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# Scalene Muscle

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Scalene Muscle*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C33517.

Any one of three pairs of vertebral muscles (anterior, middle, and posterior scalenes), which attach to the transverse process of the five lower cervical vertebrae and the first two ribs, and which function to elevate the ribs during breathing and to laterally flex the neck.