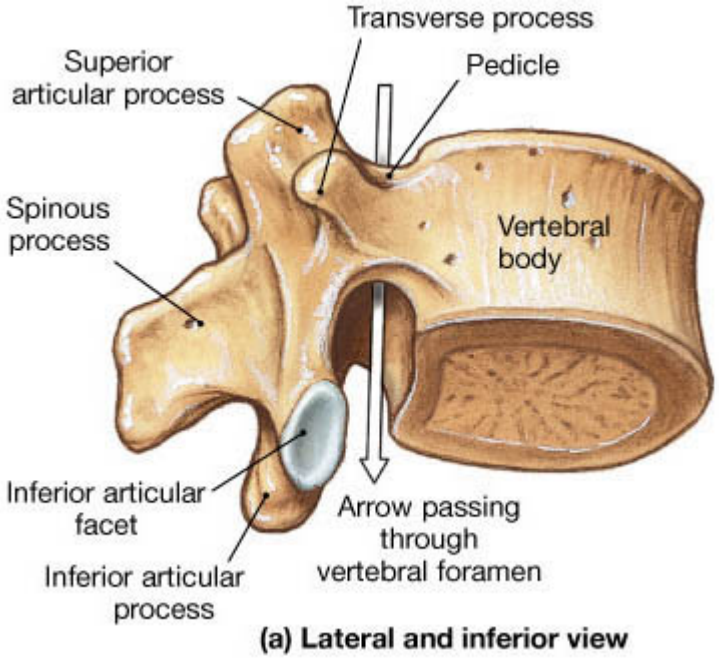
Transverse process



see Cervical transverse process.

There are two transverse processes, (la. processus transversus) on each side of the vertebral body which project from either side at the point where the lamina joins the pedicle, between the superior and inferior articular processes. They also serve for the attachment of muscles and ligaments. There is a facet on each of the transverse processes of thoracic vertebrae which articulates with the tubercle of the rib.

A facet on each side of the thoracic vertebral body articulates with the head of head of the rib. There are superior and inferior articular facets on each side of the vertebra, which serve to restrict the range of movement possible. These facets are joined by a thin portion of the neural arch called the pars interarticularis

The transverse process of a lumbar vertebra is also sometimes called the costal or costiform process(processus costiforme or processus costalis in Latin) because it corresponds to a rudimentary rib (costa) which, as opposed to the thorax, is not developed in the lumbar region.