

THORACIC CAVITY



- It is kidney-shaped in cross section.
- It is enclosed by thoracic wall. It extends between the thoracic inlet (root of the neck) to the thoracic outlet (closed by the diaphragm). It has borders:
- Anterior: sternum.
- Posterior: 12 vertebrae.
- Lateral: curving ribs, with costal cartilages at their anterior distal end
- Their covering and linings.

*Note: the thoracic inlet is small and open for communication with the neck, but the thoracic outlet is larger and closed by the diaphragm

*The thoracic cavity has 3 compartments:

- 1. 2 lateral/peripheral pleural sacs (left and right), and each covers a particular lung.
- 2. One central mediastinum (in the middle/equatorial)(منصف للصدر), contains the heart.
- At the sternal angle, the trachea divides to right and left 1ry Bronchi each one divides to a lobar bronchi that goes to a certain lobule in each lung
- The sternal angle also marks the beginning and end of Aortic arch.



PLEURA:

• It is a thin continuous (mesothelial) membrane that covers the lungs and lines the thoracic wall, it is a serous membrane not mucus as well as the pericardium, and the peritoneum.

Pleura has 2 parts:

• Parietal: line the wall of thoracic cavity.

-it has 4 parts according to the region it covers:

- 1. Cervical pleura (at the root of the neck).
- 2. Costal pleura (lines the inner surface of the ribs, lateral, widest, large)
- 3. Diaphragmatic pleura (over diaphragm).
- 4. Mediastinal pleura (next to the heart).
- Parietal pleura is highly sensitive to pain because it is supplied by intercostal nerves. Visceral (cover lungs –directly-). Close to lung surface, and takes its shape. It is insensitive to pain and is supplied by autonomic nervous system



- The pleural cavity: it is a Potential space between parietal and visceral pleura that contains pleural fluid for soundless and frictionless movement of the lungs.
- Potential space means that there is <u>no air, no pressure</u> inside so the lungs can move freely.
- The space becomes true in diseases.
- There shouldn't be any fluid in the lungs because lungs should be able to expand to the maximum; anything (fluid or air) in this cavity would hinder their movement.
 - Pneumonia: inflammation of the surface of the lung that will result in forming pimples that leak serous fluid that will collect at the bottom. Can be detected by X-ray. Patient fights for air.
 - This fluid should be drained (Chest drains also known as under water sealed drains).
 - > Empyema collection of pus in pleural cavity.
 - Pneumothorax occurs when air leaks into pleural cavity.

(This air pushes on the outside of your lung and makes it collapse)-Wikipedia-.

Hemothorax: blood in the cavity.

The formation of the lungs:-



In the embryo, pleura is formed first (the balloon) then trachea forms from superior then the trachea is divided into 2 branches each branch has a bud (lung bud)this bud starts to evagenate itself through the pleural sac (the balloon).

The relationship of the lung to pleural sac is like a fist invaginated into a deflated balloon.

TRACHEA

- The trachea is 11.25 cm long.
- It extends from lower end of larynx (same level as C6) to sternal angle (opposite the intervertebral disc betweenT4/T5) where it divides into right and left primary bronchi.
- It passes within 2 regions, the neck and thorax (meaning it has a cervical part and thoracic part), (part of it is covered by manubrium).
- It is a continuation of nose, pharynx, and larynx.
- It is composed of around 20 C-shaped hyaline cartilaginous rings and are posteriorly replaced by smooth muscle, called trachealis that is supplied by autonomic; this is the muscle that contacts in asthma patients, so they take inhalers or pills.

*Note :(sympathetic system is responsible for trachealis dilation and parasympathetic is responsible for its constriction).

• Tracheoscopy is used to open the airways in trauma patients, it is a lifesaver.

- (I believe the doctor meant <u>Tracheotomy</u> which is an incision in the windpipe made to relieve an obstruction to breathing).



RIGHT PRIMARY BRONCHUS

- It is shorter, wider, and more vertical than the left bronchus.
- It is about 1 inch long.
- Inhaled foreign bodies that enter trachea are commonly trapped in it.
- The inner angle between the main bronchi is called carina (front ship) it is the most sensitive part of the respiratory system.
- If an object is trapped in the airway on the carina the object MUST be coughed out or it goes in the right 1ry bronchus.



LEFT PRIMARY BRONCHUS

- It is narrower, longer, and more horizontal than the right 1ry bronchus.
- It is about 2 inches in long.

The picture below shows the difference between right and left 1ry bronchus:



In order to remember the bronchus, form and L using you LEFT HAND and make the dorsal part of the hand to face you. Your forefinger is the left 1ry bronchus, and your thumb is the right 1ry bronchus.

