

Proximal Attachment

The **third intercostal externus** muscle arises from the lower border of the third rib.

Distal Attachment

Posteriorly the fibers pass obliquely infero-laterally, while anteriorly they pass infero-medially to insert onto the superior border of the fourth rib; from the tubercle, where it blends with the posterior fibers of the superior costotransverse ligament, to just before the costochondral junction, where it continues as the external intercostal membrane attaching to the sternum.

Nerve Supply

The third intercostal externus muscle is supplied by the third intercostal nerve.

Action

The third intercostal externus muscle is most active during inspiration, but its primary role is with the third intercostal internus to stiffen the chest wall during respiration.