

## - 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 6<sup>th</sup> Cx vertebra
  - 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> tracheal rings in the neck

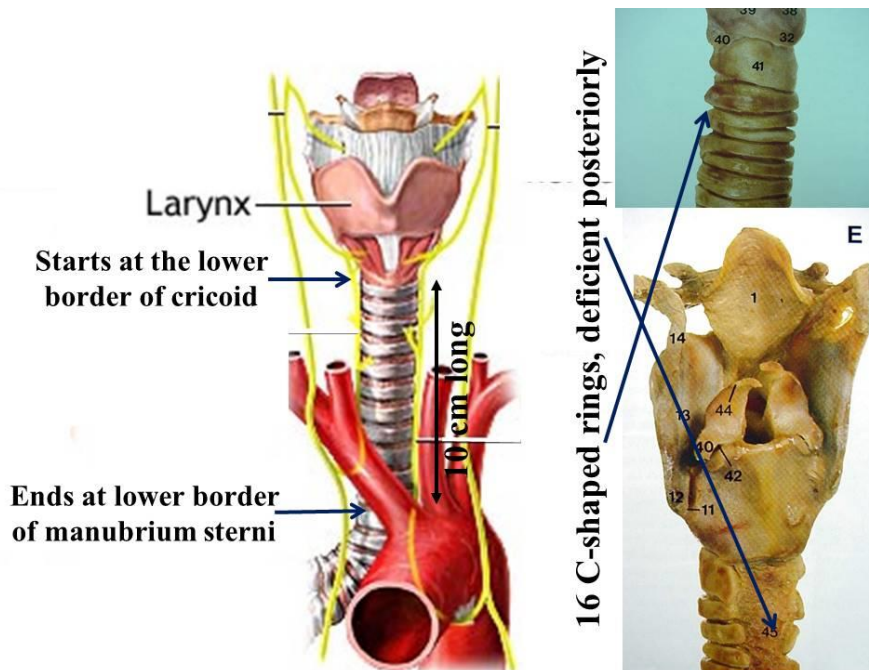


Fig (12) Anatomy of the trachea