

Lymphatics

I. Lymphatic trunks

- A. Thoracic duct (drains nodes of the right and left lower extremities, pelvis, abdomen, left thorax, left upper extremity, and left head and neck)
- B. Right lymphatic duct (drains nodes of the right thorax, right upper extremity, and right head and neck)

II. Lymph nodes

A. Breast

- 1. Parasternal (internal thoracic or internal mammary)
function – drain medial breast bilaterally
- 2. Inguinal
function – may drain inferior breast
- 3. Infraclavicular
function – may drain superior breast
- 4. Axillary
function – predominant drainage of the breast
- 5. Apical axillary
function – drain superior breast and other axillary nodes

B. Thoracic

- 1. Parietal (L. paries, wall)
 - a. Parasternal
function – drain medial aspect of breast, upper abdominal wall, anterior pleura & part of liver
 - b. Intercostal
function – drain lateral & posterior thoracic wall
 - c. Diaphragmatic
function – drain liver, pleura & diaphragm
 - d. Posterior mediastinal (L. middle septum)
function – drain pleura & esophagus
- 2. Visceral
 - a. Pulmonary
function – drain lung
 - b. Bronchopulmonary
function – drain pulmonary nodes & bronchi
 - c. Tracheobronchial (inferior & superior)
function – drain bronchopulmonary & posterior mediastinal nodes, trachea & heart
 - d. Paratracheal
function – drain tracheobronchial nodes

C. Abdominal and Pelvic

- 1. Preaortic
function – drain abdominal viscera supplied by the celiac, superior mesenteric and inferior mesenteric arteries
- 2. Lateral aortic (para-aortic)
function – drain the kidneys, suprarenal glands, ureter, posterior abdominal wall, testes, ovaries, uterine tubes, superior uterus & iliac nodes
 - a. Common iliac
function – drain internal and external iliac nodes
 - b. External iliac
function – drain inguinal nodes, abdominal wall, perineum and lower pelvic viscera
 - c. Internal iliac
function – drain pelvic viscera, perineum and gluteal region (skin drains to inguinal nodes)
- 3. Retroaortic
function – drain the posterior abdominal wall