Anatomy notes-Mediastinum

Thoracic cavity contents:
- Two laterals plural sacs containing the lungs.
- Centre: Mediastinum.

Subdivisions:

Superior Mediastinum borders.
- Manubrium (anterior).
- First 4 thoracic vertebrae (posterior).
- Thoracic inlet (superior).
- Imaginary line (inferior).

Inferior Mediastinum borders:
- Body of sternum (anterior).
- Last 8 thoracic vertebrae (posterior).
- Imaginary line (superior).
- Diaphragm (inferior).

Middle Mediastinum:
- Posterior border: posterior mediastinum
- Contents:
  • Heart.
  • Pericardium.
  • Phrenic nerve (the only motor supply of the diaphragm).

Pericardium
- Encloses the heart and roots of its large vessels; pulmonary trunk, ascending aorta & superior vena cava.
- *Most* of the pericardium is supplied by the phrenic nerve.
- Parts:
  • Fibrous pericardium (outer) – tough.
• Serous pericardium (inner).

**Serous pericardium:**

- **two layers:**
  - a- Parietal (outer).
  - b- Visceral (inner).

- Parietal cavity; which is a potential space between 2 serous layers.
  - No air.
  - No pressure.
- Function: soundless, frictionless movements.

**Contents of the superior mediastinum**

- 1. Oesophagus
- 2. Trachea
- 3. Arch of aorta
- 4. Superior vena cava
- 5. Right brachiocephalic vein
- 6. Thymus gland
- 7. Thoracic duct
- 8. Vagus nerves
- 9. Phrenic nerves
- 10. Sympathetic trunks