

## WFR – SURG 195

### Notes and information for BLS Anatomy:

**Airway:** You should know:

- Oropharynx – Air passage used when breathing through mouth
- Nasopharynx – “ “ used when breathing through nose
- Tongue – muscular appendage in mouth. Falls back to close airway in unresponsive patient lying supine (on their back).
- Epiglottis – muscular flap that closes over opening of trachea to prevent liquid and food from entering lower airway and lungs
- Larynx – cartilage structure that houses vocal cords; the “voice box”.
- Trachea – semi-rigid breathing tube between larynx and lungs; the “wind pipe”.
- Esophagus – soft tube connecting oropharynx and stomach for passage of food and liquids.
- Stoma – a breathing tube on the external part of the lower neck. Placed in patients who are unable to breathe through their mouth / nose.

**Breathing** Anatomy: Things you should know:

- Lungs: inflatable sacs within the chest where oxygen / CO<sub>2</sub> exchange occurs.
- Diaphragm and intercostal muscles: muscles used for breathing. Diaphragm drops down as intercostals raise ribs and open up chest cavity.
- Bronchi: Air passages within the lungs that branch off from the trachea.
- Bronchioles: Same as above, except smaller.
- Alveoli: Clusters of very small air sacs within the lungs surrounded by capillaries. The actual site of gas exchange between the lungs and circulatory system.

**Circulatory** Anatomy: You should know:

- Heart: Four chambered, two-sided muscular pump that moves blood.
- Coronary vessels: Vessels that supply the myocardium (heart muscle).
- Aorta: Largest artery in the body. Exits the heart at the top and loops downward behind the heart to become the abdominal aorta. Vessels that supply all of the body and organs branch from the aorta.
- Carotid arteries: arteries running up either side of the trachea that supply the head.
- Capillaries: Very small, thin-walled blood vessels where gas and nutrient exchange takes place in the body’s tissues.
- Veins: Any vessel that returns blood to the heart.
- Pulses:
  - carotid (neck)
  - femoral (groin)
  - apical (chest) >> LISTEN!
  - Radial (wrist)