**Relevant anatomy**

In the ruminant, the most cranial forestomach, the reticulum, lies just caudal to the diaphragm and to the left of the midline, beneath the 6th through 8th rib. The space left of the median, approximately the 7th or 8th rib to the pelvis, is occupied by the rumen. On the right side of the ruminant lie the omasum and the elongated true stomach, the abomasum. The omasum lies near the ventral aspect of the 7th to the 11th ribs and the abomasum extends from the xiphoid region to the 9th or 10th rib, occupying primarily the right side except for the fundus, which deviates to the ventral aspect of the rumen atrium.

Autonomic innervation of these structures is accomplished by a balance of both sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous inputs, supplied by the splanchnic nerves and the dorsal and ventral vagal trunks respectively.