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Mediastinum

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Mediastinum*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C12748.

A group of organs surrounded by loose connective tissue, separating the two pleural sacs, between the sternum anteriorly and the vertebral column posteriorly as well as from the thoracic inlet superiorly to the diaphragm inferiorly. The mediastinum contains the heart and pericardium, the bases of the great vessels, the trachea and bronchi, esophagus, thymus, lymph nodes, thoracic duct, phrenic and vagus nerves, and other structures and tissues.