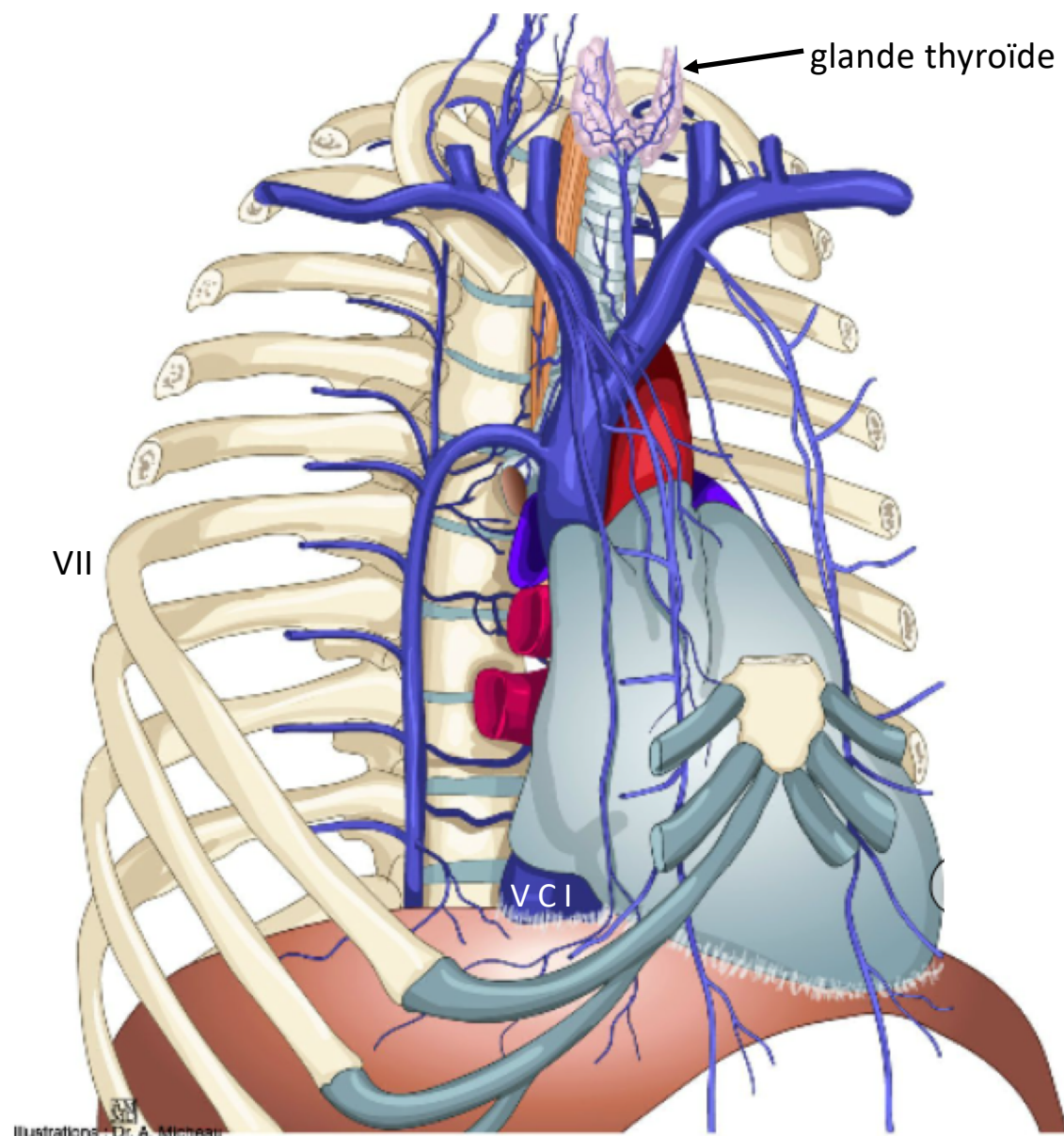
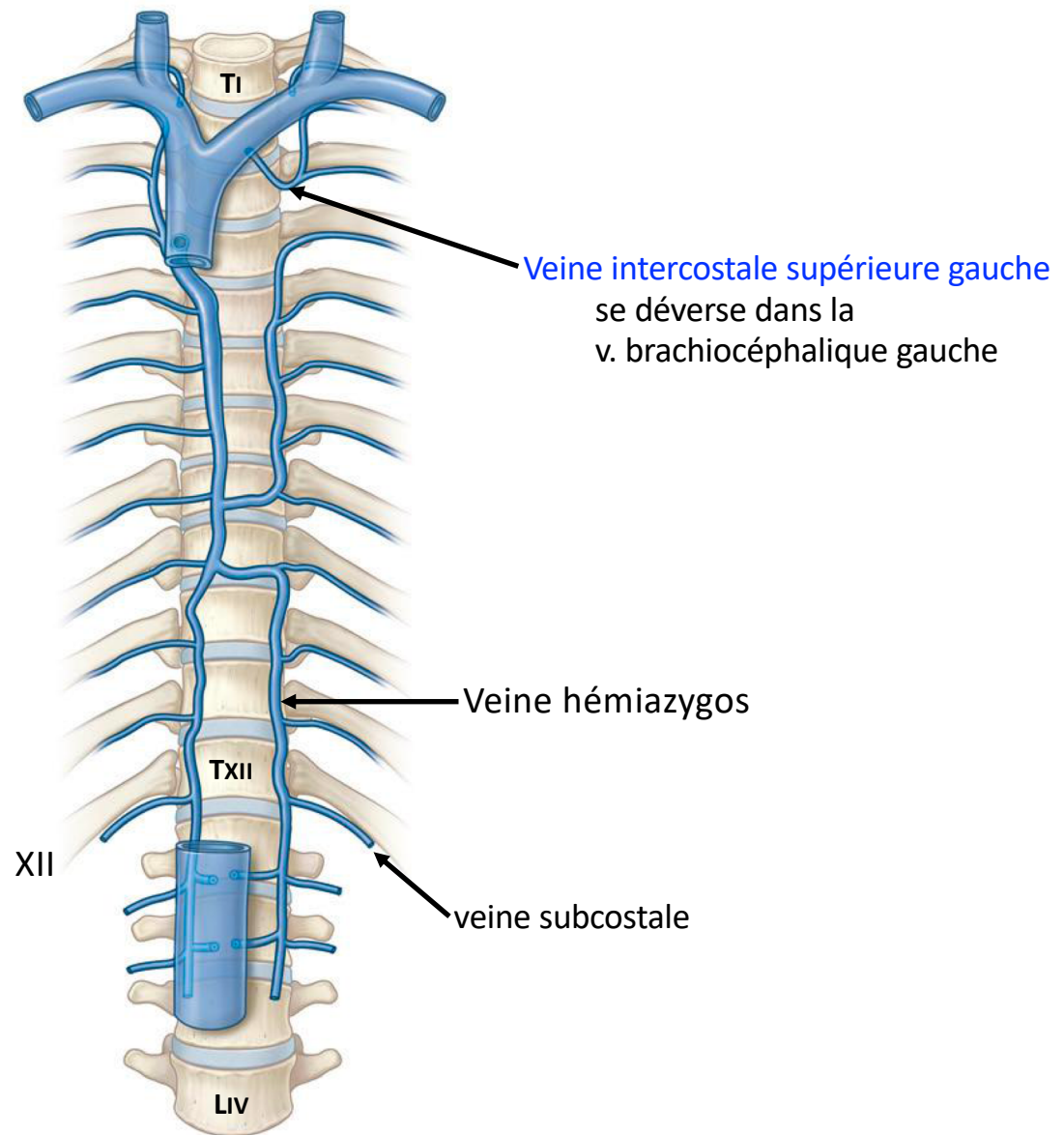
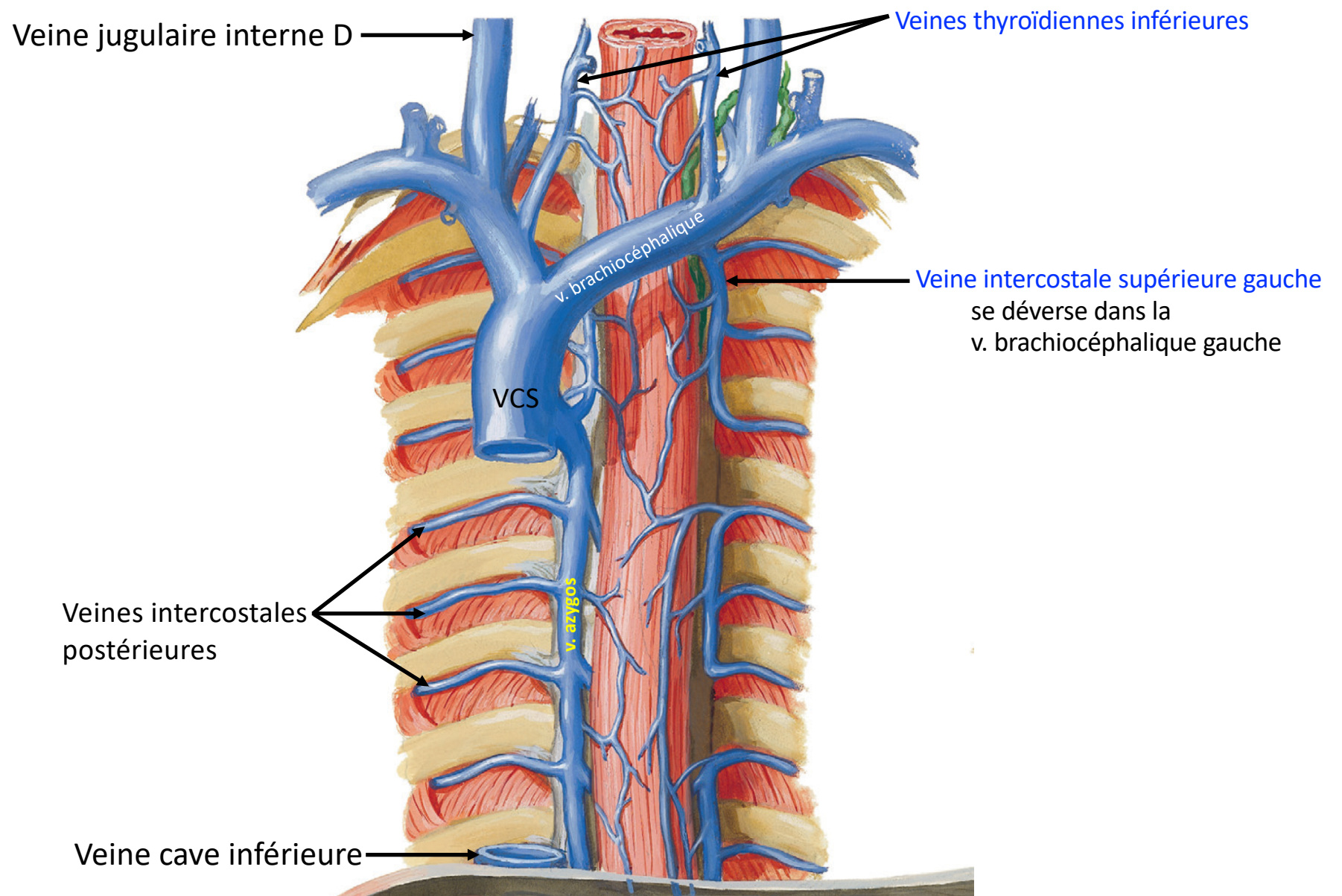








Hemiazygos vein

The **hemiazygos vein** (**inferior hemiazygos vein**) usually arises at the junction between the **left ascending lumbar vein** and the **left subcostal vein** (Fig. 3.93). It may also arise from either of these veins alone and often has a connection to the left renal vein.

The hemiazygos vein usually enters the thorax through the left crus of the diaphragm, but may enter through the aortic hiatus. It ascends through the posterior mediastinum, on the left side, to approximately vertebral level TIX. At this point, it crosses the vertebral column, posterior to the thoracic aorta, esophagus, and thoracic duct, to enter the azygos vein.

Tributaries joining the hemiazygos vein include:

- the lowest four or five left posterior intercostal veins;
- esophageal veins; and
- mediastinal veins.

