LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE

Right lymphatic duct drainage

Thoracic duct drainage

Thoracic duct

Jugular trunk

Subclavian trunk

Broncho-mediastinal trunk

Thoracic duct & thoracic wall tributaries

Cisterna chyli

Diaphragm

Lymphatics from lower limbs

THORACIC DUCT

Right lymphatic trunk

Right jugular lymph trunk

Right subclavian lymph trunk

Hemi-azygos & accessory hemi-azygos cross behind thoracic duct to reach azygos vein

Right broncho-mediastinal lymph trunk

Inferior cervical ganglion

Left vertebral artery

Left jugular lymph trunk

Left subclavian lymph trunk

Upper left intercostal & mediastinal lymph trunks

Descending thoracic aorta

Left & right descending thoracic lymph trunks

Cisterna chyli at T12, L1 confluence of lymph trunks

Right crus of diaphragm

Right & left lumbar & intestinal lymph trunks
THORACIC DUCT

1. 45cm long (see also spinal cord, femur, vas, transverse colon, teeth to cardia)
2. Many valves in system
3. Drains all lymph below the diaphragm, left head/neck & left thorax
4. Commences at T12, ascends posterior to right crus; to right of aorta & oesophagus, then posterior to oesophagus
5. Crosses to left of midline at T5
6. Lies superficial (anterior) to posterior intercostal arteries & the crossing azygos systems; over the dome of the pleura; over (anterior) to left vertebral & left subclavian arteries
7. Enters into confluence of left subclavian & left internal jugular veins