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The serratus posterior superior is a thin, quadrilateral muscle, situated at the upper and back part of the thorax, deep to the rhomboid muscles. Sternum Definition and Function. The sternum or breastbone is a vertical flat bone lying at the anterior middle part of the chest. Externally, it is made up of compact bone. Posterior and inferior surfaces of the liver. (Coronary ligament labeled at center right.) The spinal cord has 31 segments, each with a pair (right and left) of ventral (anterior) and dorsal (posterior) nerve roots that innervate motor and sensory function, respectively.