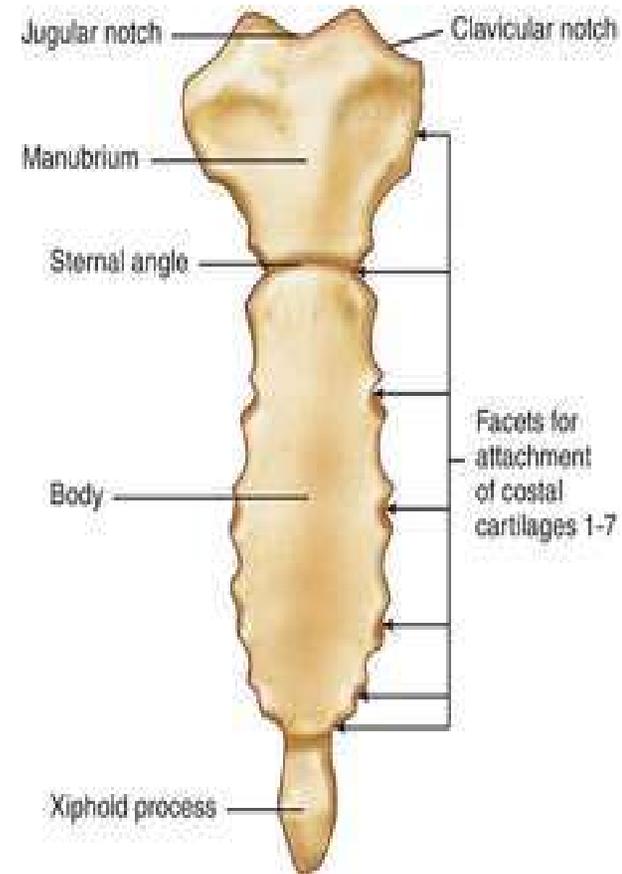
It has Three parts

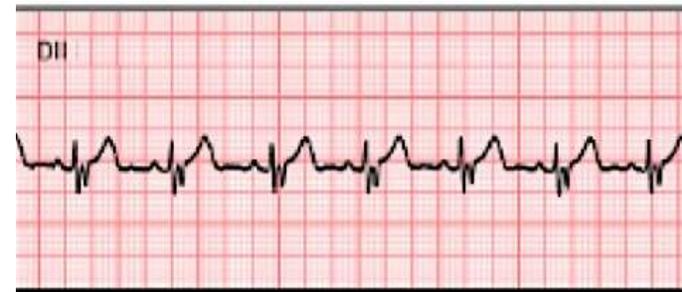
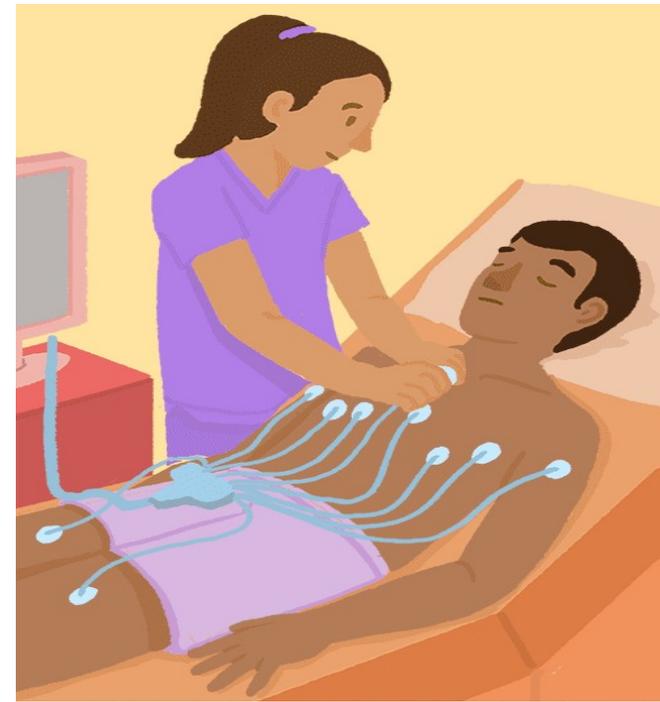
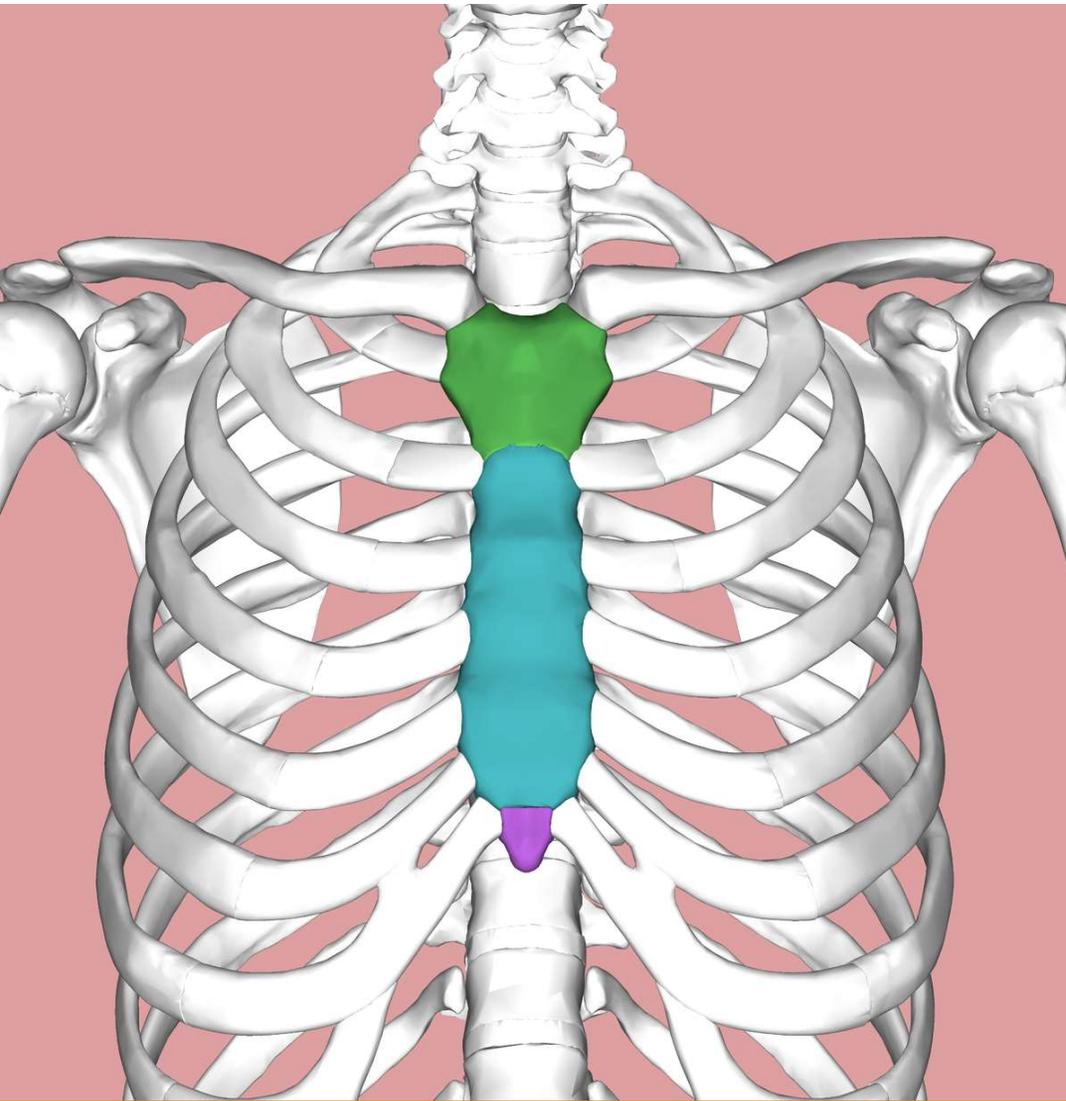
- Manubrium
- Body
- Xiphoid process
- The sternal angle (angle of Louis) is formed by the articulation of the manubrium with the body of the sternum
- It is at the level of the second costal cartilage

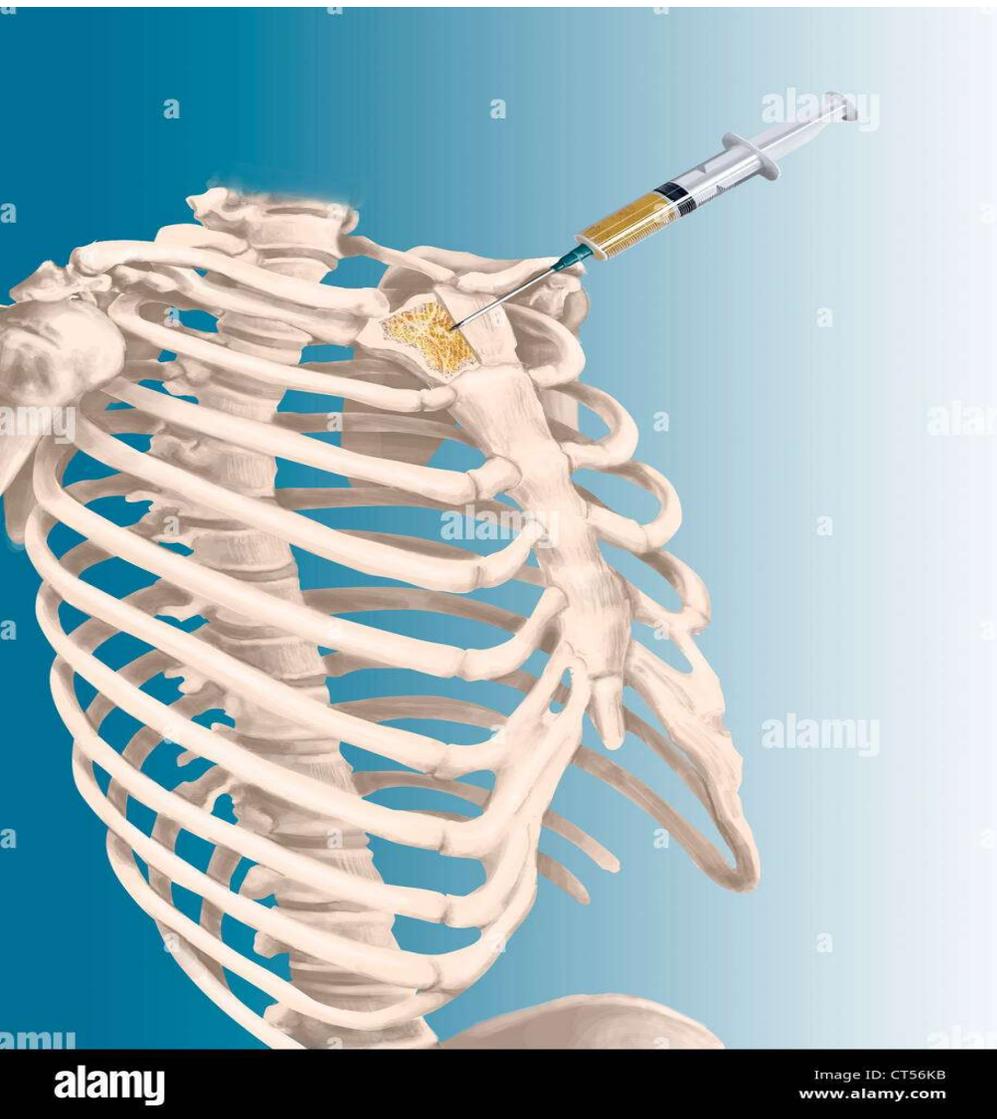
### **Q. What is function of sternal angle ?**

A. Counting of the ribs

N.B : Sternum is one of sites to take Bone marrow biopsy







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Bone marrow biopsy

# Ribs

12 Pairs

## True ribs

1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> ribs

Attach to thoracic vertebrae and sternum

## False ribs

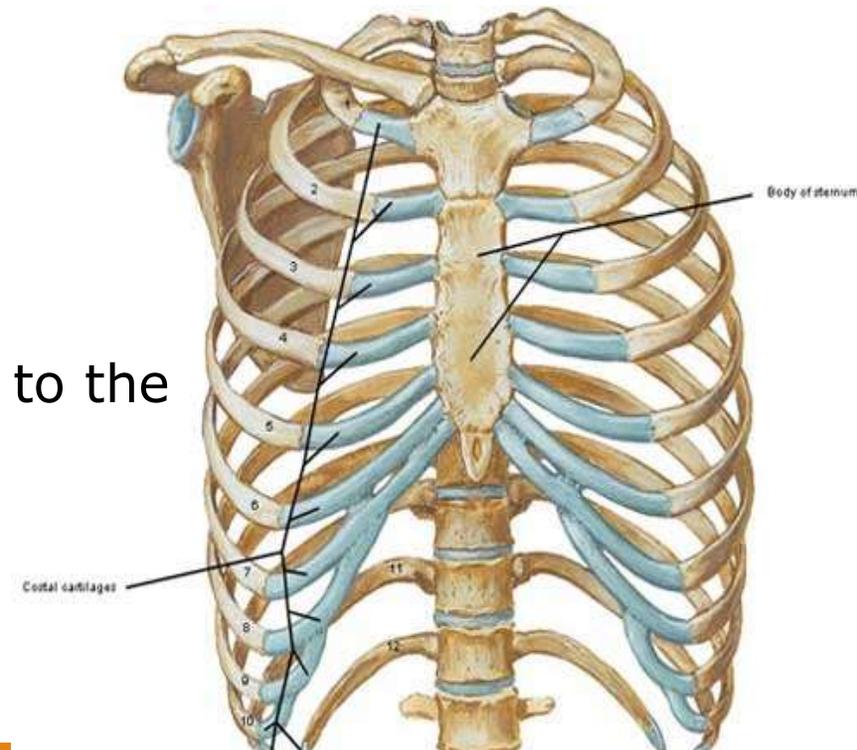
8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> ribs

are attached anteriorly to each other and to the 7<sup>th</sup> rib

## Floating ribs

11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> ribs

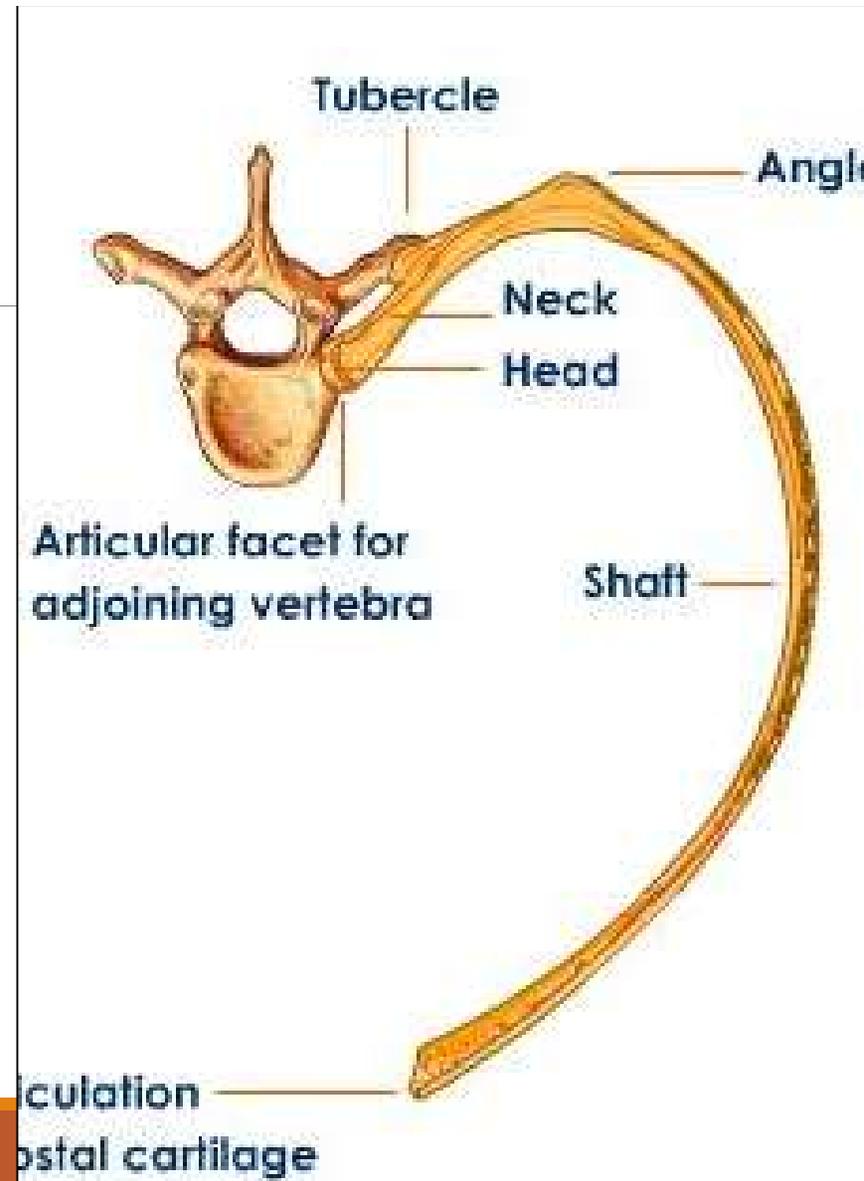
Have no attachment in the front

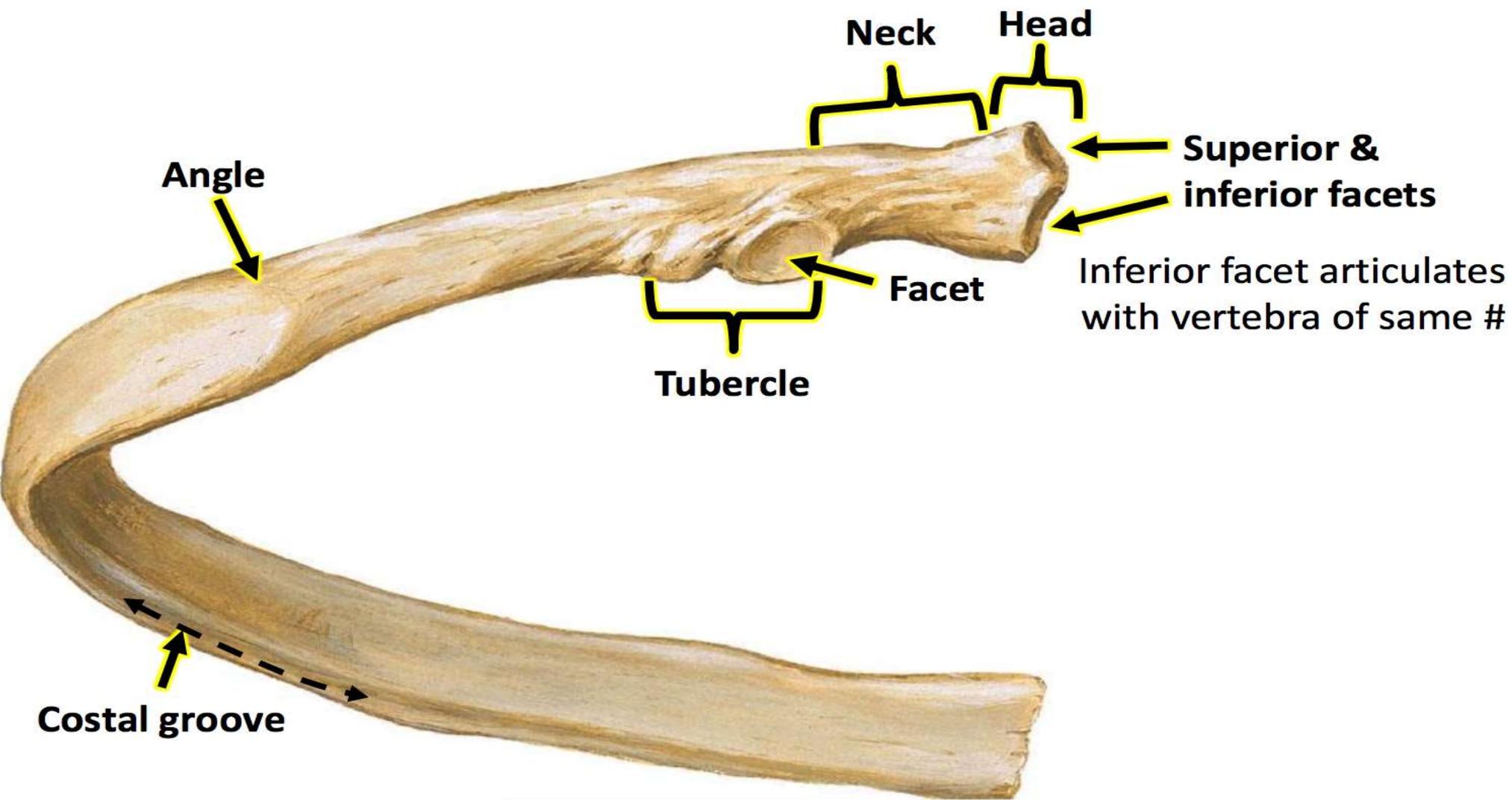


# Ribs

Typical Rib should has this landmarks

- Head
- Neck
- Tubercle
- Angle
- Shaft or body
- **Subcostal Groove** , contains
  - A-Intercostal **V**ein
  - B-Intercostal **A**rtery
  - C-Intercostal **N**erve





Neck

Head

Angle

Superior & inferior facets

Facet

Inferior facet articulates with vertebra of same #

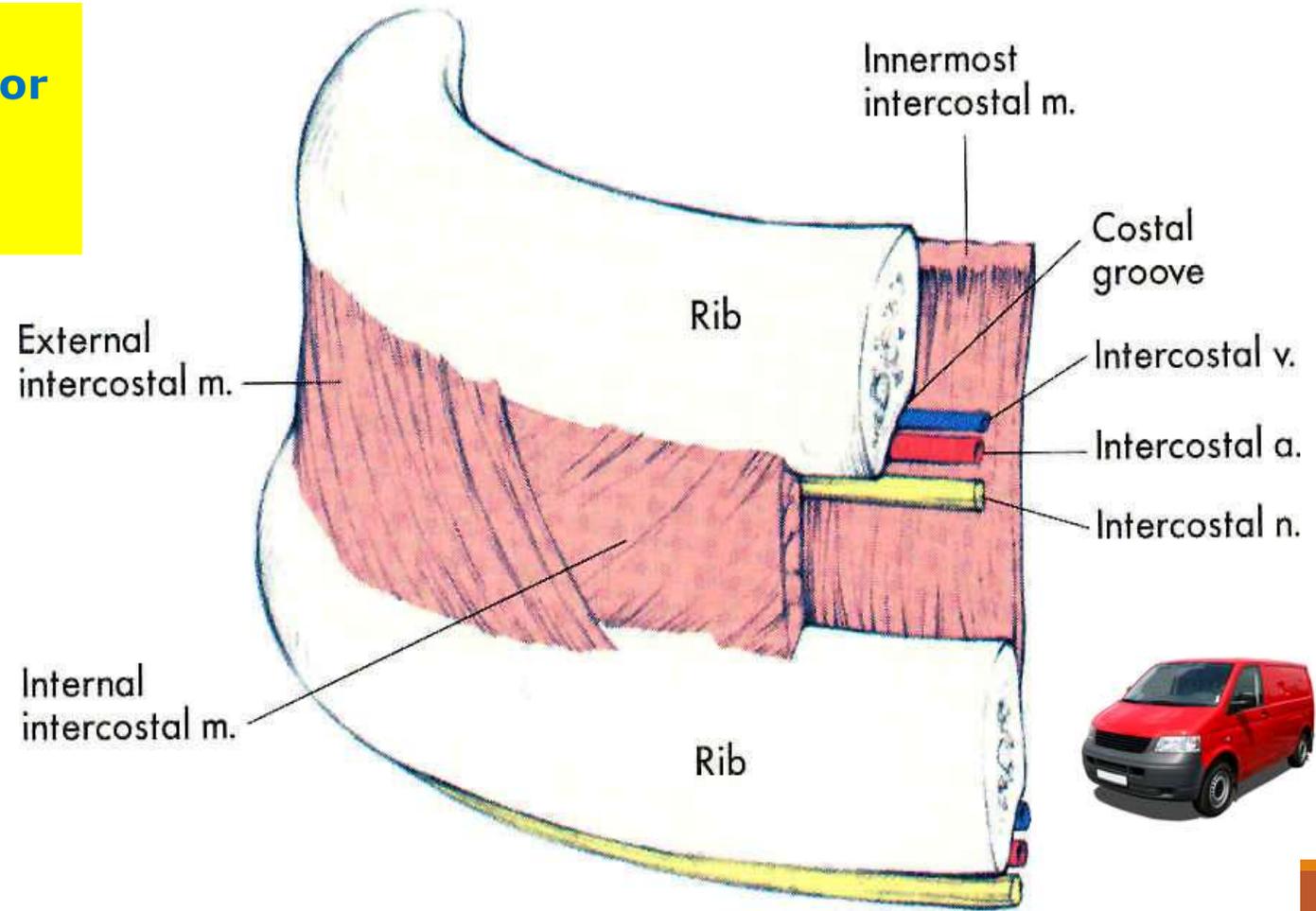
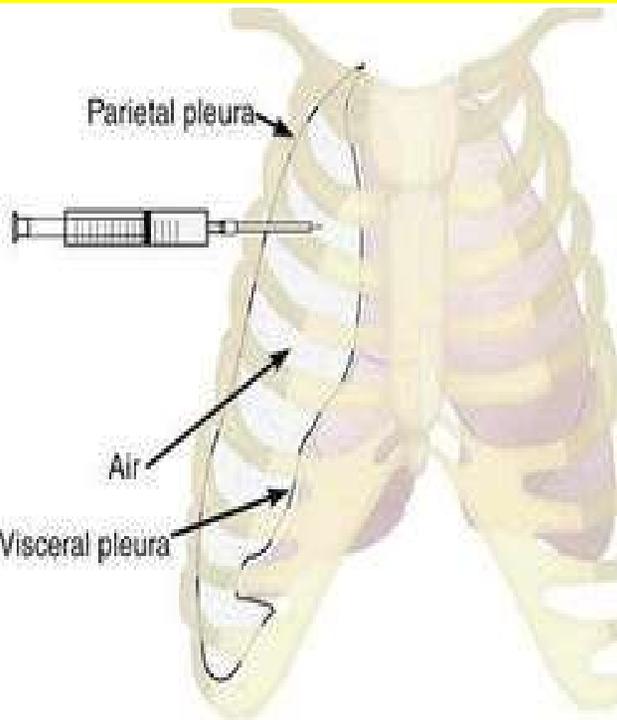
Tubercle

Costal groove

Left rib: Posterior view

**Subcostal Groove** : contains; Intercostal vein Intercostal artery and Intercostal nerve  
**VAN**

**The needle should be inserted above the superior border of the rib**



## Openings of the Thorax

### Thoracic outlet

It is an opening between chest cavity and the root of the neck .

#### Boundaries :

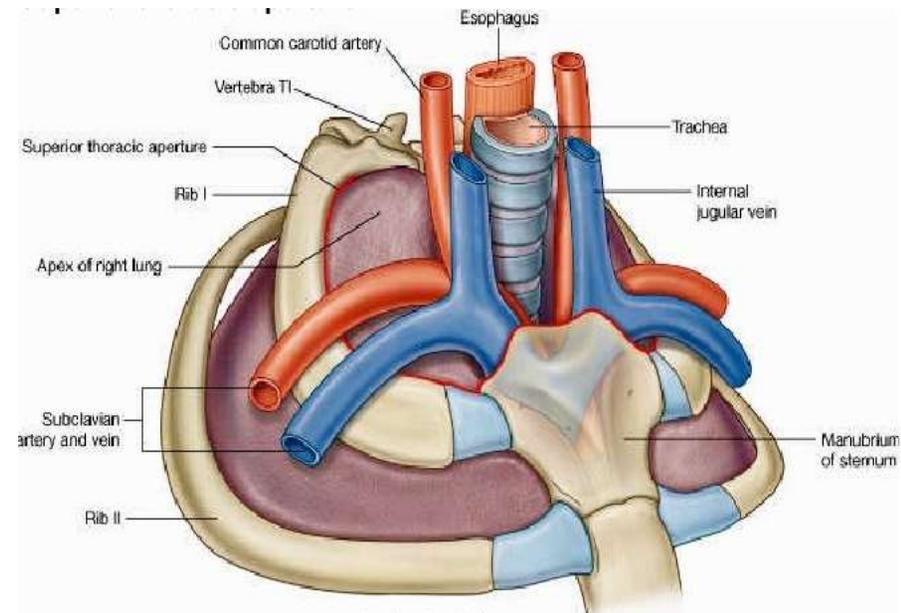
Anteriorly: Superior border of the manubrium sterni

Posteriorly : First thoracic vertebra

Laterally : Medial borders of the first ribs and their costal cartilages

#### Structure passing :

Esophagus , trachea and many vessels and nerves.



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## Inferior thoracic aperture

The thoracic cavity communicates with the abdomen through a large opening.

### • Boundaries :

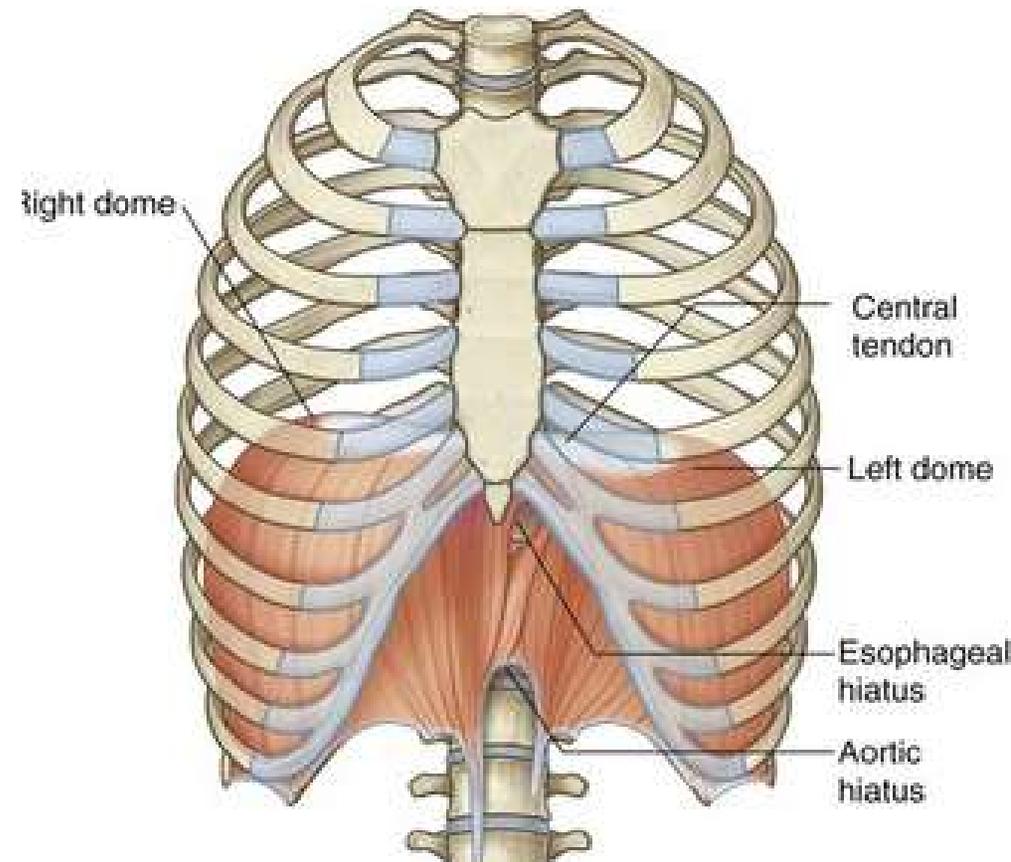
Anteriorly : Xiphisternal joint

Posteriorly : 12th thoracic vertebra

Laterally : Costal margin

### Structure passing :

esophagus and many large vessels and nerves,  
through diaphragm foramina



## The Thoracic Outlet Syndrome

### Cause :

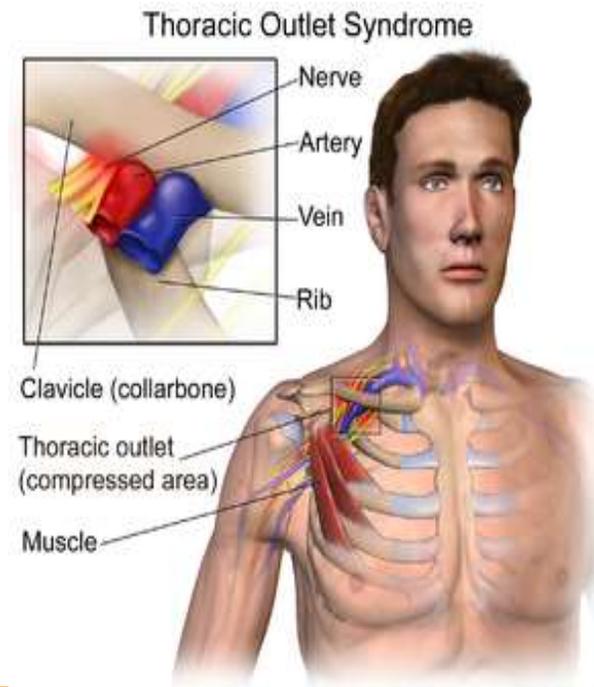
Compression of roots of brachial plexus (C5, 6, 7, and 8 and T1) and the subclavian artery and vein against 1<sup>st</sup> rib

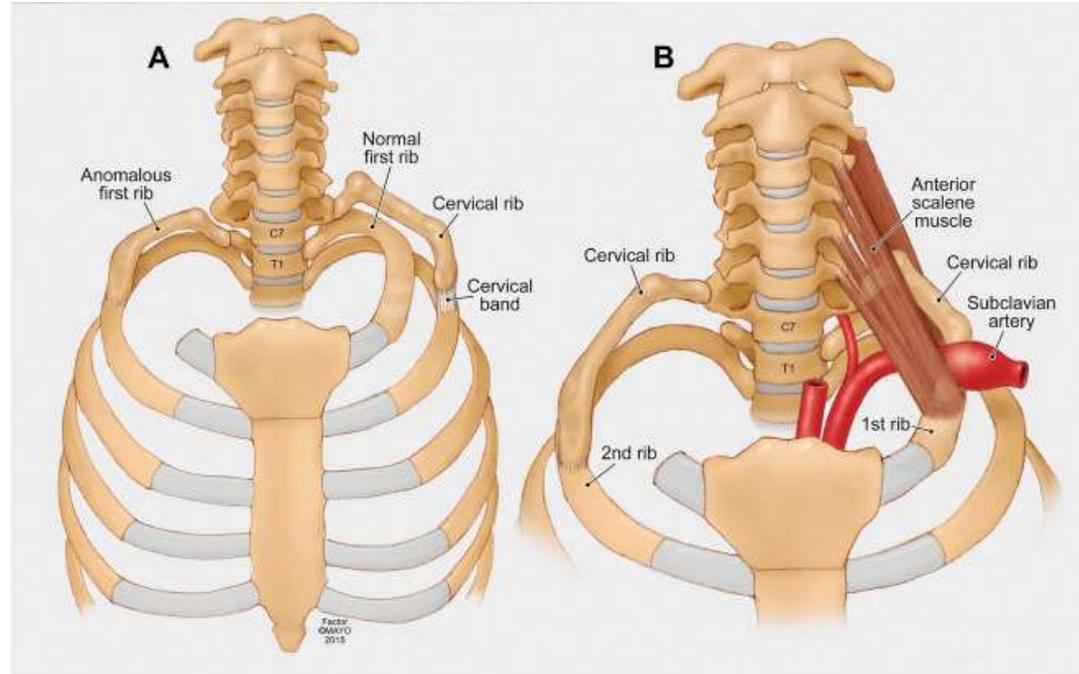
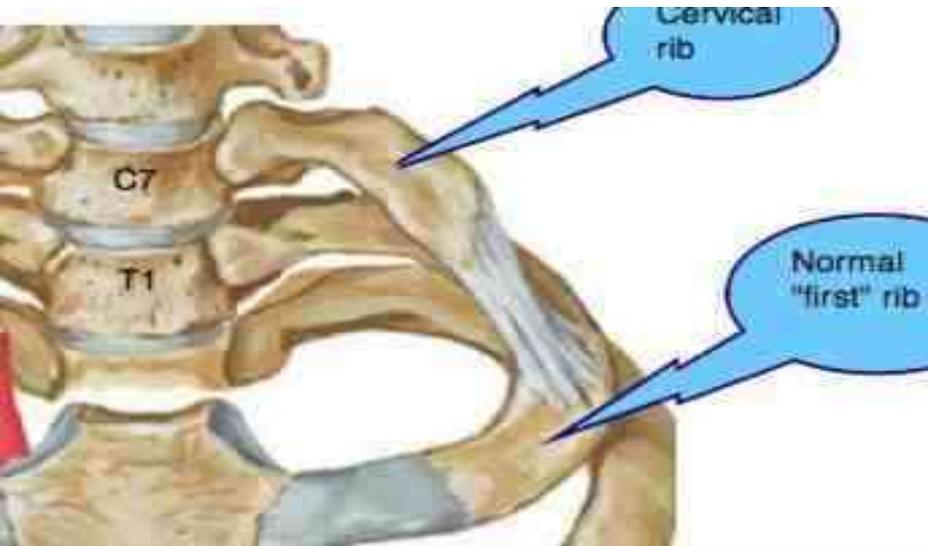
### Cervical Rib

A cervical rib ( a rib arising from the anterior tubercle of the transverse process of the 7th cervical vertebra) It may have a free anterior end or connected to the 1st rib by a fibrous band.

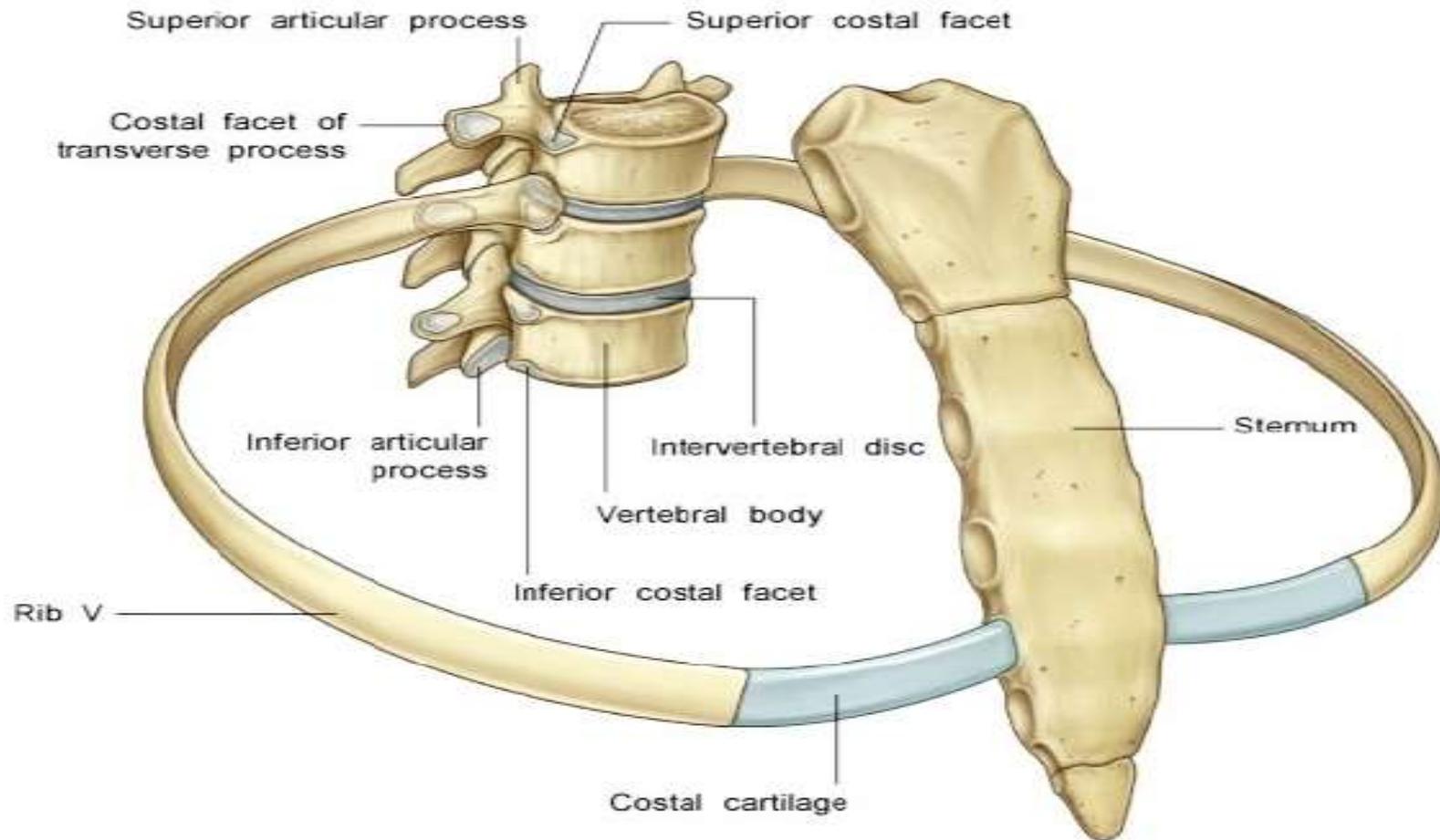
### Symptoms :

Compression of nerves leads to pain down the medial side of the forearm and hand and wasting of the small muscles of the hand





# Joints of the Chest Wall



## I- Joints of the Sternum

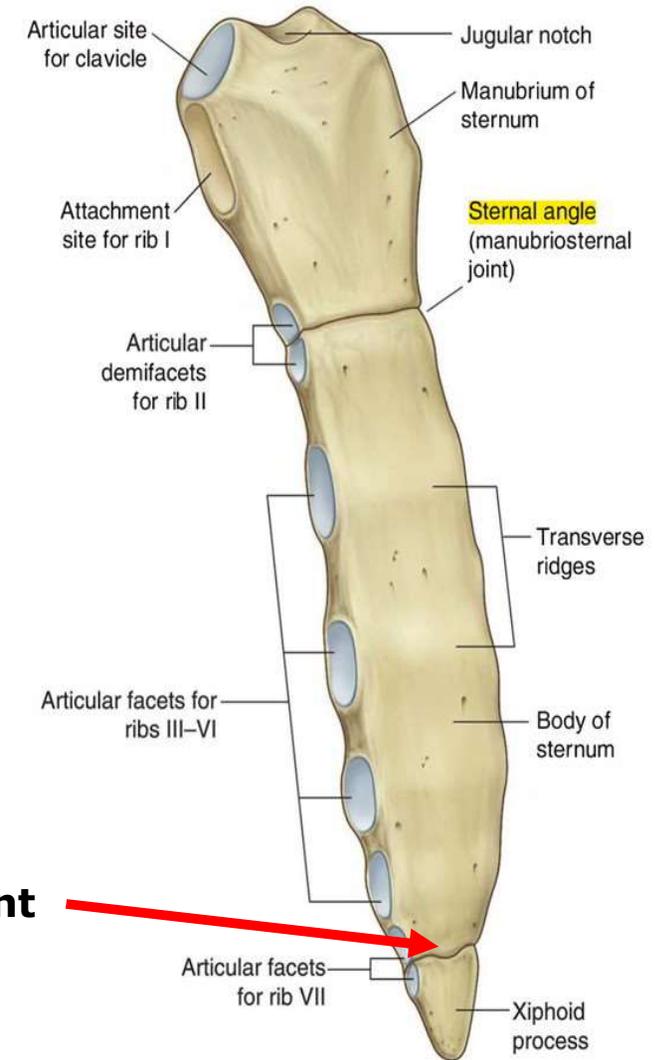
### A. Manubriosternal joint

Secondary cartilaginous joint between the manubrium and the body of the sternum.

A small amount of angular movement is possible during respiration.

### B. Xiphisternal joint

Secondary cartilaginous joint between the xiphoid process and the body of the sternum.



**Xiphisternal joint**

## II- Costovertebral Joints

### A. Costocorporeal joint (Joints of the Heads of the Ribs)

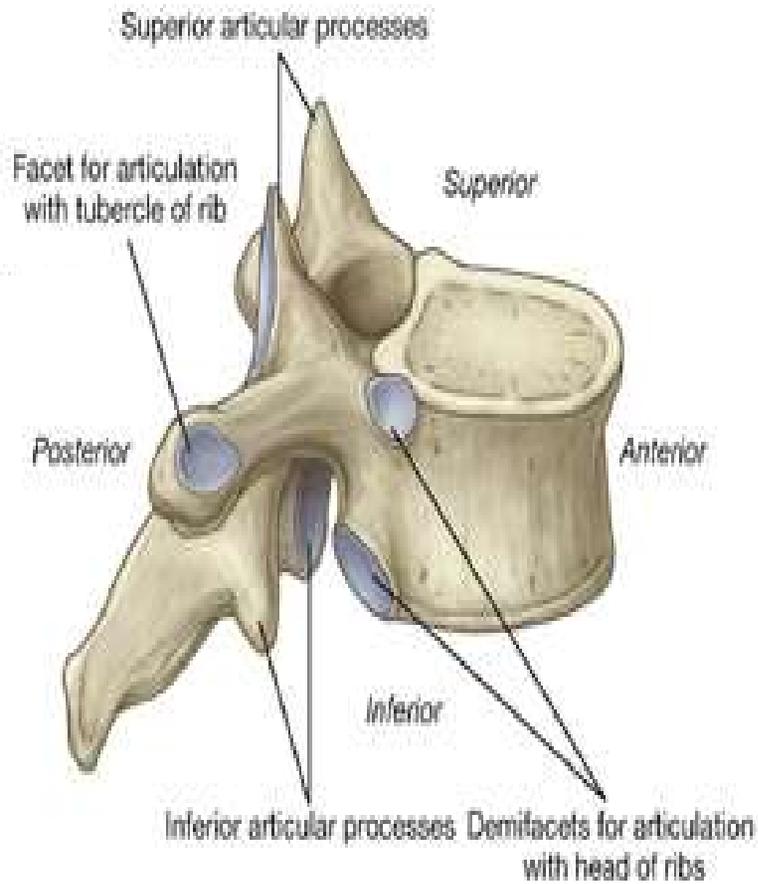
- Plane Synovial joint
- Between the head of typical rib and corresponding vertebrae
- The ribs articulate with corresponding vertebral body and that of the vertebra above it.
- 1<sup>st</sup> rib and last three ribs articulate with corresponding vertebral body only.
- There is a strong **intraarticular ligament** that connects the head to the intervertebral disc.

### B. Costotransverse Joint

- Plane Synovial joint
- Between tubercle of ribs and transverse process of corresponding vertebrae

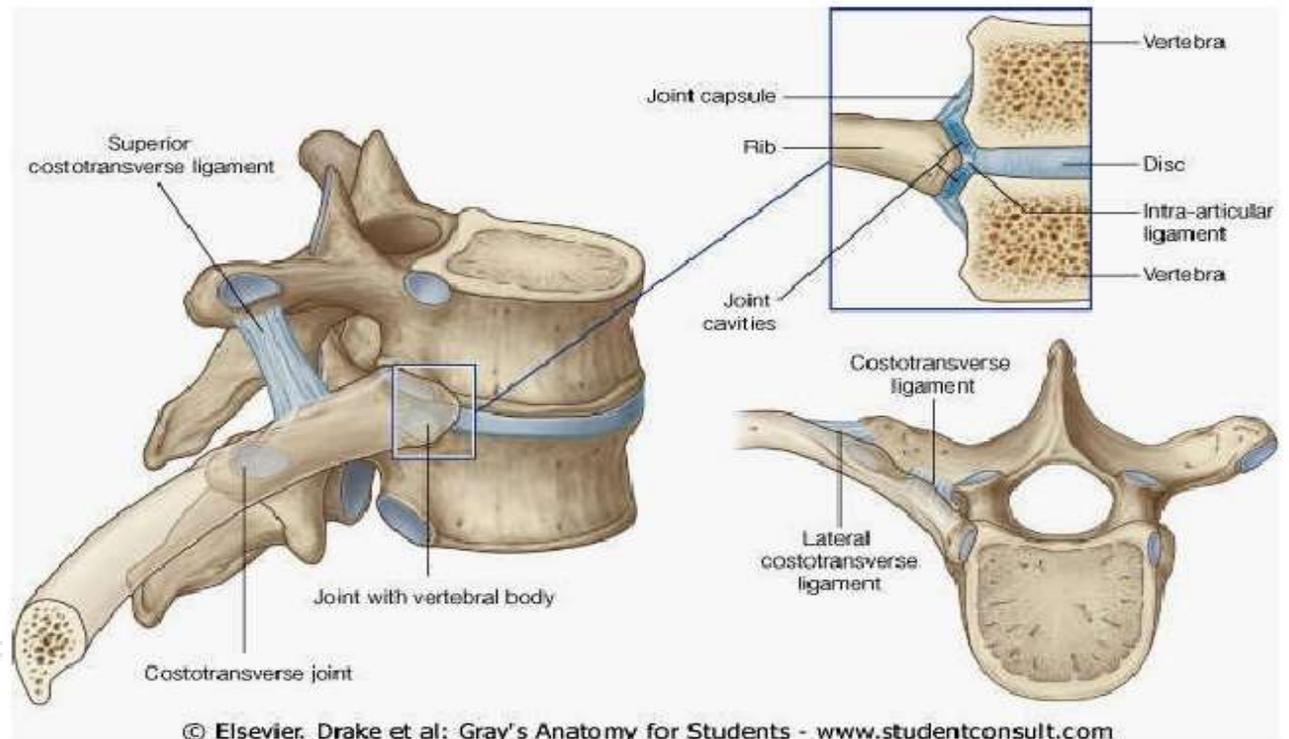
***N.B*** This joint is absent on the 11th and 12th ribs

# Articulation of Ribs with Vertebra



Superolateral view

## Costovertebral joints.



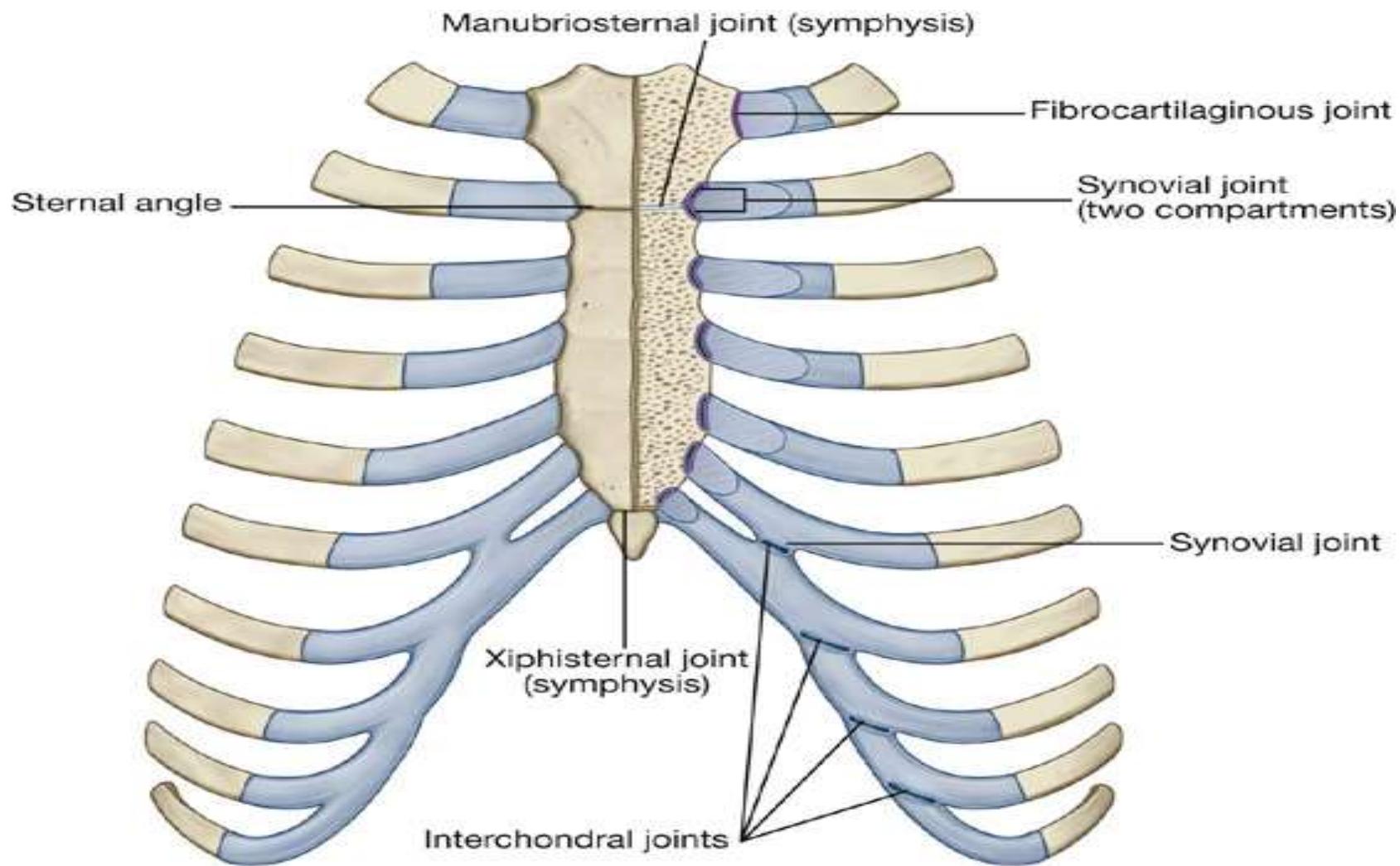
### III- Joints of the Costal Cartilages

#### A. Sternocostal Joint

- Plane Synovial joint
- Between sternum and costal cartilage of true ribs
- The 1<sup>st</sup> costal cartilages articulate with the manubrium, by cartilaginous joints with no movement

#### B. Chostochondral Joint

- Cartilaginous joints.
- Between ribs and costal cartilage .
- No movement is possible.





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**Costochondral joints**



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**Sternochondral joints**

## Intercostal muscles

### 1-External intercostal muscle

Its fibres are directed **downward and forward**

It extends from the inferior border of the rib above to the superior border of the rib below .

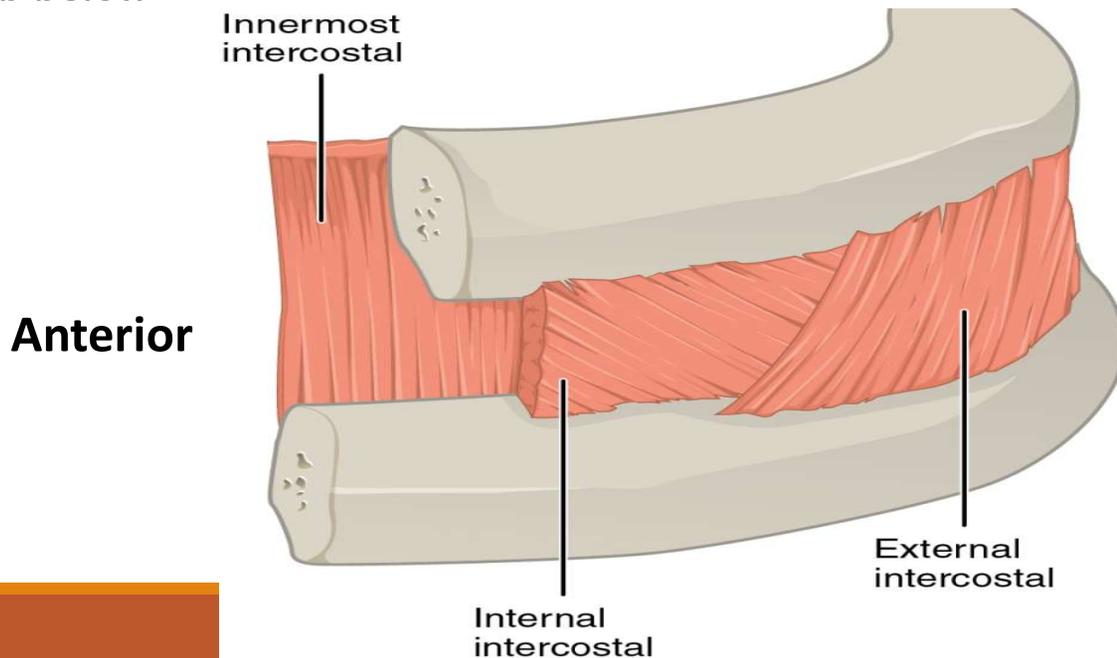
### 2-Internal intercostal muscle

Its fibres are directed **downward and backward**

It extends from inferior border of the rib above to the upper border of the rib below

### 3-Innermost intercostal muscle

It is an incomplete muscle layer , It extends from inferior border of the rib above to the upper border of the rib below



#### 4-Subcostal muscle:

Arise from internal surface of the rib to internal surface of the rib 2-3 levels below the origin

#### Transversus thoracis muscle

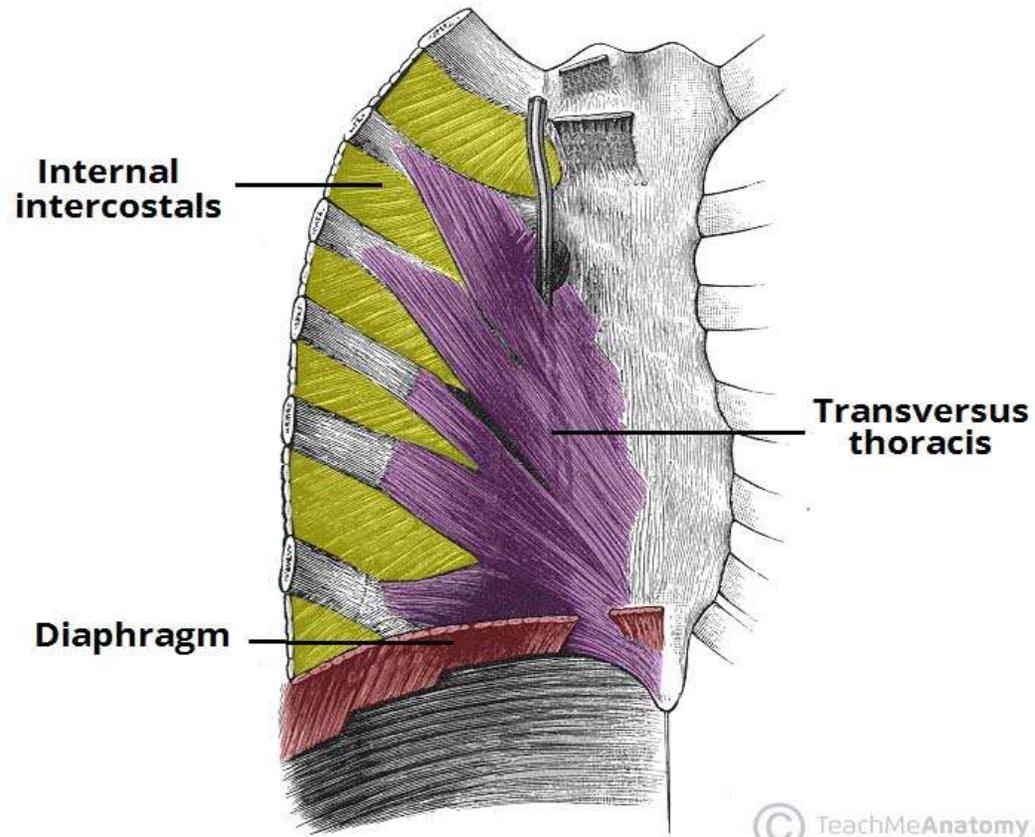
Posterior surface of lower sternum to internal surface of 2-6 costal cartilage

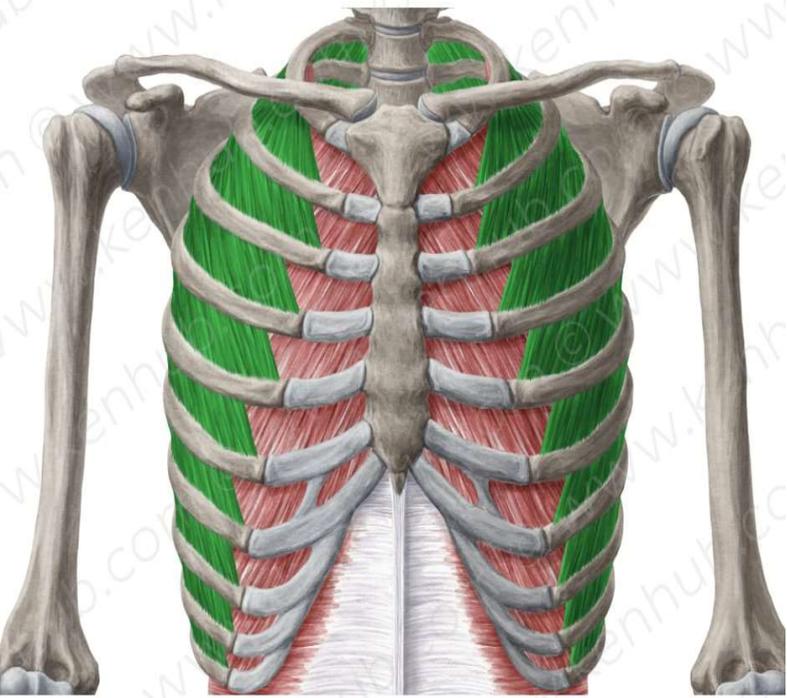
#### Nerve Supply

Intercostal nerves

#### Action :

- Respiration
- Strengthen the intercostal spaces





**External intercostal muscle**

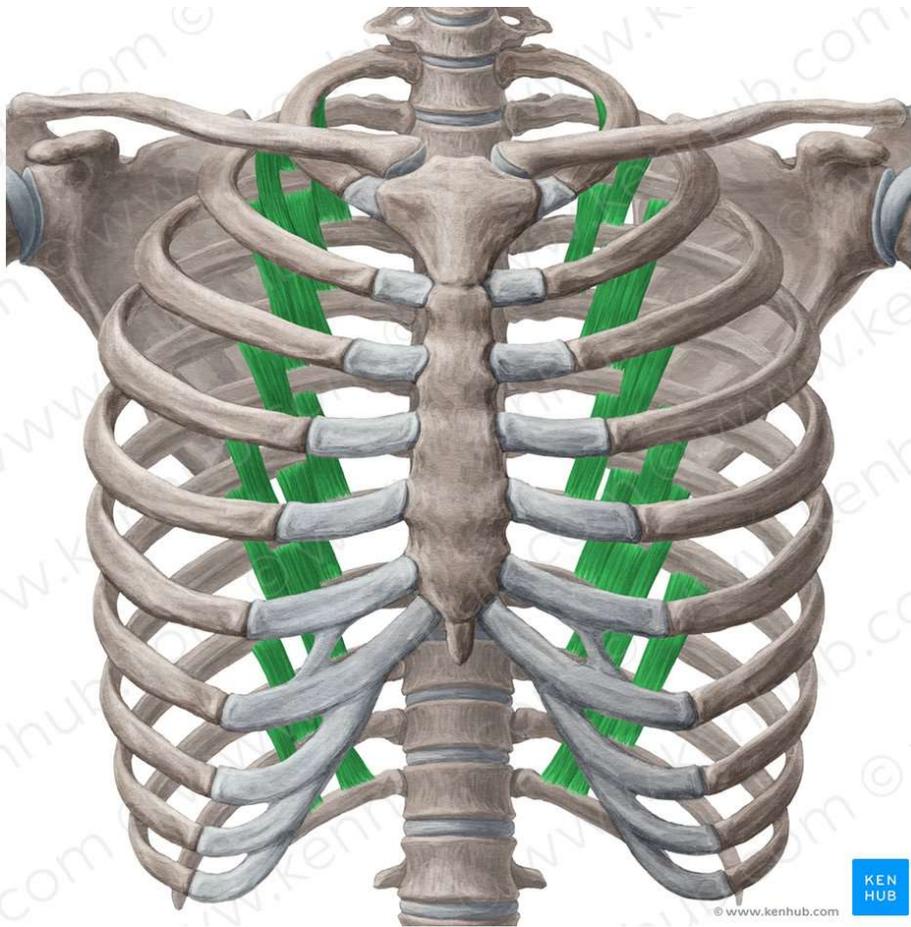
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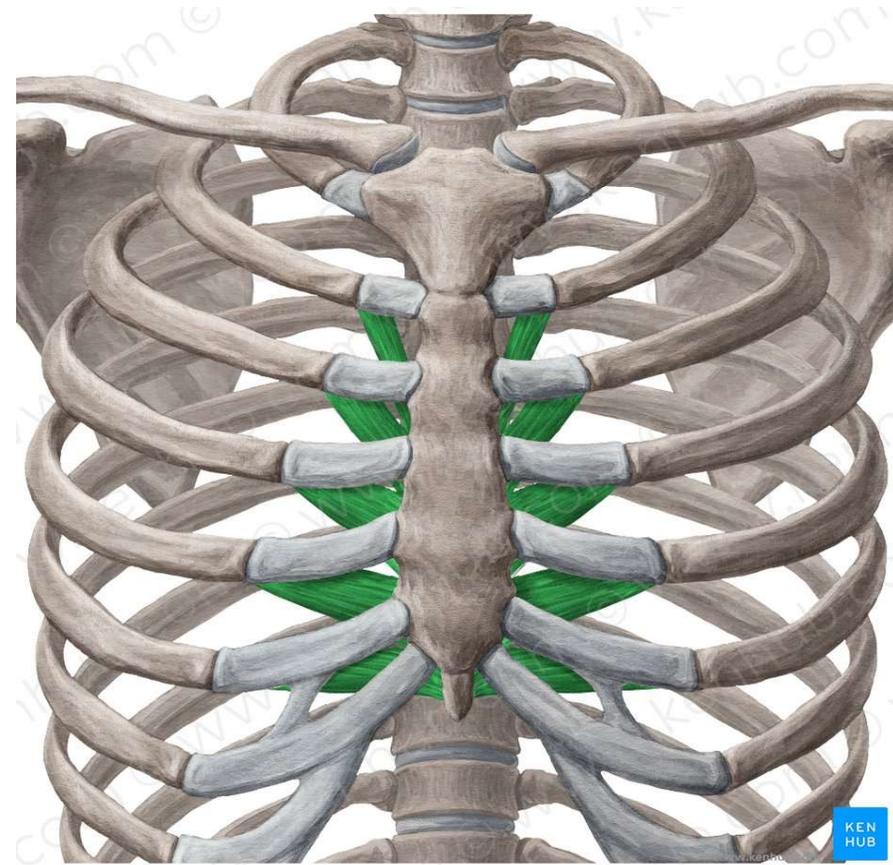
**Internal intercostal muscle**

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**Subcostal muscle**



**Transversus thoracis muscle**

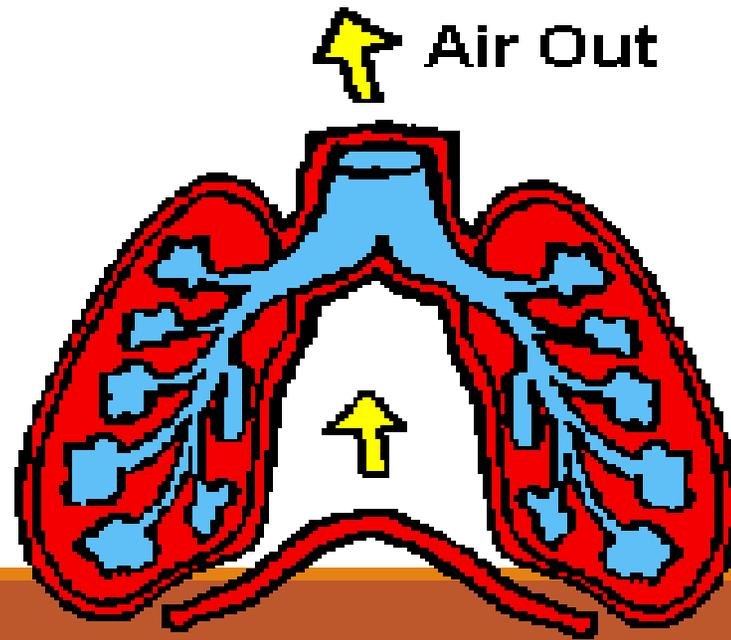
# Mechanism of Respiration

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Normal respiratory rate is 16-20 /minute in resting .

It is faster in children and slower in elderly.

Respiration consists of two phases; inspiration and expiration



## **Inspiration**

### Quiet Inspiration

Thoracic cavity as a box with a single entrance at the top, which is a tube called the trachea

It has three diameters ;

#### **Vertical Diameter**

The roof is formed by the suprapleural membrane and is fixed , the floor is formed by the mobile diaphragm.

When the diaphragm contracts, the level of the diaphragm is lowered.

#### **Anteroposterior Diameter (Pump Handle movement)**

The ribs were raised at their sternal ends, and the lower end of the sternum would be pushed forward .

This can be brought about by fixing the 1st rib and contracting the intercostal muscles.

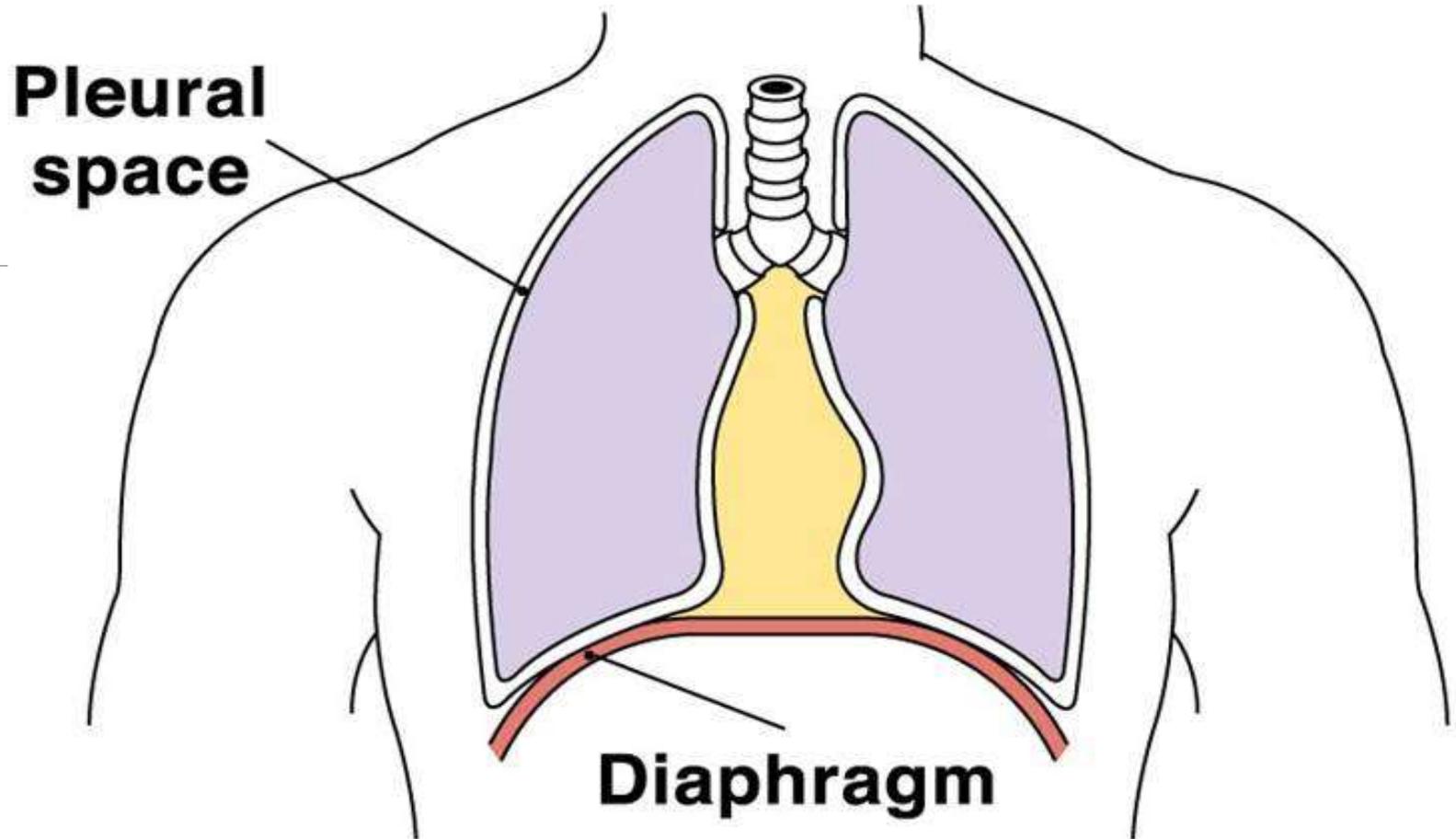
#### **Transverse Diameter (bucket handles)**

The ribs are raised , the transverse diameter of the thoracic cavity will be increased.

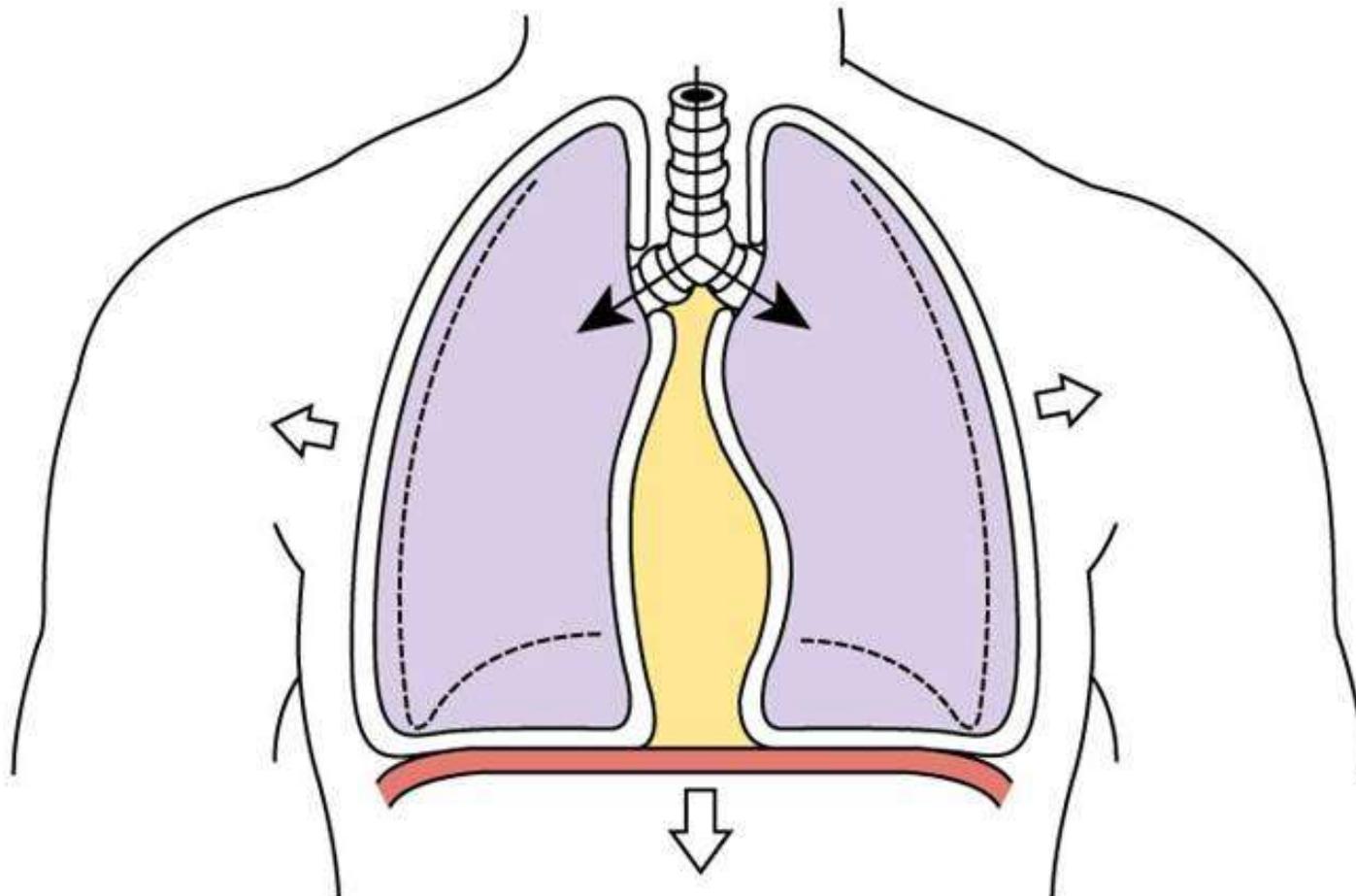
## **Expiration**

### **Quiet Expiration**

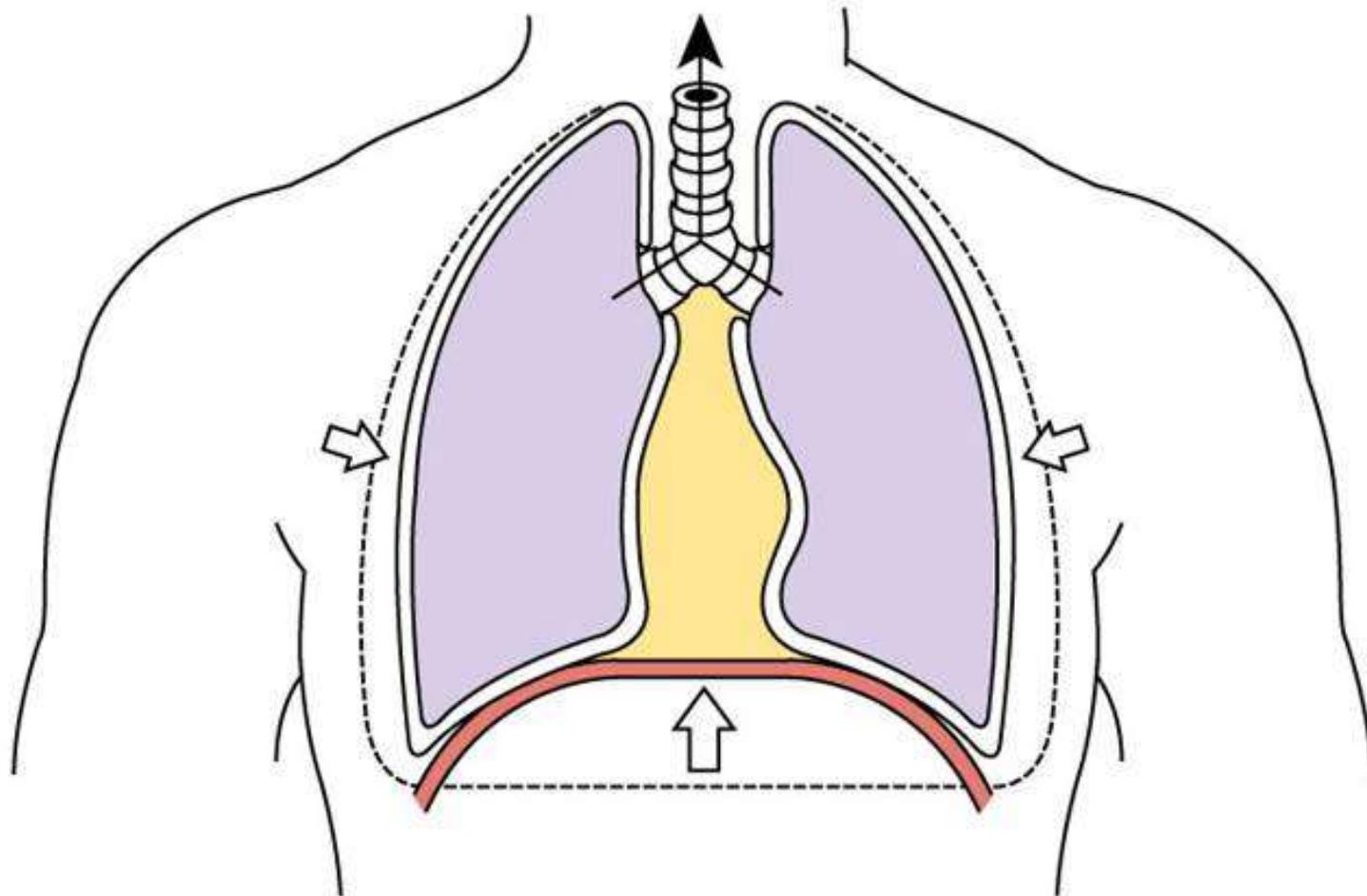
It is a passive phenomenon and is carried about by the elastic recoil of the lungs, the relaxation of the intercostal muscles and diaphragm, and an increase in tone of the muscles of the anterior abdominal wall muscles.



**At rest, diaphragm is relaxed**



**Diaphragm contracts, thoracic volume increases.**



**Diaphragm relaxes, thoracic volume decreases.**

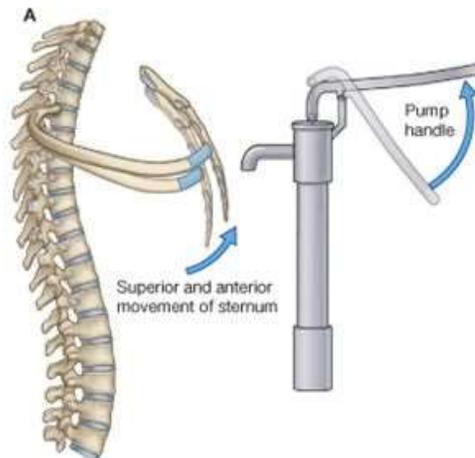
# RESPIRATORY MOVEMENTS

## B- MOVEMENTS OF RIBS

### PUMP HANDLE MOVEMENT

Elevation of ribs

Increase in antero-posterior diameter of thoracic cavity

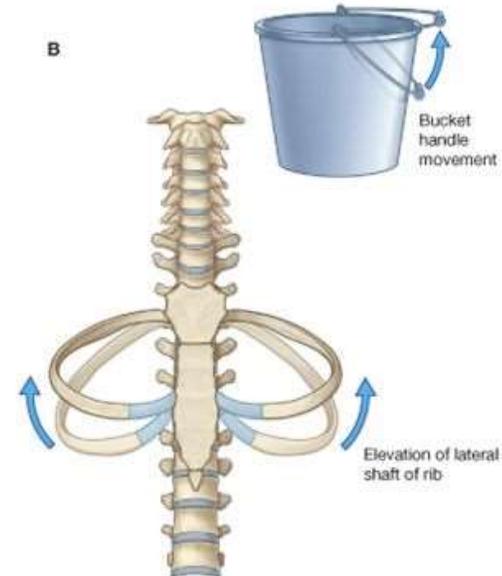


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### BUCKET HANDLE MOVEMENT

Elevation of ribs

Increase in lateral diameter of thoracic cavity



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# Respiratory Muscles

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## Main Muscles of respiration

- Diaphragm
- Intercostal muscles

## Accessory Muscles of respiration

They help in respiration especially in respiratory distress

### Accessory muscles of inspiration:

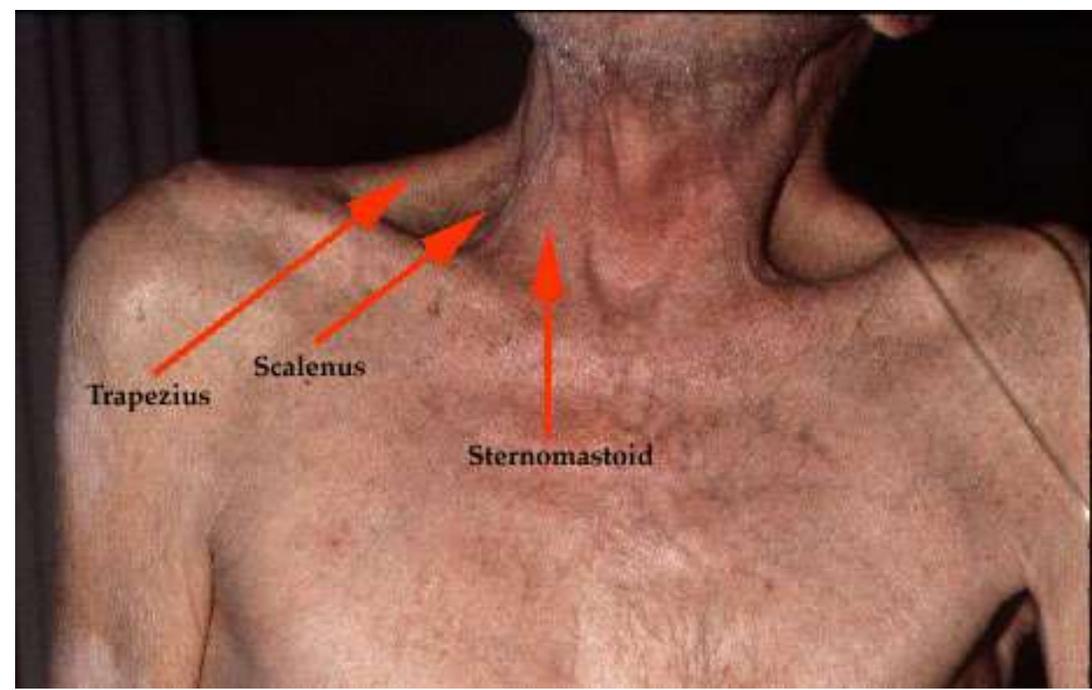
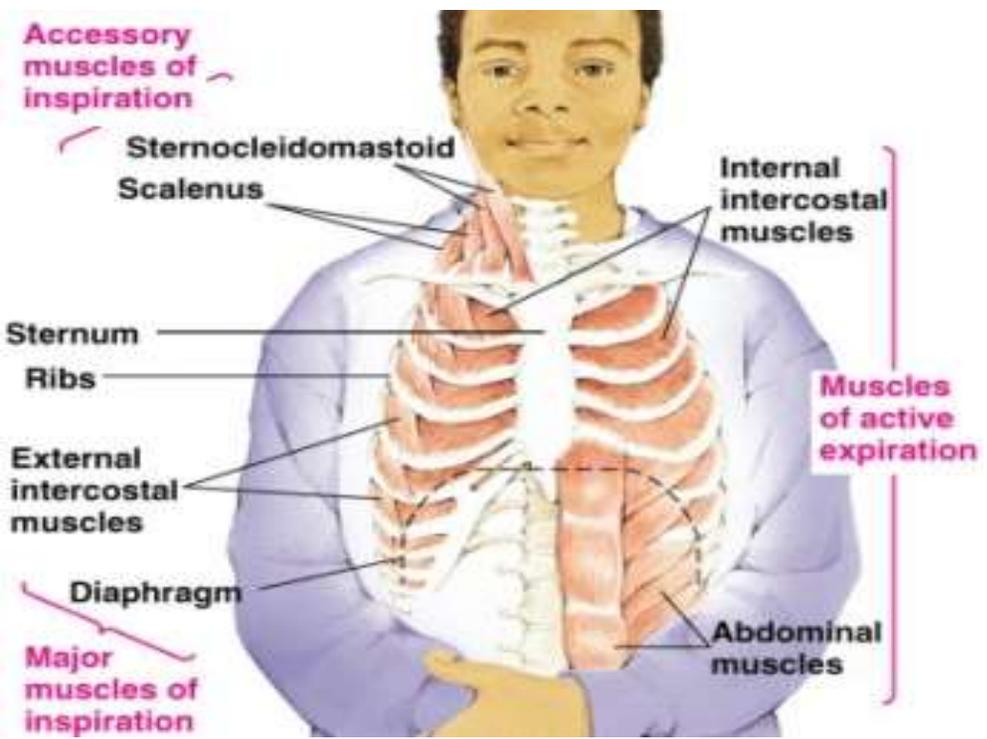
Pectoralis major and minor, Serratus anterior, Scalene group of muscles and sternocleidomastoid

By elevation of first and second ribs.

### Accessory muscles of Expiration

Muscles of anterior abdominal wall, quadratus lumborum, latissimus dorsi and serratus posterior inferior.

Muscles of anterior abdominal wall compress the lower part of thorax and increase the intra-abdominal pressure whereas quadratus lumborum fixes the 12th rib



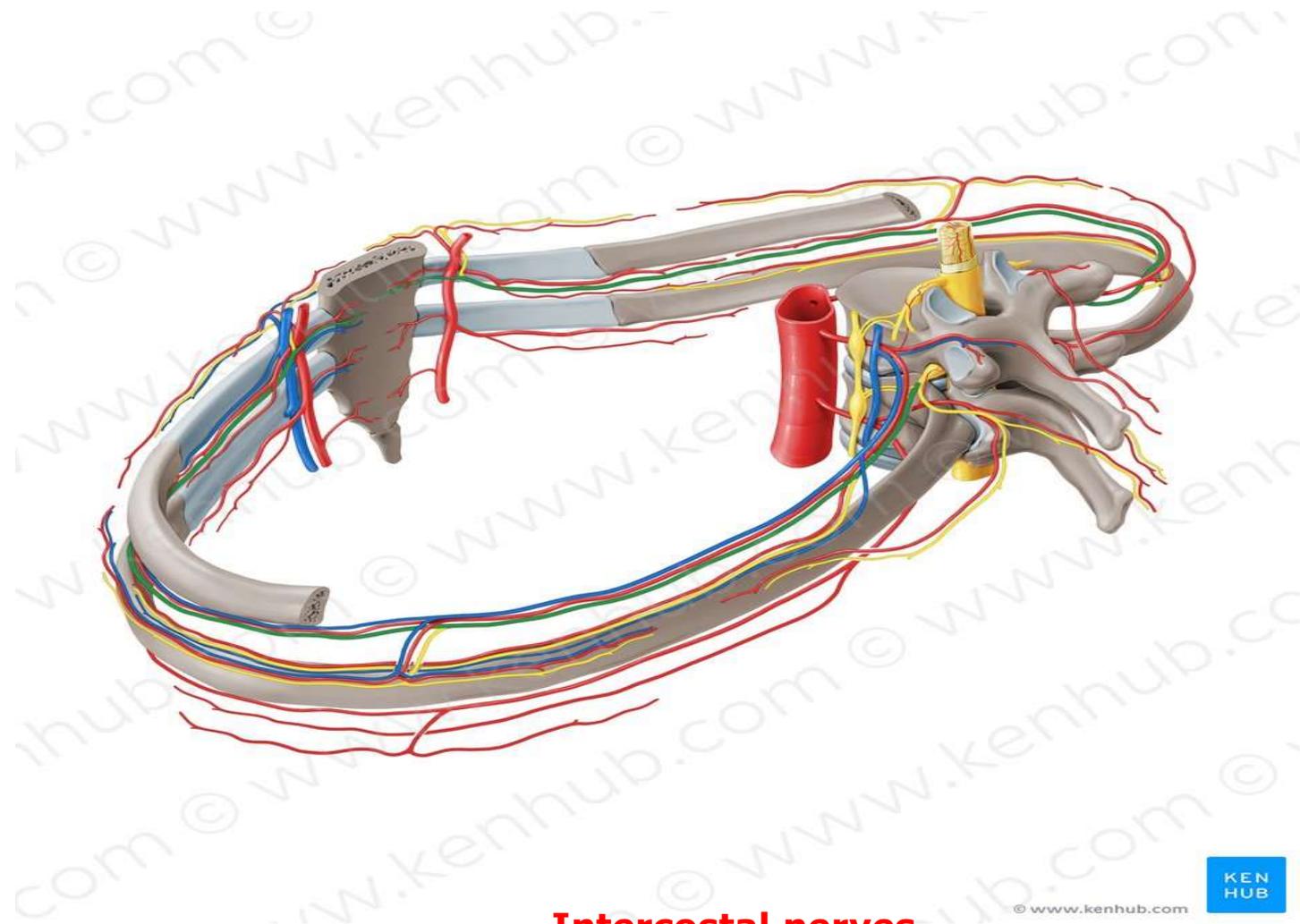
# Intercostal nerves

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- ❑ It is a ventral ramus of thoracic nerves
- ❑ There are 12 nerves on each side
- ❑ The last one is called subcostal nerve

### Branches of intercostal nerves

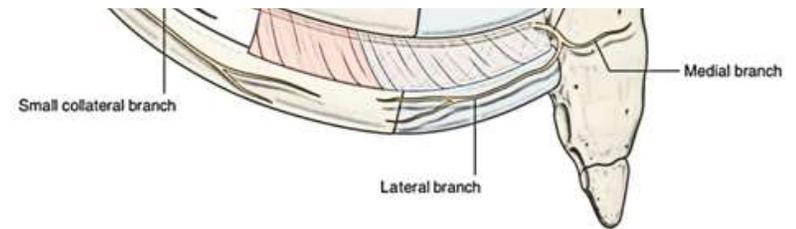
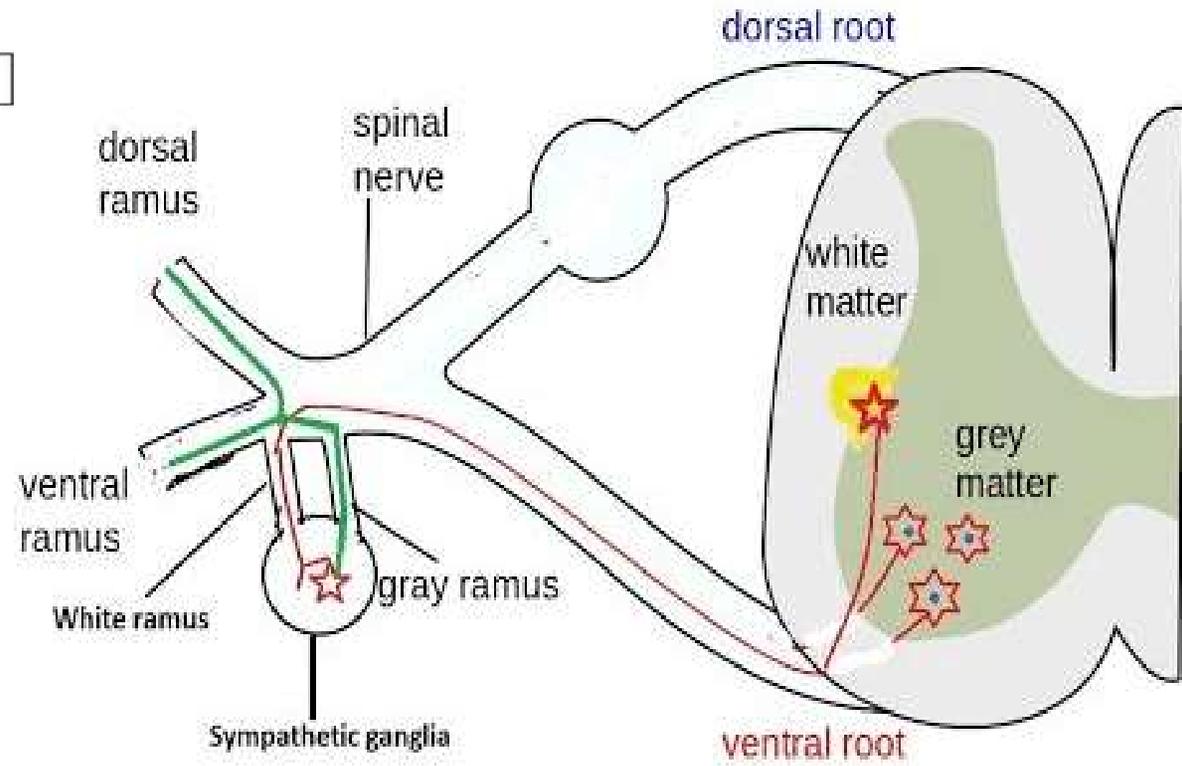
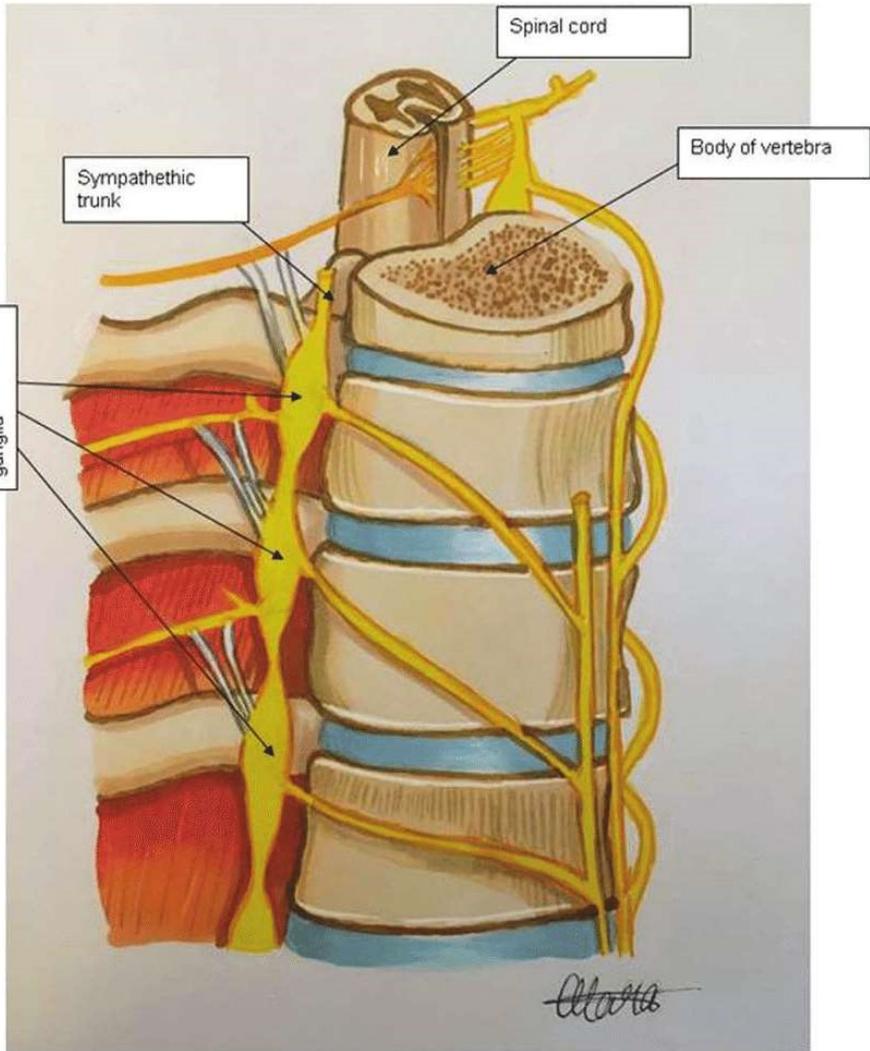
- ✓ **Collateral :supply :** Supply Intercostal muscles and parietal pleura
- ✓ **Rami communicating :**
  - White rami (preganglionic ) sympathetic fibers to sympathetic trunk
  - Grey rami (preganglionic ) sympathetic fibers to be distributed with spinal nerves
- ✓ **Muscular :** muscles of anterior thoracic & abdominal walls.
- ✓ **Anterior cutaneous :** Skin of anterior thoracic and abdominal wall
- ✓ **Lateral cutaneous :** Skin of lateral thoracic and abdominal wall



**Intercostal nerves**

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## Arterial supply of thoracic wall

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graph TD; A[Arterial supply of thoracic wall] --> B[Anterior wall]; A --> C[Posterior wall];
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### Anterior wall

9 on each side

2 in each space

**Upper 6** from internal thoracic artery.

**7,8,9** from musculophrenic artery

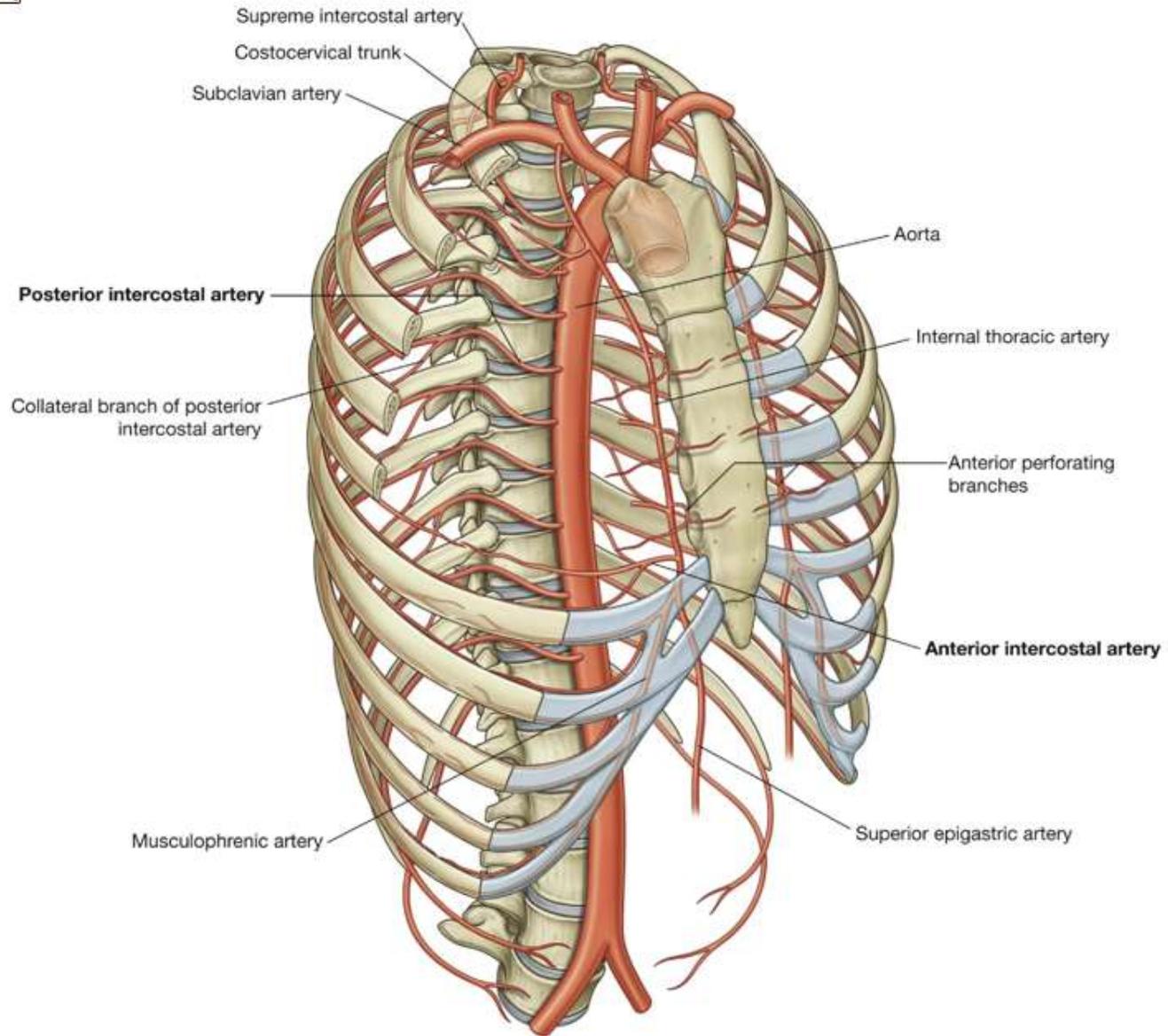
### Posterior wall

11 on each side

One in each space

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>** from superior intercostal artery.

**3 -11** from descending thoracic aorta.



## Internal Thoracic (Mammary) artery

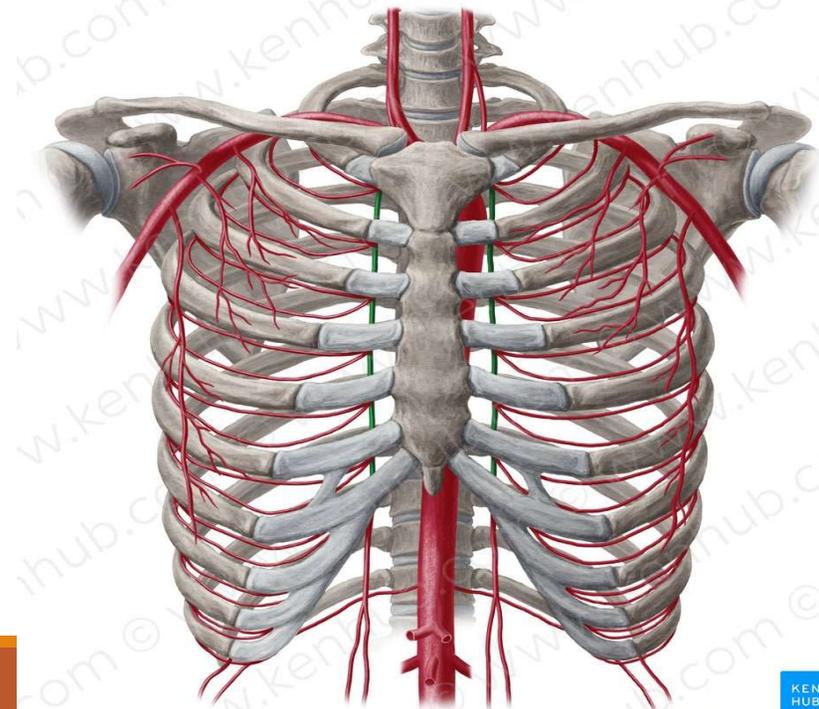
**Origin:** branch of 1st part of subclavian artery

**Course:** it descends vertically behind upper 6 costal cartilages and intercostal spaces

**Termination:** opposite the 6th intercostal space into : superior epigastric A. and Musculophrenic A.

**Branches :** REED ONLY

- 1-Pericardio-phrenic
- 2- Pericardial branches
- 3- Anterior intercostal a to upper six spaces.
- 4- Perforating branches to skin , muscles and mammary gland.



## Venous drainage of thoracic wall

### Anterior wall

Anterior intercostal veins  
Drain into Internal thoracic vein

### Posterior wall

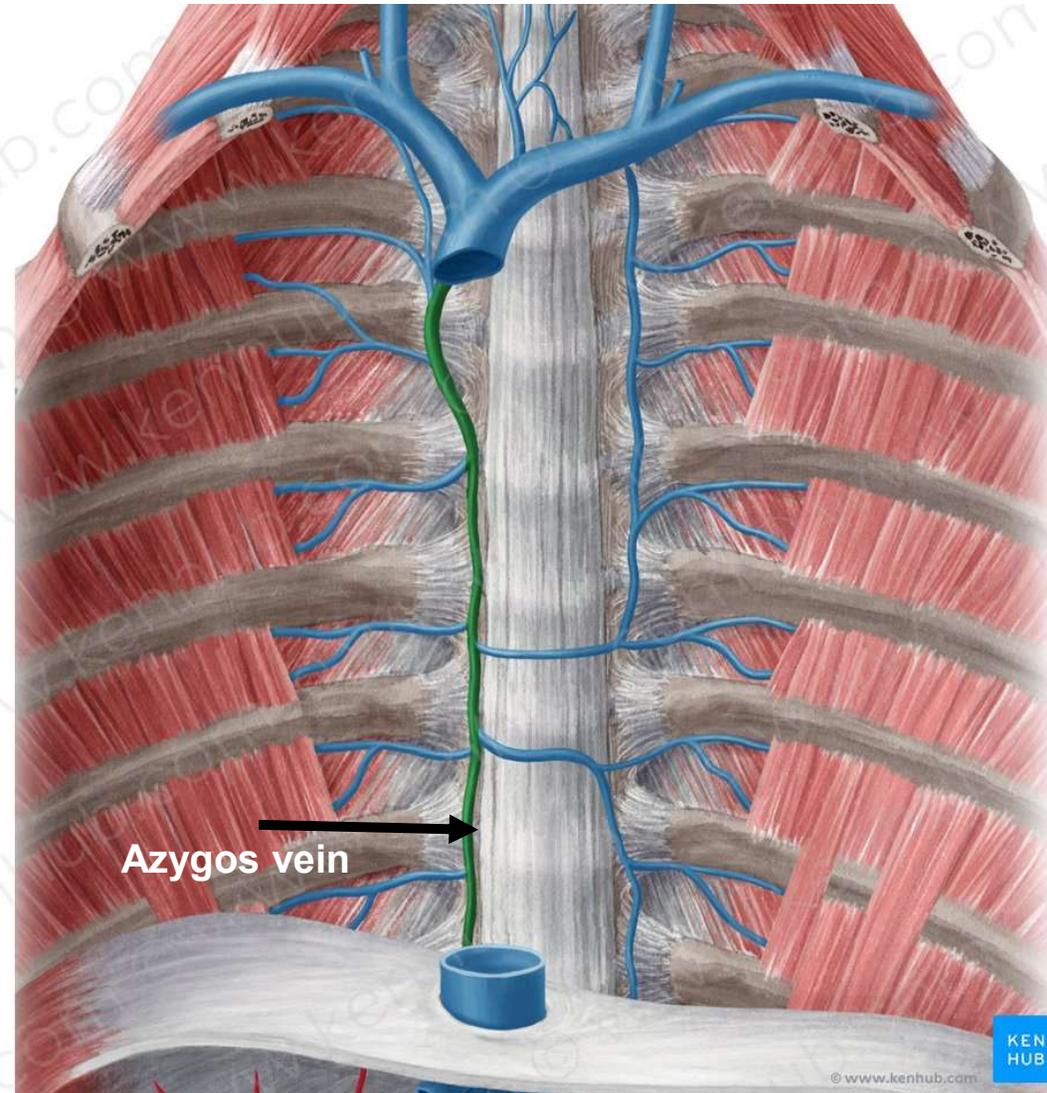
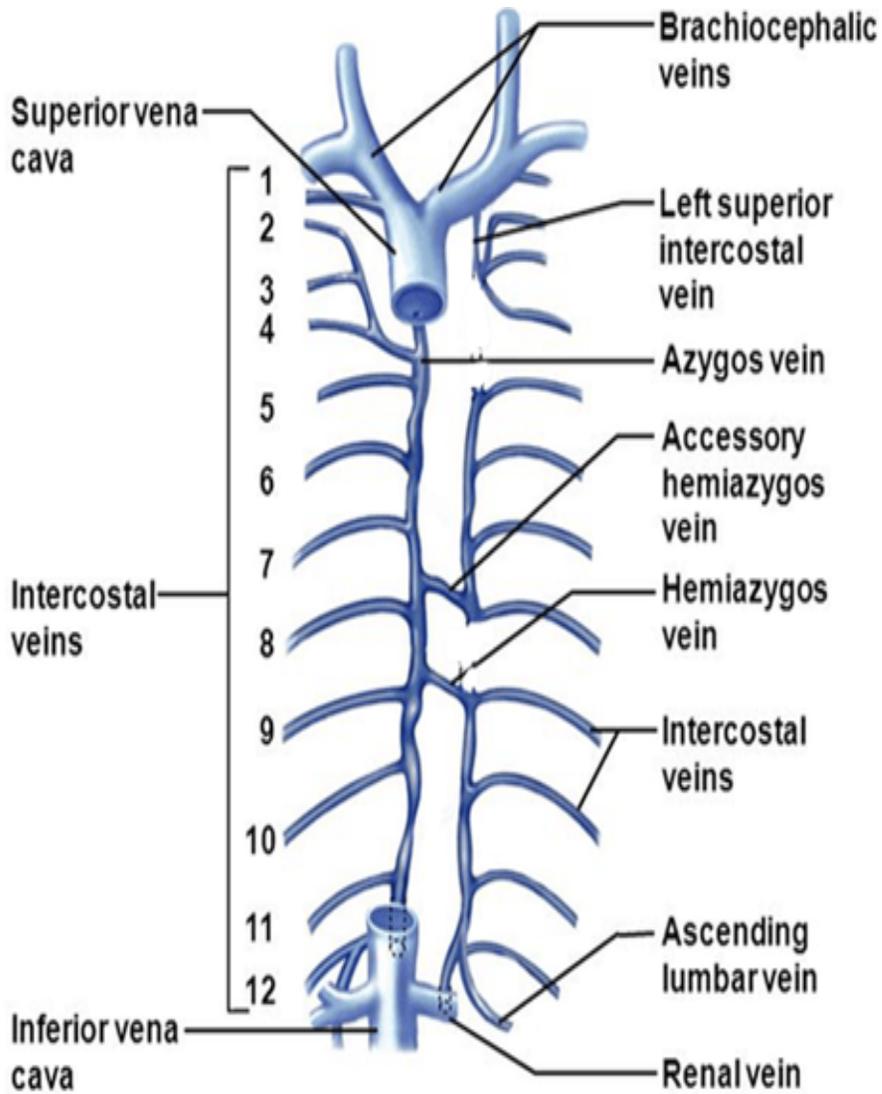
1<sup>st</sup> intercostal vein drains into  
brachiocephalic vein

### Right

2<sup>nd</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> drain into azygos vein

### Left

- 2<sup>nd</sup> ,3<sup>rd</sup> drain into left brachiocephalic vein
- 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> drain into superior hemiazygos vein
- 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> drain into inferior hemiazygos vein



## **Chest wall abnormalities**

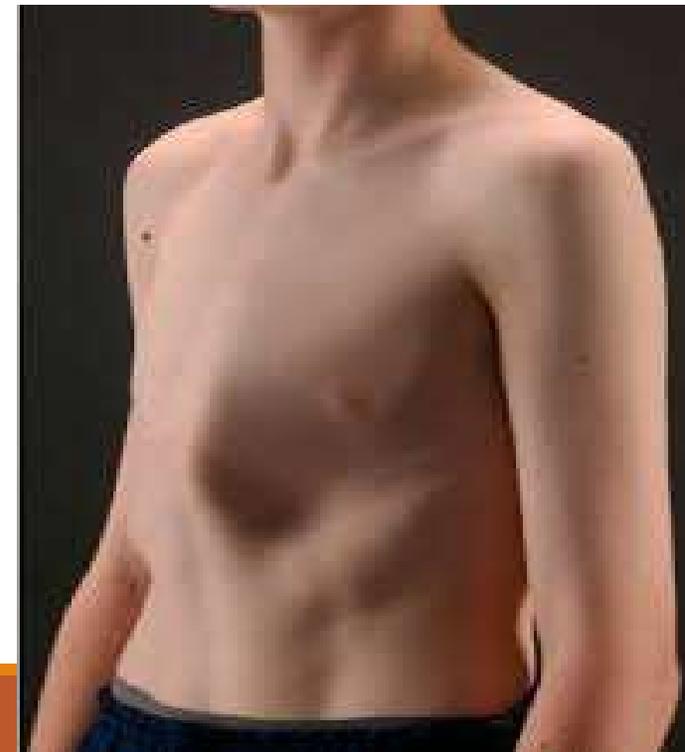
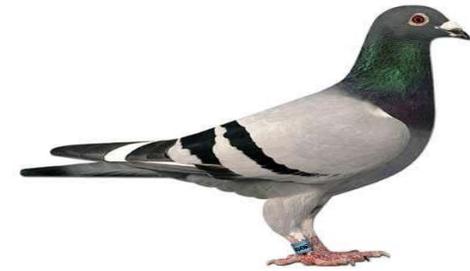
### **1- Pectus excavatum (sunken or funnel chest)**

It is a congenital deformity in which several ribs and the sternum grow abnormally, producing a concave, or caved-in, appearance in the anterior chest wall.



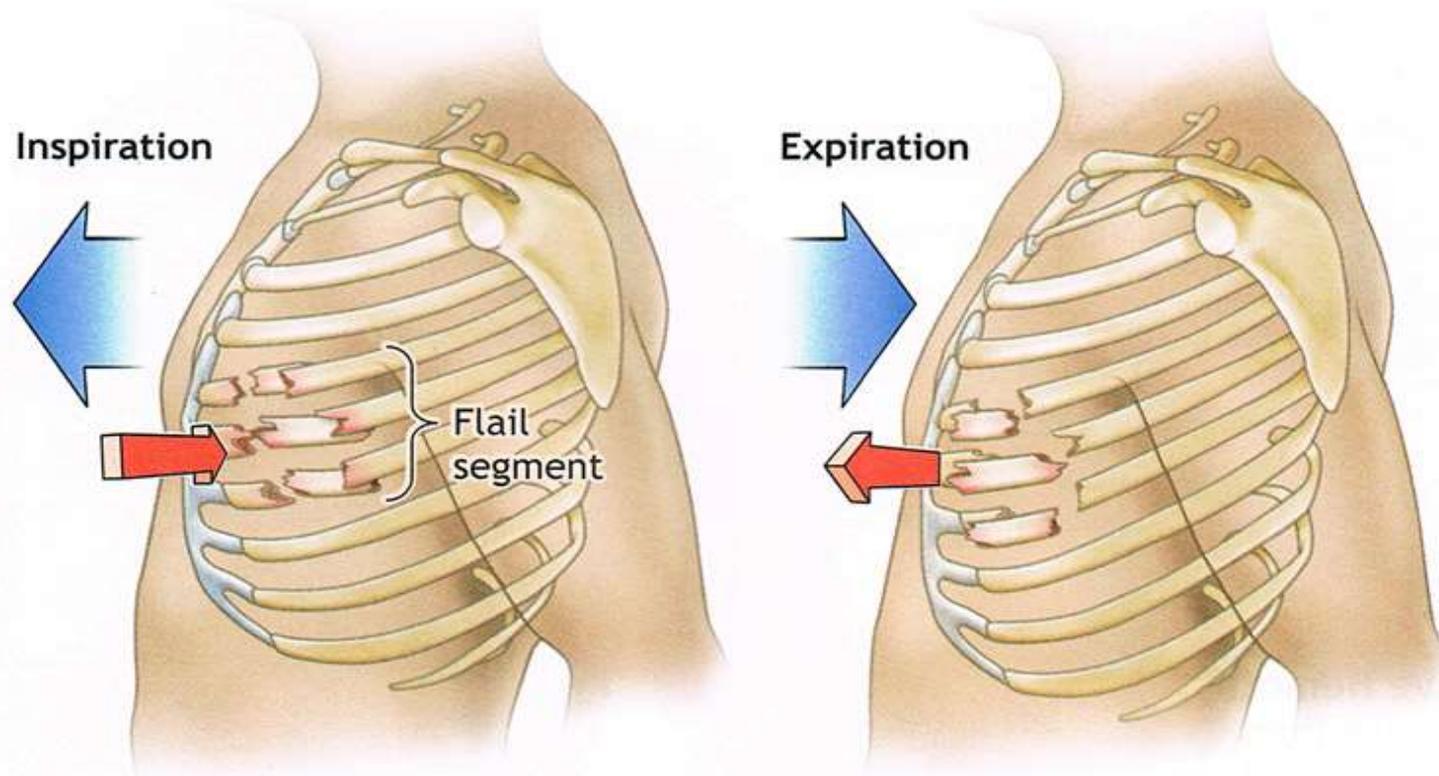
## 2- Rectus carinatum (pigeon chest)

is a deformity of the chest characterized by a protrusion of the sternum and ribs .



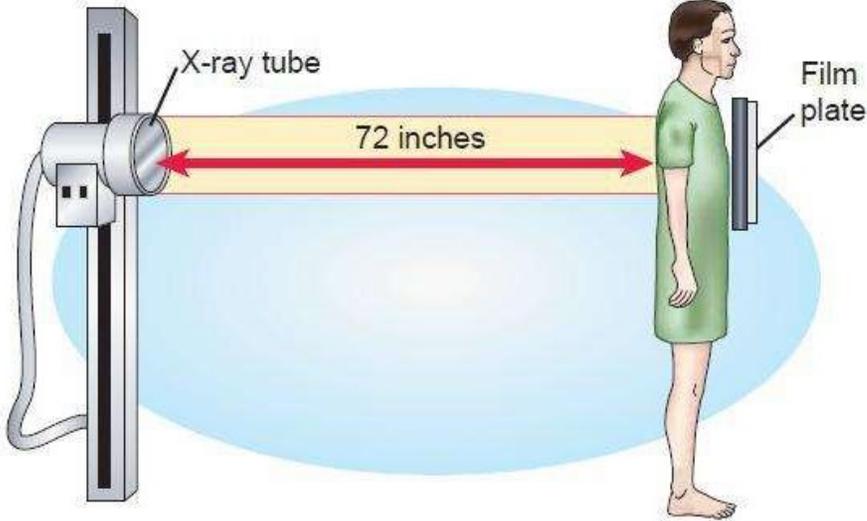
## Flail Chest

- ✓ It is a life-threatening medical condition that occurs when a segment of the rib cage breaks due to trauma .
- ✓ In this case ; multiple adjacent ribs are broken in multiple places, separating a segment, so a part of the chest wall moves independently
- ✓ Two of the symptoms of flail chest are chest pain and shortness of breath.



Common Radiographic Views

Posterior–Anterior (PA)



**Chest X ray Posterior anterior view**



**THANK  
YOU!**