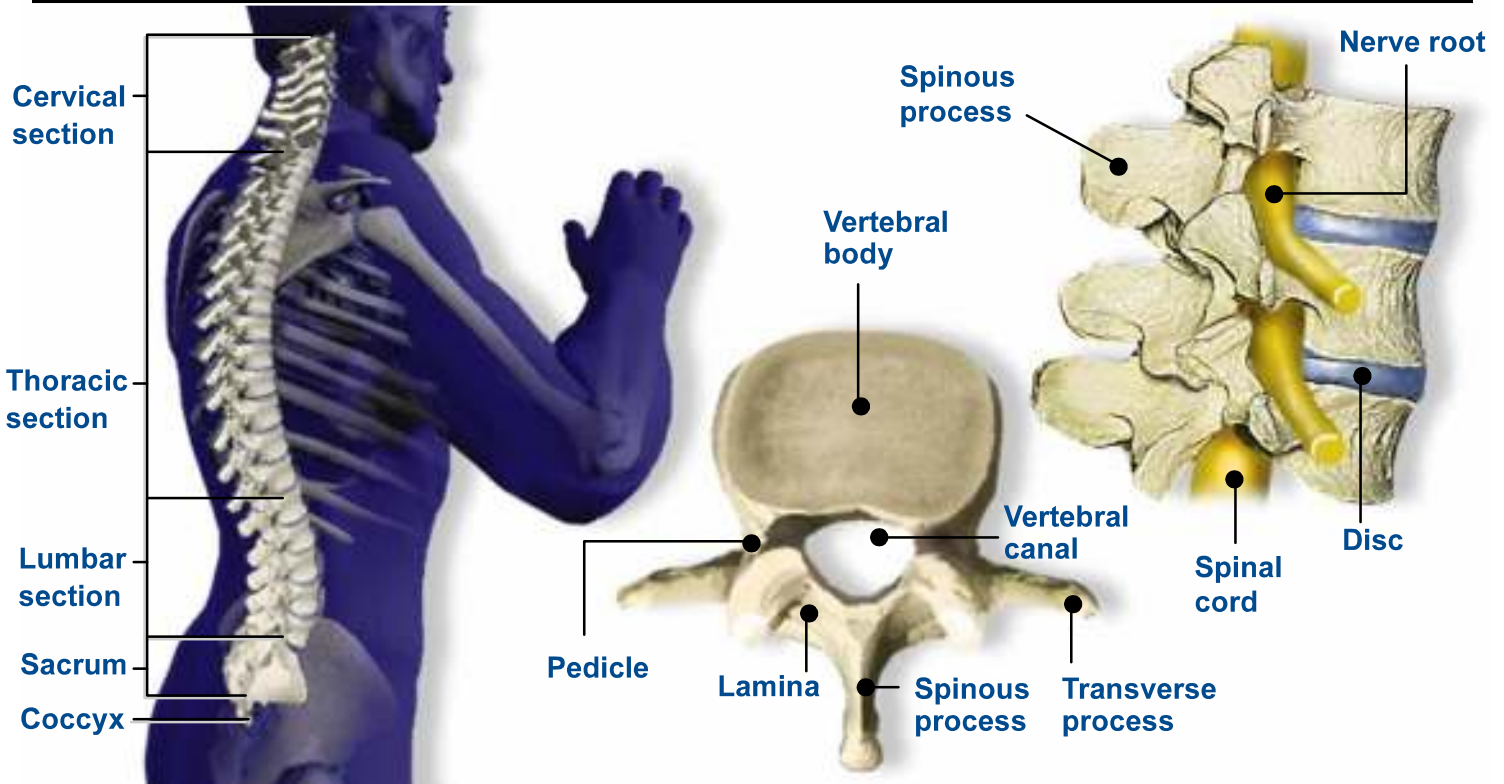


ANATOMY OF THE SPINE



Overview

The anatomy of the spine has 3 major regions: the cervical, the thoracic, and the lumbar spine. Below the lumbar region are two other sections: the sacrum and coccyx bones, which are within the pelvis area.

Spinal Column

The spinal column is made up of five sections and consists of 33 bones known as vertebrae. Cushion-like discs separate the first 24 vertebra bones, giving the spine the ability to bend and flex.

Cervical Spine

The cervical, or neck section of the spine, consists of seven vertebrae known as C1 to C7. The top cervical vertebra is connected to the base of the skull.

Thoracic Spine

The thoracic section of the spine is located at chest level, between the cervical and lumbar vertebrae. The 12 thoracic vertebrae, known as T1 to T12, also serve as attachments for the rib cage.

Lumbar Spine

The lumbar section of the spine is located between the thoracic vertebrae and the sacrum. The five lumbar vertebrae, known as levels L1 to L5, are the main weight bearing section of the spinal column.

Sacrum

The sacrum section of the spine is located near the base of the spine. The sacrum consists of five fused vertebrae known as levels S1 to S5. It does not have discs separating the bones. The pelvis is connected to the spinal column at the sacrum section.

Coccyx

The coccyx, also called the tailbone, is at the base of the spinal column. It has 4 small vertebrae that are fused together.

Nerve Root

Nerve roots are used to transmit information between the spinal cord and other parts of the body, such as arms, legs and organs.

Pedicles

Pedicles connect the lamina to the vertebra body.

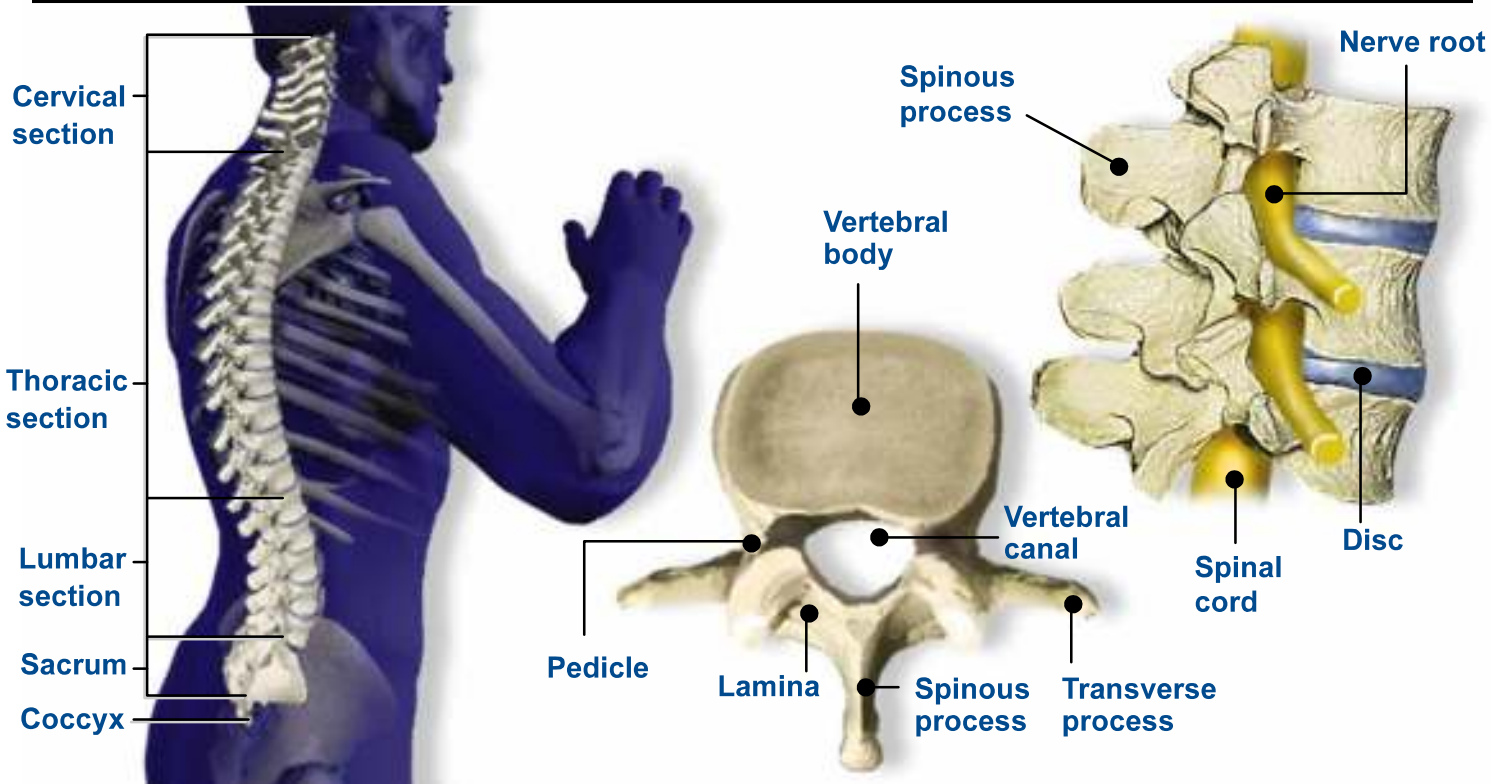
Transverse Process

Two transverse processes stick out of the sides of each vertebra. Muscles and ligaments that move and stabilize the vertebrae attach to the transverse processes.

Vertebral Body

The cylinder-shaped vertebral body is the weight-bearing structure of the vertebra.

ANATOMY OF THE SPINE



Spinal Cord

The spinal cord has nerve pathways that carry signals, such as pain, from the arms, legs, and the body to the brain.

Articular Facet

The articular facets are where two neighboring vertebrae attach.

Spinous Process

The spinous process protrudes from the back of each vertebra. Muscles and ligaments that move and stabilize the vertebrae attach to the spinous processes.

Disc

Discs separate vertebrae. They are made of tough, elastic material that allows the spine to bend and twist naturally.

Lamina

The flat plates of the lamina create the outer wall of the vertebral canal and help protect the spinal cord.

Vertebral Canal

The spinal cord sits in this channel formed by the lamina and the vertebral body.