

	STUDY GUIDE
PROGRAM	MBBS
MODULE TITLE	Respiratory system -1
ACADEMIC YEAR	1st year MBBS, 2025
INTRODUCTION	The first module on Respiratory system has been planned to provide
	insight of basic concepts regarding the structural and functional
	knowledge of respiratory system. This module links with Respiratory 2
	module in Spiral-II where the students appreciate and link the basics
	with the applied aspects.
RATIONALE	Respiratory diseases are a major cause of morbidity and mortality
	globally as well as in Pakistan. Hence it becomes imperative for
	institutions to provide detailed and clinically relevant information
	related to the normal structure and function of the respiratory tract
	to its students. This will help the students to understand the basis of
	respiratory system-related disorders which they will come across in
	their clinical postings.
OUTCOMES	By the end of this module the students will be able to describe the
	development, structures and functions of various parts of the
	respiratory system.
DEPARTMENTS	1. Anatomy
INVOLVED	2. Biochemistry
	3. Physiology
MODULE	By the end of the module, students will be able to:
OBJECTIVES	
LECTURES	1. Introduction to thoracic cage, thoracic inlet, and gross
ANATOMY	anatomy of diaphragm

<ul> <li>Describe the thoracic cage and its boundaries</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Describe thoracic Inlet and thoracic outlet</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Discuss intercostal muscles and their neuro-vasculature</li> </ul>
Describe supra-pleural membrane and endo-thoracic fascia
Describe the position & component of muscular & tendinous
part of diaphragm
<ul> <li>Describe the attachments of diaphragm</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Describe the blood supply and nerve supply of diaphragm</li> </ul>
• Describe the opening present in the diaphragm and their
respective levels
• Enumerate the structures passing through the openings and
piercing the diaphragm
List the functions of diaphragm
2. Thoracic vertebrae & joints of thoracic wall
<ul> <li>Describe general features of vertebral column</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Describe spinal curvature in children and adults</li> </ul>
• Discuss general characteristics of a vertebra and general
features of thoracic vertebrae
<ul> <li>Differentiate typical and atypical vertebrae</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Discuss joints formed by thoracic vertebrae, general</li> </ul>
features of intervertebral joints, and costovertebral joints
<ul> <li>Enumerate the diseases related to vertebral column</li> </ul>
(scoliosis, lordosis, disc prolapse)
Describe the features of diseases related to thoracic vertebrae
3.Thoracic wall muscles & fascia of thoracic wall & movements
Describe the layers of thoracic wall
• Describe the attachment of muscles of thoracic wall, their
actions & nerve supply
<ul> <li>Describe the arrangement &amp; modifications of fascia</li> </ul>

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4.Neurovascular supply of thoracic wall
Describe the nerve supply of skin, fascia and muscles
of thoracic wall
<ul> <li>Describe the origin and course of arteries, and nerves</li> </ul>
supplying the thoracic wall
• Explain the venous drainage of thoracic wall, and its
communications
5. Mediastinum, its divisions and contents of superior
and anterior mediastinum
Define mediastinum
Describe the divisions of mediastinum
<ul> <li>Define the extent and boundaries of mediastinum</li> </ul>
Describe the boundaries of superior mediastinum
List the contents of superior mediastinum
<ul> <li>Describe origin, extent and termination of aorta</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Describe the extent, branches and relations of Aorta</li> </ul>
within the superior mediastinum
• Explain the tributaries of superior vena cava within
the superior mediastinum
<ul> <li>Discuss the nerves present in the superior mediastinum</li> </ul>
Describe the major viscera present in superior mediastinum
<ul> <li>Describe the boundaries and contents of anterior</li> </ul>
mediastinum
6. Posterior Mediastinum-I (Thoracic Aorta, Esophagus & Azygous
System of vein)
Describe the boundaries of posterior mediastinum
List the contents of posterior mediastinum
• Describe the extent and position of thoracic aorta in
posterior mediastinum

Enumerate the branches of thoracic aorta	
Describe the length, extent and relations of esophagus	
<ul> <li>Describe the blood supply, nerve supply, venous draind</li> </ul>	ige,
& lymphatics of esophagus	
<ul> <li>Discuss the clinical significance of anatomical constriction</li> </ul>	ions
of esophagus	
<ul> <li>Define Azygos system of veins</li> </ul>	
• Describe the formation, course, relations and tributarie	s of
azygos, Hemi-azygos & Accessory hemi-azygos veins	
<ul> <li>Discuss variations in the origin of azygos vein</li> </ul>	
Discuss the clinical importance of Azygos system of veins	S
7. Posterior mediastinum-II (Thoracic sympathetic trunk, thore	icic
duct, Phrenic and Vagus nerve)	
Discuss the thoracic part of sympathetic chain, ganglia, a	and
branches	
• Describe the origin, intrathoracic course and branche	s of
Vagus & Phrenic nerves	
<ul> <li>Describe origin, extent, tributaries, territory of drained</li> </ul>	age
&termination of thoracic duct	
8. Introduction to respiratory tract (Gross anatomy of pleura)	
<ul> <li>Enumerate the parts of respiratory tract</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Describe the clinical (upper and lower respiratory</li> </ul>	
tract) and anatomical (Conducting and respiratory)	
divisions of respiratory tracts	
Describe parietal and visceral pleura and its innervation	
<ul> <li>Describe arrangement of pleura according to lines of</li> </ul>	
orientation (mid sternal, mid clavicular and axillary etc)	
<ul> <li>Discuss clinical anatomy of pleura (related to effusion</li> </ul>	
and pleural tap etc.)	

	<ul> <li>Name the diseases related to pleura</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Summarize the features of diseases related to pleura</li> </ul>
9	. Neuro-vasculature of lungs, bronchial &
	pulmonary vessels, & lymphatics of thorax
	• Describe the origin, course and termination of bronchial
	vessels and their territory of supply/ drainage
	• Discuss the origin, course and termination of pulmonary
	vessels and their functions
	Describe the nerve supply of lungs
	• Describe the different groups of lymph nodes in thorax
	• Discuss the deep as well as the superficial lymphatics of
	thorax
	• Discuss the significance of lymphatics drainage of thorax
1	0. Histology of respiratory epithelium and its variations
	<ul> <li>Name the types of epithelia lining the various parts of</li> </ul>
	respiratory system
	• Explain the histological features of various parts of respiratory
	system
1	1. Histology of trachea and lung
	• Describe the histological features of different layers of
	trachea
	<ul> <li>Describe the divisions of bronchial tree</li> </ul>
	• Discuss the structural variations in different parts of bronchial
	tree
	• Describe the structure of alveoli and intermalleolar septum
	• Relate the functions of different type of cells, forming the
	alveolar wall
	<ul> <li>Describe the structure and function of blood -air barrier</li> </ul>

12. Development of body cavities and diaphragm, and their
anomalies
<ul> <li>Define the intra-embryonic mesoderm and its parts</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Discuss the divisions of lateral plate mesoderm into visceral</li> </ul>
and parietal layers enclosing intraembryonic coelom
<ul> <li>Describe the Cephalo-caudal and transverse folding of</li> </ul>
embryonic disc
• Specify the extent of intraembryonic coelom after folding
and its divisions into three serous cavities
<ul> <li>Discuss the formation of Pleuro-pericardial and Pleuro-</li> </ul>
peritoneal membranes
<ul> <li>Define embryonic components of diaphragm (Septum)</li> </ul>
Transversum etc.)
<ul> <li>Discuss the steps of development of diaphragm from its</li> </ul>
composite embryonic derivatives
<ul> <li>Discuss anomalies related to its development</li> </ul>
13. Development of respiratory system and its anomalies
<ul> <li>Discuss the formation of Laryngo-tracheal groove &amp;</li> </ul>
respiratory diverticulum or Lung Bud
<ul> <li>Describe the branching of primitive bronchi</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Discuss the stages of development / maturation of Lungs</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Name the congenital anomalies of respiratory system</li> </ul>
(tracheoesophageal fistula etc.)
<ul> <li>Describe the main features of the common congenital</li> </ul>
anomalies
14. Cross sectional anatomy of thorax
<ul> <li>Explain Thorax cross sectional anatomy</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Identify mediastinal great vessels, organs and lymph nodes</li> </ul>
on cross sectional images at different levels

	<ul> <li>Identify the structures at T4 vertebral level or angle of Louis</li> </ul>
BIOCHEMISTRY	1. Phospholipids
	<ul> <li>Classify the Phospholipids in the human body with examples</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Discuss the synthesis and degradation of phospholipids</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Discuss the functions of phospholipids in the human body</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Describe the synthesis and biochemical role of surfactant</li> </ul>
	• Discuss the clinical significance of Acute Respiratory Distress
	Syndrome
	2. Regulation of acid base balance
	<ul> <li>Explain the mechanism of acid production</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>List the volatile &amp; non-volatile acids</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Describe the Henderson's Hasselbalch equation</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Explain the mechanisms of buffer in human body</li> </ul>
	• Discuss the normal regulation of pH by buffers, respiratory and
	renal systems
	<ul> <li>Explain the anion gap and its biochemical significance</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Interpret the values of Arterial Blood Gases (ABGs)</li> </ul>
	3. Respiratory pH disturbances
	<ul> <li>Explain the role of respiration in pH regulation</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Explain the mechanism of pH regulations in respiratory</li> </ul>
	disturbances
	<ul> <li>Explain how to analyze ABGs in respiratory disorders</li> </ul>
	• Discuss the clinical disorder of respiratory pH disturbances
	and their ABGs
	4. Respiratory compensation mechanism
	<ul> <li>Describe the compensation of pH disturbances by the</li> </ul>
	respiratory system
	<ul> <li>Describe compensation of pH disturbances due to</li> </ul>
	respiratory diseases

	Describe respiratory acidosis and respiratory alkalosis
	<ul> <li>Interpret the respective ABGs in various clinical disorders</li> </ul>
PHYSIOLOGY	1. Introduction to respiratory physiology
	<ul> <li>Describe the functions of respiratory passages</li> </ul>
	2. Mechanics of respiration
	<ul> <li>Explain mechanism of pulmonary ventilation with</li> </ul>
	reference to thoracic cage & muscles of respiration
	Define alveolar pressure, pleural pressure, and alveolar
	ventilation
	<ul> <li>Discuss trans-pulmonary pressure and its changes during</li> </ul>
	respiration
	<ul> <li>Define dead space</li> </ul>
	3. Lung compliance
	<ul> <li>Define lung compliance</li> </ul>
	List factors affecting lung compliance
	<ul> <li>Describe the role of surfactant in maintaining lung</li> </ul>
	compliance
	Differentiate compliance work, tissue resistance work &
	airway resistance work
	4. Pulmonary volumes and capacities
	• List the pulmonary volumes & capacity with their normal
	values & significance in pulmonary function test
	Determine functional residual capacity, residual vol. & total
	lung capacity (helium dilution method)
	5. Pulmonary circulation V/Q relationship
	• Describe pressure in pulmonary circulation & blood flow
	zones of lung (1,2,3)
	<ul> <li>Explain pulmonary capillary dynamics</li> </ul>
	Explain mechanism of development of pulmonary edema

<ul> <li>State the importance of ventilation/perfusion ratio</li> <li>Diffusion of gases <ul> <li>Define respiration unit &amp; respiration membrane</li> <li>Describe mechanics of diffusion across respir membrane &amp; factors effecting diffusion</li> <li>List partial pressure of respiratory gases in atmosp humidified, alveolar &amp; expired air</li> <li>Briefly describe the diffusing capacity of O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub></li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Transport of Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) <ul> <li>Describe the chloride shift</li> <li>Relate effect of CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> transport (Haldane effect)</li> <li>Define respiratory exchange ratio</li> </ul> </li> <li>8. Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) transport and O<sub>2</sub>Hb curve <ul> <li>Explain transport of O<sub>2</sub> from lungs to body tissues</li> <li>Briefly describe the role of Hb in O<sub>2</sub> transport</li> <li>Explain the factors shifting the O<sub>2</sub>Hb dissociation curve.</li> <li>Define Bohr effect</li> </ul> </li> <li>9. Respiratory adjustments to exercise <ul> <li>Describe the effects of exercise on respiratory system</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	ation here,
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10. Aviation, high altitude, and space physiology	
<ul> <li>Effects of low oxygen pressure on the body</li> </ul>	
11. Respiratory adjustments to deep sea diving & hyper	baric
conditions	
Effect of high partial pressures of individual gases on the	body
12. Hypoxia and its types	
<ul> <li>Define hypoxia and its types</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Describe coughing &amp; sneezing reflexes</li> </ul>	
13. Regulation of respiration-I	
• List the respiratory centers & their functions in	

	regulation of respiration
	<ul> <li>Describe the neural and chemical control of respiration</li> </ul>
	14. Regulation of respiration-II
	<ul> <li>Role of central and peripheral and chemoreceptors in</li> </ul>
	regulation of breathing.
	15. Pulmonary causes of Dyspnea
	<ul> <li>Describe the Pulmonary causes of Dyspnea: Asthma,</li> </ul>
	Emphysema, Pneumonia, Atelectasis and Tuberculosis
DEMONSTRATIONS	1. Sternum & Ribs [muscle attachment, typical and atypical ribs]
ANATOMY	<ul> <li>Describe the borders and surfaces of sternum</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Summarize the locations of the muscles attached on sternum</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Enumerate the type of joints formed at sternum</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Relate the type of joint with its functions (clinical significance)</li> </ul>
	Classify ribs
	<ul> <li>Discuss the features of ribs</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Differentiate typical from atypical ribs</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Describe the attachments (muscles and ligaments) on ribs</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Discuss joints formed by the ribs</li> </ul>
	• Describe the clinical features of cervical rib and rib fracture
	<ul> <li>Describe the functional significance of sternum</li> </ul>
	2. Gross anatomy of lung
	<ul> <li>Describe apex, base, surfaces and borders of lungs.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Describe Hilum /root of the lungs.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Discuss Fissures and lobes of the lungs.</li> </ul>
	• Describe the relations/impressions on medial surface of lungs.
	<ul> <li>Describe the divisions of bronchial tree.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Describe the bronchopulmonary segmentation and their</li> </ul>
	importance.
	3. Surface anatomy of thoracic wall, lungs & pleura

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	<ul> <li>Describe surface marking of ribs and intercostal spaces</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mark the anatomical landmarks of important thoracic</li> </ul>
	arteries and veins
	<ul> <li>Identify the surface anatomy of trachea and main bronchi</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Identify the important anatomical landmarks of lungs</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mark the surface anatomy of pleura</li> </ul>
PRACTICALS	1. Respiratory epithelium and its variations
HISTOLOGY	• Identify the various epithelial tissue and its variations in
	different parts of conducting system, as shown in the slides of
	respiratory tract
	2. Histology of trachea and lung
	• Describe the histological characteristics of different layers of
	trachea based on light microscope findings
	<ul> <li>Identify different components of bronchial tree</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Identify alveolar duct, alveolar sac and alveoli</li> </ul>
BIOCHEMISTRY	1. pH meter
	Name the chemical tests and bio-techniques to detect pH of
	solutions
	• Outline the methods for detection of pH of solutions in a
	sample
	• Determine the pH of different solutions using pH meter and
	litmus paper
	<ul> <li>Interpret clinical conditions correlated with their laboratory</li> </ul>
	investigations
	2. Arterial Blood Gases (ABGs)
	<ul> <li>State the normal values of Arterial Blood Gases (ABGs)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Interpret the ABGs in various clinical disorders</li> </ul>
	Discuss the ABGs in compensated Acid base Disorders

1. Lung volume and capacities
<ul> <li>Determine lung volumes and capacities (Spirogram)</li> </ul>
2. Lung function tests (Spirometry)
<ul> <li>Identify different parts of power lab with respect to</li> </ul>
respiration and recording of normal respiratory rate
<ul> <li>Perform respiratory function tests</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Interpret results of respiratory function tests</li> </ul>
1 Obstructive vs Pestrictive lung disease with respect to
spirometry
<ul> <li>Define obstructive lung disease and classify them</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Define restrictive lung disease and classify them</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Differentiate between obstructive and restrictive lung</li> </ul>
diseases
<ul> <li>Discuss the importance of FVC/FEV1 in diagnosis of COPD and</li> </ul>
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