

- ANATOMY OF THE TRACHEA -

❖ A midline structure, 10 cm long, half in the neck and half in the chest (fig 12).

❖ It extends from:

- Lower border of cricoid cartilage at the level of 6th Cx vertebral
- To just below the lower border of manubrium sterni where it bifurcate into right and left bronchi. The right bronchus is wider, and in more direct continuation with the trachea.

❖ It is formed of 16 incomplete C-shape rings, deficient posteriorly where it is closed with a membrane (the trachea-esophageal septum).

❖ In the neck:

- The upper part is superficial, relatively fixed, so more easily and rapidly accessed.
- The lower part is deeper, more mobile, and related to the great vessels at the root of the neck especially the innominate vein and the dome of right pleura; so its access is more difficult and more time consuming.

❖ The thyroid isthmus covers the 3rd and 4th tracheal rings in the neck

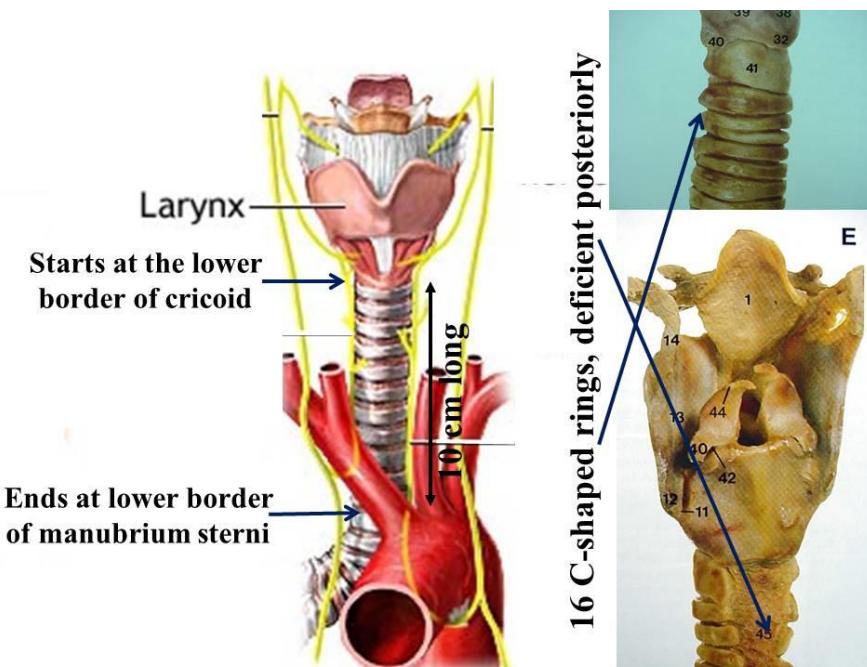


Fig (12) Anatomy of the trachea