On the anatomy of the breast, by Sir Astley Paston Cooper, 1840

1840

On the anatomy of the breast - Plate XI: Absorbent vessels

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PLATE XI.

Absorbent Vessels.

Fig. 1. The absorbent vessels of the female breast from the nipple to the clavicle, with the artery, vein, and nerves.

a, The clavicle.
b, b, The sternum.
c, The nipple, with an absorbent vessel proceeding from it, and two others from the gland of the breast. They pass upon the intercostal muscles between the second and third ribs; then descend over the third rib to the intercostal muscles between the third and the fourth ribs. They then ascend to the second rib, and pass upon the inner side of the axillary vein; continuing over the intercostal muscles below the first rib, they form a trunk which proceeds under the clavicle, through the absorbent aperture, into the junction of the right jugular and subclavian veins.

e, The axillary artery, with the axillary vein, f, upon its inner side.
g, g, The axillary plexus of nerves.

Fig. 2. Absorbents of the nipple, and of the breast. Beginning at the root of the nipple, four of them being here injected, they pass over the surface of the breast towards the axilla, and there enter an absorbent gland; after which they pass as in fig. 1.

Fig. 3. The internal absorbents of the gland injected from various parts of the breast, and terminating in two absorbents in the axilla. The lactiferous tubes are also partially injected, and may be seen under the absorbent vessels.