

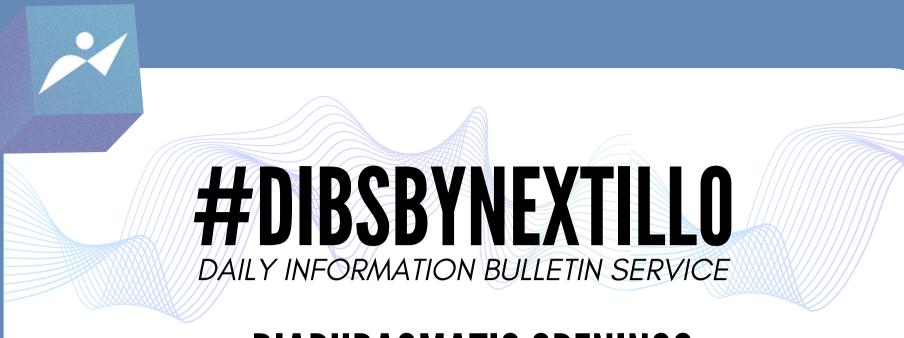


# **HOBSBY**

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DIAPHRAGMATIC OPENINGS

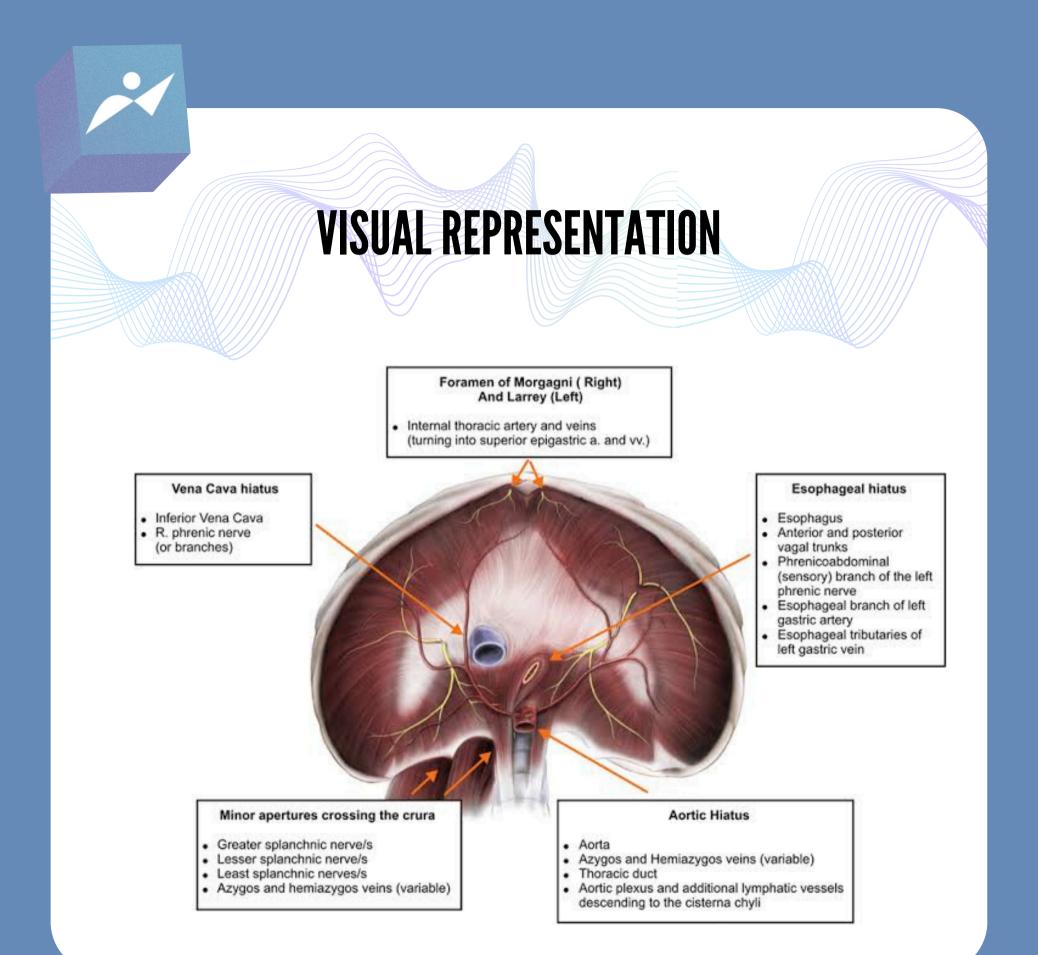
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### DIAPHRAGMATIC OPENINGS

As it forms a solid barrier between the abdominal and thoracic cavities, three large openings are needed in the diaphragm to allow the esophagus, aorta, vena cava, and associated nerves to pass through







# **LEVEL OF OPENING**

- C8: Located centrally in the diaphragm.
- T10: Positioned in the central tendon of the diaphragm.
- T12: Extends into the muscular part of the diaphragm.
- - Crus: Found in the crus of the diaphragm.



### **STRUCTURES PASSING THROUGH**

- Inferior Vena Cava: Transverses the diaphragm.
- - Phrenic Nerves: Right phrenic nerve passes through.
- Vagus Nerves: Right and left vagus nerves traverse the diaphragm.
- - Aorta: Major vessel passing through the diaphragm.
- - Thoracic Duct: Passes through the diaphragm.



# MINOR OPENINGS

- Space of Larry
- Located in the Costo-Xiphoid gap.
- Medial Arcuate Ligament: Accommodates the sympathetic chain.
- Lateral Arcuate Ligament: Allows passage for subcostal nerves and vessels.
- - Splanchnic Nerves: Pass through the right and left crus.
- - Azygous Vein: May traverse through the right crus.





#### **QUESTION**

Which structure may occasionally pass through the right crus of the diaphragm?

A) Vagus Nerve
B) Inferior Vena Cava
C) Aorta
D) Thoracic Duct

**Answer: B) Inferior Vena Cava** 

