

LARYNX, VAGUS AND PHRENIC NERVES

Luca Novelli, MD
Physician - Pulmonary Medicine Unit
Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital, Bergamo, IT



Ospedale
di Bergamo

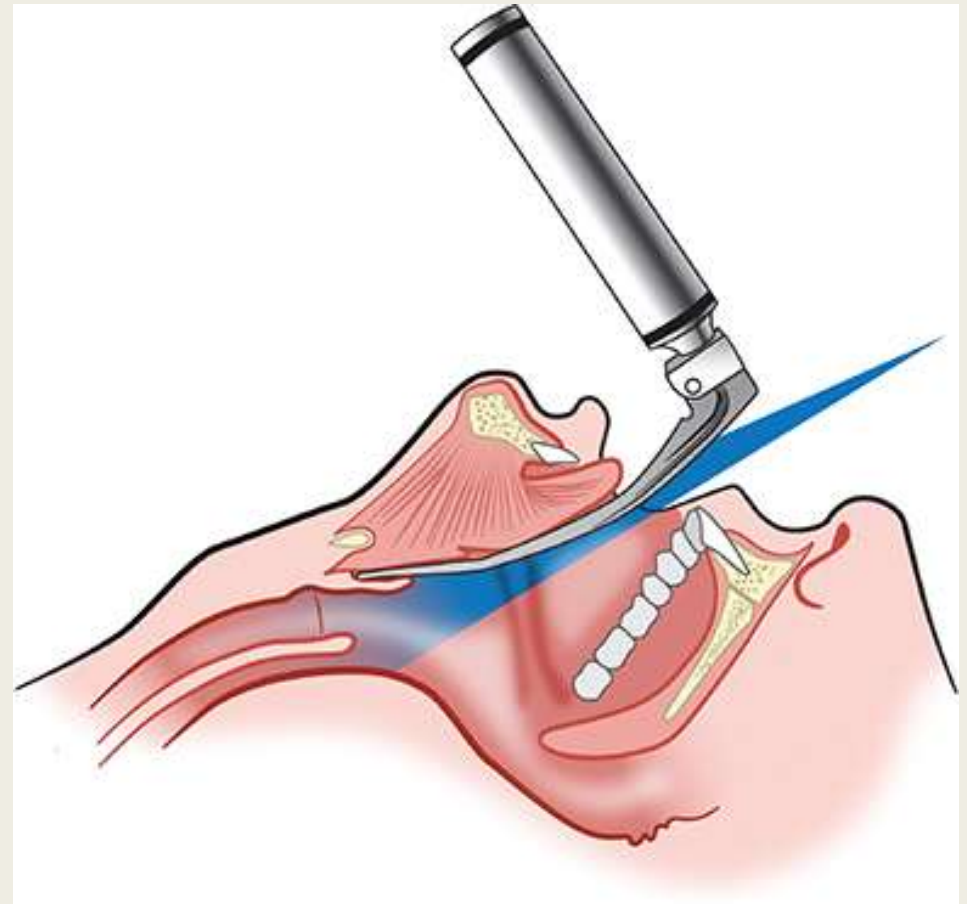
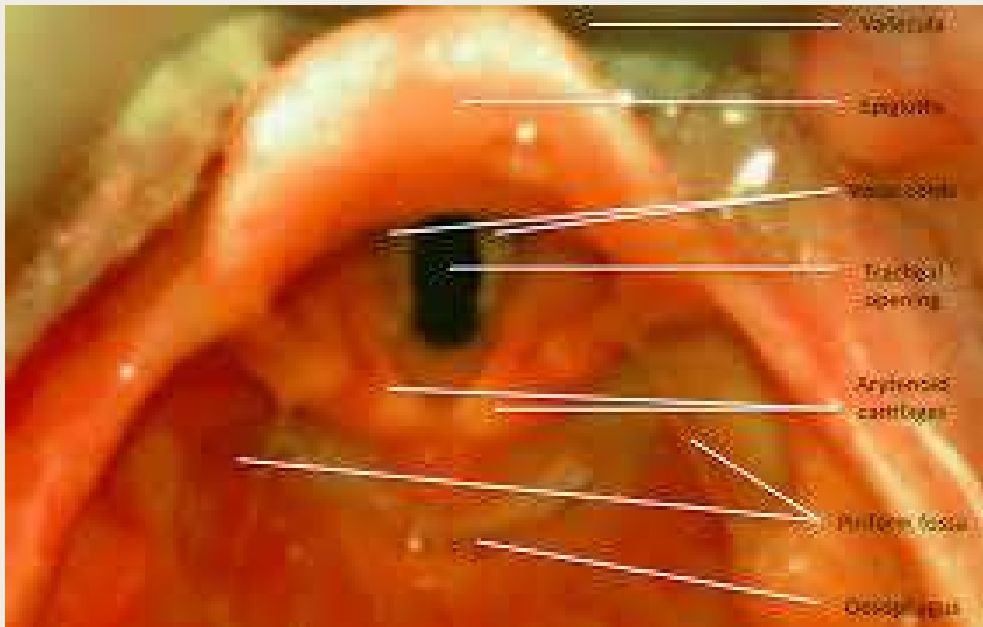
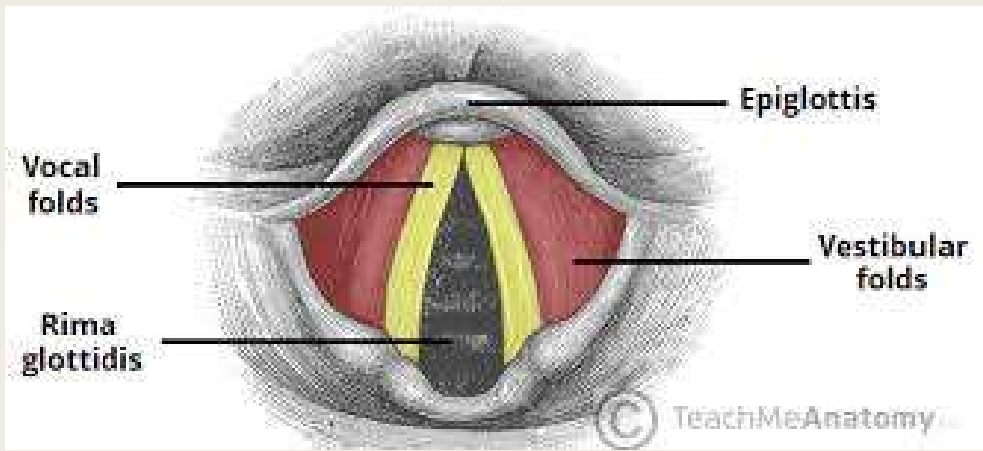
Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione
Lombardia

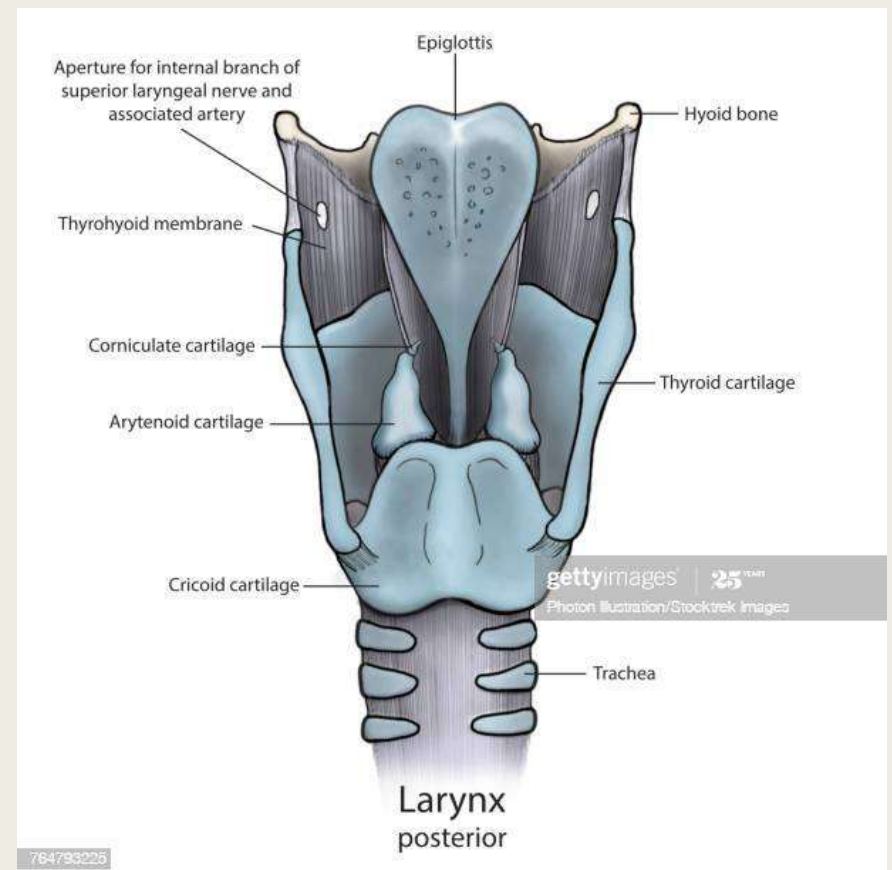
ASST Papa Giovanni XXIII





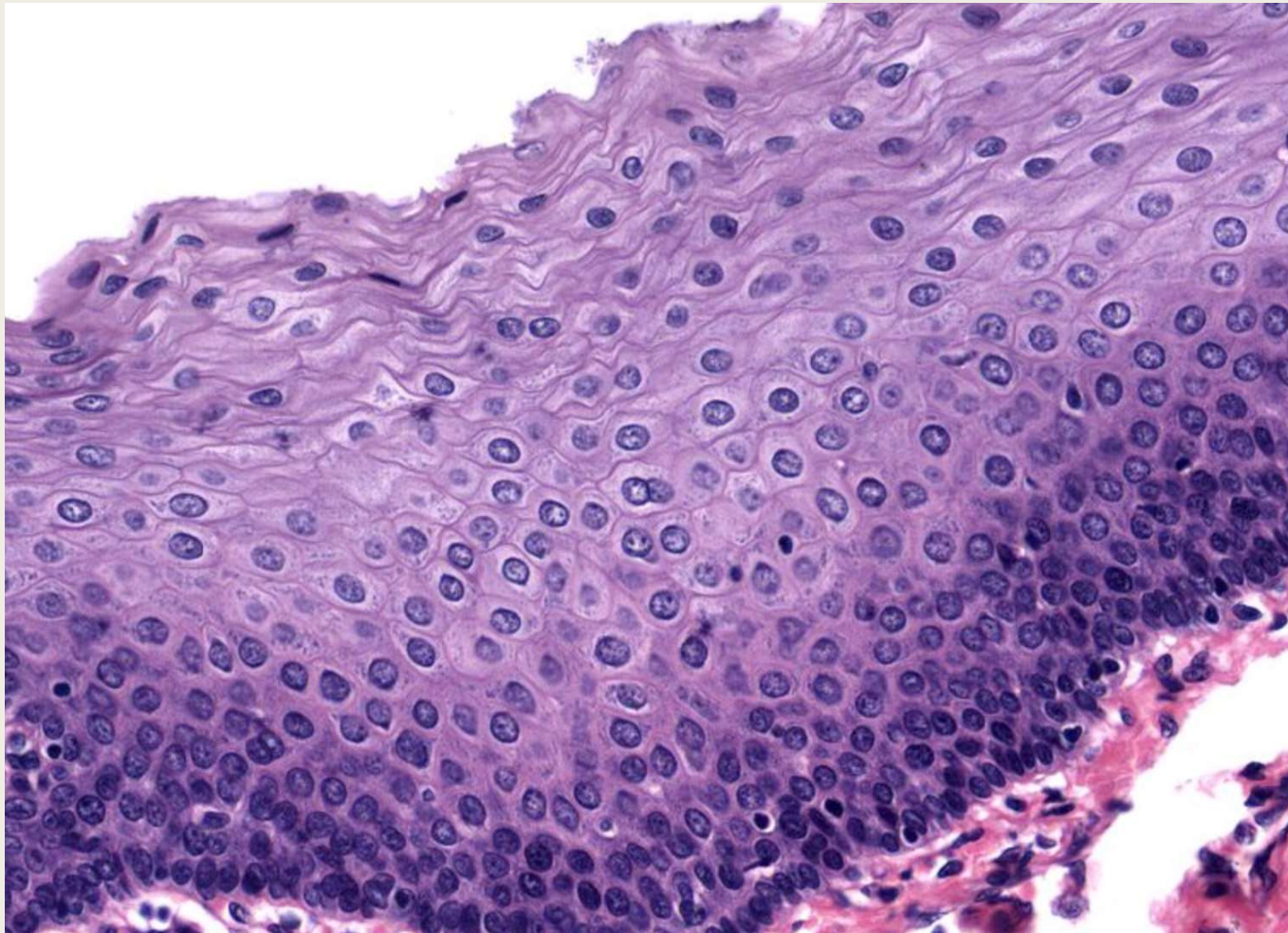


EPIGLOTTIS

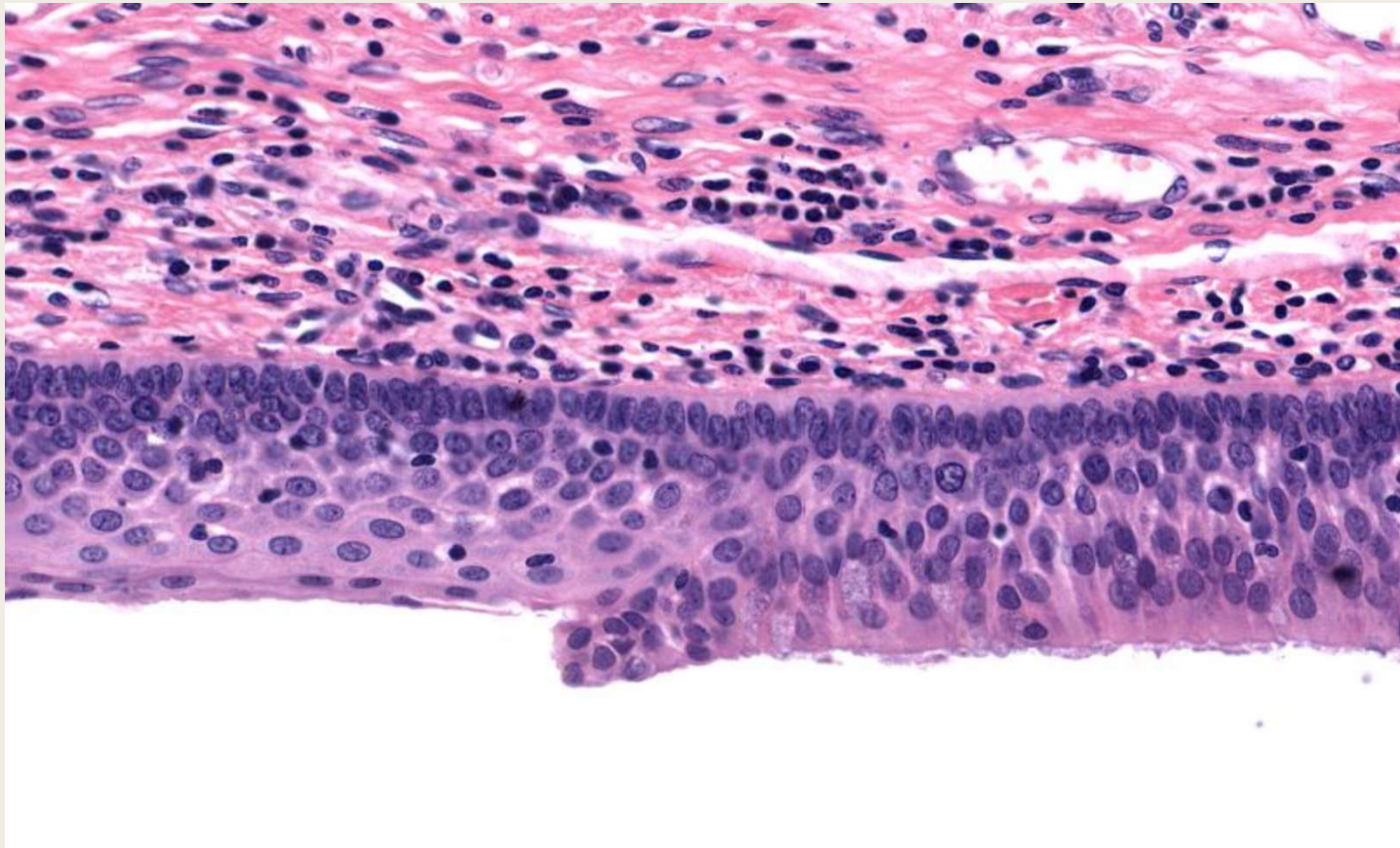




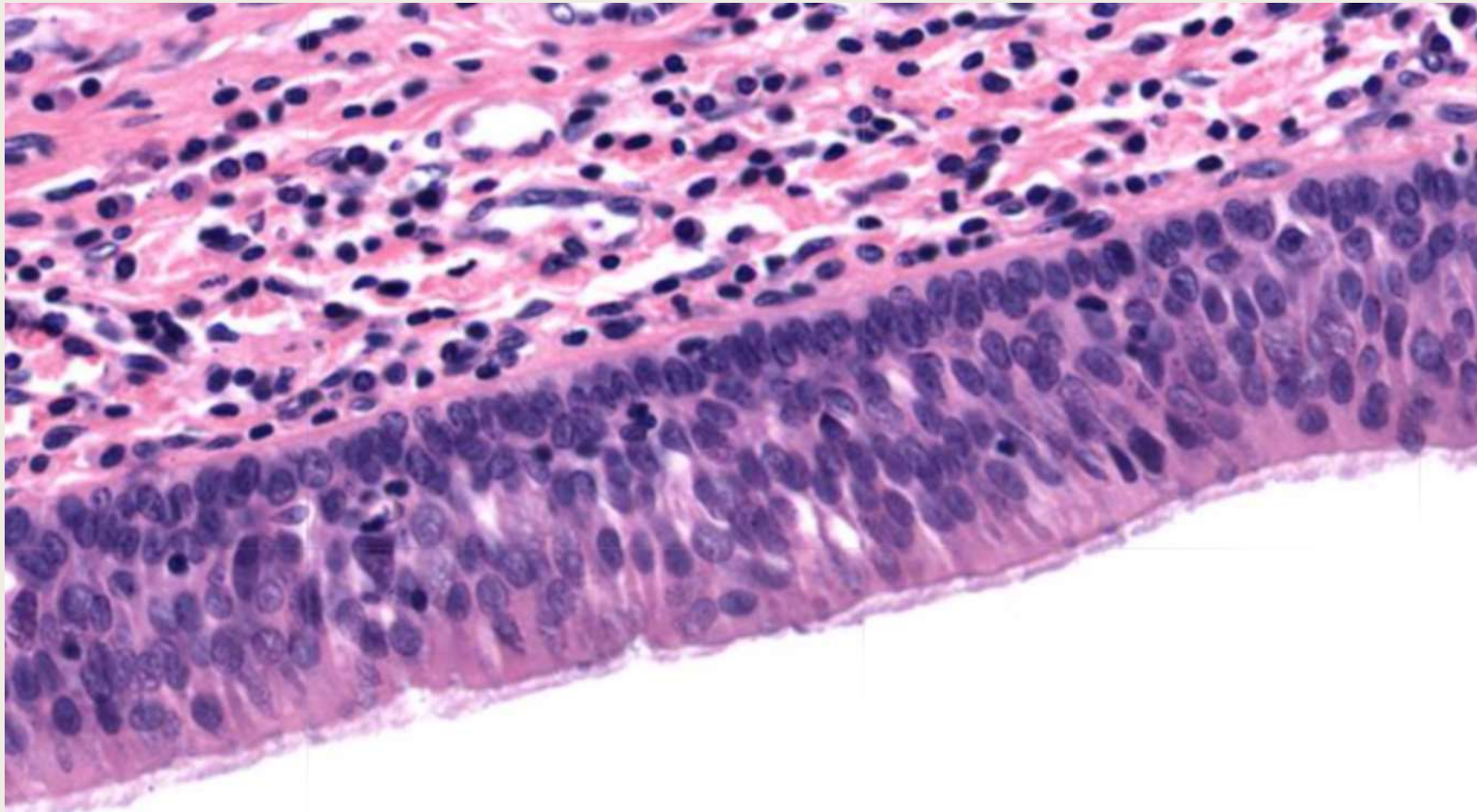
- **ANTERIOR SURFACE** (faces the tongue).
 - Stratified Squamous Non-Keratinized Epithelium
- **POSTERIOR SURFACE** (faces the opening of the trachea)
 - Respiratory Epithelium - pseudostratified epithelium with cilia and goblet cells and Transition zone



- Stratified Squamous Non-Keratinized Epithelium

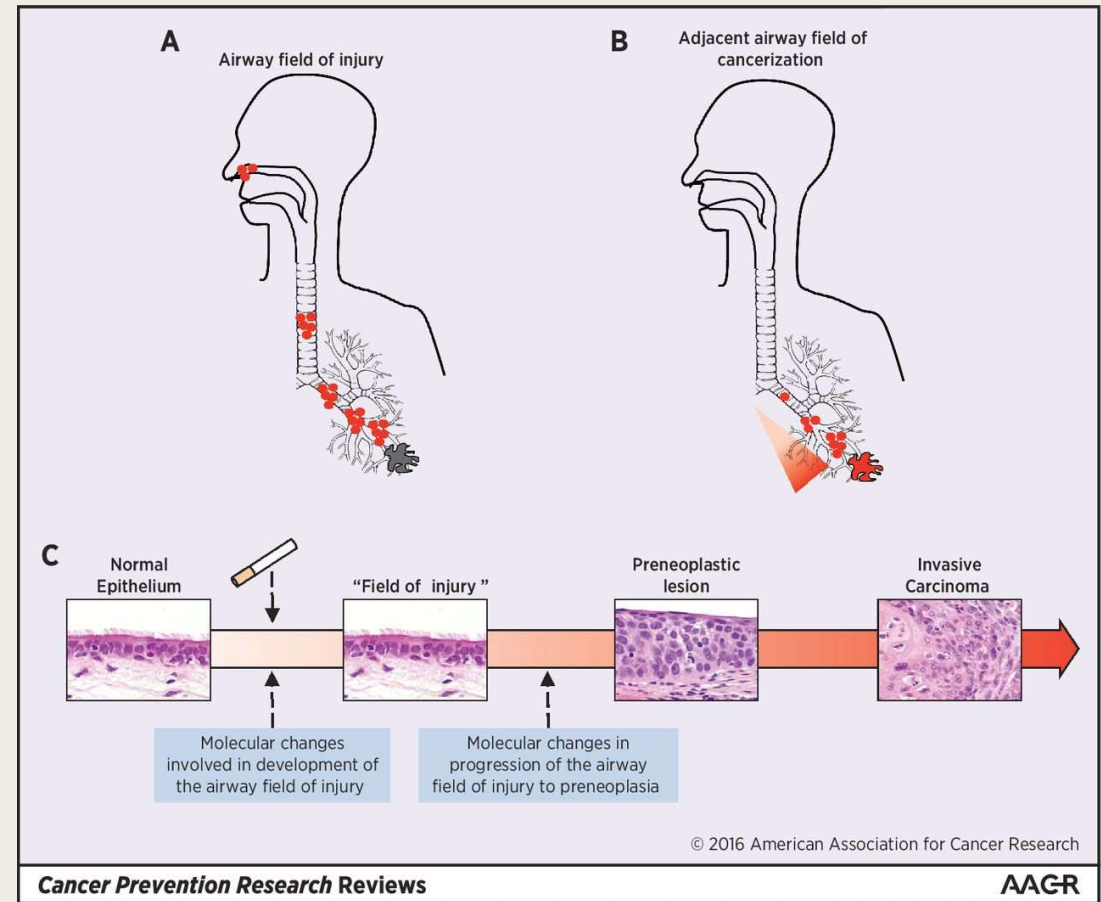


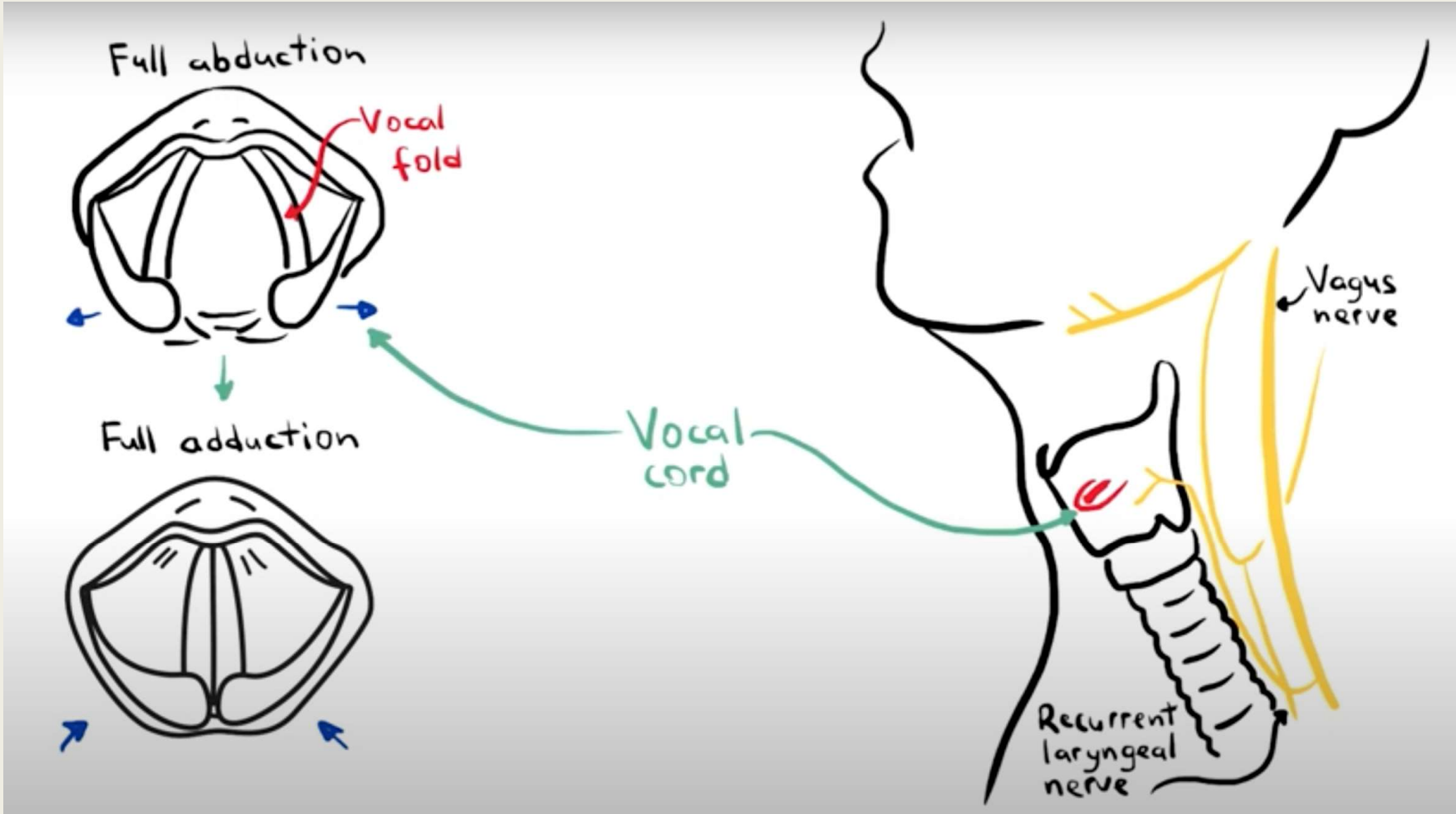
- Transition zone

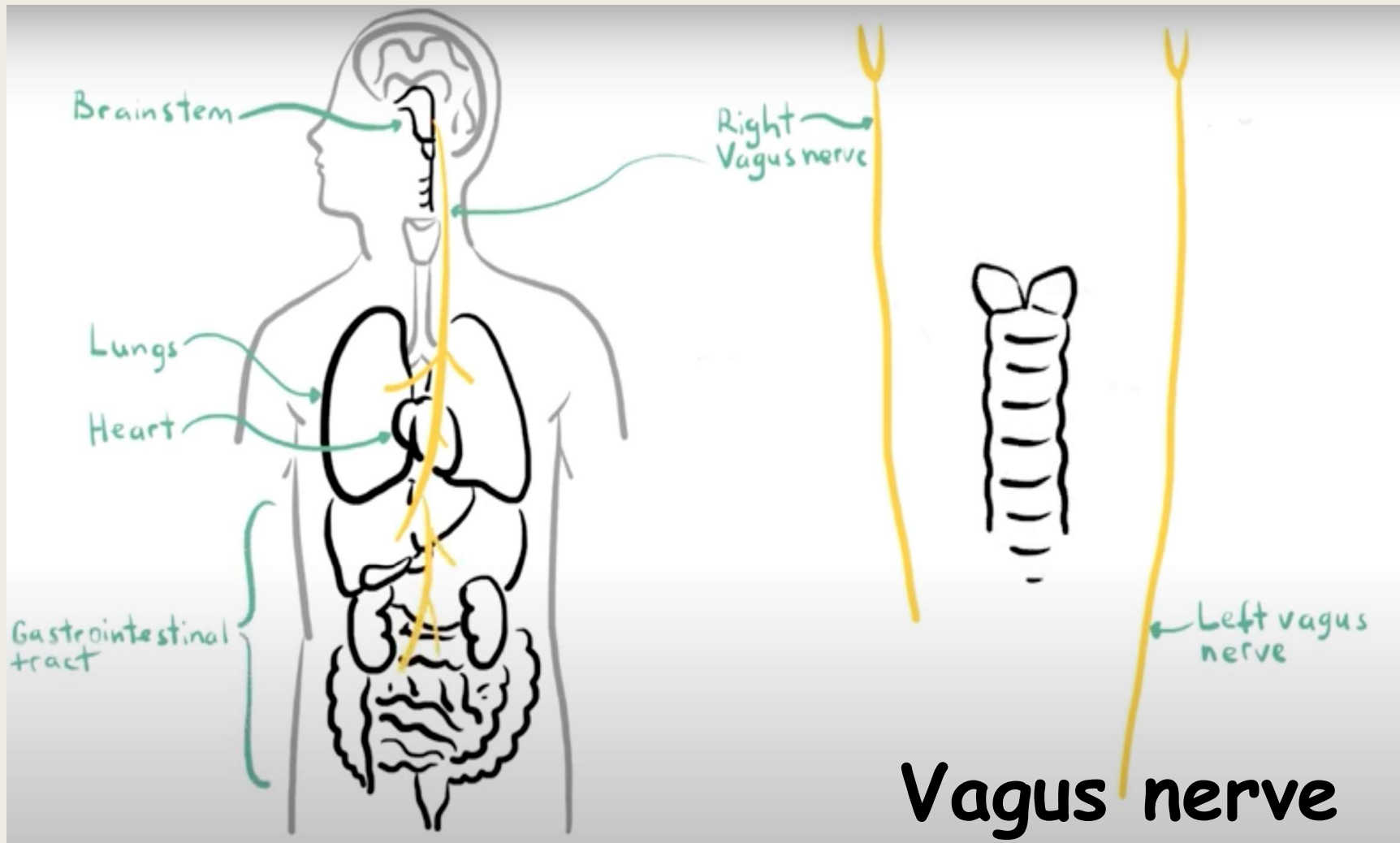


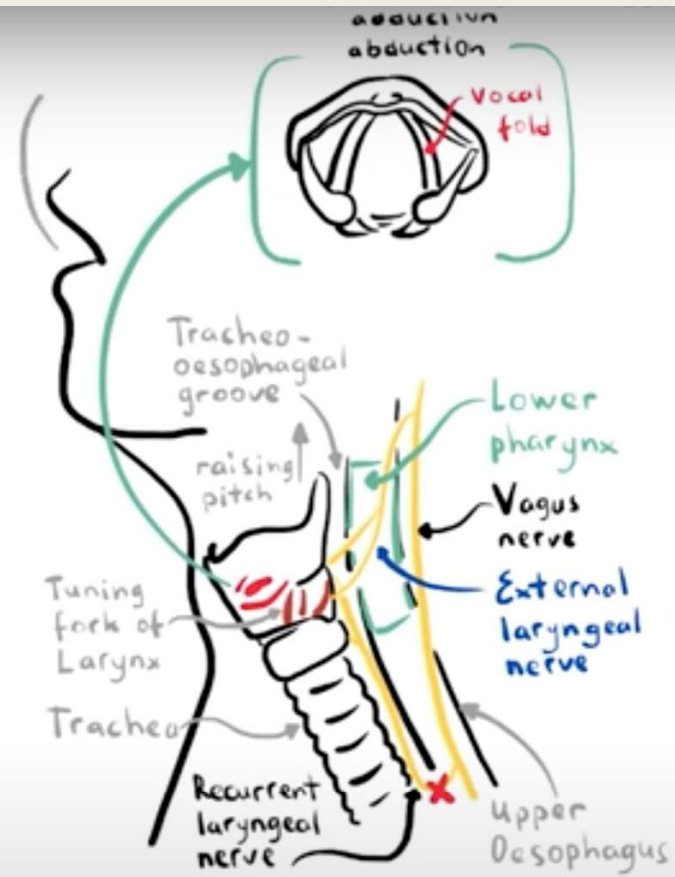
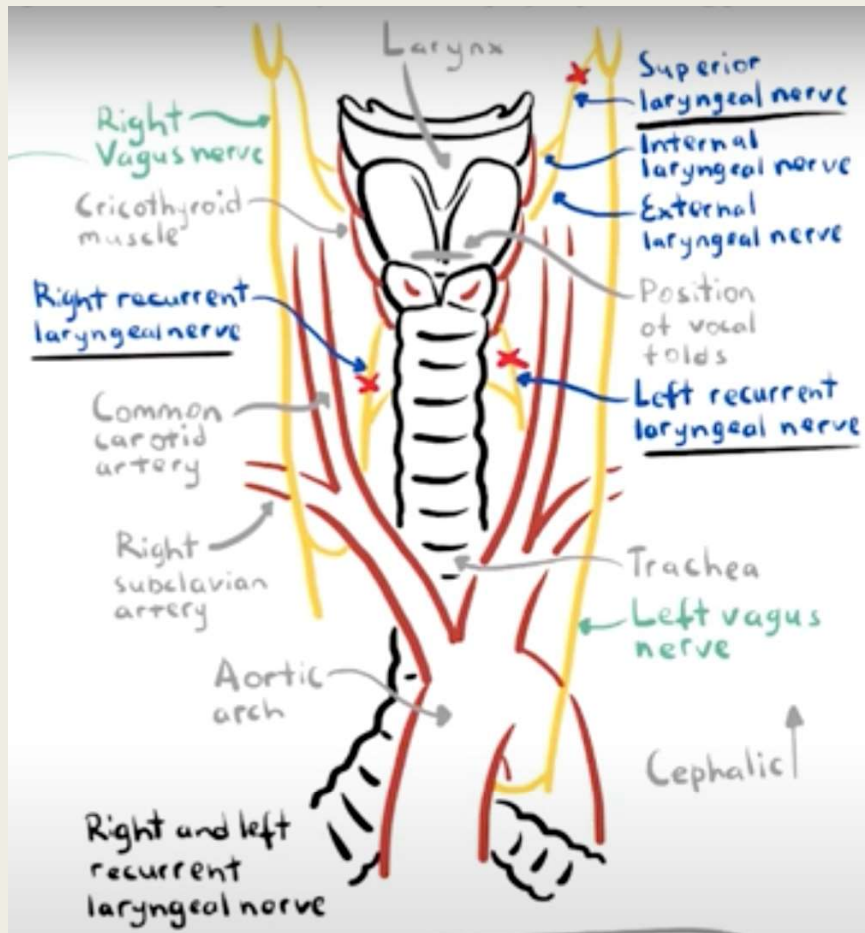
- Respiratory Epithelium

Smoke and Tracheobronchial histology









- Supplies all the muscles of larynx except the cricothyroid muscle
- Sensation of larynx below the vocal cords
- Additional motor function of the lower pharynx and upper oesophagus

Recurrent laryngeal nerve

Causes

Cancer

Iatrogenic injury during surgery

Organic

Neck trauma

Degenerative neural disorder

Brainstem stroke

Functional



parathyroidectomy

Hypopharynx

oesophageal pharyngeal surgery

Oesophagus

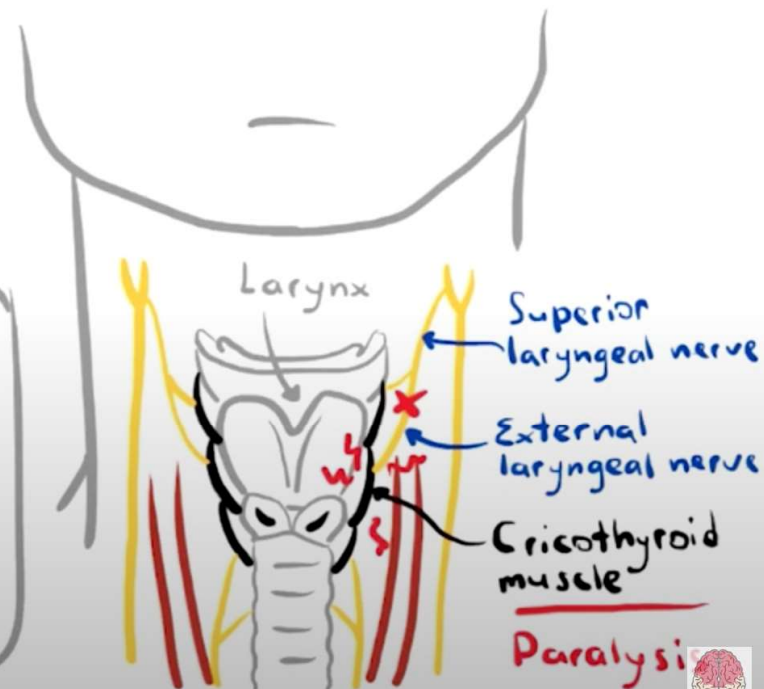
parathyroid gland

Thyroid thyroidectomy

Bronchus

- motor neuron disease
- diabetic neuropathy
- myasthenia gravis
- strokes

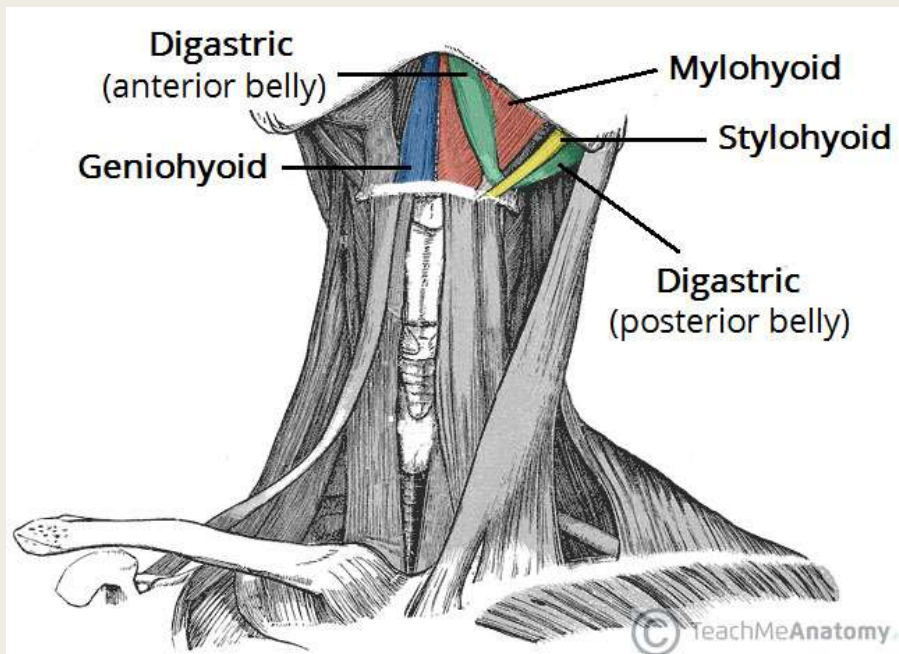
Damage to superior laryngeal nerve causes paralysis of the cricothyroid muscle resulting in hoarseness that improves with time



Paralysis

Extrinsic muscles of Larynx

The extrinsic muscles act to move the larynx superiorly and inferiorly

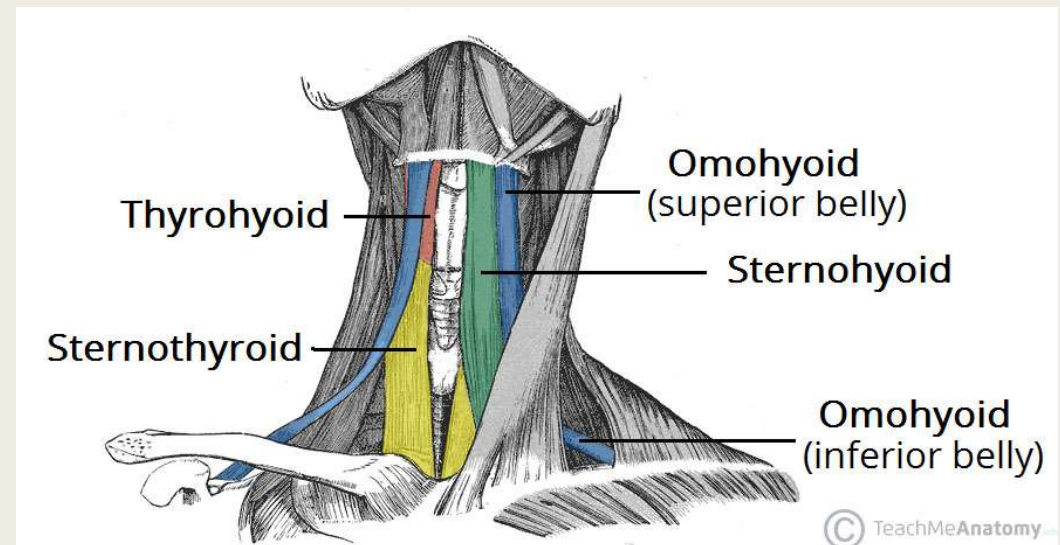


SUPRAHYOID MUSCLES

Elevate Larynx
(together with stylopharyngeus muscle)

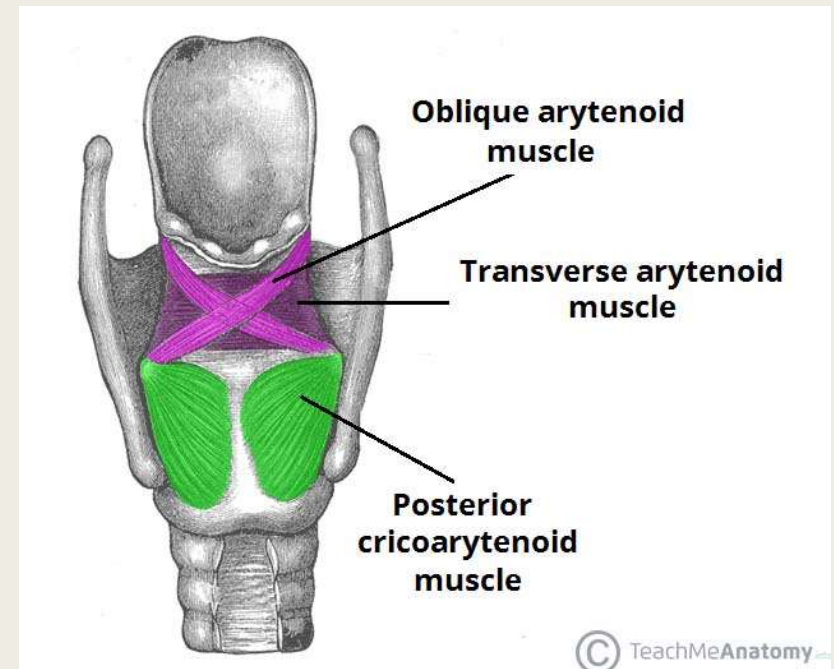
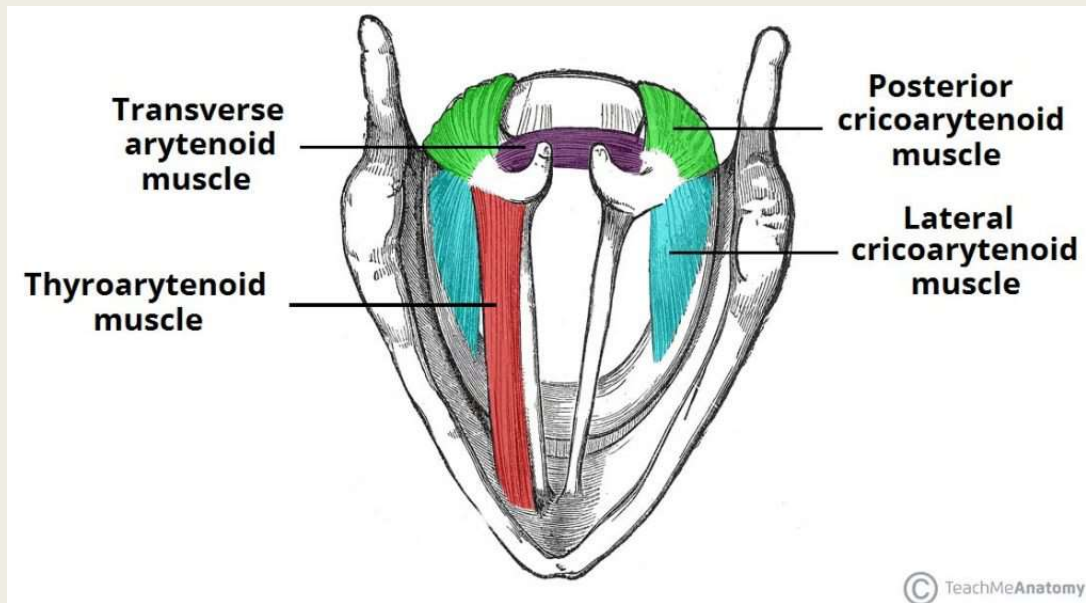
INFRAHYOID MUSCLES

Depress Larynx



Intrinsic muscles of Larynx

Act on the individual components of the larynx. They control the shape of the **rima glottidis** (opening between the vocal folds and the arytenoid cartilages), and the length and tension of the vocal folds

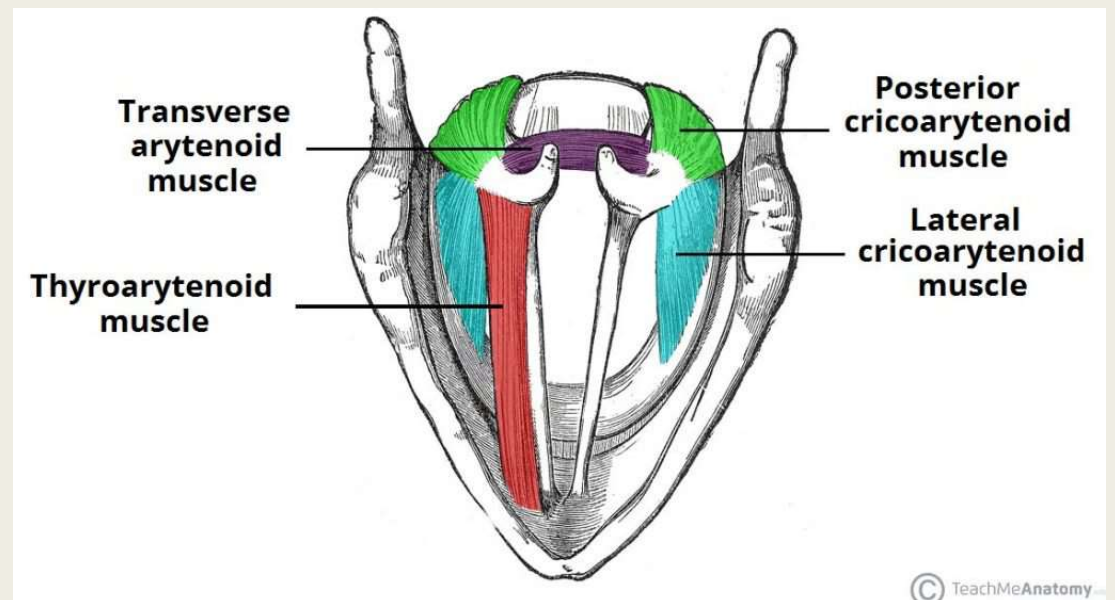


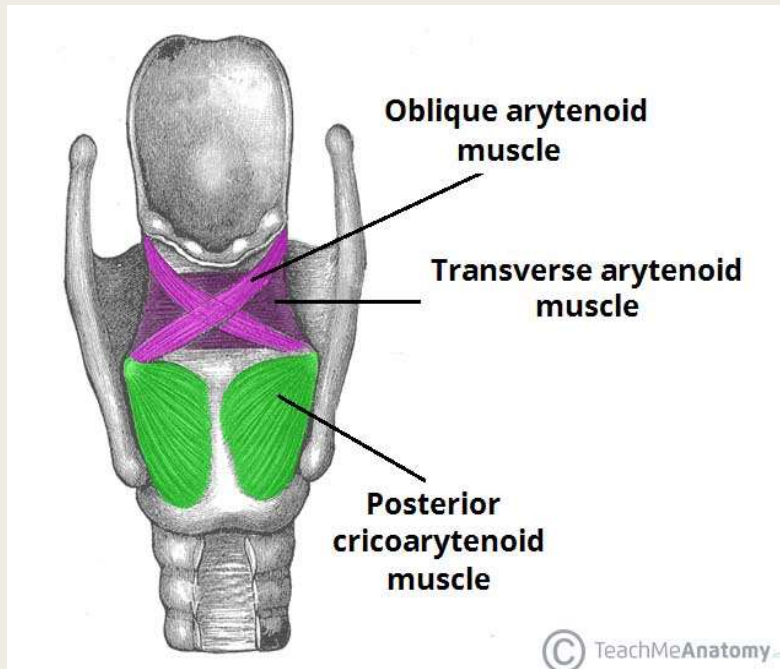
Cricothyroid

The cricothyroid muscle stretches and tenses the vocal ligaments, and so is important for the creation of forceful speech. It also has a role in altering the tone of voice (along with the thyroarytenoid muscle), hence its colloquial name 'singer's muscle'.

Thyroarytenoid

The thyroarytenoid muscle acts to relax the vocal ligament, allowing for a softer voice





Posterior cricoarytenoid

The posterior cricoarytenoid muscles are the sole abductors of the vocal folds, and thus the only muscle capable of widening the rima glottidis

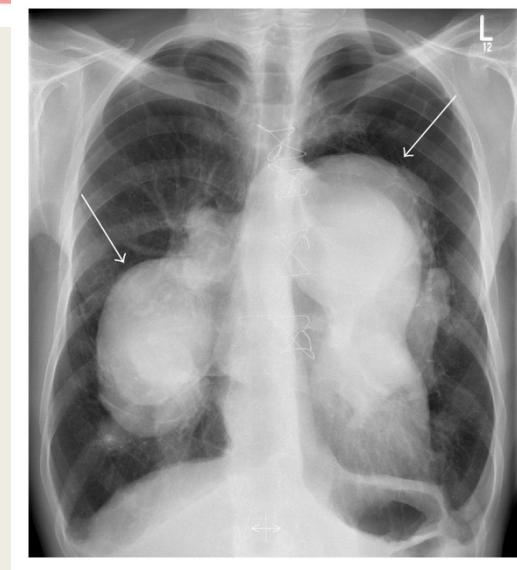
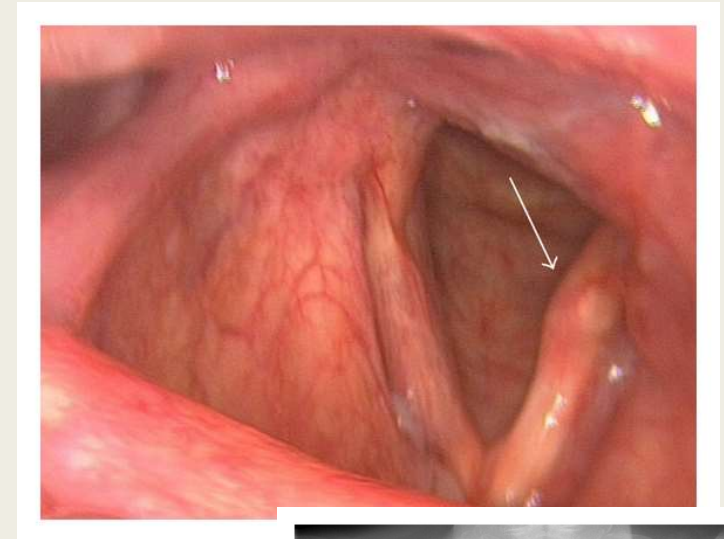
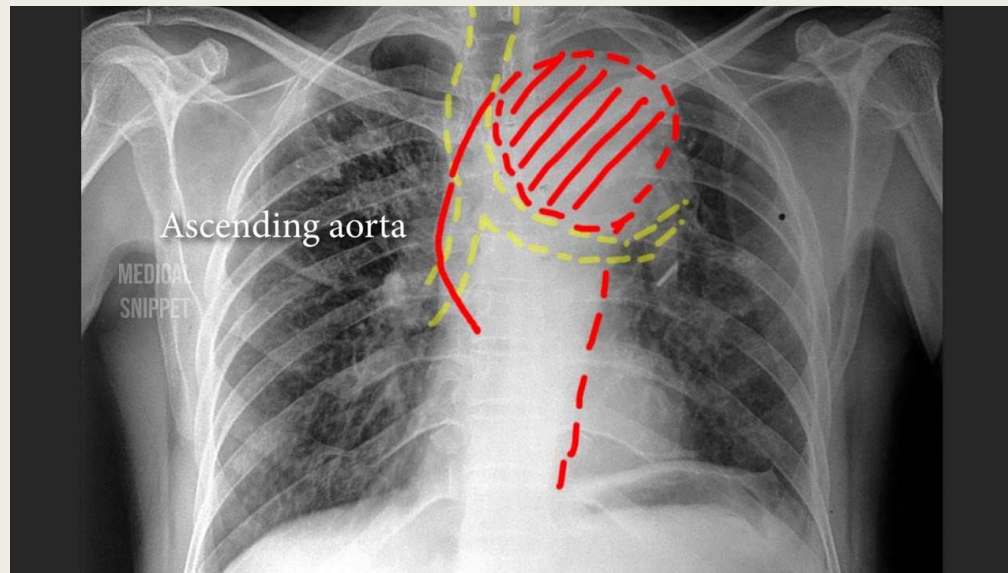
Lateral cricoarytenoid

The lateral cricoarytenoid muscles are the major adductors of the vocal folds. This narrows the rima glottidis, modulating the tone and volume of speech

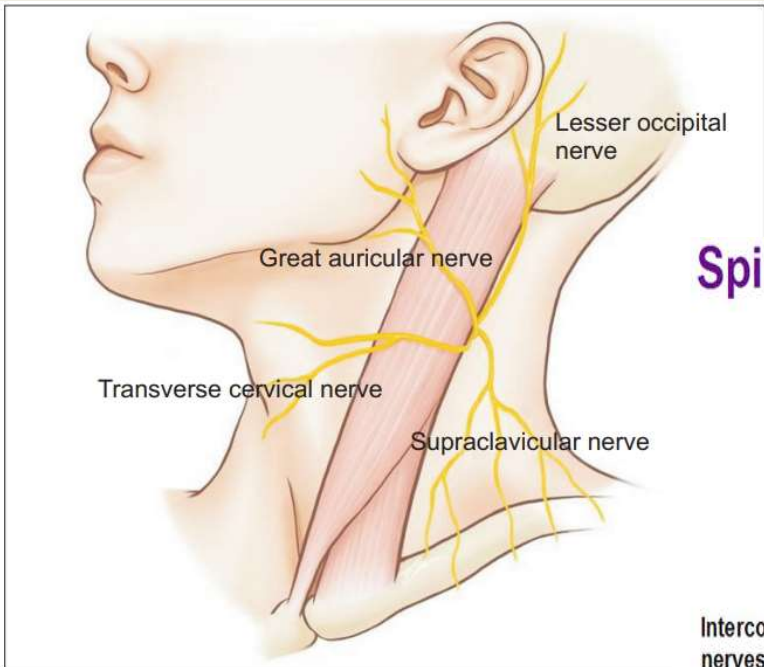
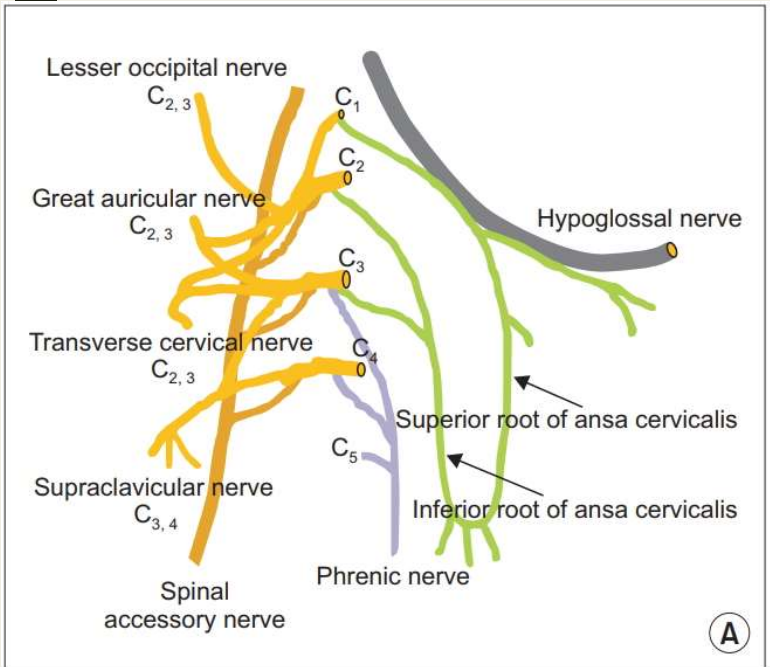
Transverse and Oblique Arytenoids

The transverse and oblique arytenoids muscles adduct the arytenoid cartilages, closing the posterior portion of rima glottidis. This narrows the laryngeal inlet

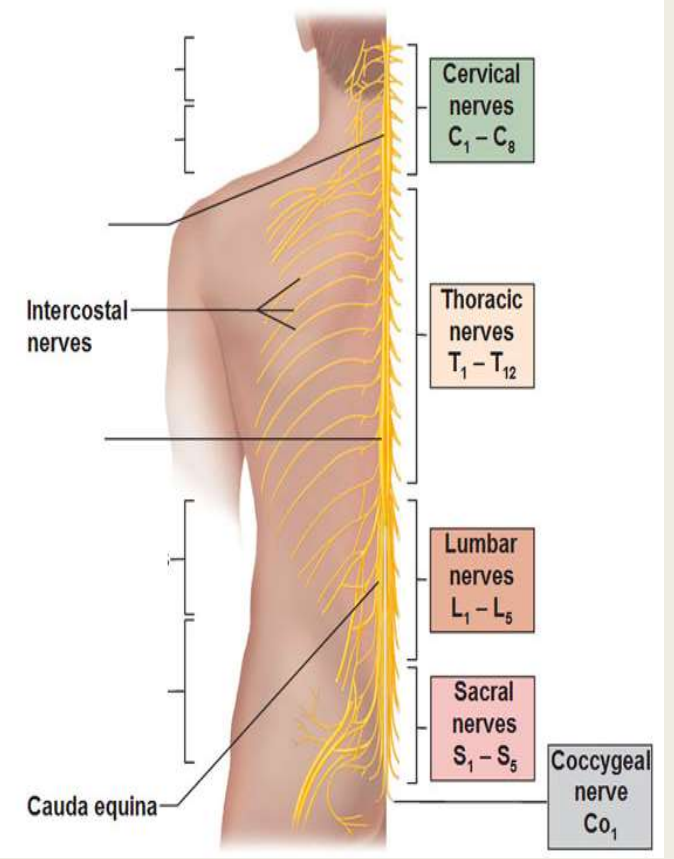
Ortner's syndrome



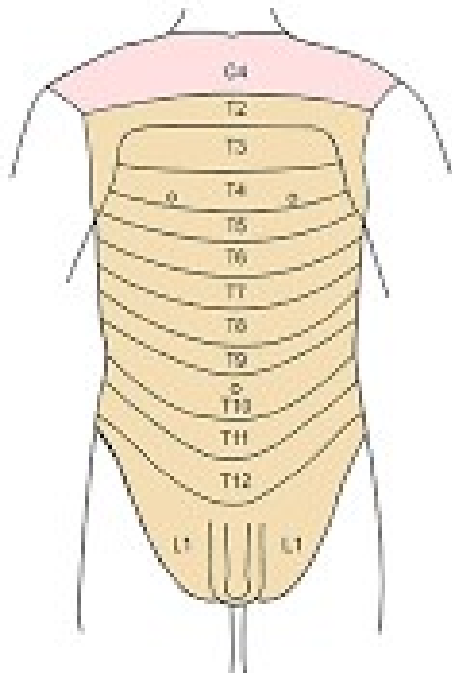
Cardiovascular syndrome and refers to recurrent laryngeal nerve palsy due to vascular or cardiac etiology



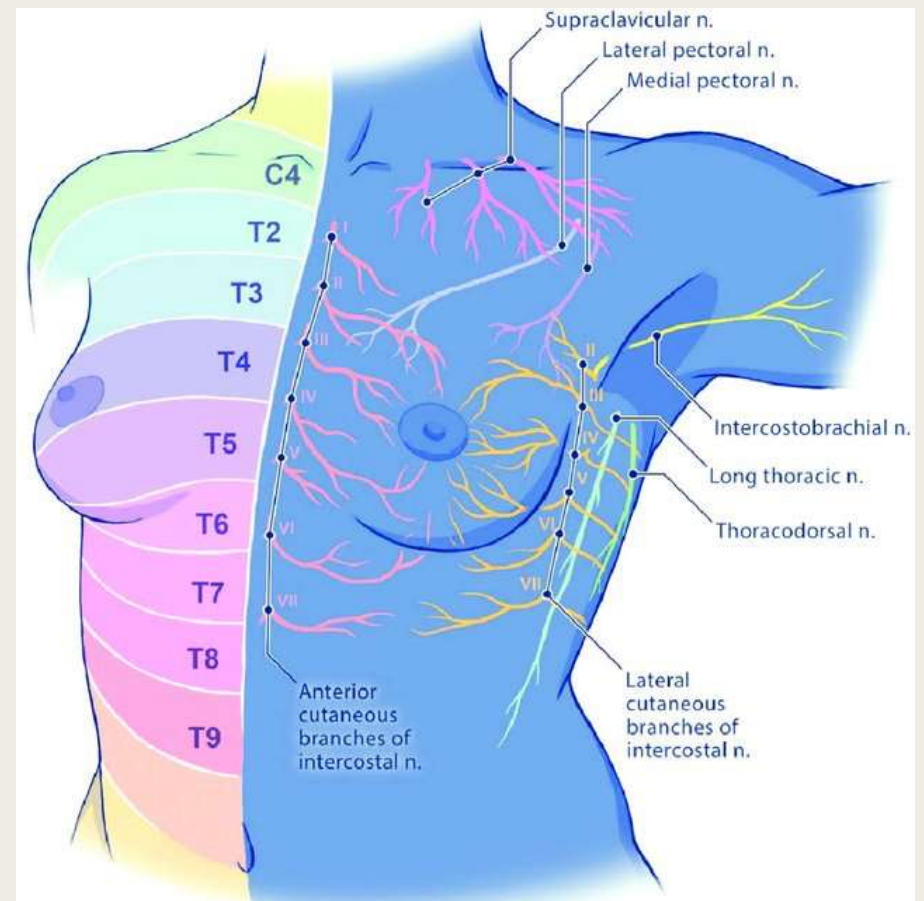
Spinal Nerves Posterior View

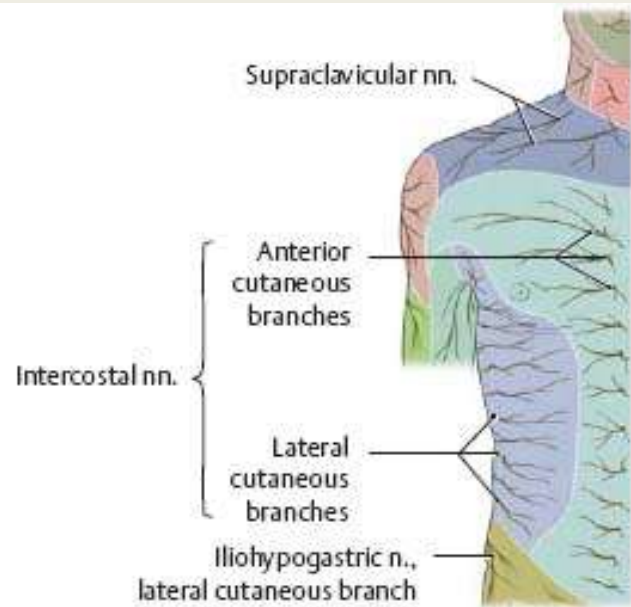


DERMATOMES OF THORAX & ABDOMEN

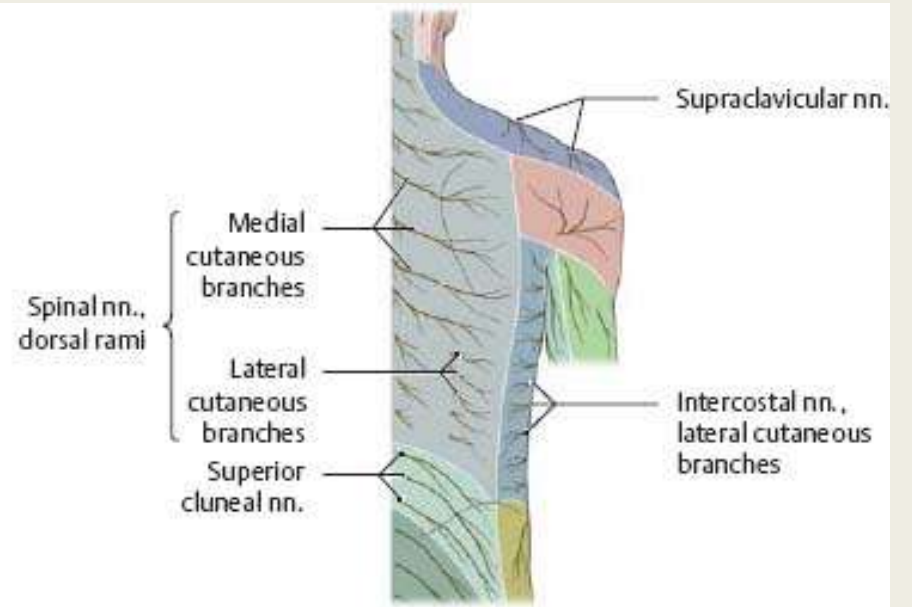


A **dermatome** is an area of skin that is mainly supplied by afferent nerve fibres from the dorsal root of any given spinal nerve





A Anterior view.



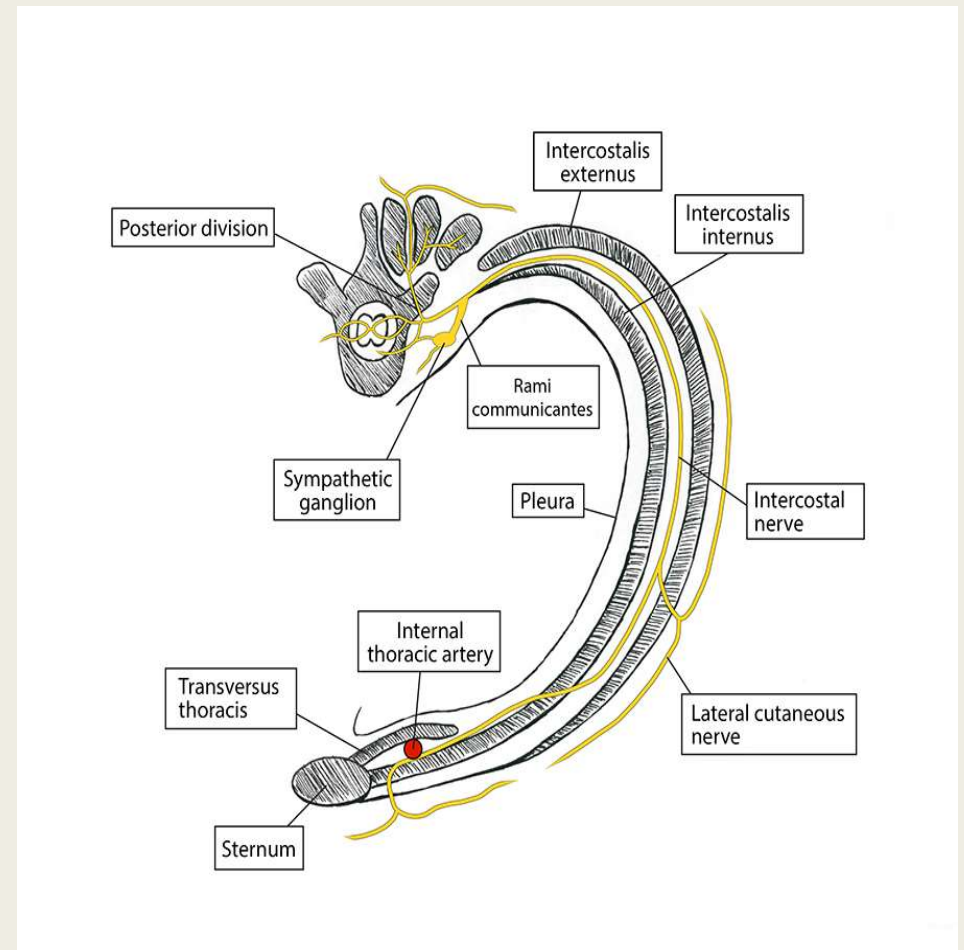
B Posterior view.

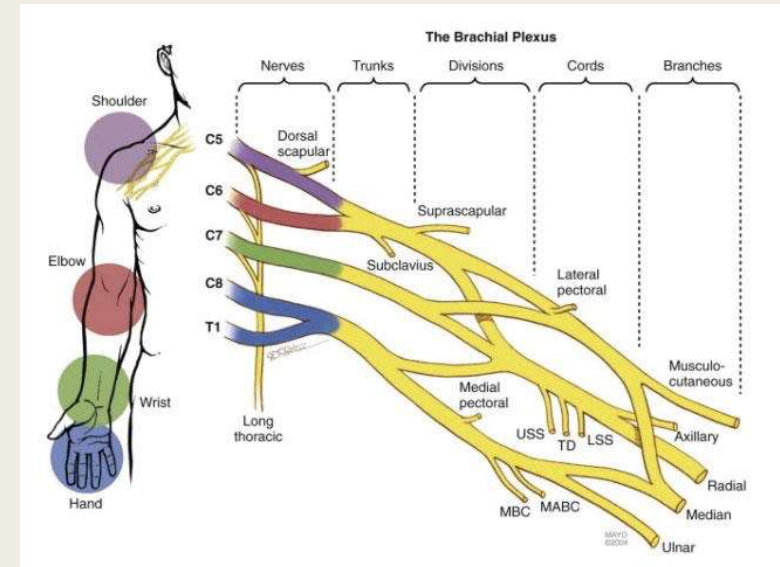
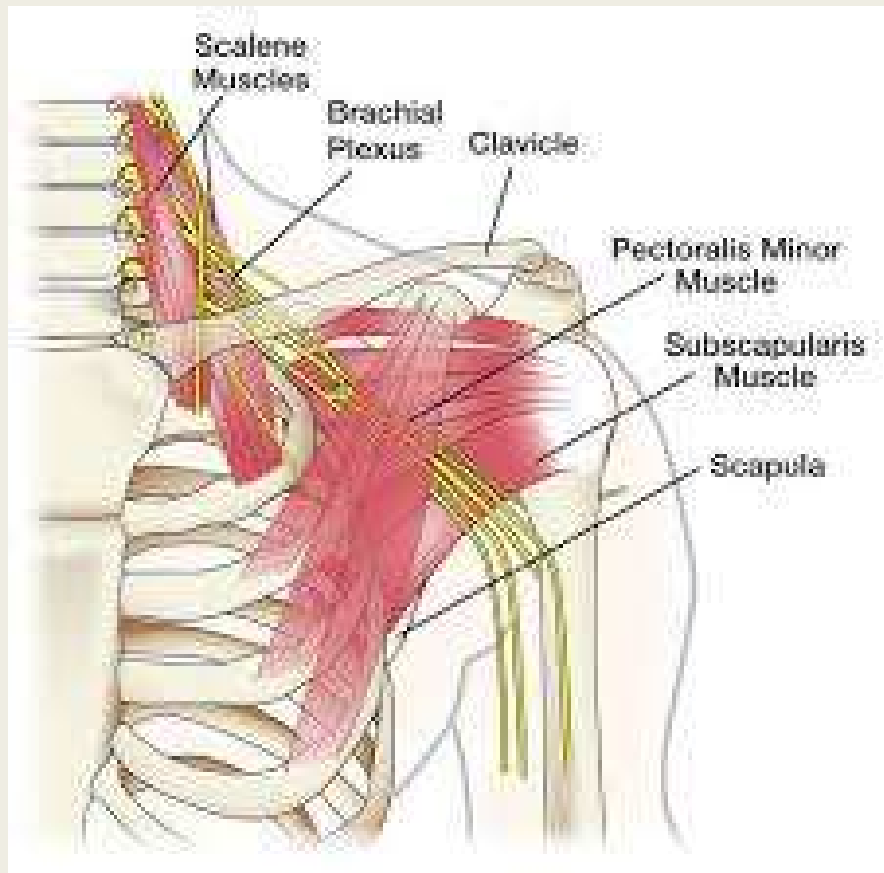
The **intercostal nerves** are part of the somatic nervous system, and arise from the anterior rami of the thoracic spinal nerves from T1 to T11

The 7th intercostal nerve terminates at the xyphoid process

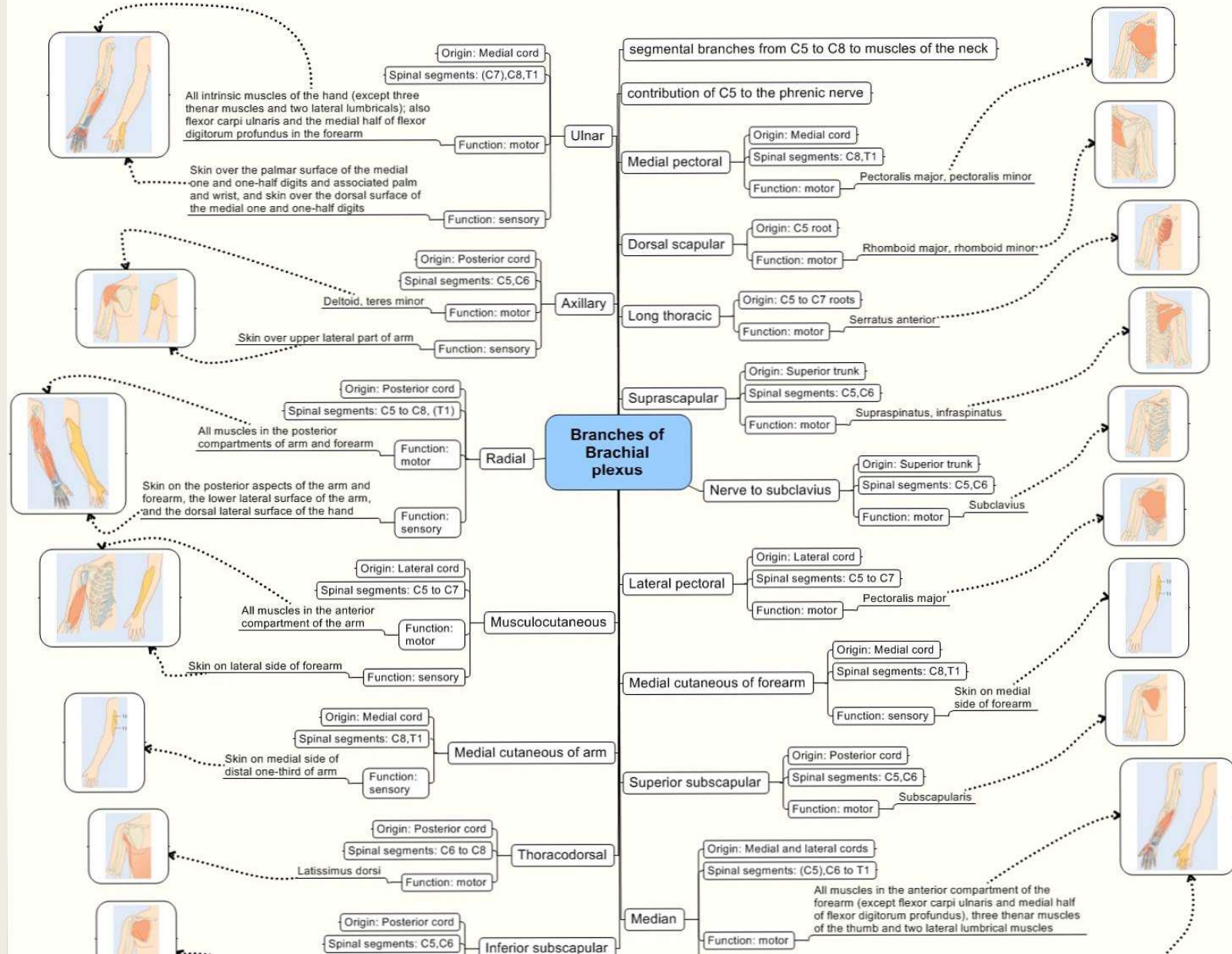
The 10th intercostal nerve terminates at the navel

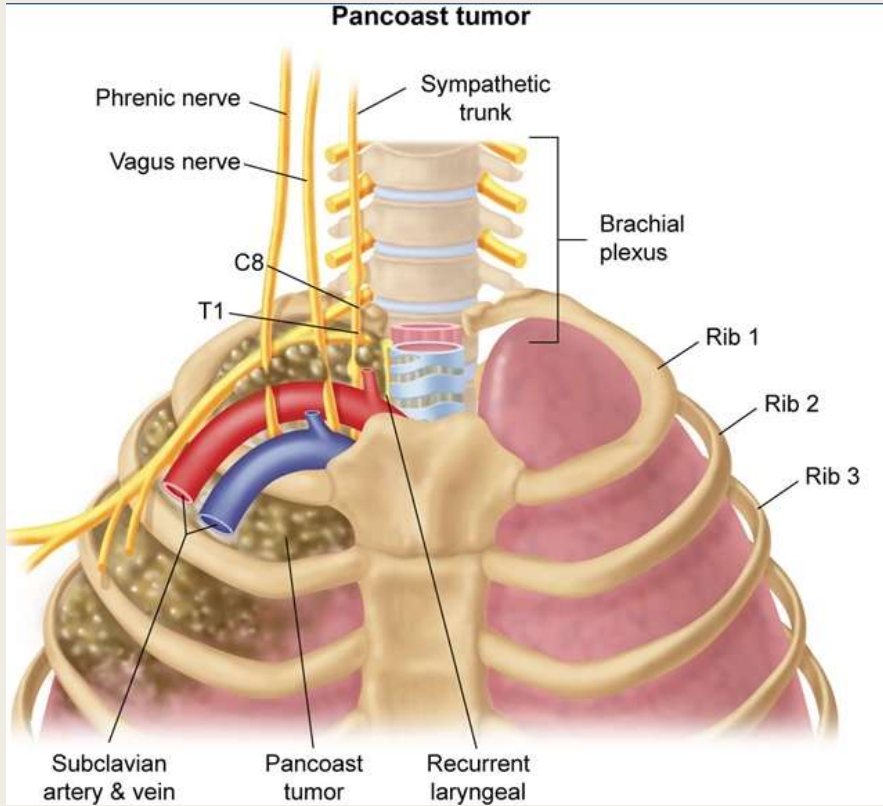
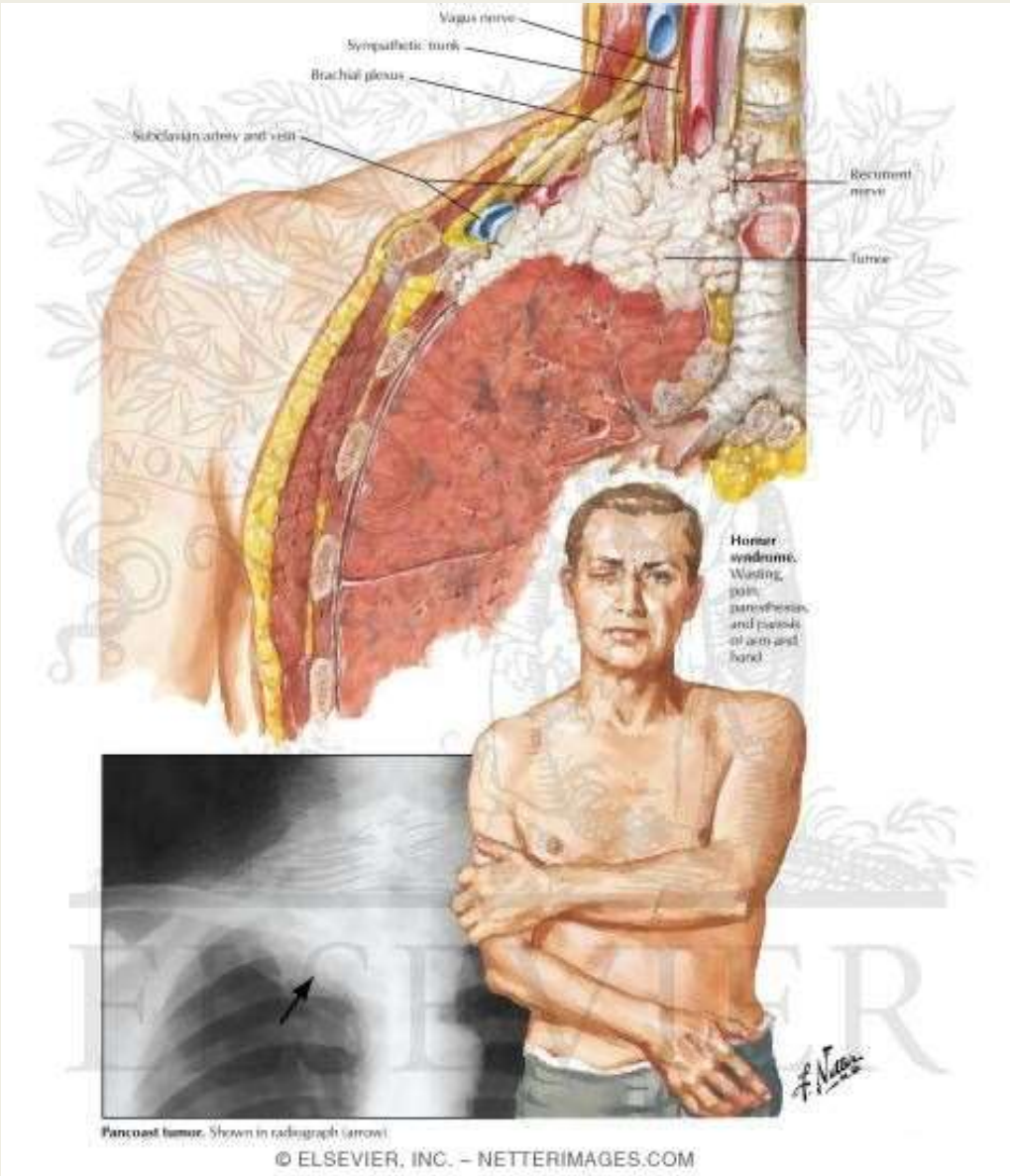
The twelfth (subcostal) thoracic is distributed to the abdominal wall and groin





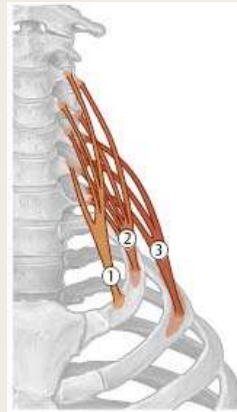
Brachial plexus





Pancoast TUMORS

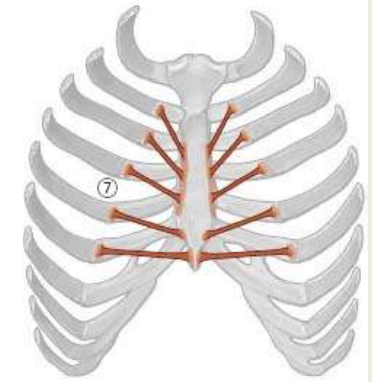
Intrinsic muscles of chest wall



A Scalene muscles, anterior view.



B Intercostal muscles, anterior view.



C Transversus thoracis, posterior view.

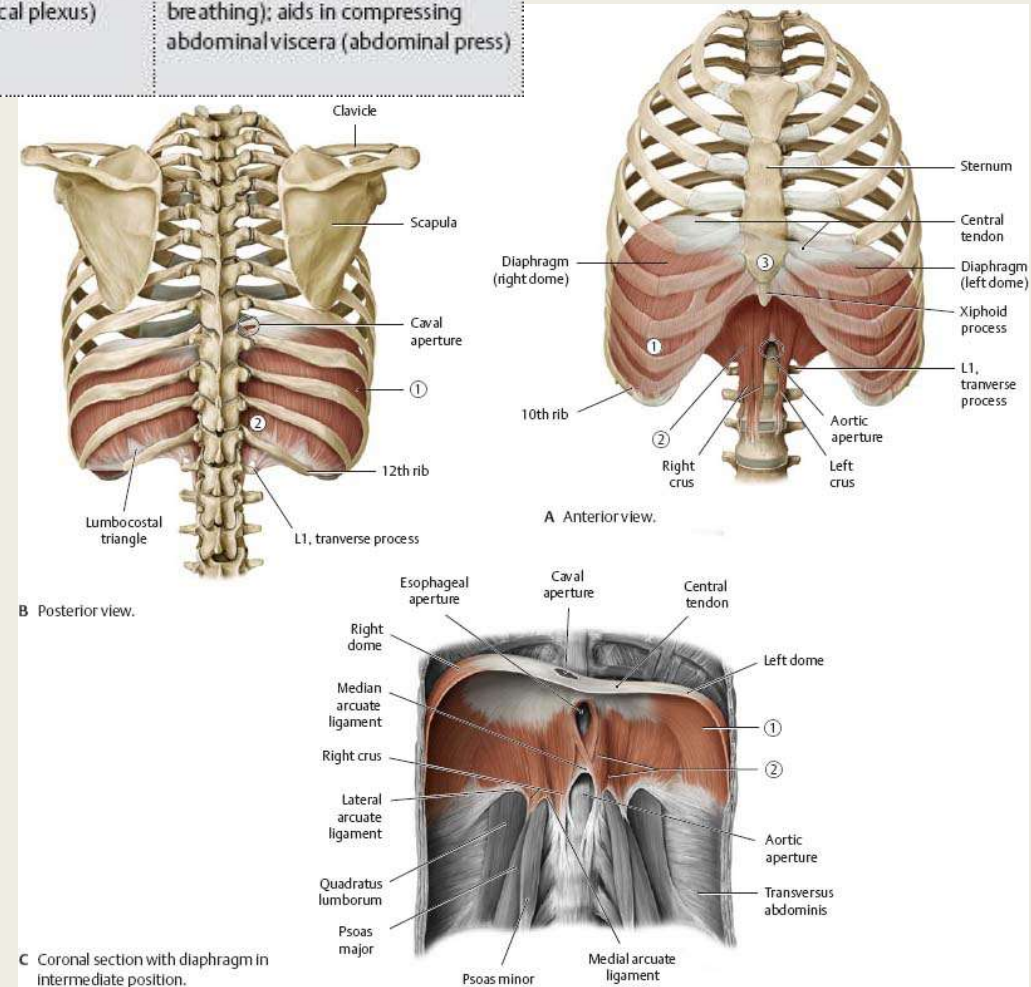
Table 5.2		Muscles of the thoracic wall			
Muscle		Origin	Insertion	Innervation	Action
Scalene	① Anterior scalene	C3–C6 (transverse processes, anterior tubercles)	1st rib (scalene tubercle)	Direct branches from cervical and brachial plexus (C3–C6)	<i>With ribs mobile:</i> Raises upper ribs (inspiration) <i>With ribs fixed:</i> Bends cervical spine to same side (unilateral); flexes neck (bilateral)
	② Middle scalene	C4–C6 (transverse processes, posterior tubercles)	1st rib (posterior to groove for subclavian a.)		
	③ Posterior scalene		2nd rib (outer surface)		
Intercostal	④ External intercostal	Lower margin of rib to upper margin of next lower rib (courses obliquely forward and downward from costal tubercle to chondro-osseous junction)		1st to 11th intercostal nn.	Raises ribs (inspiration); supports intercostal spaces; stabilizes chest wall Lowers ribs (expiration); supports intercostal spaces, stabilizes chest wall
	⑤ Internal intercostal	Lower margin of rib to lower margin of next lower rib (courses obliquely forward and upward from costal angle to sternum)			
	⑥ Innermost intercostal				
Subcostal		Lower margin of lower ribs to inner surface of ribs two to three ribs below		Variable lower intercostal nn.	Raises ribs (inspiration)
⑦ Transversus thoracis		Sternum and xiphoid process (inner surface)	2nd to 6th ribs (costal cartilage, inner surface)	2nd to 7th intercostal nn.	Weakly lowers ribs (expiration)

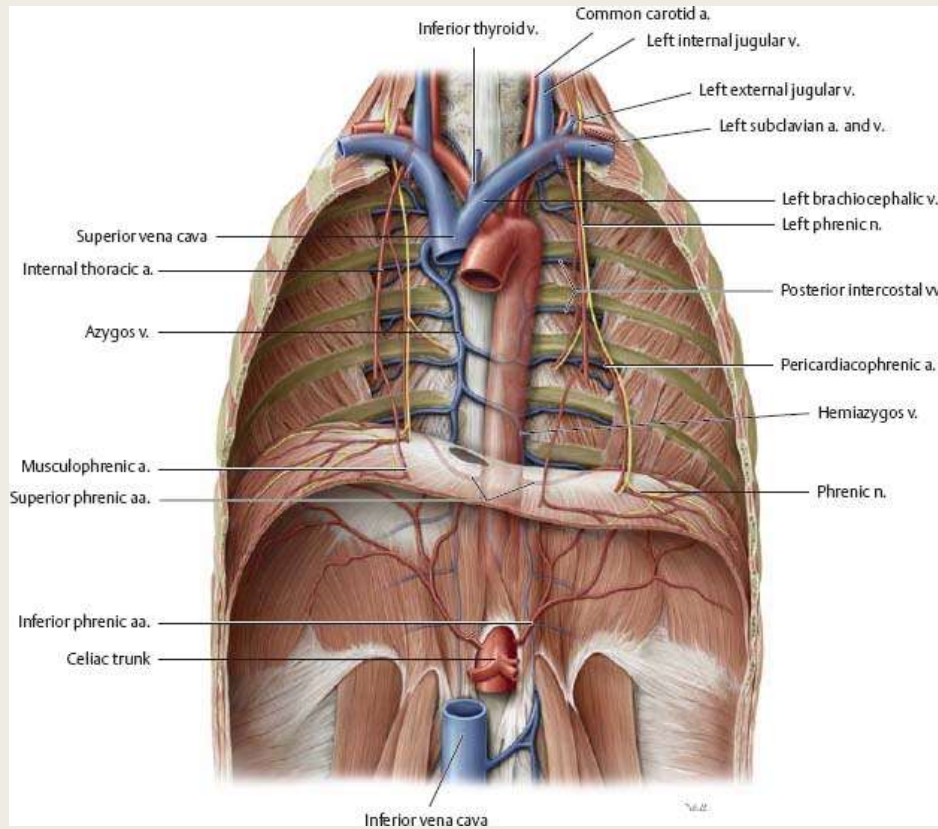
Table 5.3

Diaphragm

Muscle	Origin	Insertion	Innervation	Action	
Diaphragm	① Costal part	7th to 12th ribs (inner surface; lower margin of costal arch)	Central tendon	Phrenic n. (C3–C5, cervical plexus)	Principal muscle of respiration (diaphragmatic and thoracic breathing); aids in compressing abdominal viscera (abdominal press)
	② Lumbar part	Medial part: L1–L3 vertebral bodies, intervertebral disks, and anterior longitudinal ligament as right and left crura Lateral parts: lateral and medial arcuate ligaments			
	③ Sternal part	Xiphoid process (posterior surface)			

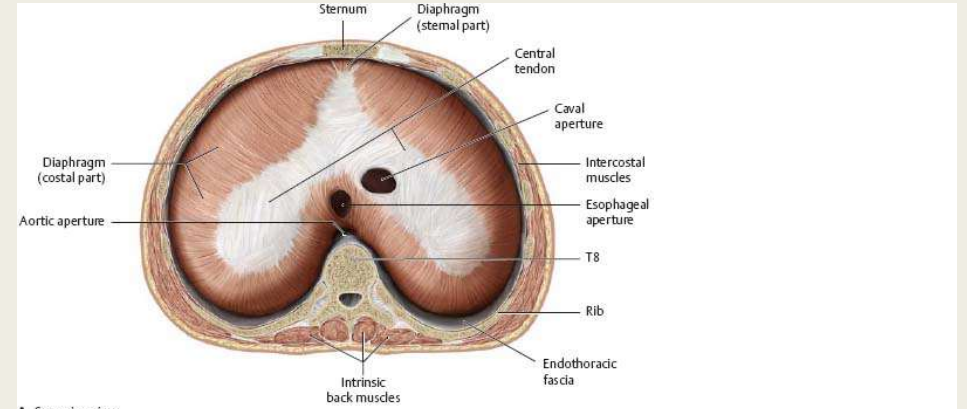
Diaphragm structure



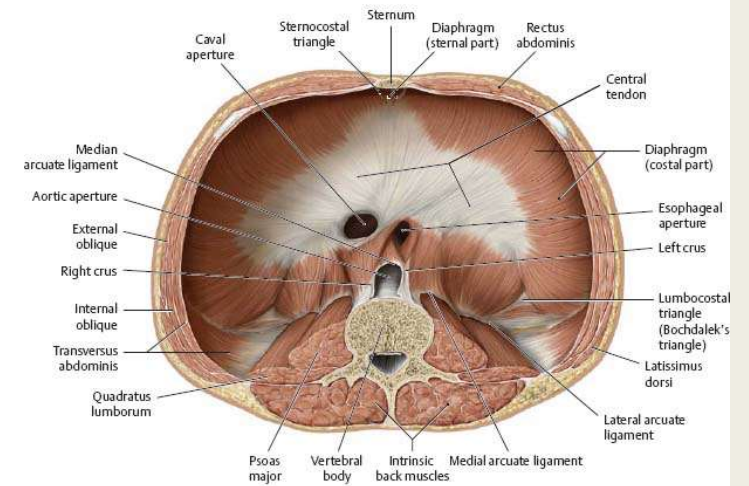


Diaphragm

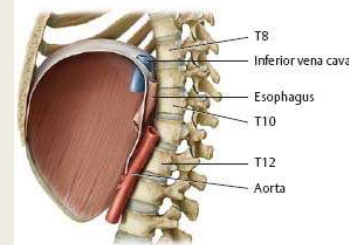
Vessel supply and apertures



A Superior view.

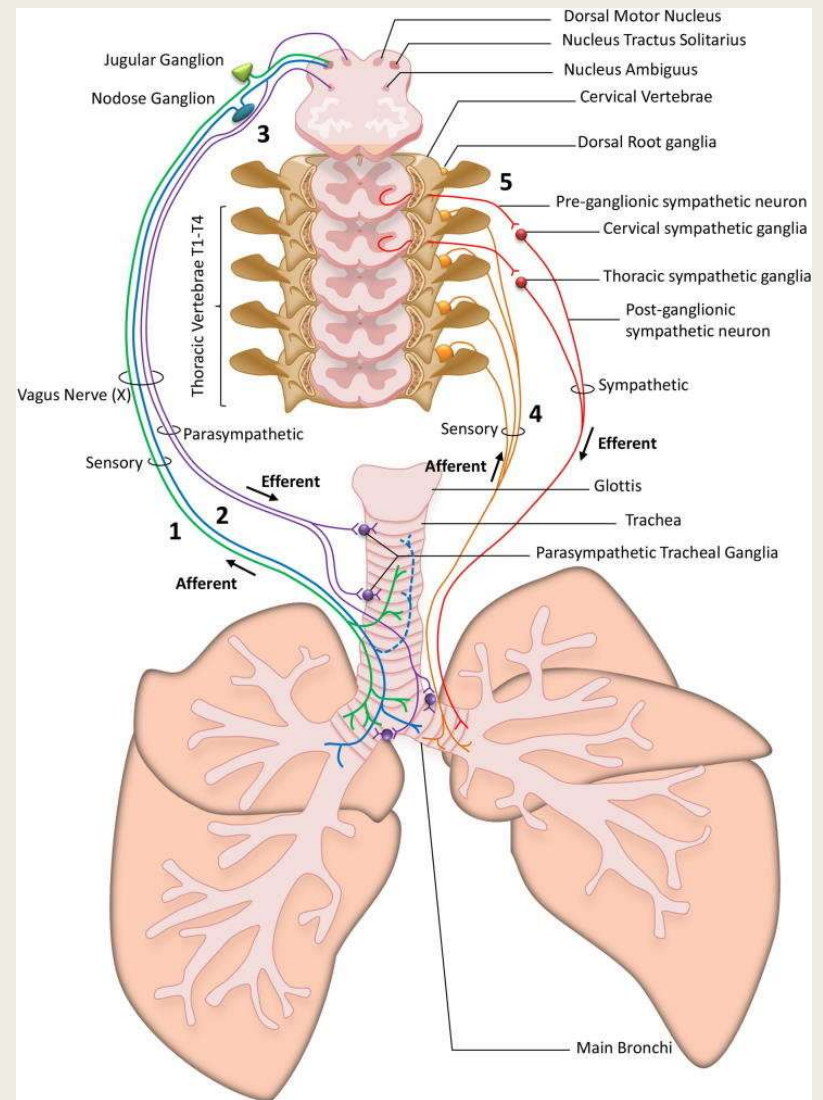
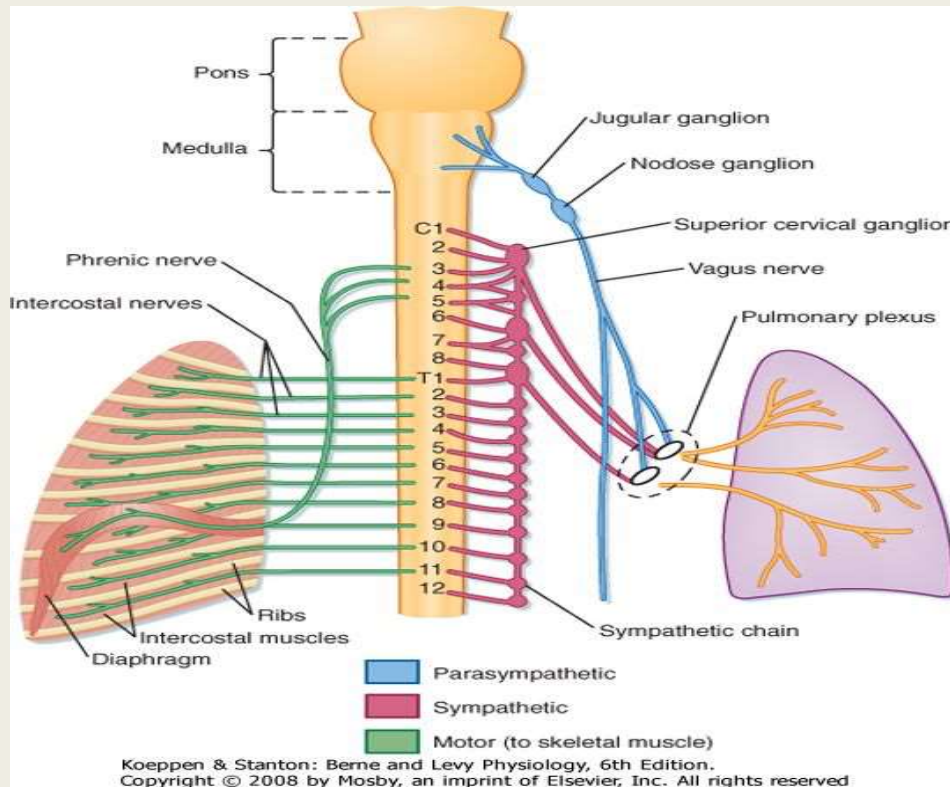


B Inferior view.



C Diaphragmatic apertures, left lateral view.

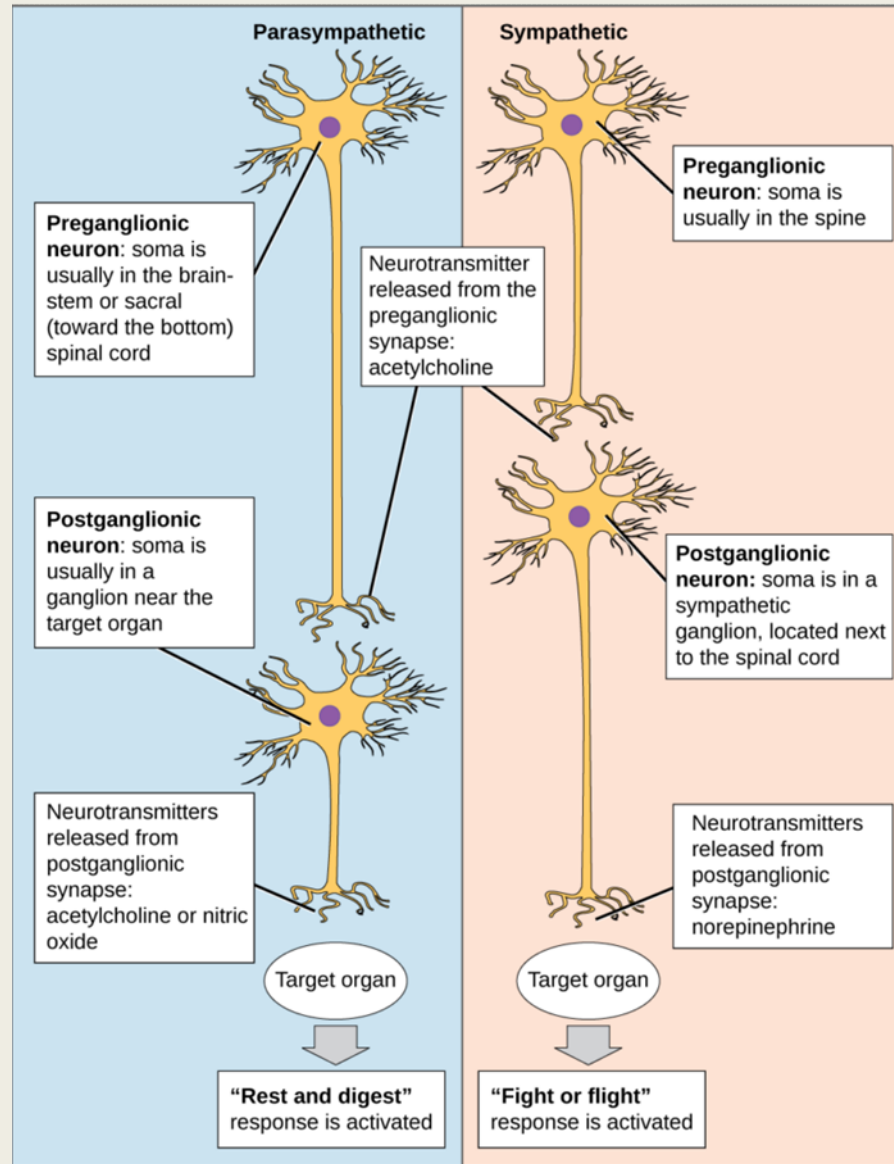
The airways are innervated by a dual system of afferent sensory neurons and efferent neurons



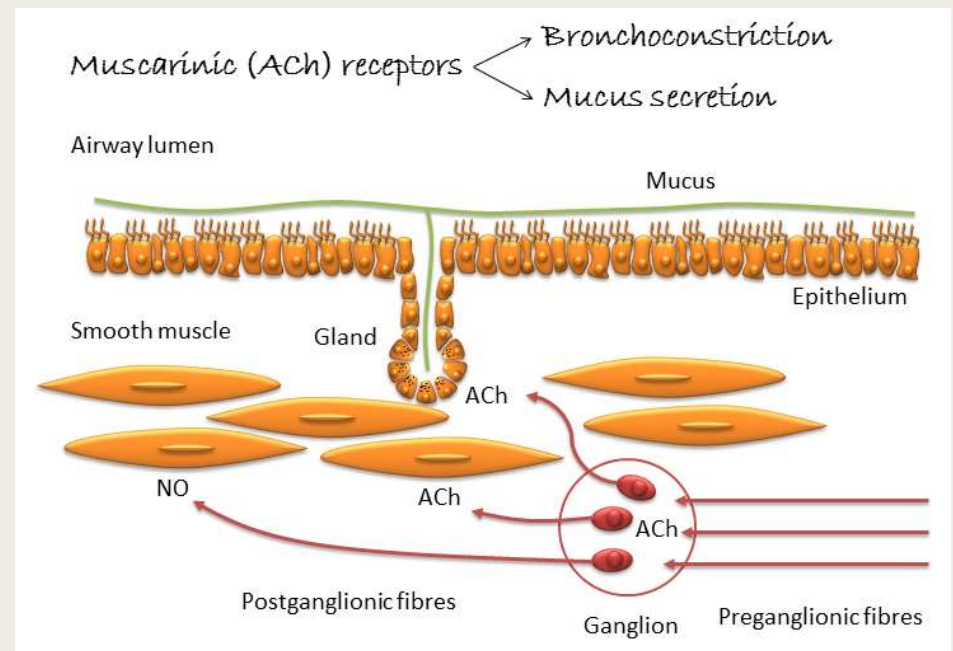
Vagus nerve (X) contains:

1. Sensory neurons (green line) originating from the sub-cerebral jugular ganglion which innervate the upper and lower airways and project into the nucleus tractus solitarius and
2. Neurons originating from the sub-cerebral nodose ganglia which innervate the lower airway and bronchi (blue line) and 'cough receptor' mechano-sensitive $A\delta$ fibres which innervate the upper airway (dashed blue line) and project to the nucleus tractus solitarius.
3. Two different parasympathetic pathways run alongside the sensory fibres nerves in the vagus nerve (X)

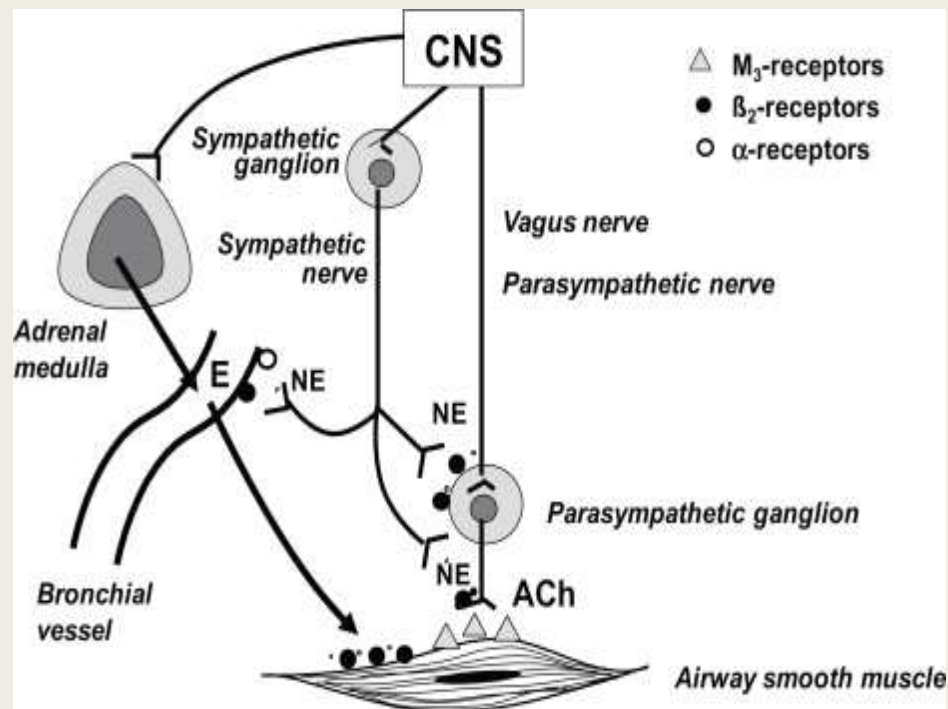
Autonomic Nervous System



Pre-ganglionic **Parasympathetic neurons** originating from the nucleus ambiguus and the dorsal motor nucleus in the brainstem respectively innervate postganglionic cholinergic neurons located in tracheal parasympathetic ganglia. These parasympathetic ganglia regulate bronchial tone and mucus secretion.

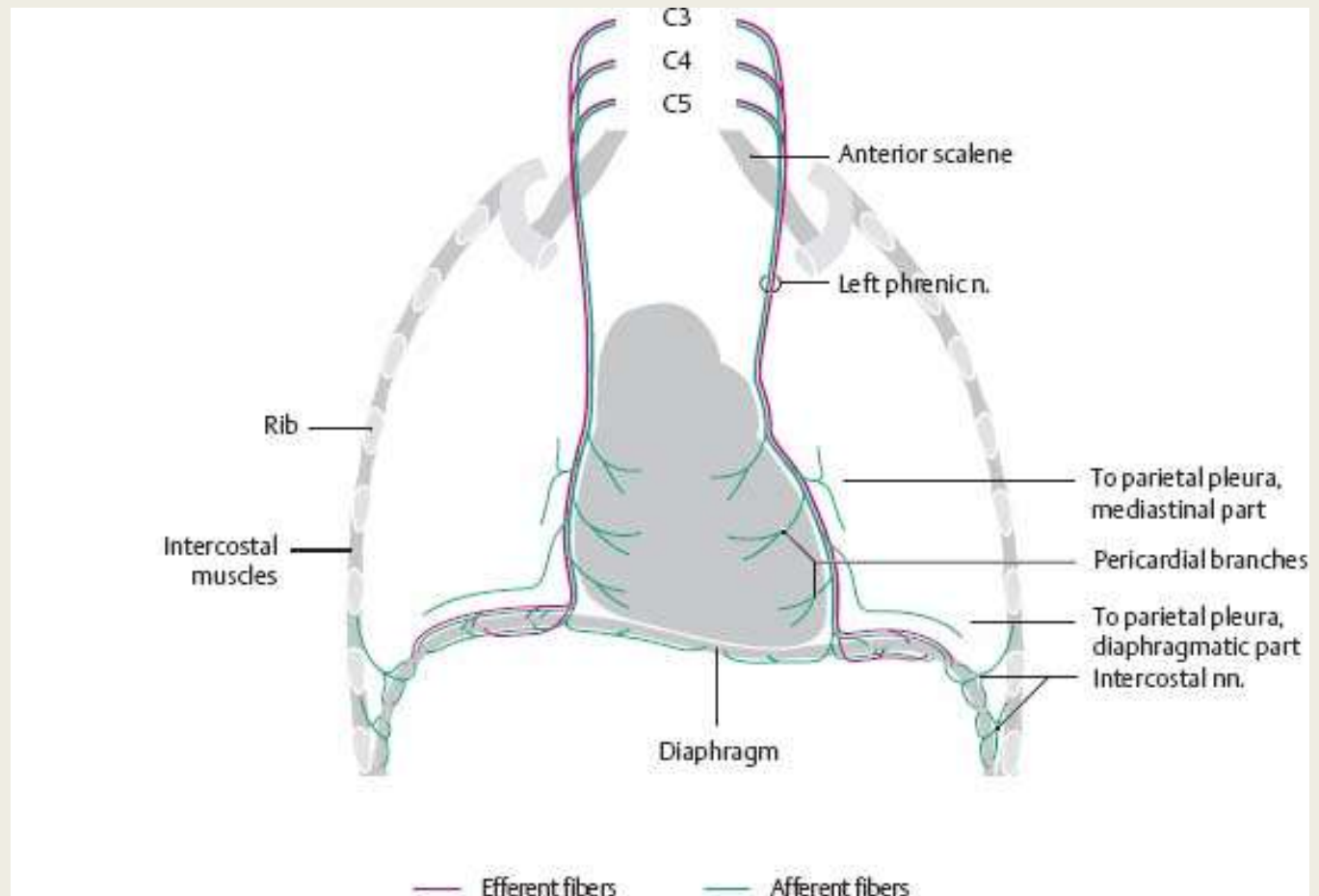


Nerves originating from the spinal cord also innervate the airways with (4) sensory neurons originating from the dorsal root ganglia in thoracic vertebrae T1 to T4 which innervate the lower airways and bronchi



Sympathetic neurons derived from the cervical and thoracic spinal cord respectively project to sympathetic neurones located in the cervical and thoracic ganglia. These sympathetic neurons innervate airways controlling blood vasculature but non directly smooth muscles tone.

The **Phrenic nerve** lies on the lateral surface of the fibrous pericardium together with the pericardiophrenic arteries and veins.



Phrenic nerve

- **Motor Functions**
- The phrenic nerve provides motor innervation to the **diaphragm**; the main muscle of respiration.
- As the phrenic nerve is a bilateral structure, each nerve supplies the **ipsilateral side** of the diaphragm (i.e. the hemi-diaphragm on the same side as itself).

Phrenic nerve

- **Sensory Functions**
- Sensory fibres from the phrenic nerve supply the central part of the diaphragm, including the (diaphragmatic) **pleura** and **peritoneum**.
- The nerve also supplies sensation to:
 - The **mediastinal pleura** and
 - The **pericardium**.

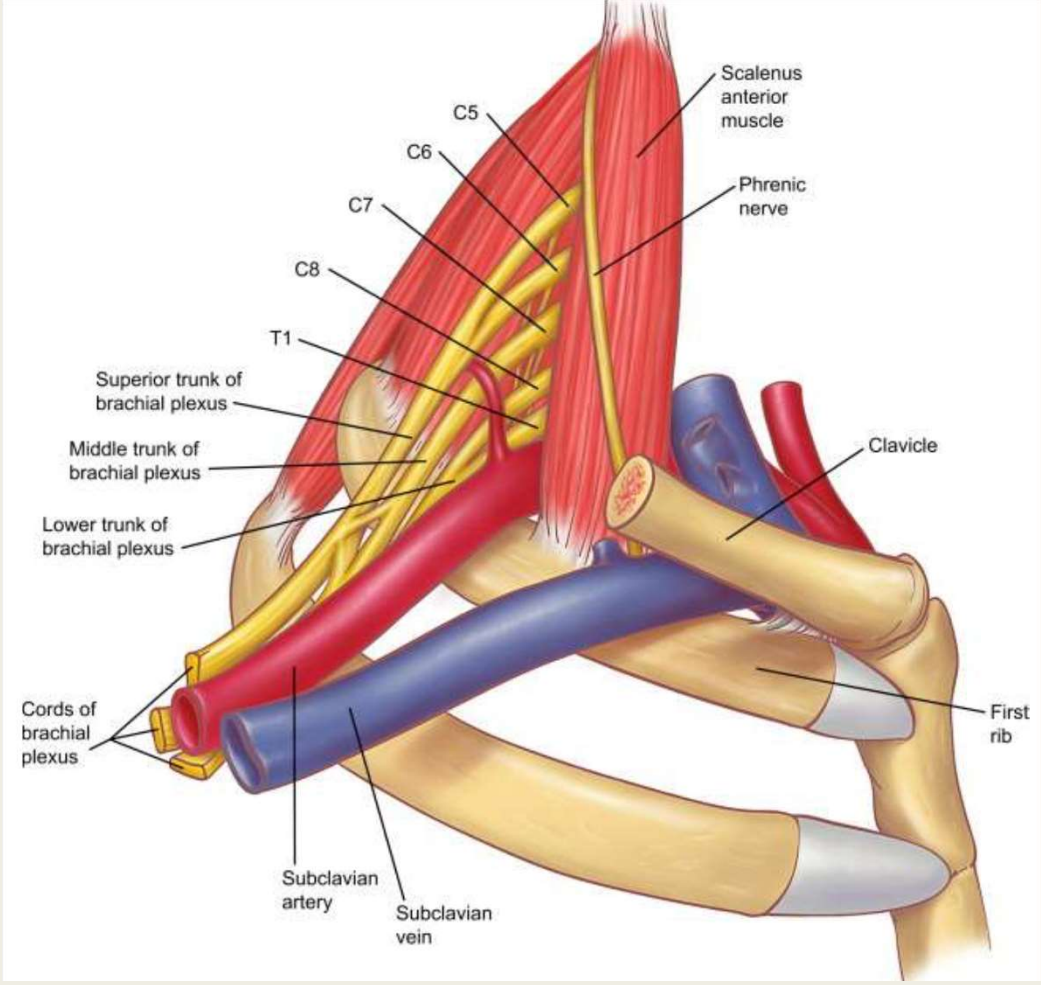
Phrenic nerve

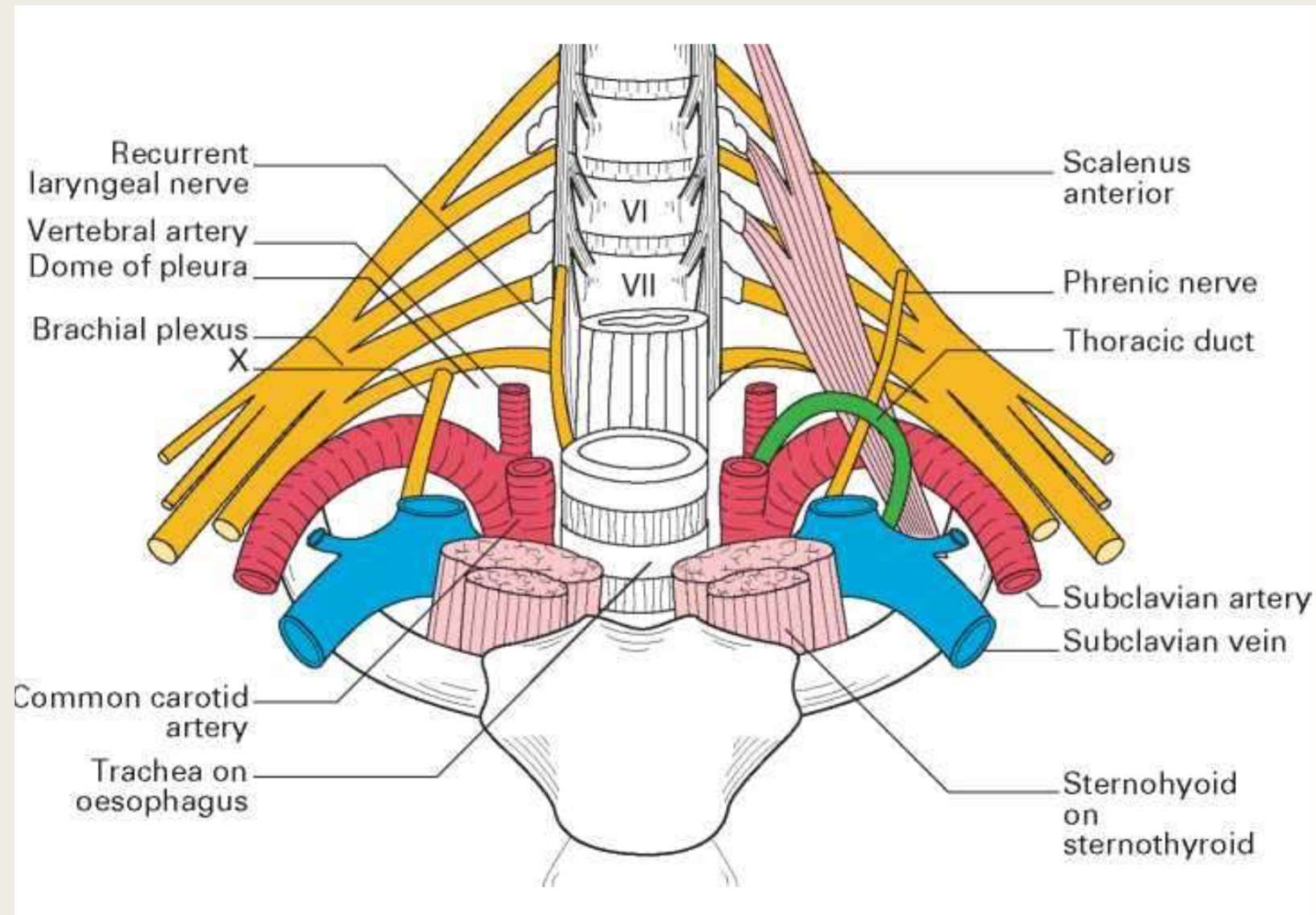
- **ORIGIN**

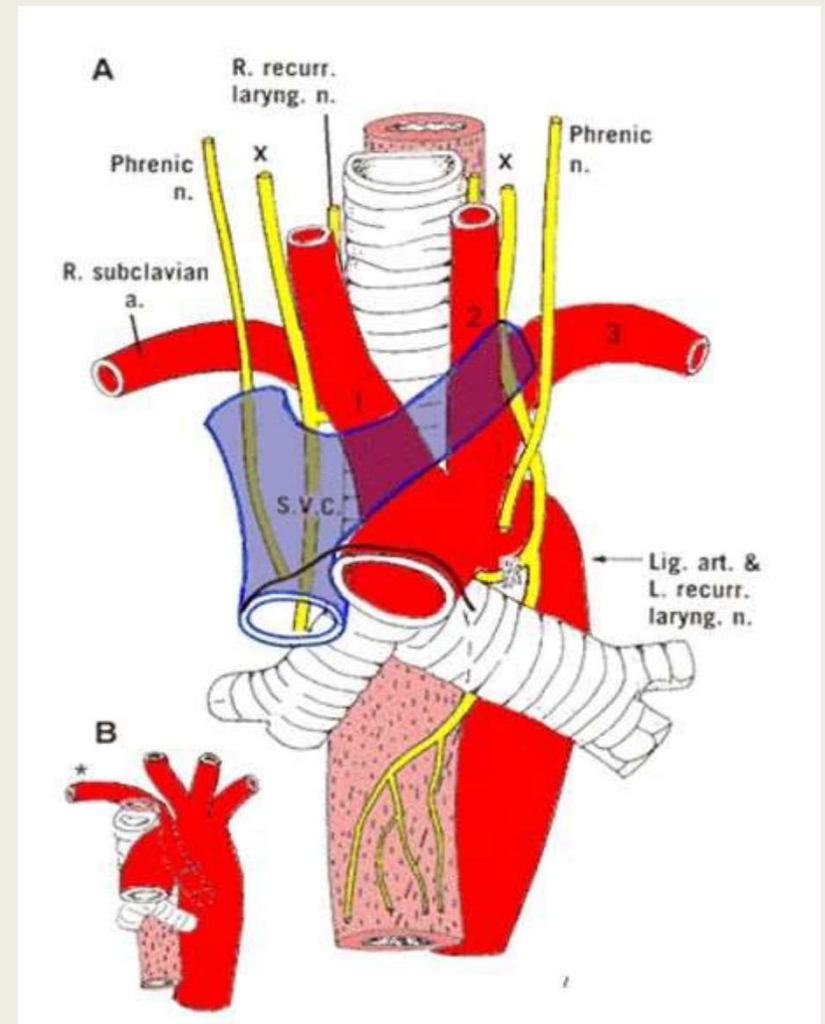
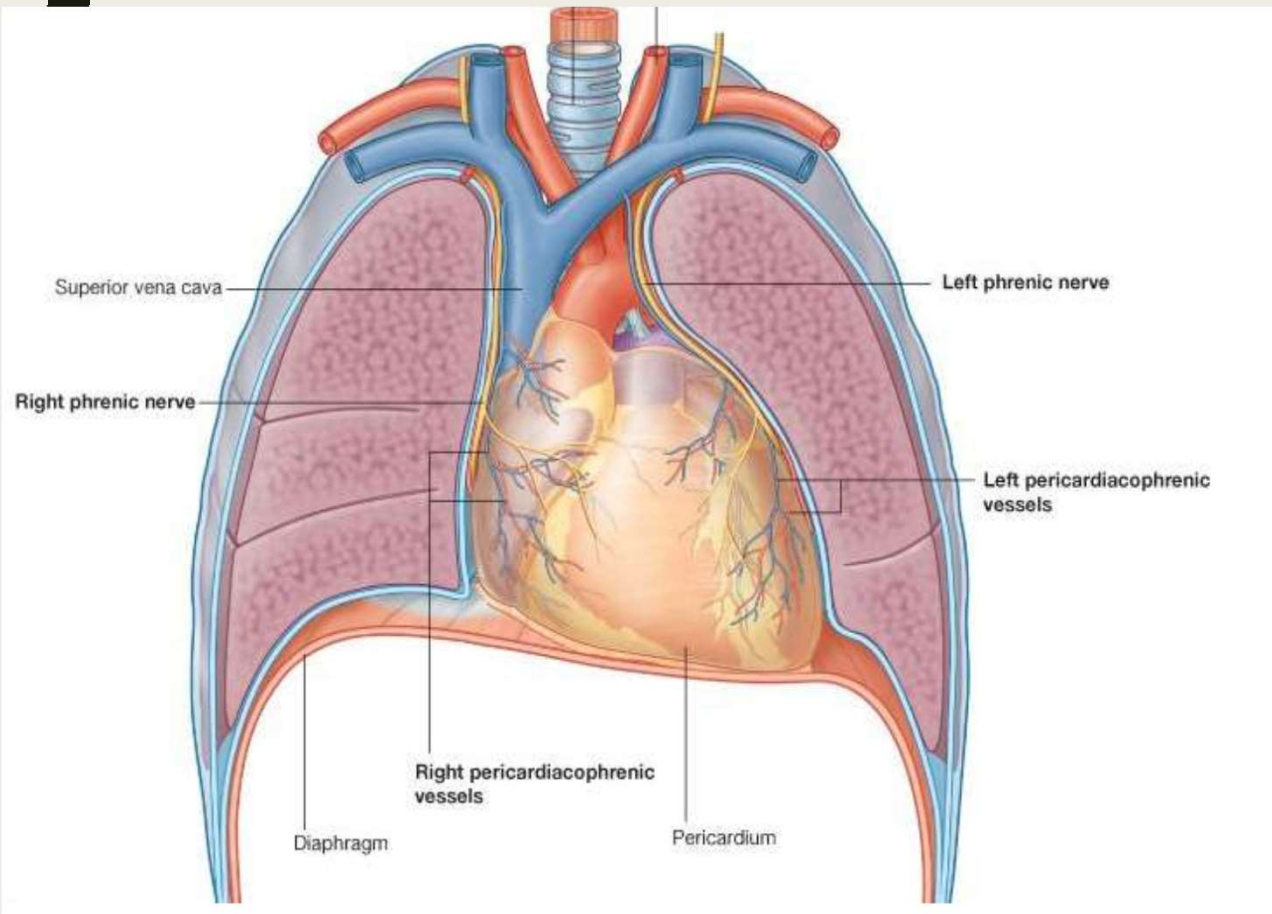
- The point of origin is from ventral rami of C3, C4 and C5 but primarily from C4.
- (the root from C5 may reach the phrenic nerve directly or from the nerve to subclavius muscle)

- **COURSE**

- It runs vertically downwards on the anterior surface of the scalenus anterior, which it crosses obliquely from lateral to medial side.
- Afterward it runs downwards on the cervical pleura to go into the thorax behind first costal cartilage.

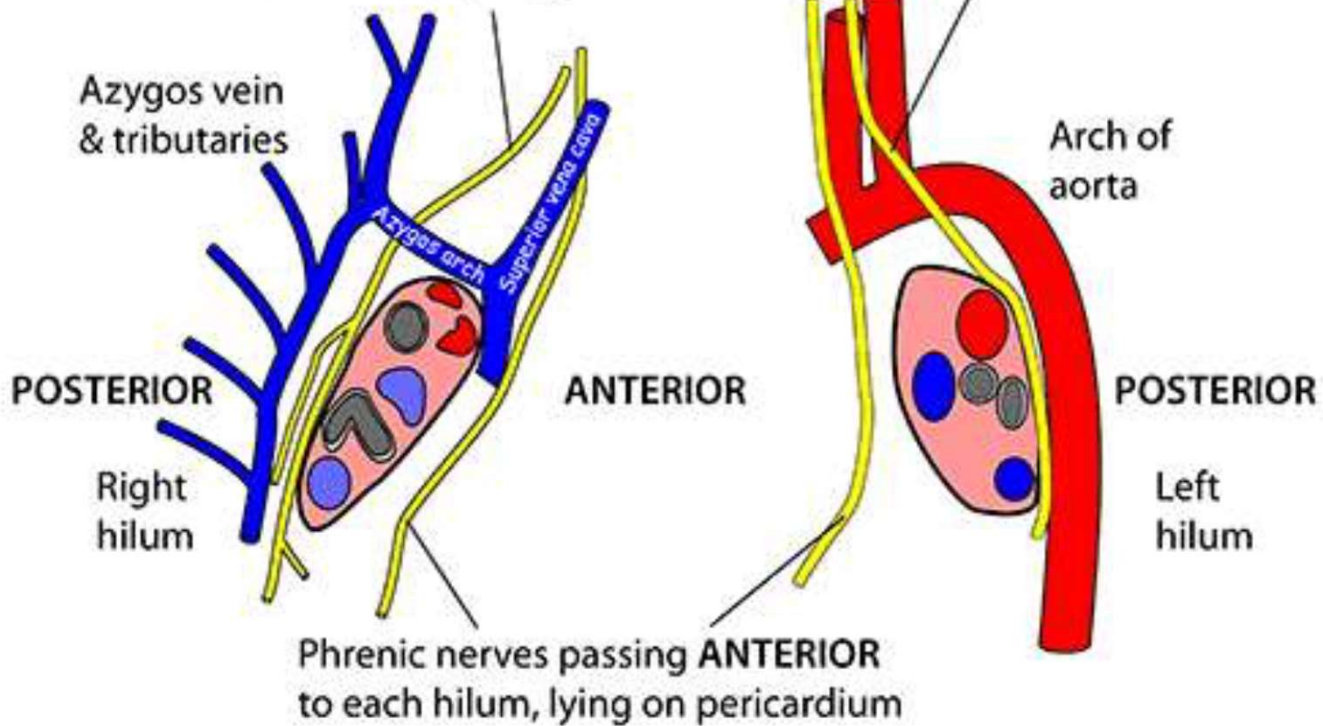






Right vagus medial to azygos arch then **POSTERIOR** to hilum to reach oesophagus

Left vagus over arch of aorta then **POSTERIOR** to hilum to reach oesophagus



- **Diaphragmatic Paralysis**

- The phrenic nerve provides motor innervation to the diaphragm. If the nerve becomes damaged, paralysis of the diaphragm will result. Causes of phrenic nerve palsy include:

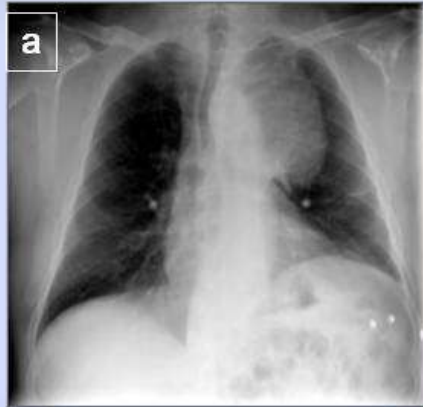
- **Mechanical trauma** – ligation or damage to the nerve during surgery.

- **Compression** – due to a tumour within the chest cavity.

- **Neuropathies** – such diabetic neuropathy.

- Paralysis of the diaphragm produces a **paradoxical movement**. The affected side of the diaphragm moves upwards during inspiration, and downwards during expiration.

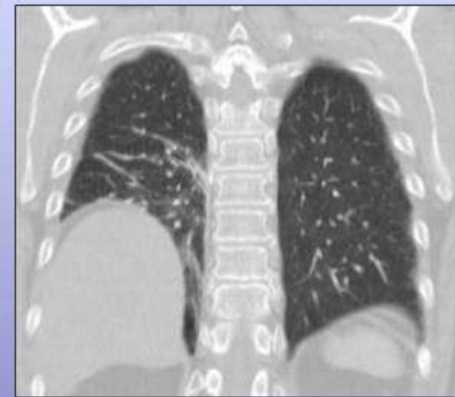
Fig. 12 **Unilateral paralysis of diaphragm**



Mediastinal mass



Diaphragmatic paralysis by cardiac surgery



Diaphragmatic dysfunction due to laryngeal surgery

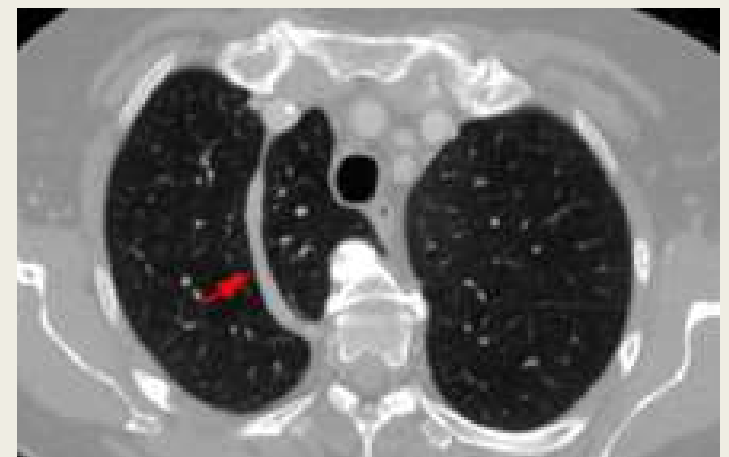
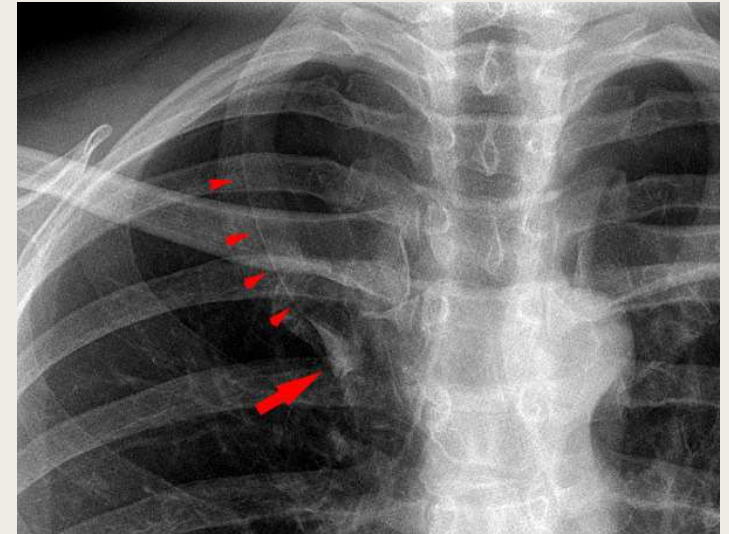
Anatomical variants

An **Azygos lobe** is a rare, anatomical variant of the upper lobe of the right lung found in approximately 1% of anatomic specimens and 0.4% of chest radiographs

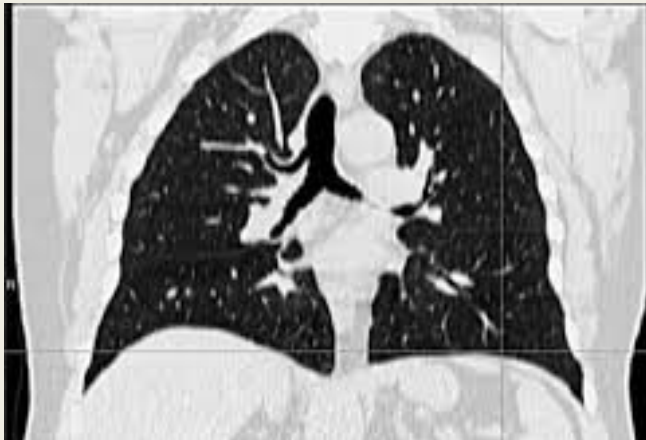
It forms during embryological development when the posterior cardinal vein, the precursor of the upper thoracic segment of the azygos vein, erroneously migrates through the upper lobe of the lung

As a result, two pleural layers are carried through the right upper lobe creating a fissure known as the azygos fissure

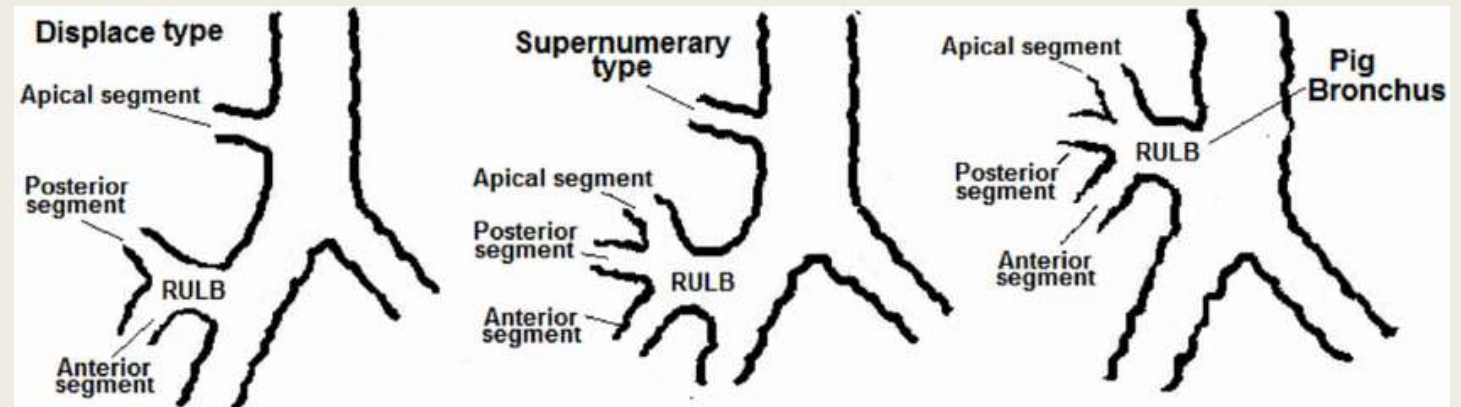
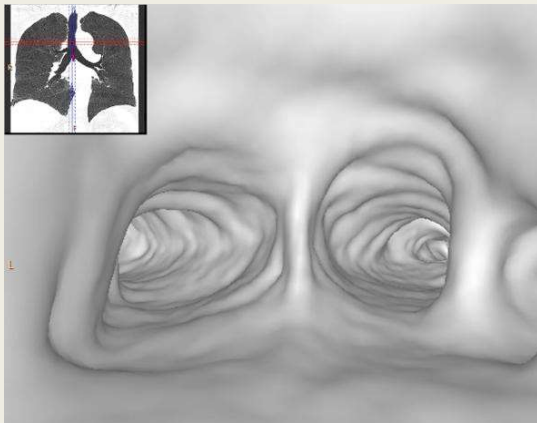
An azygos lobe is not a true accessory lobe as it does not have a unique bronchus or blood supply



Tracheal bronchus

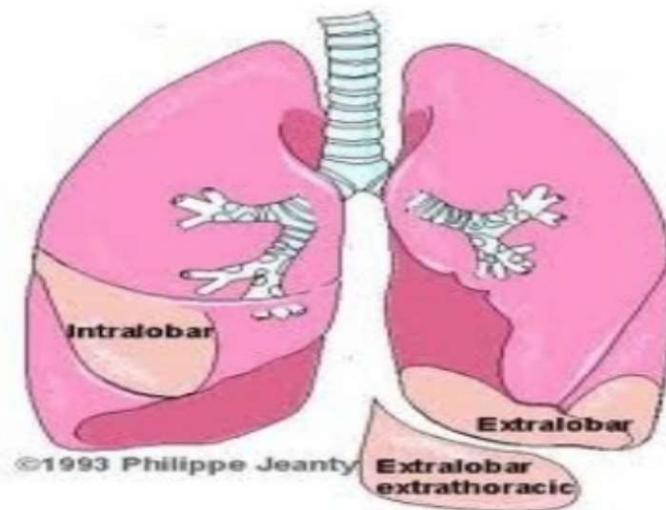


The right upper lobe bronchus with its segmental and subsegmental bronchus originating from the trachea is very rare (0.1 - 2%) and in that case tracheal bronchus is defined as "pig bronchus"



Congenital lung abnormalities

- Pulmonary sequestration is defined as an **aberrant lung tissue mass that has no normal connection with the bronchial tree or with the pulmonary arteries.**
- The arterial blood supply arises from the systemic arteries, usually the **thoracic or abdominal aorta**, and its venous drainage is via the **azygous system, the pulmonary veins, or the inferior vena cava.**
- Sequestration is divided into **two types**:
 - **extralobar and intrapulmonary**



Bronchopulmonary Sequestration

Dysplastic, disorganized and nonfunctioning pulmonary parenchyma without a normal arterial or bronchial connection

Intralobar sequestration

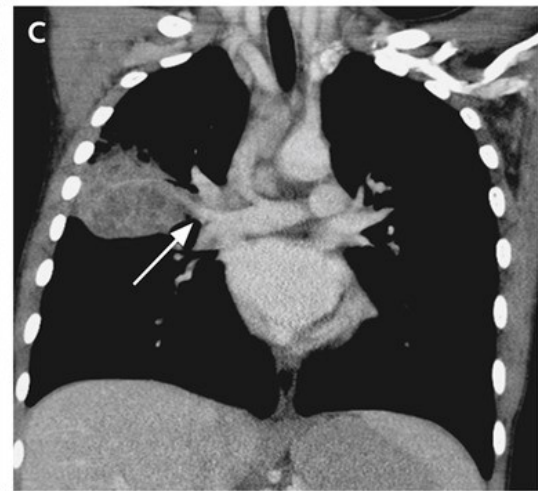
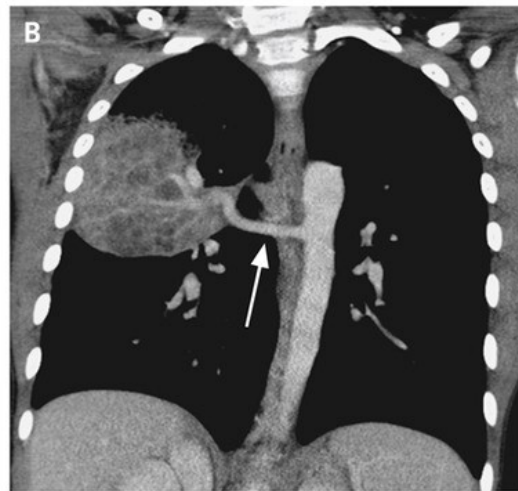
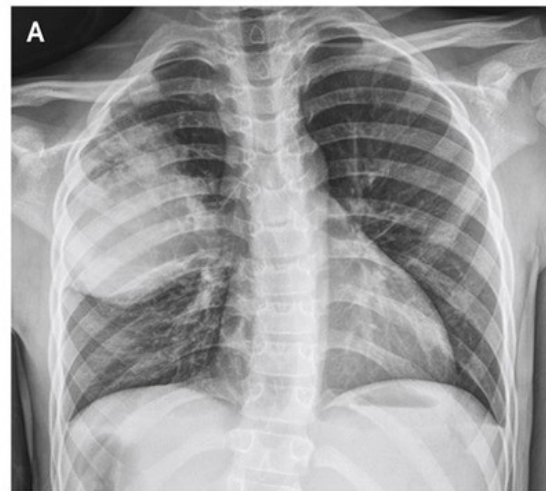
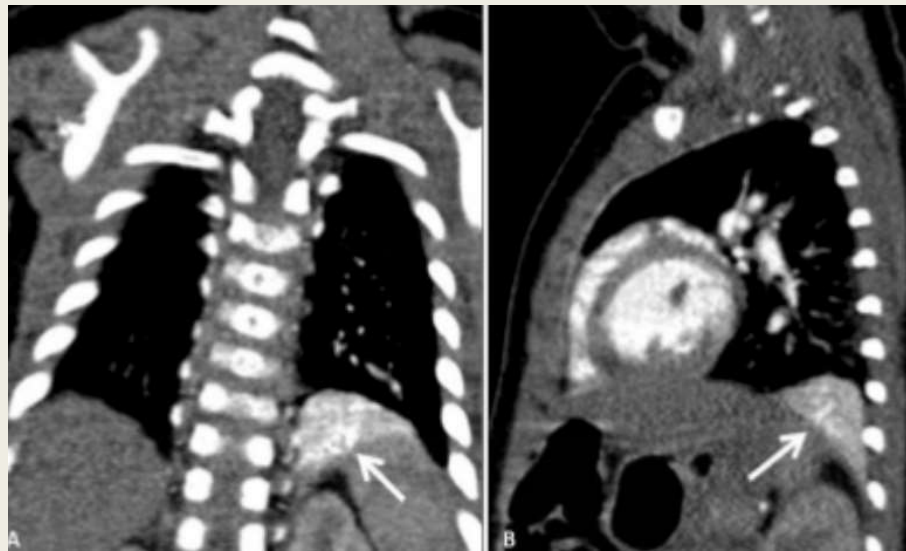


Shared pleura with one of the lobes

Extralobar sequestration

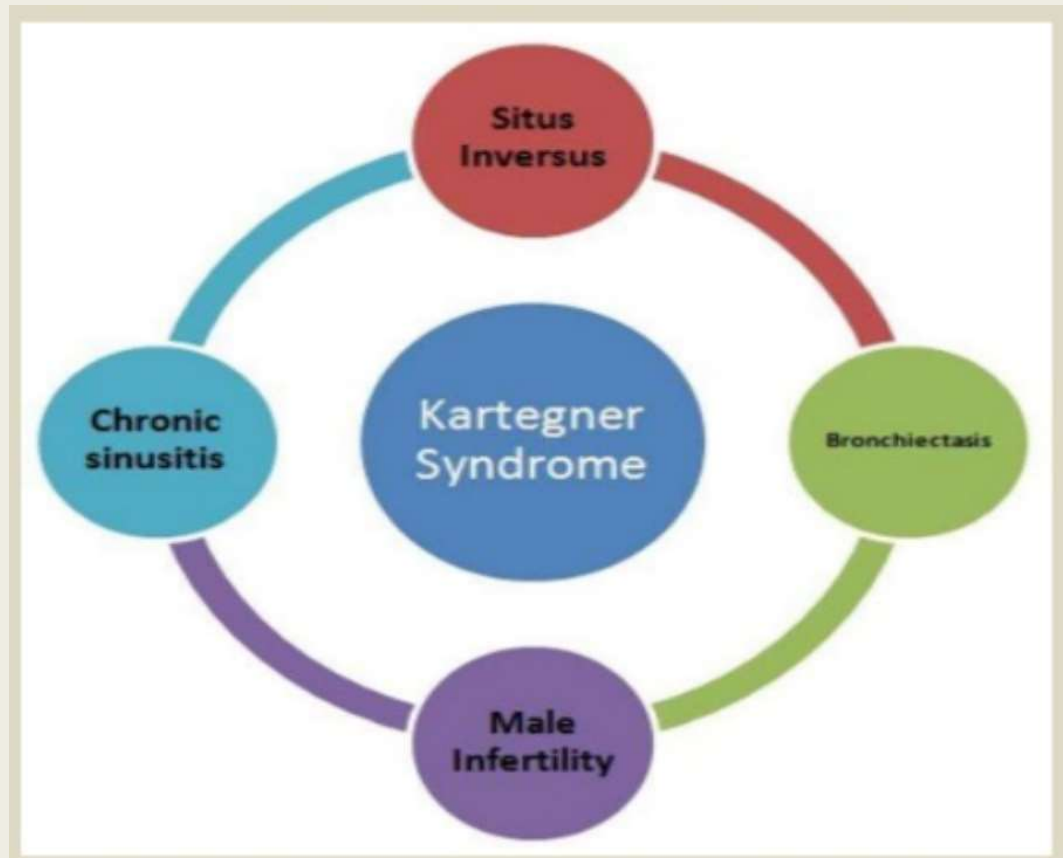


Invested in its own pleura



**Situs viscerum
inversus**





Prevalence of diagnosis ranged from 1:10.000 to 1:20.000 live-born children
Median age at diagnosis is 5.3 years