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**THE AZYGOS-HEMIAZYGOS VENOUS SYSTEM: NORMAL  
ANATOMIC PARAMETERS**

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**Subject of study.** The anatomy of the azygos venous system was examined in 123 patients without occlusion of the inferior vena cava obstruction. Analyzed the contrast enhanced computer tomography (CT).

**The results of study.** The azygos vein originates in the thorax at the level of the twelfth thoracic vertebra. It arises from lateral, intermediate, and/or medial roots or from any combination of the three. The lateral azygos root is found in 85% of bodies and arises by union of the ascending vein and subcostal vein. The CT – scan revealed 74,7 – 97,4% location in the midline behind the thoracic vertebrae. The azygos vein receives the hemiazygos vein, on its left margin, as a side or double branch at about the eighth and ninth vertebra. Slightly higher, at the sixth or seventh thoracic vertebra, it receives the accessory hemiazygos vein as a single trunk in 72% of individuals. The hemiazygos and accessory hemiazygos veins are incompletely formed in 15% of individuals. When this occurs the posterior intercostal veins on the left side of the thorax may drain into the azygos vein independently. In this case the azygos vein lies on the midline.

**Conclusion:**

1. CT – angiography data with high accuracy to explore anatomy, quantitative and qualitative parameters of the azygos – hemiazygos vein and it's clinically significant variation.

2. The azygos vein in 74.7 - 97.4% of cases located in the midline in front of bodies of the thoracic vertebrae, its diameter is increased from  $3,42 \pm 0,25$  mm in the proximal to  $6,41 \pm 0,38$  mm at the confluence of the inferior vena cava.