

Deep Fascia of the Pectoral Region

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Pectoral Fascia

- Thin layer covering the **pectoralis major** muscle.
 - Superiorly ? attaches to **clavicle**.
 - Medially ? to **sternum**.
 - Inferiorly ? continues with **anterior abdominal wall fascia**.
 - Laterally ? forms **axillary fascia** (floor of axilla).
 - Clinical: provides a plane for spread of infections or abscesses from chest wall to axilla.
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Clavipectoral Fascia

- Strong fascia deep to pectoralis major, enclosing **subclavius** and **pectoralis minor**.
 - Extent:
 - Superiorly ? splits to enclose subclavius, attaches to **clavicle**.
 - Inferiorly ? splits around pectoralis minor, continues as **suspensory ligament of axilla** (maintains concavity of axilla).
 - Pierced by:
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- **Cephalic vein.**
 - **Thoracoacromial artery and vein.**
 - **Lymphatics from breast to apical nodes.**
 - **Lateral pectoral nerve.**
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Axillary Fascia

- Continuation of **pectoral fascia** laterally.
 - Forms the **floor of axilla** along with skin and subcutaneous tissue.
 - Suspended by the **suspensory ligament of axilla** (extension of clavipectoral fascia).
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Clinical Importance

- **Clavipectoral fascia** ? key landmark in surgical procedures; incised during axillary clearance.
- **Suspensory ligament of axilla** ? maintains hollow of axilla; loss of elasticity causes axillary sagging.
- **Infections/abscesses** can track along deep fascia planes into axilla or anterior chest wall.
- **Cephalic vein cutdown** and central line placements ? require piercing clavipectoral fascia.