

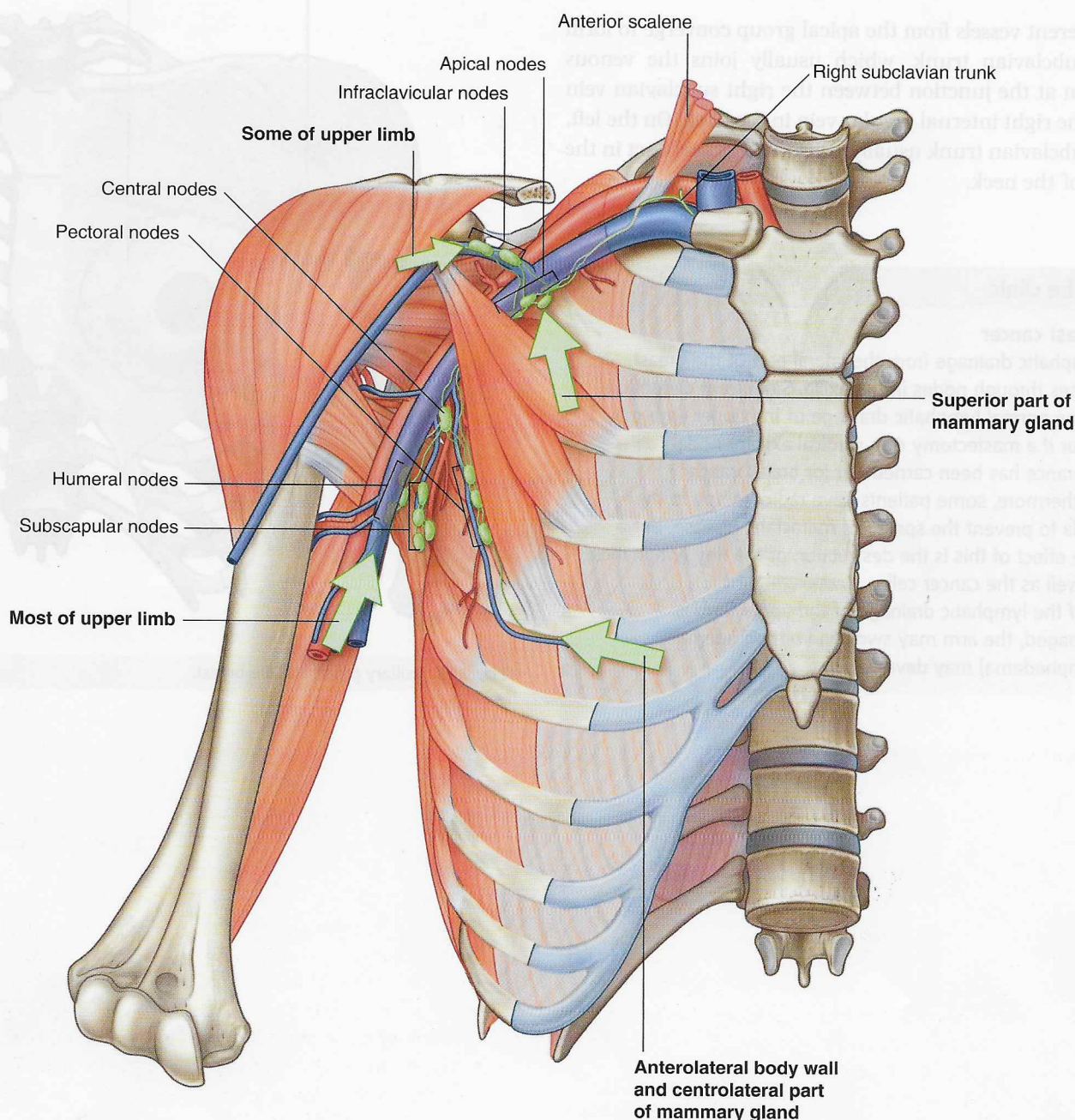
## Lymphatics

All lymphatics from the upper limb drain into lymph nodes in the axilla (Fig. 7.57).

In addition, axillary nodes receive drainage from an extensive area on the adjacent trunk, which includes regions of the upper back and shoulder, the lower neck, the chest, and the upper anterolateral abdominal wall. Axillary nodes also receive drainage from approximately 75% of the mammary gland.

The 20–30 axillary nodes are generally divided into five groups on the basis of location.

- **Humeral (lateral) nodes** posteromedial to the axillary vein receive most of the lymphatic drainage from the upper limb.
- **Pectoral (anterior) nodes** occur along the inferior margin of the pectoralis minor muscle along the course of the lateral thoracic vessels and receive drainage from the abdominal wall, the chest, and the mammary gland.



**Fig. 7.57** Lymph nodes and vessels in the axilla.