

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Sternal cleft

INSERM

Source

INSERM. (1999). *Orphanet: an online rare disease and orphan drug data base. Sternal cleft. ORPHA:2017*

Sternal cleft (SC) is a rare idiopathic congenital thoracic malformation characterized by a sternal fusion defect, that can be complete or partial (either superior or inferior), that is usually asymptomatic in the neonatal period (apart from a paradoxical midline thoracic bulging) but that can lead to dyspnea, cough, frequent respiratory infections and increased risk of trauma-related injury to the heart, lungs and major vessels if left untreated.