

## HKPolyUx: ANA101x Human Anatomy

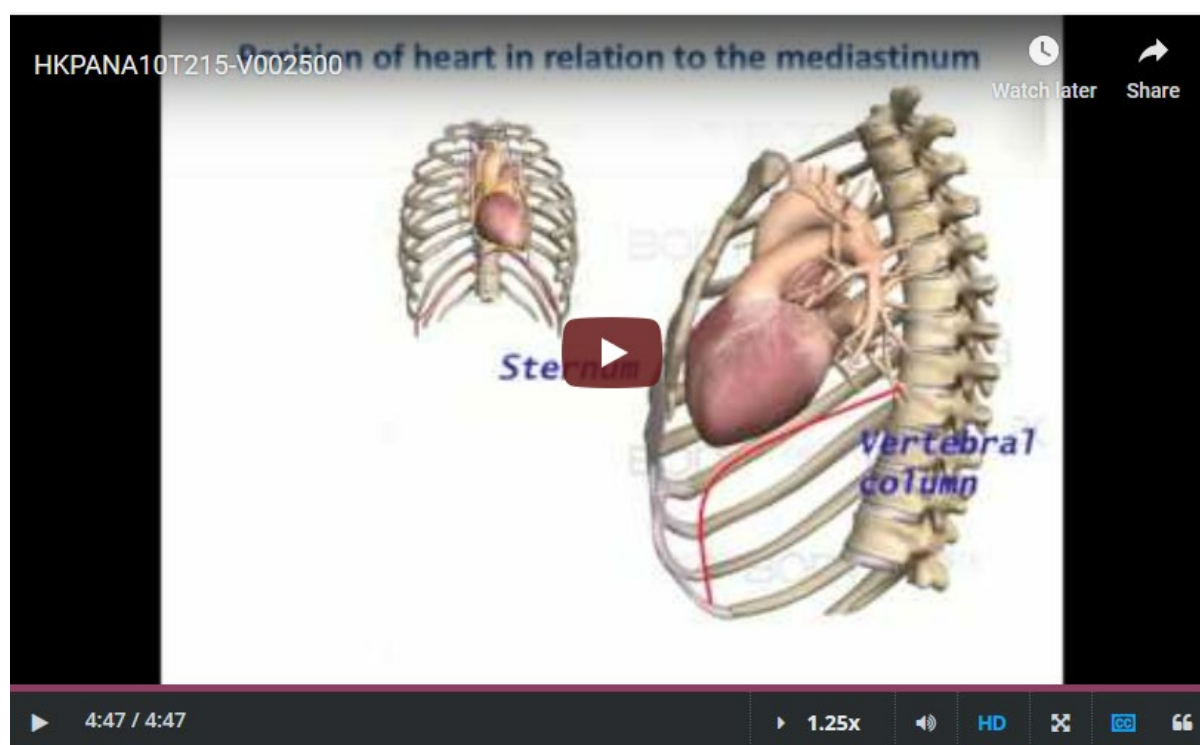
### Module 2 – Human Anatomy >

### Submodule 2.3 - Cardiovascular and pulmonary system >

### Session 2.3.1 - Location of the heart

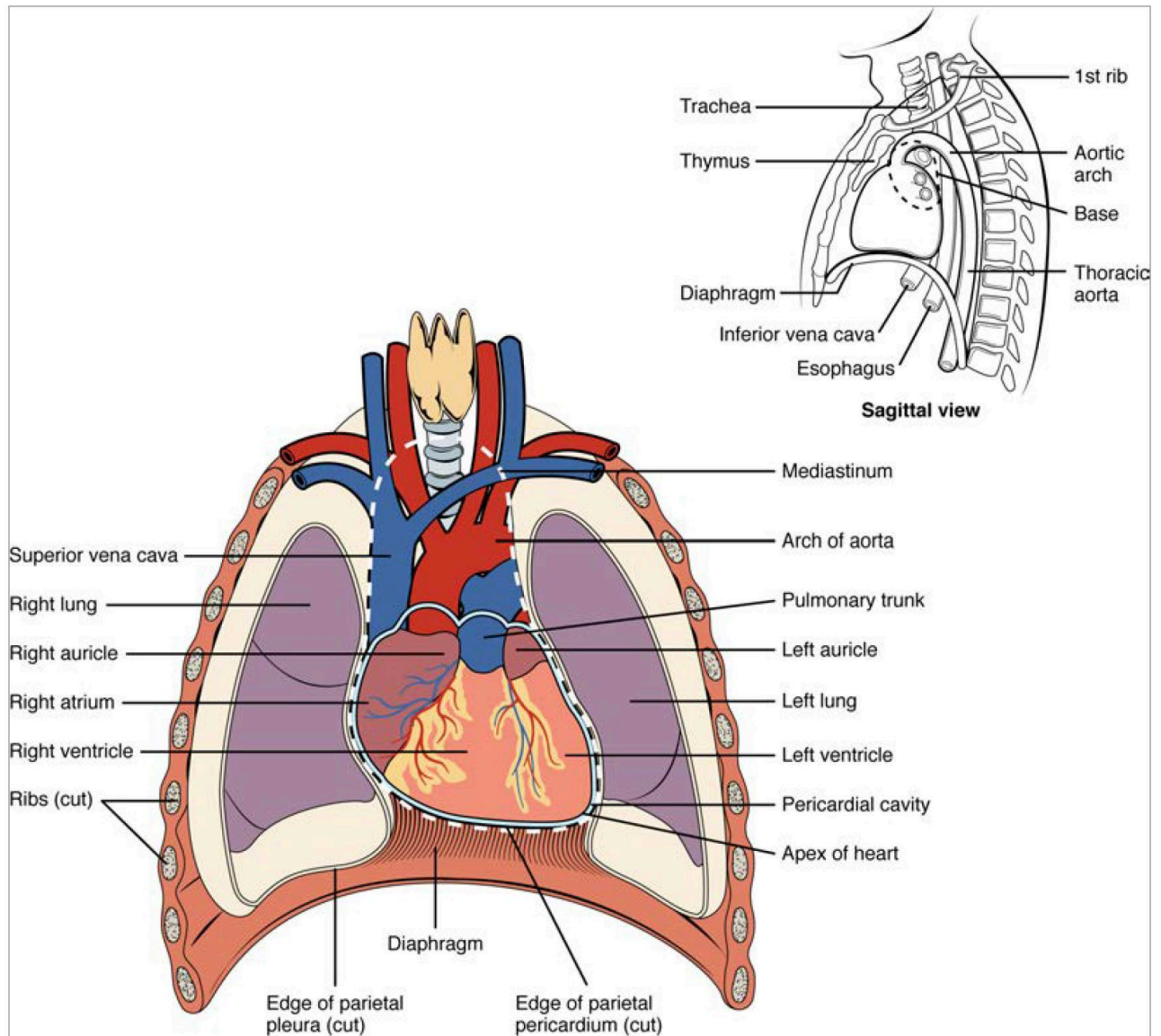
If you are a healthcare provider, especially for physicians and nurses, it is important to remember the position and orientation of the heart when placing a stethoscope on the chest of a patient and listening for heart sounds, and also when looking at images taken from a **midsagittal perspective**.

So where is the heart located? You will learn in this session.



The human heart is located within the thoracic cavity, medially between the lungs in the space known as the **mediastinum**. Within the mediastinum, the heart is separated from the other mediastinal structures by a tough membrane known as the **pericardium**, or pericardial sac, and sits in its own space called the pericardial cavity. The dorsal surface of the heart lies near the bodies of the vertebrae, and its anterior surface sits deep to the sternum and costal cartilages. The great veins, the superior and inferior venae cavae, and the great arteries, the aorta and pulmonary trunk, are attached to the superior surface of the heart, called the base. The base of the heart is located at the level of the third costal cartilage. The

inferior tip of the heart, the apex, lies just to the left of the sternum between the junction of the fourth and fifth **ribs** near their articulation with the **costal cartilages**. The right side of the heart is deflected anteriorly, and the left side is deflected posteriorly.




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Credit Line

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