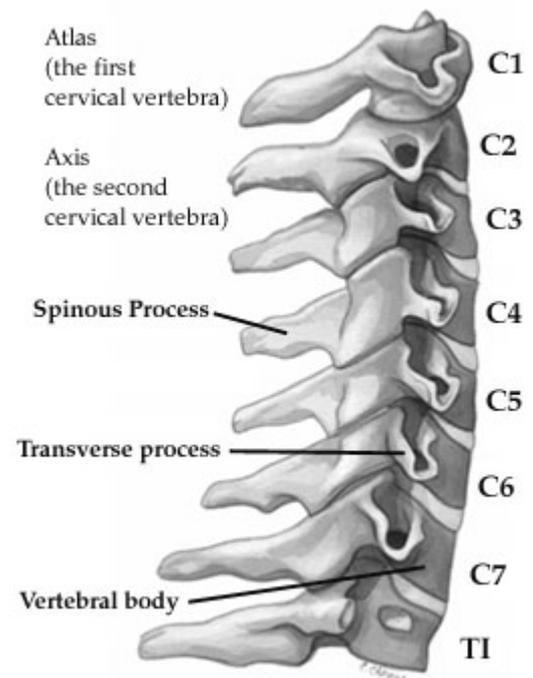


Cervical spine



The [cervical spine](#) is C shaped with its curve facing towards the back of neck. The spinal area in neck is called cervical spine and it is made up of 7 [cervical vertebra](#).

The cervical spine is a dynamic structure tasked with protecting nervous innervation to the entire body while also maintaining range of motion for the [head](#) and [neck](#).

The [atlas](#) (C1) and the [axis](#) (C2) differ markedly from other cervical vertebrae.

The cervical spine is composed of seven vertebrae (C1-C7), which provide mobility, flexion, extension, and rotatory motion of the neck. The cervical spine is divided into upper, subaxial, and cervicothoracic regions.

see [upper cervical spine](#)

see [subaxial cervical spine](#)

The normal anatomy of the cervical spine consists of 7 cervical vertebrae separated by intervertebral disks and joined by a complex network of ligaments. These ligaments keep individual bony elements behaving as a single unit.

The [cervical spine](#) naturally has a lordotic curve.

see [Cervical kyphosis](#).

Columns

View the cervical spine as 3 distinct columns: anterior, middle, and posterior.

The [anterior column](#)

The middle column is composed of the posterior longitudinal ligament and the posterior one third of

the vertebral bodies, the annulus and intervertebral disks. The posterior column contains all of the bony elements formed by the pedicles, transverse processes, articulating facets, laminae, and spinous processes.

The anterior and posterior longitudinal ligaments maintain the structural integrity of the anterior and middle columns. The posterior column is held in alignment by a complex ligamentous system, including the nuchal ligament complex, capsular ligaments, and the ligamenta flava.

If one column is disrupted, other columns may provide sufficient stability to prevent spinal cord injury. If 2 columns are disrupted, the spine may move as 2 separate units, increasing the likelihood of spinal cord injury.

Alignment

[Cervical Alignment](#)

Discs

see [cervical disc](#).

Injury

see [Cervical spine injury](#).

Disorders

see [Cervical spine disorder](#).

Societies

The [Cervical Spine Research Society](#) is a multidisciplinary organization that provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and promotes clinical and basic science research of the [cervical spine](#).

Books

The Cervical Spine 5th Edition

Series

[Cervical spine series](#).

Cervical spine CT scan

[Cervical spine CT scan](#)

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