Diaphragm and Abdominal and Pelvic Walls

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Fig. 10.1  

a The diaphragm consists of striated muscle and a central tendon. It contains several orifices, including one allowing passage of the inferior vena cava. The muscular component of the diaphragm is made up of sternal, costal, and lumbar portions, referring to the insertion site. The sagittal image clearly shows the anterior and posterior parts of the diaphragm.  

b The hemidiaphragms are inserted on the inner surface of the last six ribs. On the right, the presence of adipose tissue between the liver and the diaphragm clearly distinguishes these two anatomically contiguous structures.  

c The sternal, anterior portion of the diaphragm is inserted on the inner surface of the xiphoid process of the sternum. At this level, the two hemidiaphragms join to describe an arch that opens posteriorly.