Intrapleural Pressure

- Pressure inside pleural sac
 - Always negative under normal conditions
 - Always less than P_{alv}
- Varies with phase of respiration
 - At rest, -4 mm Hg

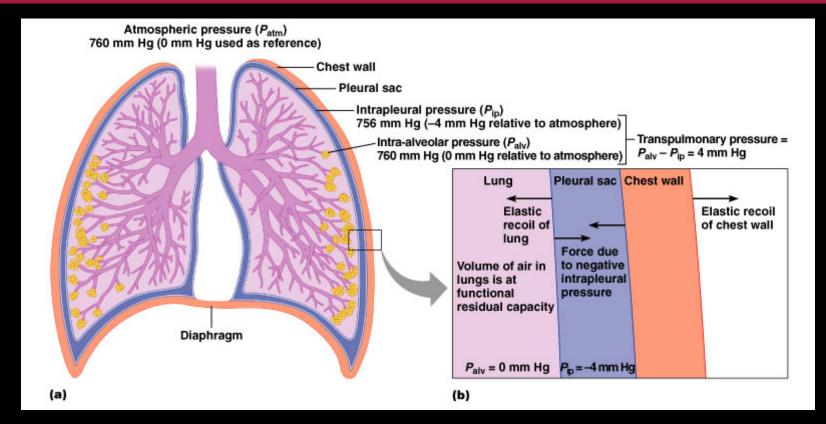
Intrapleural Pressure

- Negative pressure due to elasticity in lungs and chest wall
 - Lungs recoil inward
 - Chest wall recoils outward
 - Opposing pulls on intrapleural space
 - Surface tension of intrapleural fluid hold wall and lungs together

Transpulmonary Pressure

- Transpulmonary pressure = $P_{alv} \overline{P_{ip}}$
- Distending pressure across the lung wall
- Increase in transpulmonary pressure:
 - Increase distending pressure across lungs
 - Lungs (alveoli) expand, increasing volume

Pulmonary Pressures at Rest



FRC = Functional Residual Capacity = volume of air in lungs between breaths (defined as rest); $P_{alv} = P_{atm}$

Pneumothorax

