

September 9, 2026 - Dr. Doroudi (majid.doroudi@ubc.ca)

Dissector

Objectives:

- Identify major components of the anterior chest (skin, superficial fascia, deep fascia, breast and muscles)
- Identify the individual muscles of the pectoral region
- Identify the nerves supplying these muscles
- Describe the vascular and nerve supply to breast tissue
- Review the functions of these muscles

Be able to identify:

- ☐ The breast
 - ☐ Areola
 - ☐ Nipple
- ☐ Pectoralis major muscle
- ☐ Pectoralis minor muscle
- ☐ Serratus anterior muscle
- ☐ Subclavius muscle
- ☐ Pectoral nerves (no need to identify lateral/medial individually)
- ☐ Long thoracic nerve (C5, 6, 7)
- ☐ Cephalic vein

Watch this dissection guide showing dissection of the pectoral region:

[Pectoral Region \(Video\)](#)

View *Slide 1.7* in this module:

[Shoulder Joint Muscles \(Module\)](#)

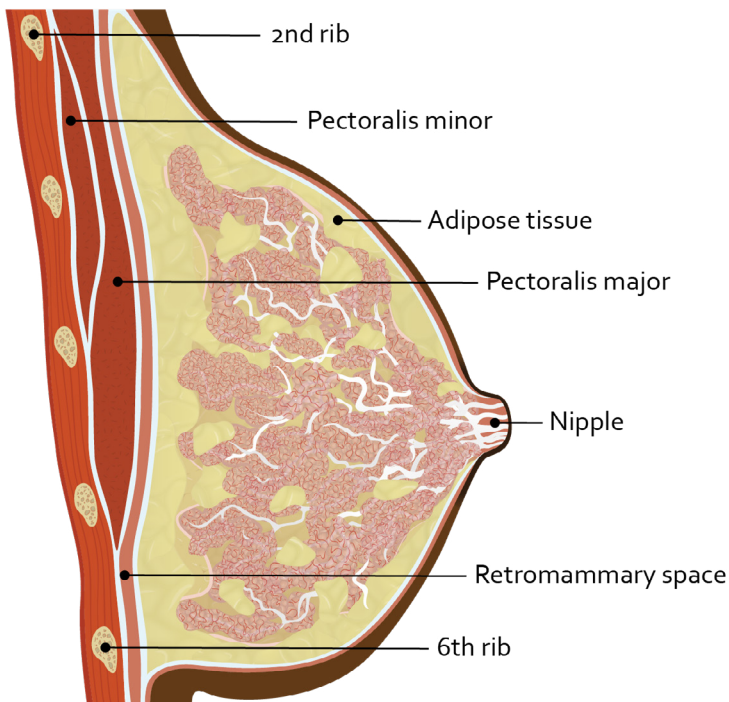
View *Slide 1.11* in this module:

[Shoulder Girdle Muscles \(Module\)](#)

Test your knowledge on these interactive photographs:

[Anterior Thoracic Wall \(Atlas\)](#)

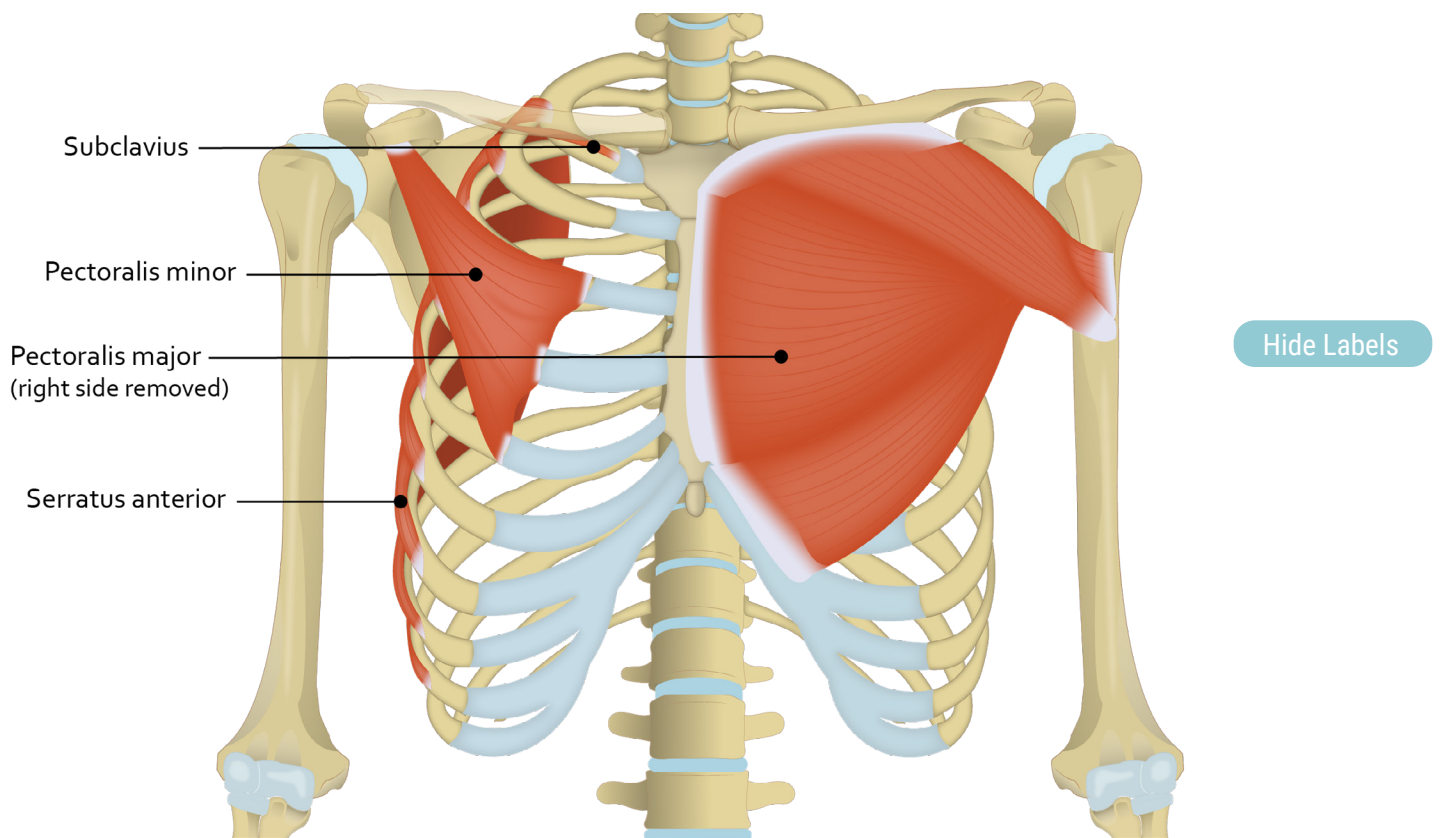
[Thoracic Wall Muscles \(Atlas\)](#)



Sagittal View of Breast

[Hide Labels](#)

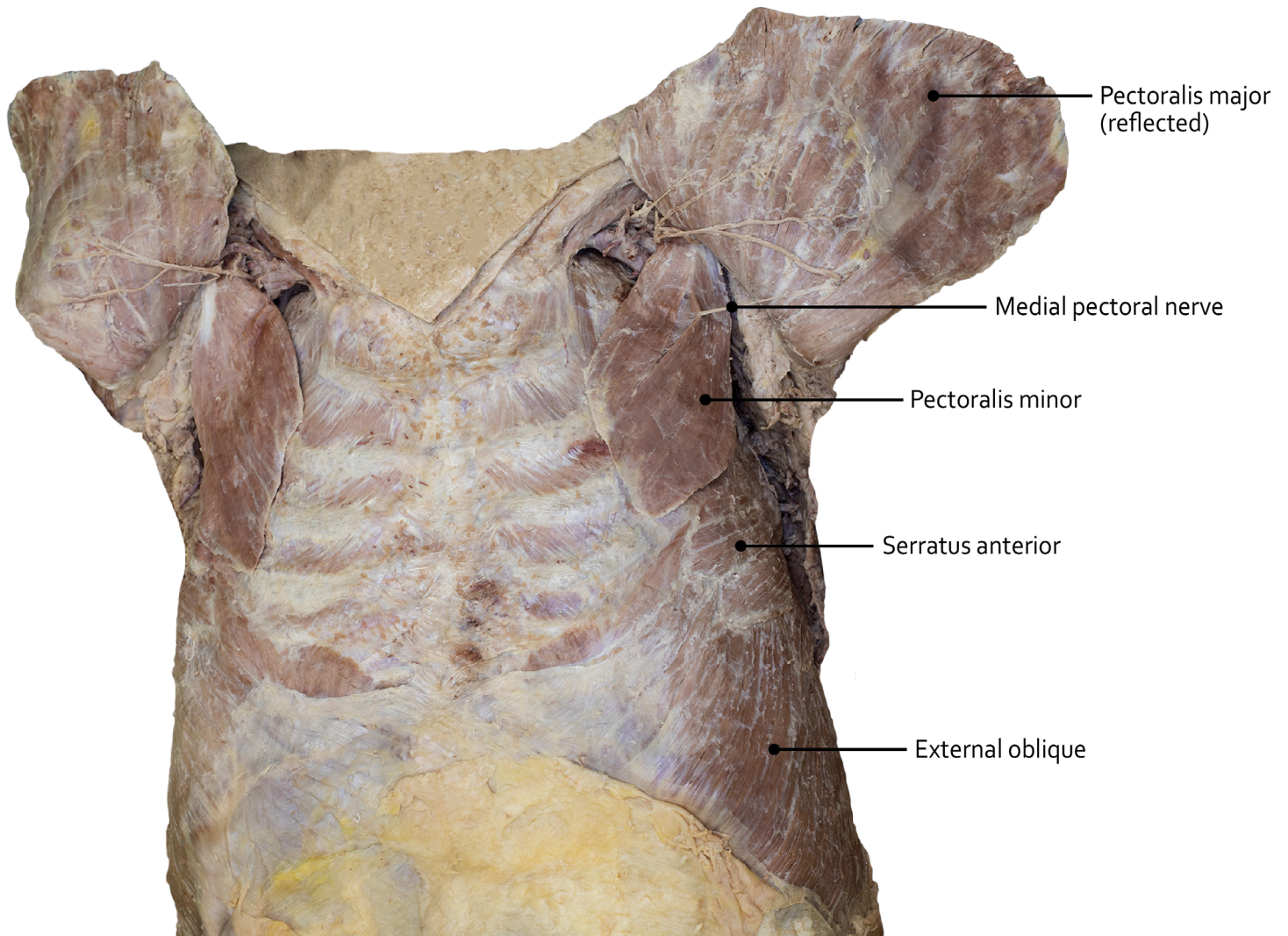
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Muscles of Anterior Thoracic Wall



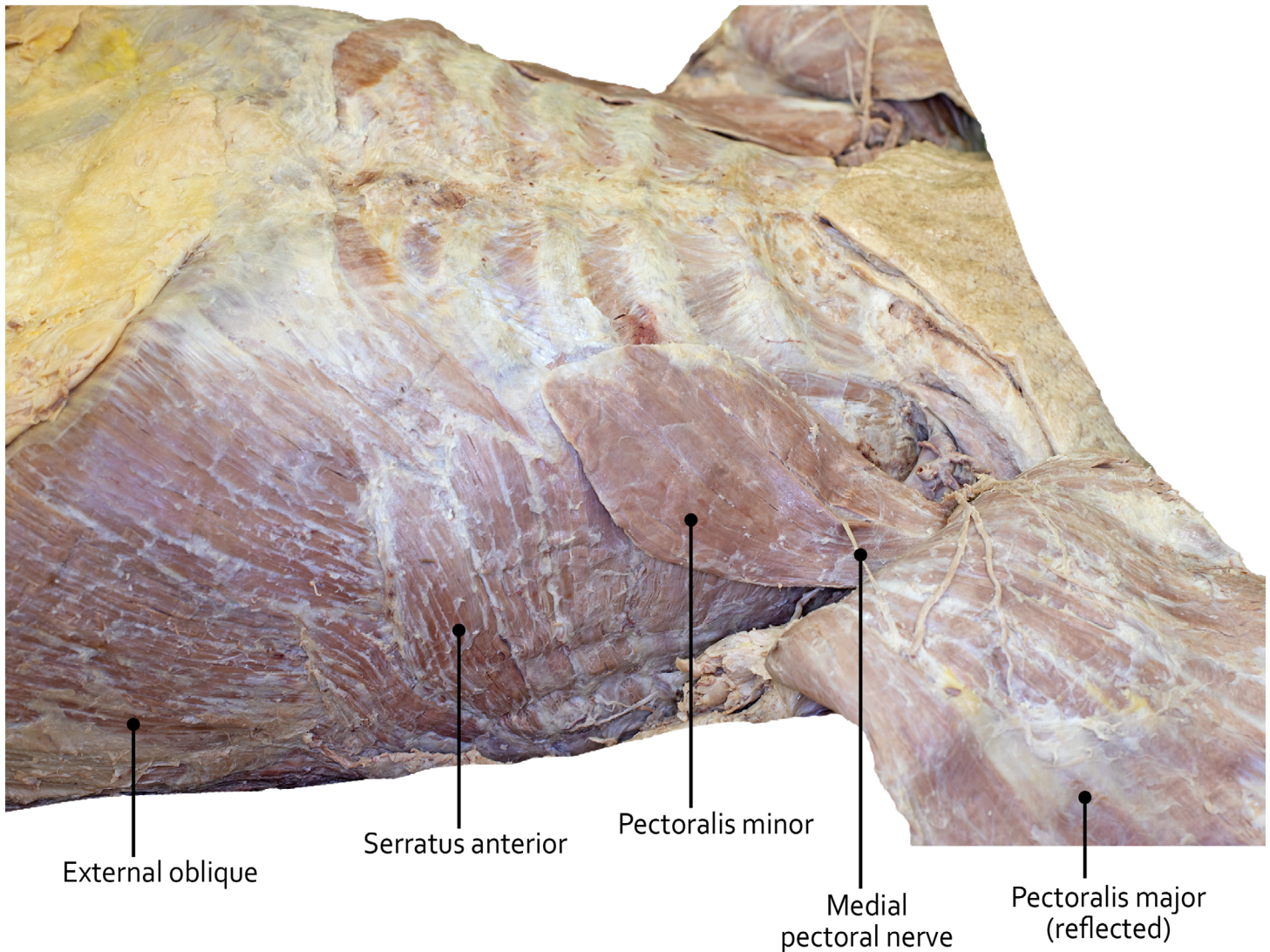
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Dissection of Pectoral Muscles

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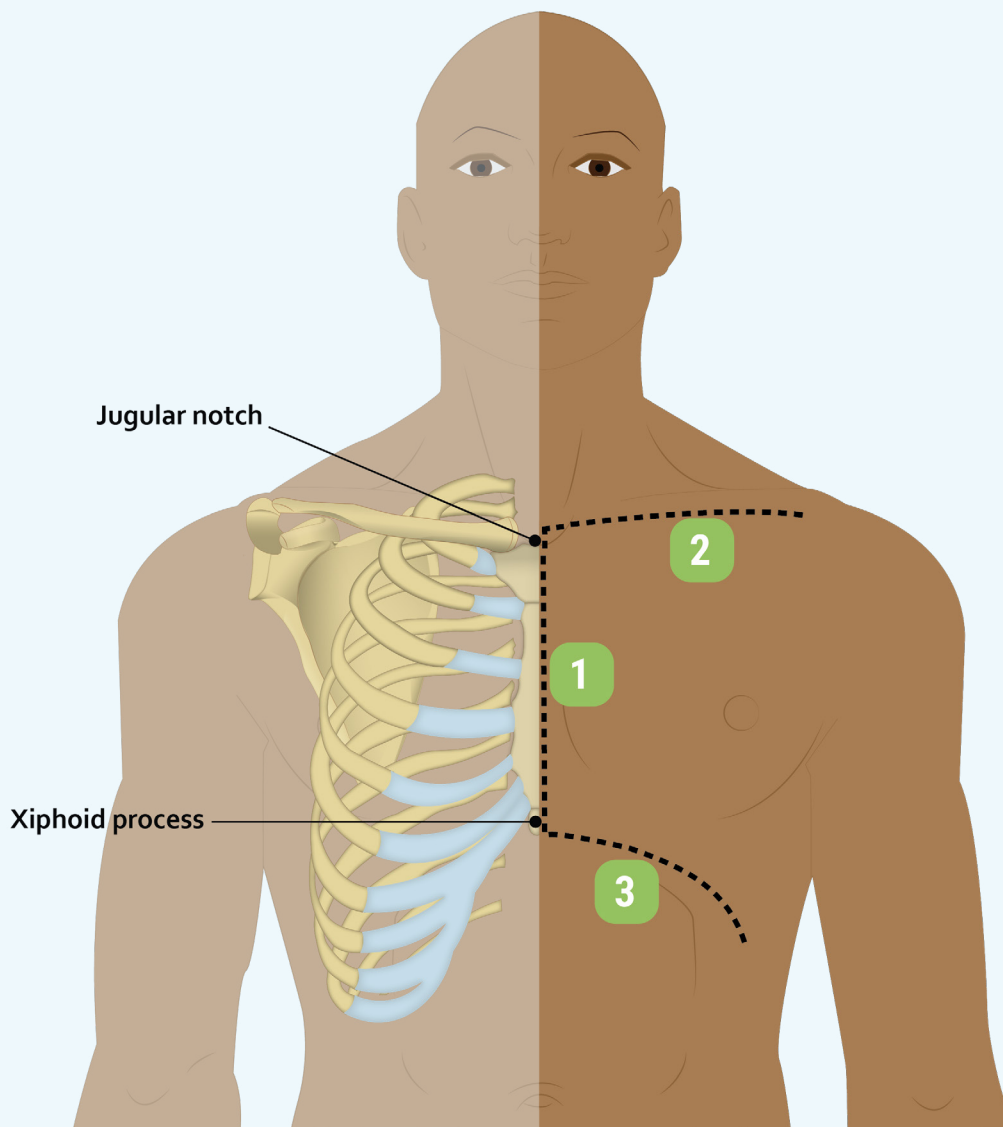
Dissection of Pectoral Muscles (lateral view)

LAB 3 DISSECTOR

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1. *On the sternum, palpate the xiphoid process and the jugular notch of the manubrium:*
 - Make a shallow incision at the midline connecting the two
2. *At the jugular notch, continue incisions laterally along the length of each clavicle.*
3. *Palpate costal margins:*
 - Starting at the xiphoid process continue incisions laterally along and 1in above each costal margin

Note: Incisions above costal margins preserve integrity of the abdominal cavity.



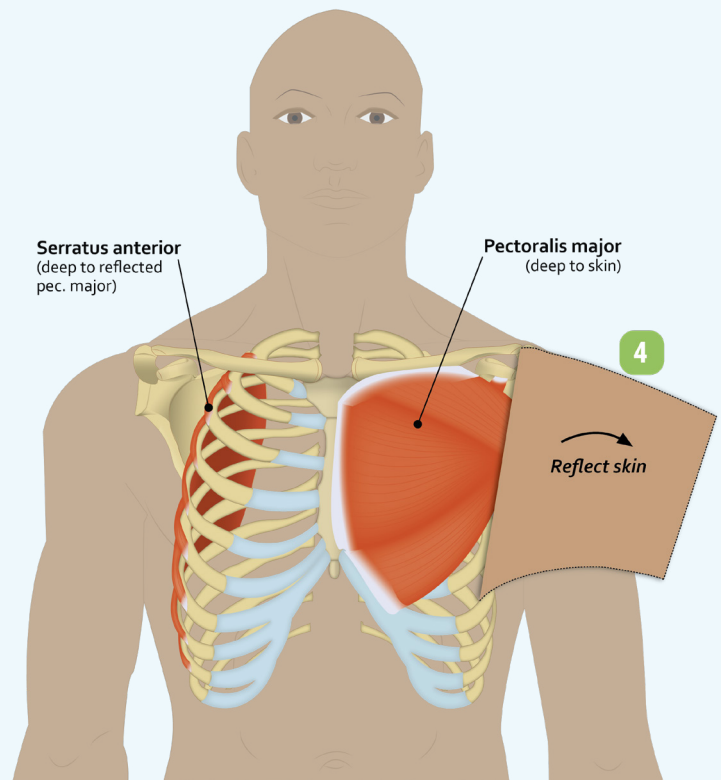
Dissection of the pectoral region (steps 1 to 3)

LAB 3 DISSECTOR

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4. Reflect skin and breast tissue laterally:

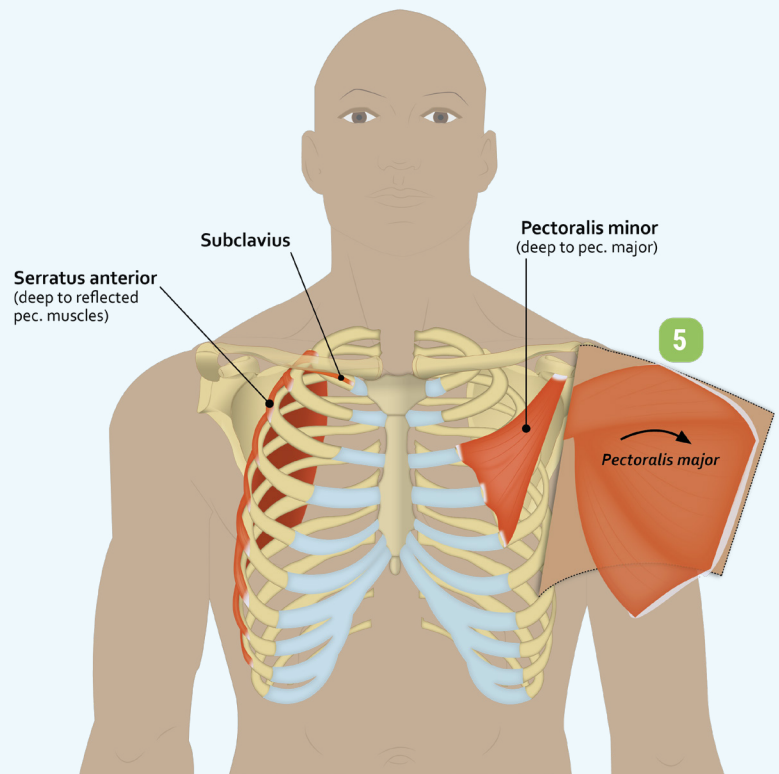
- In the female, examine breast tissue and try to identify ducts. This might be difficult, as most bodies are post-menopausal.



Dissection of the pectoral region (step 4)

5. Identify the pectoralis major muscle:

- Using scissors, cut along its origins on the sternum and clavicle
- Using your fingers or the blunt edge of the forceps, gently separate the muscle from the chest wall
- Expose, identify and preserve the subclavius, pectoralis minor and serratus anterior muscles



Dissection of the pectoral region (step 5)