

Life is 10% what happens to you and 90%  
how you react to it.

Charles R. Swindoll

*Musculoskeletal Block*  
**ANATOMY**  
team 435



C O L O R C O D E S

- IMPORTANT NOTES
- EXTRA NOTES
- DEFINITION

# OBJECTIVES

**At the end of the lecture, students should be able to:**

- *Distinguish the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae from each other and from vertebrae of the cervical region*
- *Describe the characteristic features of a thoracic and a lumbar vertebra.*
- *Compare the movements occurring in thoracic and lumbar regions.*
- *Describe the joints between the vertebral bodies and the vertebral arches.*
- *List and identify the ligaments of the intervertebral joints.*

# Thoracolumbar Spine

Curves of the vertebral column can be divided into:

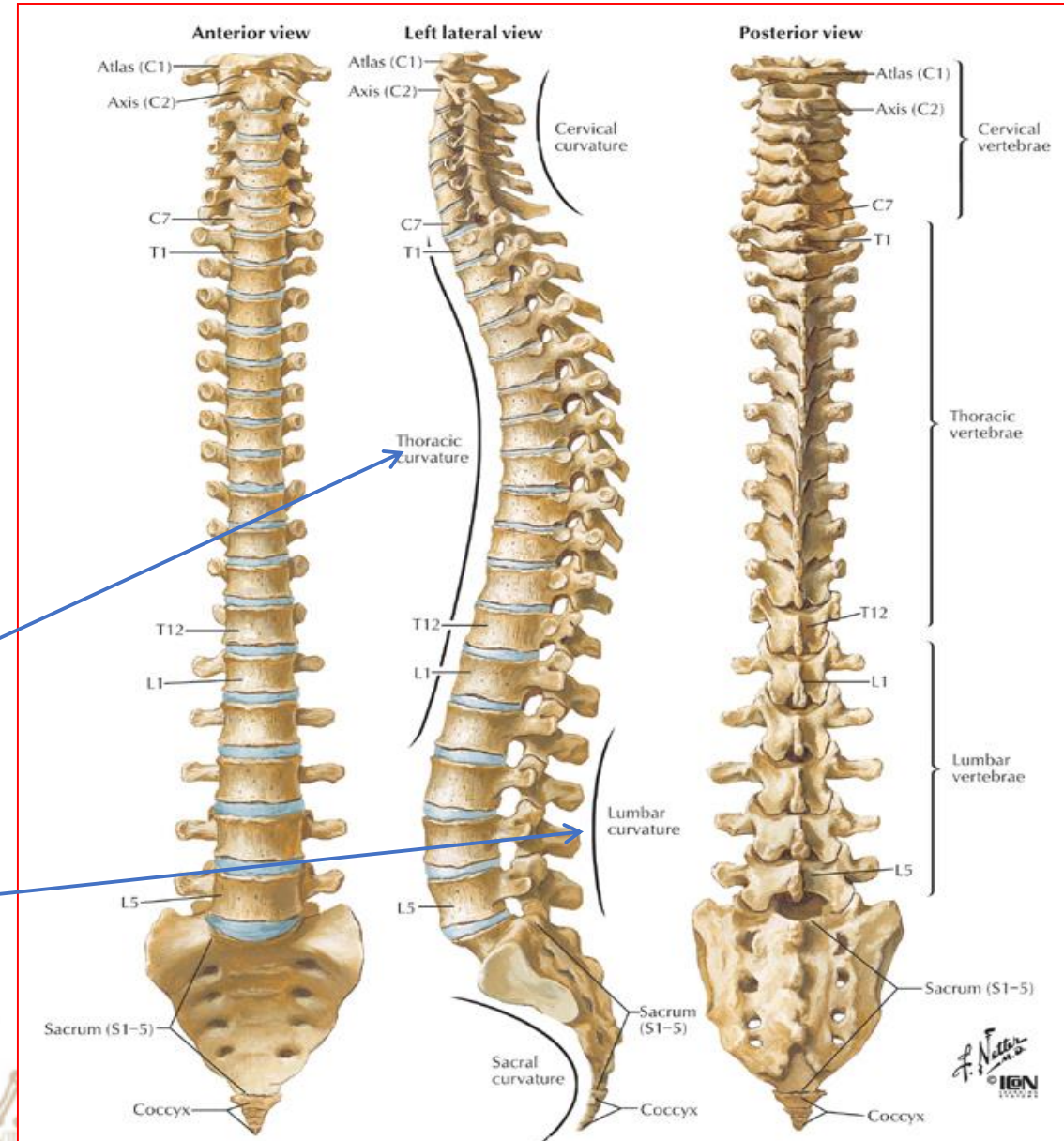
➤ **Primary Curves:**

Thoracic & Pelvic

➤ **Secondary curves:**

Cervical & Lumbar

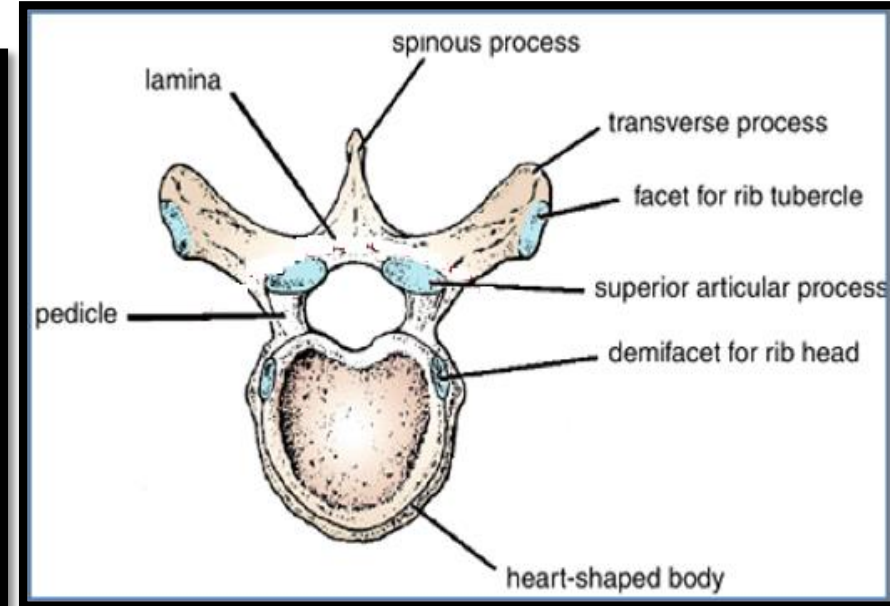
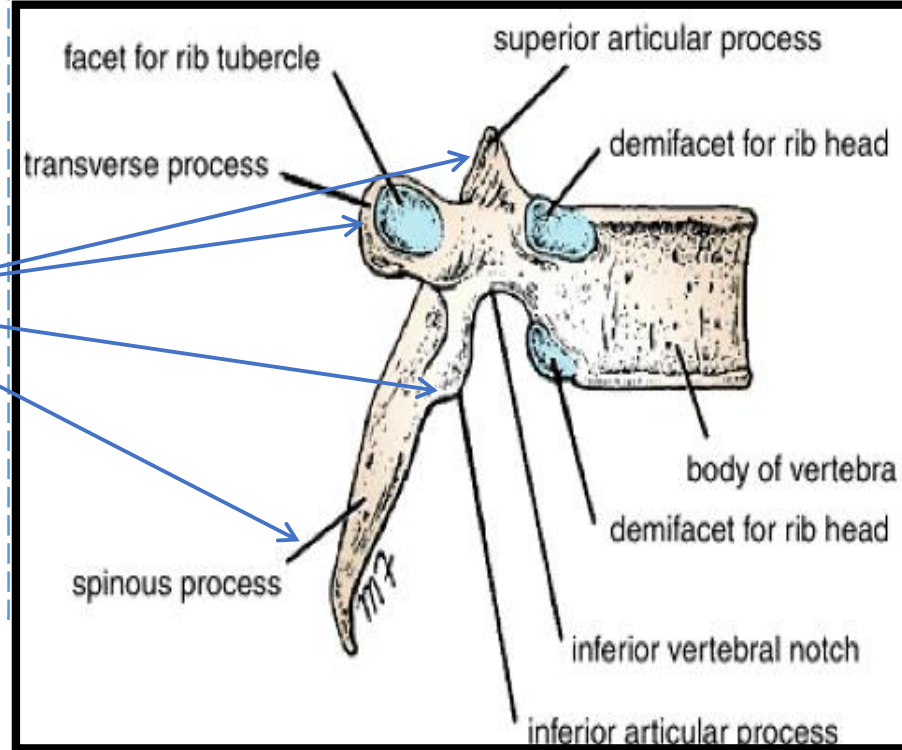
Note: The curvatures in Thoracic and lumbar spine.





# Thoracic vertebrae

Most thoracic vertebrae are **typical**, have **bodies**, vertebral **arches** and **seven** processes for muscular and articular connection.



- 2 Transverse process
- 2 Superior articular process
- 2 inferior articular process
- 1 Spinous process

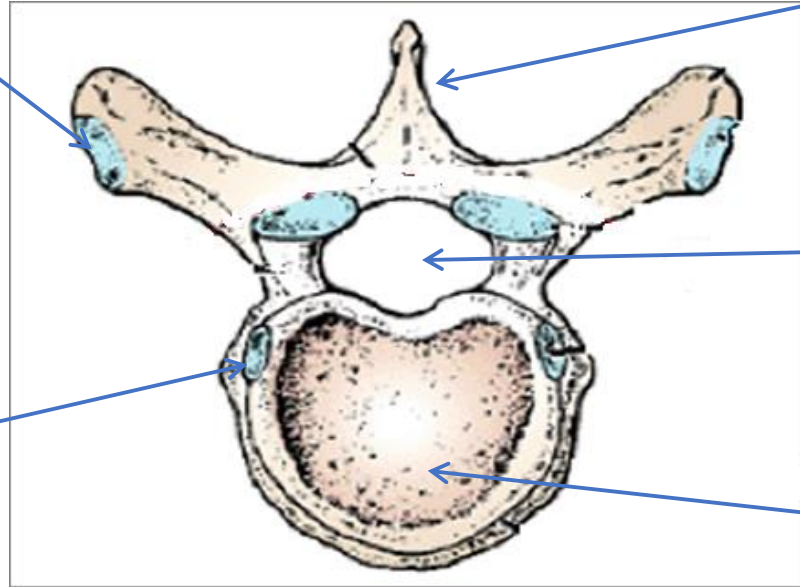
Note: A “typical” vertebra is made up of an anterior vertebral body and a posterior vertebral arch, more or less the same to the rest. While the “atypical” vertebrae such as the 2 found in cervical region defy the norm.



# Characteristics of Thoracic vertebrae

**Costal facets** are present on the **transverse processes** for articulation with the **tubercles** of the ribs (T11 and 12 have no facets on the transverse process).

**Costal facets** are present on the **sides of the bodies** for articulation with the **heads** of the ribs.



The **spines** are long and inclined downwards.

The **vertebral foramen** is small and circular.

The **body** is medium size and heart shaped.

The **superior articular processes** bear facets that face **backwards** and **laterally**, where the facets on the **inferior articular process** face **forward** and **medially**. The **inferior articular process** on the **12<sup>th</sup> vertebra** face **laterally**, as do those of the lumbar vertebrae.

**Process** : A pointy projection  
**Facet** : Small flat surface



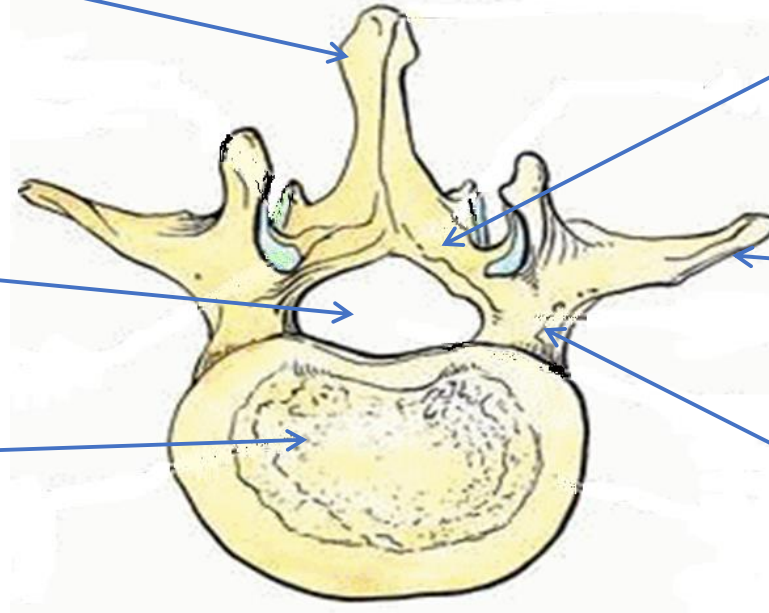
**Tubercles** : a small rounded projection

# Characteristics of typical lumbar vertebra

The **Spinous process** are short, flat, and quadrangular and project backwards.

The **vertebral foramina** are triangular.

The **body** is large and kidney shaped.



The **laminae** are thick.

The **transverse process** are long and slender.

The **Pedicles** are strong and directed back wards.

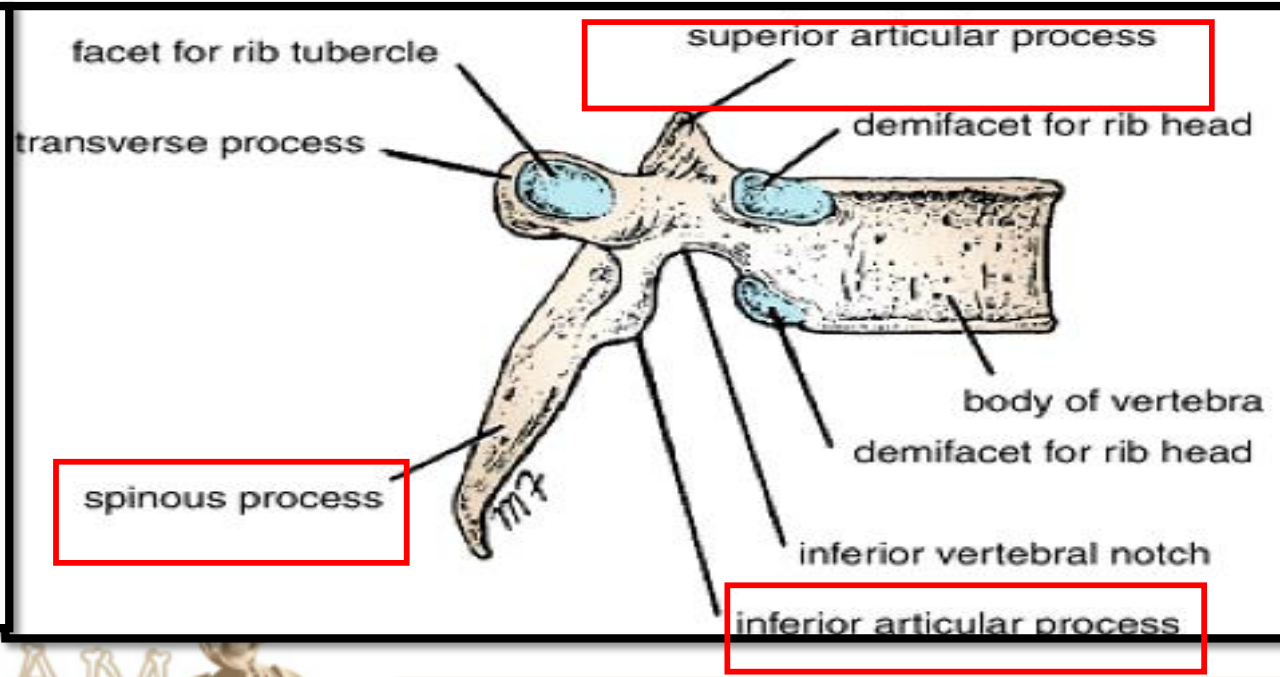
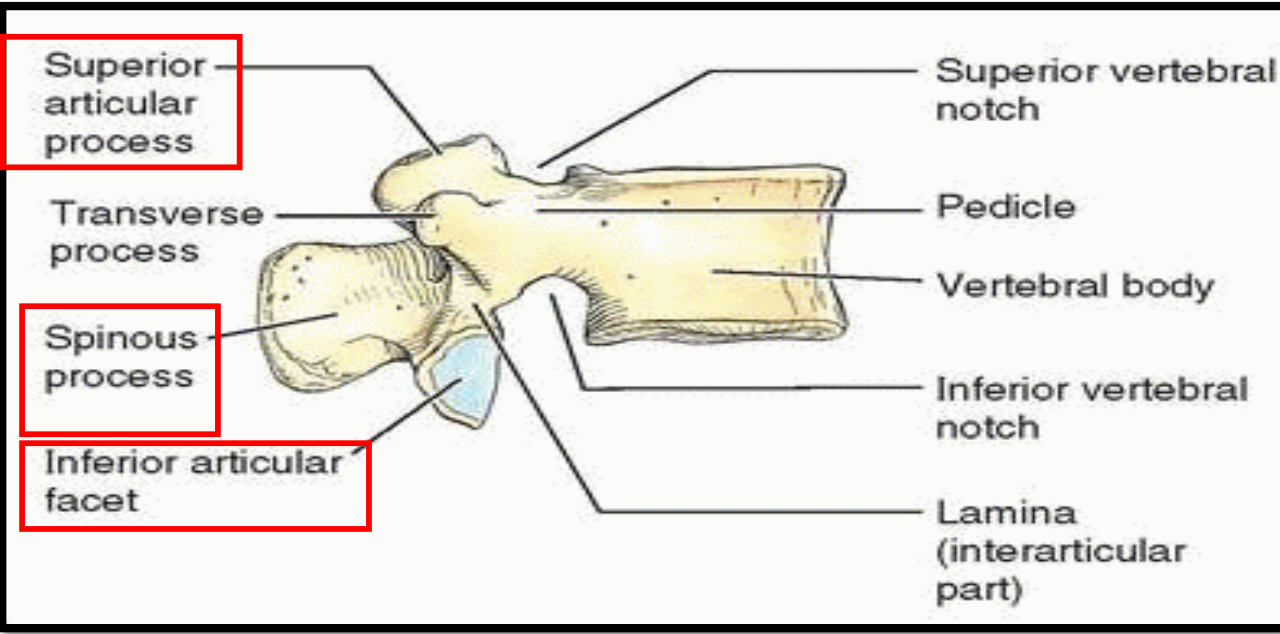
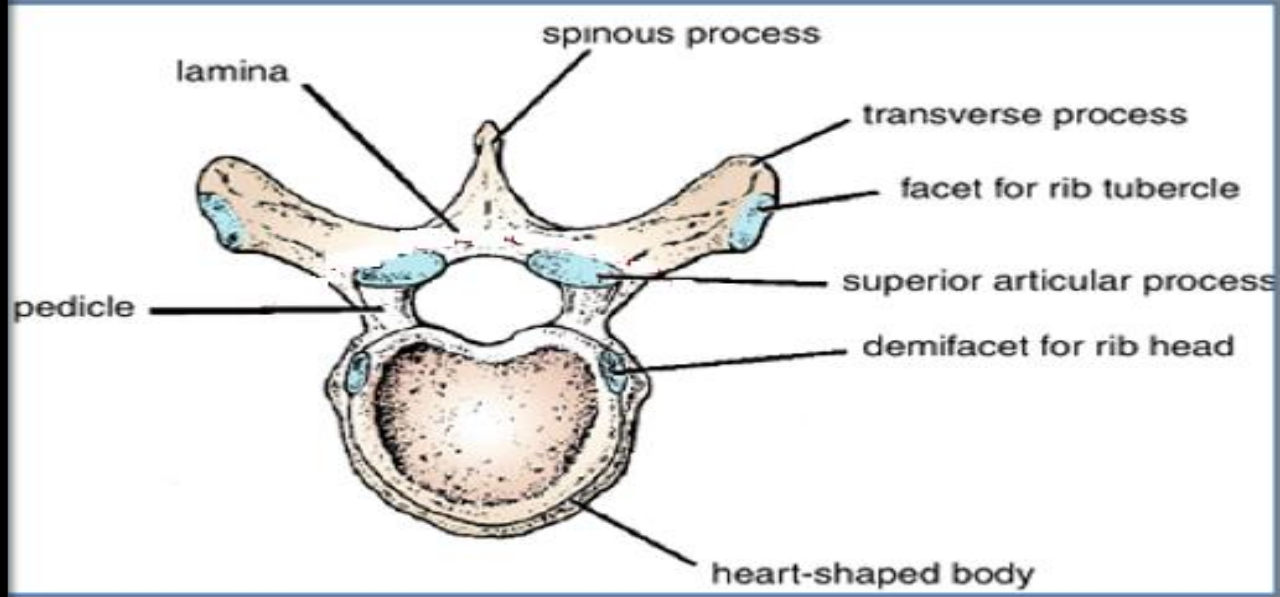
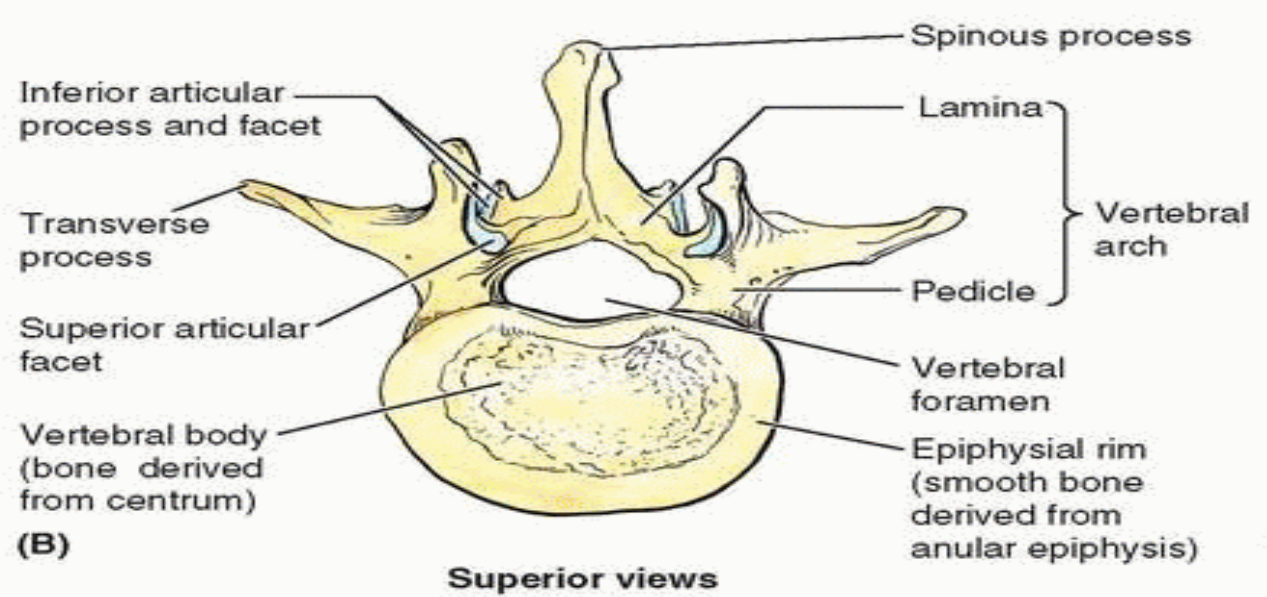
The articular surfaces of the **superior articular processes** face **medially**, and those of the **inferior articular processes** face **laterally**.

Foramen : opening or hole.

Slender : Thin







Now compare between and notice the major differences between the two.



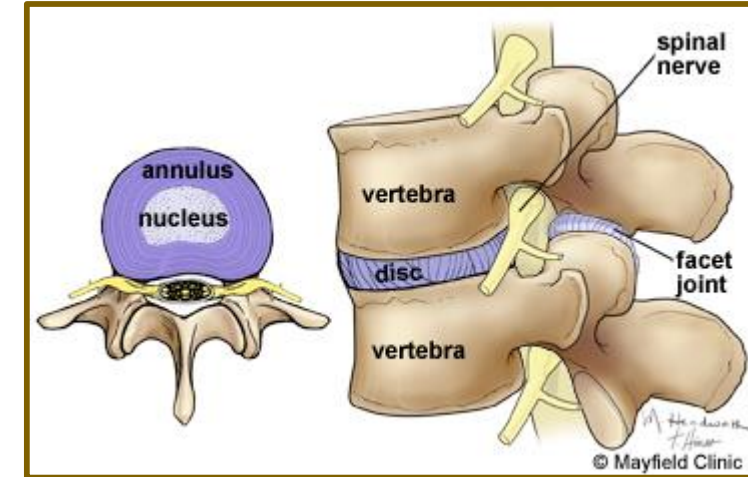
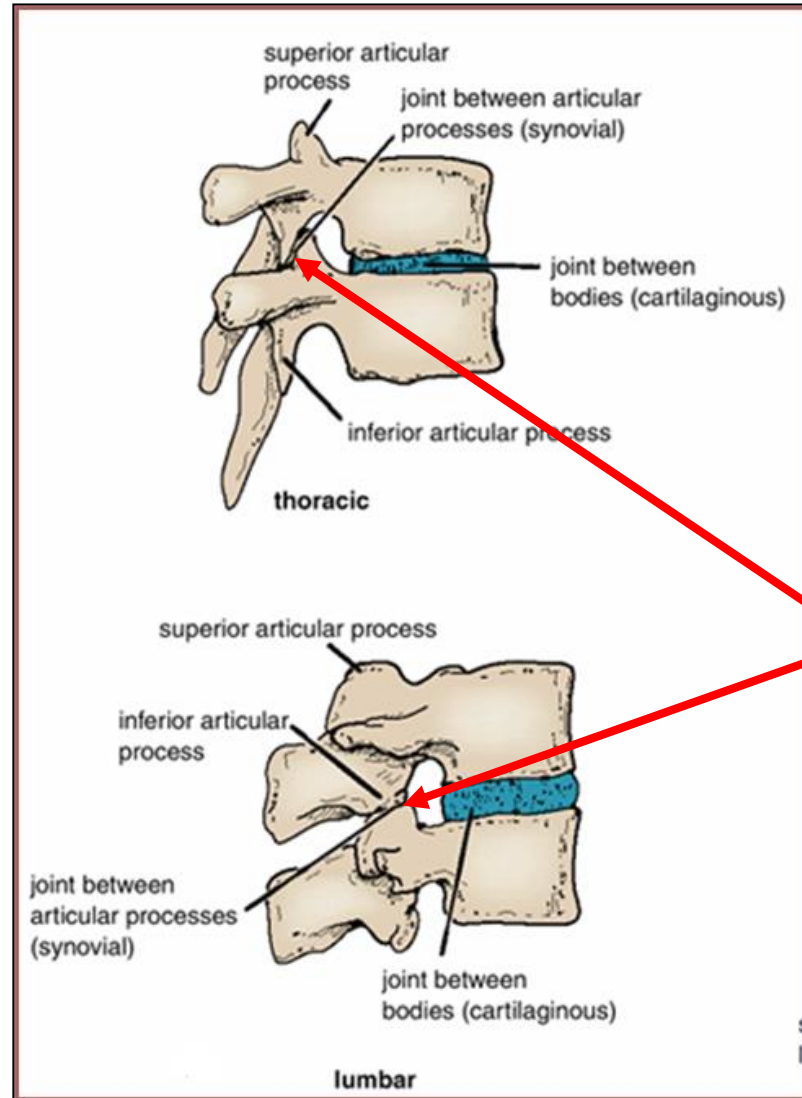
# JOINTS BETWEEN TWO VERTEBRAL BODIES:

1-It is a **cartilaginous** joint. **غضروفي**

2-The **upper** and **lower** surfaces of the **bodies** of adjacent vertebrae are covered by **thin plates hyaline cartilage**.

3- Sandwiched between the plates of hyaline cartilage is an **intervertebral** disc of **fibrocartilage**.

4- **collagen fibers** of the disc strongly unite the bodies of the two vertebrae.



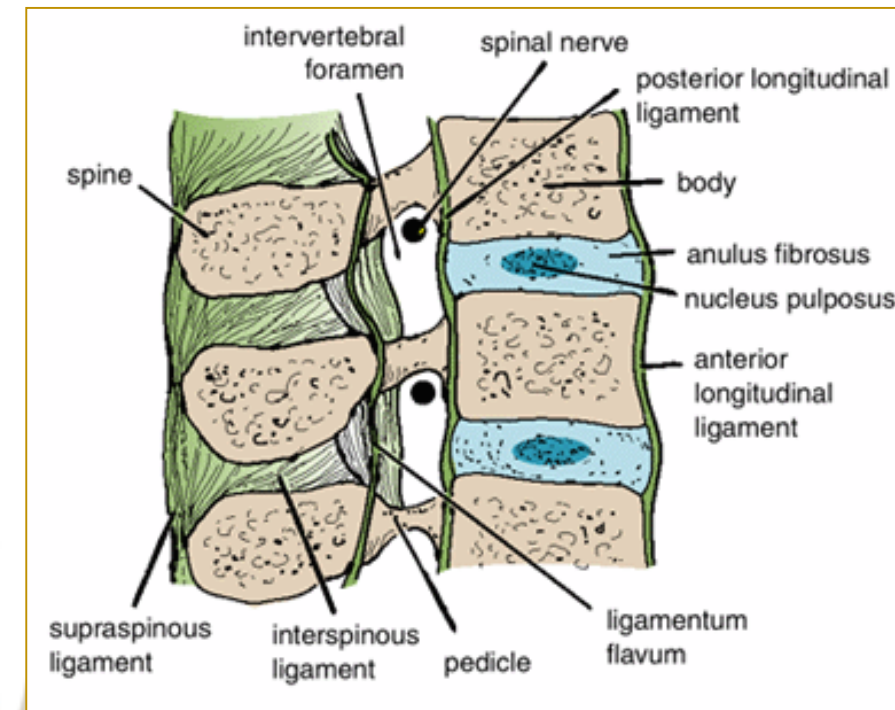
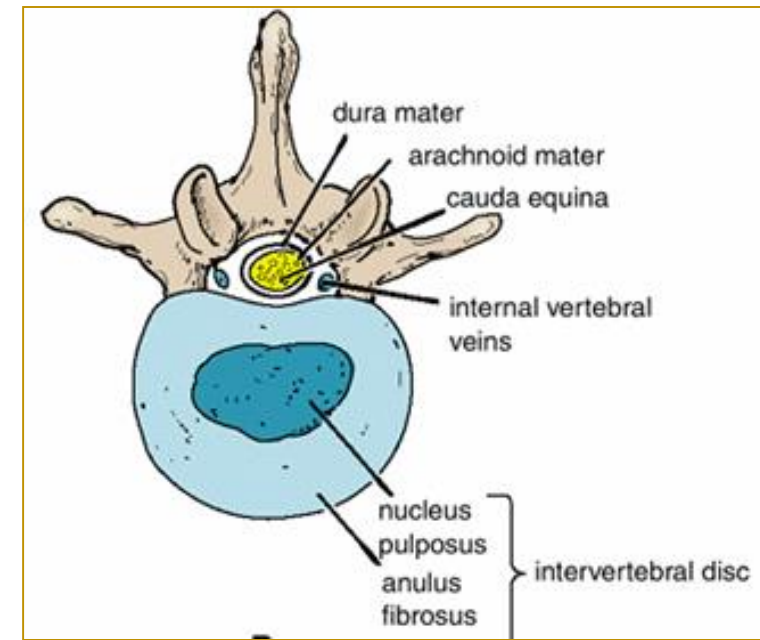
## JOINTS BETWEEN TWO VERTEBRAL ARCHES:

Consist of **synovial joints** between the **superior** and **inferior articular processes** of adjacent vertebrae.



# INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS:

- The intervertebral discs are responsible for **one fourth of the length of the vertebral column** .
- They are **thickest** in the **cervical** and **lumbar** regions, where the movements of the vertebral column are greatest unlike the thoracic region which is LESS THICK and has less movement .
- **Each disc consists of a:**
  - **Peripheral part: the anulus fibrosus**, composed of fibrocartilage .
  - **Central part : the nucleus pulposus**, a mass of gelatinous material containing a large amount of water, a small number of collagen fibers, and a few cartilage cells.
  - **No discs** between the first & second cervical vertebrae or in the sacrum or coccyx.

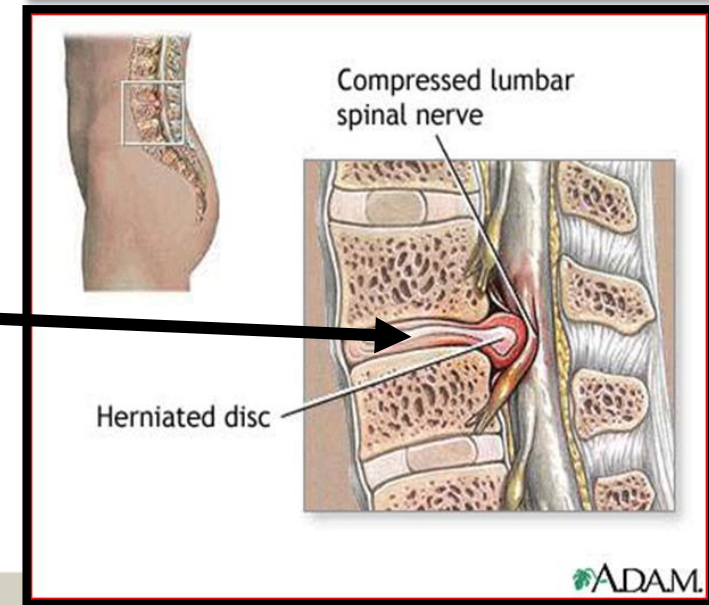
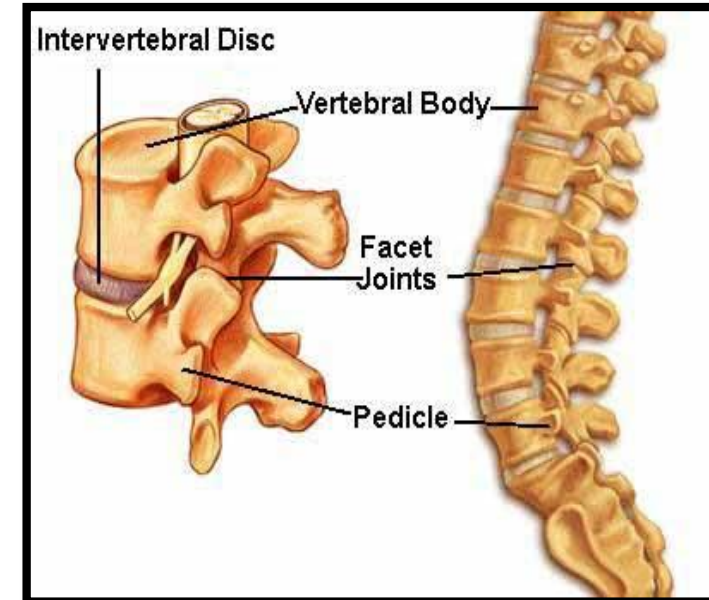


# FUNCTION OF THE INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS:

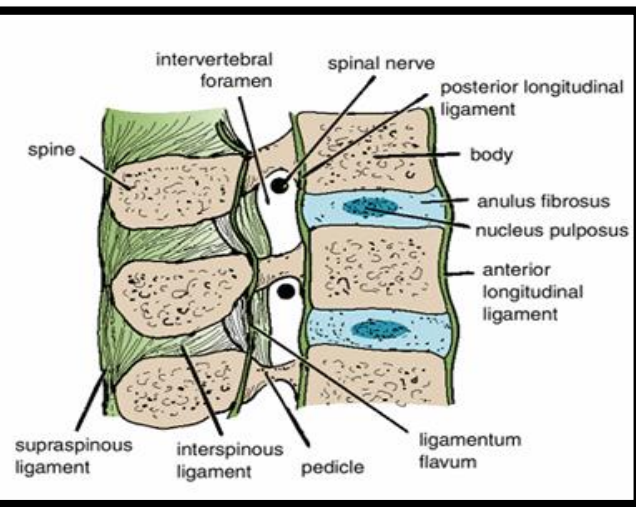
1- **Allow** vertebra to rock forward or backward on another like **flexion and extension of vertebral column.**

2- **Serve as shock absorbers** when the load on the vertebral column increased, as **when one is jumping from a height.**

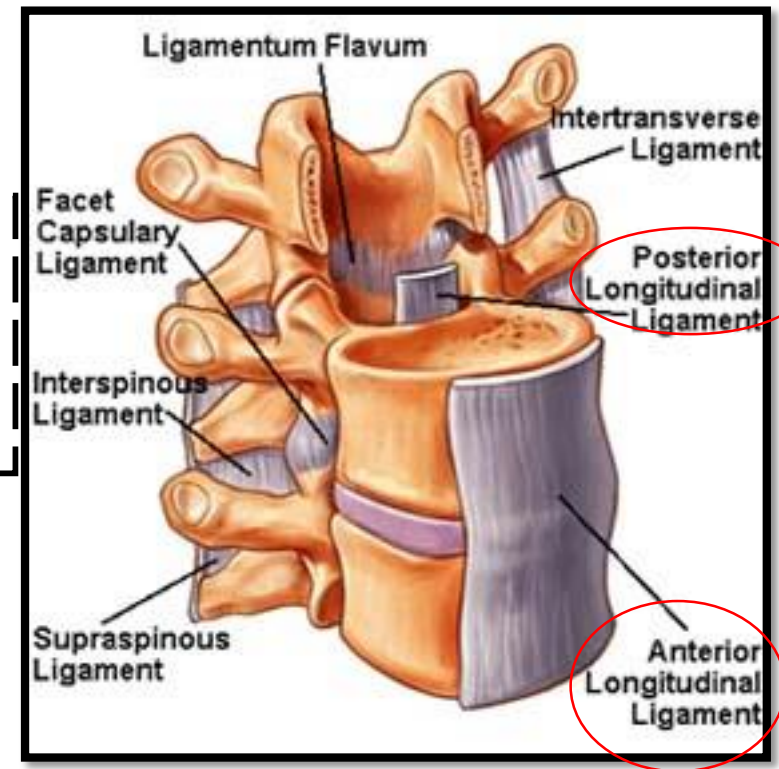
Sometimes, the **annulus fibrosus** ruptures, **allowing the nucleus pulposus to herniate and protrude into the vertebral canal**, where it may press on spinal nerve roots, spinal nerve, or even spinal cord.



# LIGAMENTS



•The anterior and posterior longitudinal ligaments run as continuous bands down the **anterior and posterior surfaces** of the vertebral column **from the skull to the sacrum**



## The anterior longitudinal ligament      The posterior longitudinal ligament

wide and strongly

weak and narrow

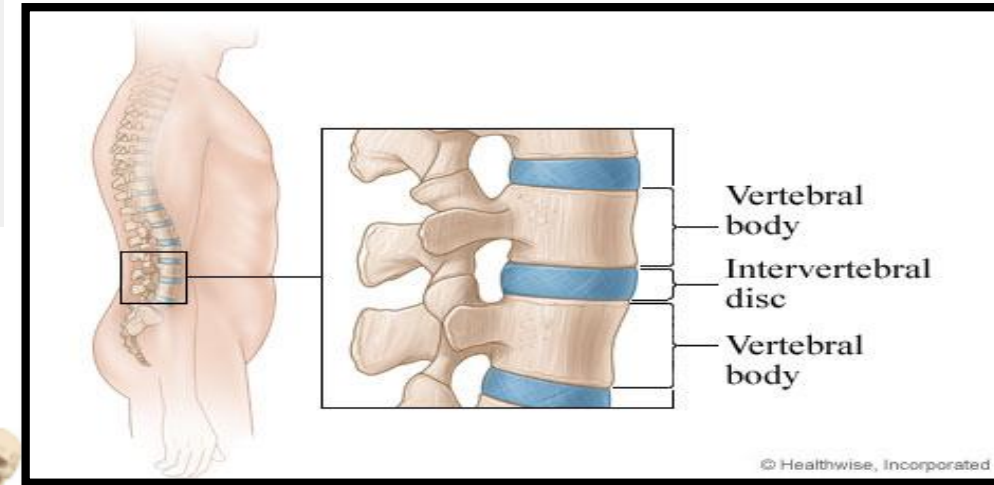
attached to the front and sides of the vertebral bodies and to the intervertebral discs.

attached to the posterior borders of the discs

### Ligaments;

hold the vertebrae firmly together

Produce a small amount of movement



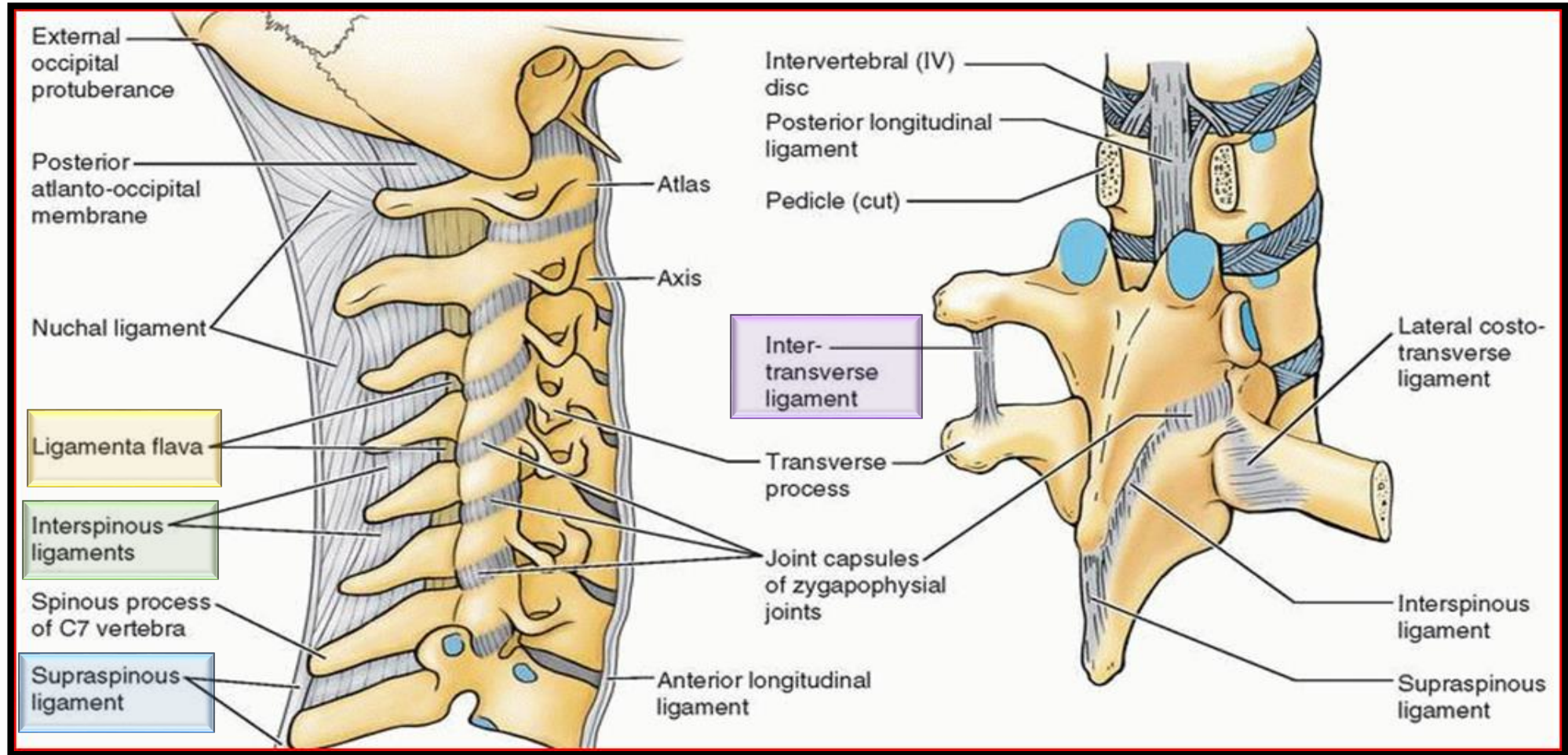


# LIGAMENTS

**Ligamentum flavum:** connects the laminae of adjacent vertebrae

**Interspinous ligament:** connects adjacent spines

**Supraspinous ligament:** runs between the tips of adjacent spines



**Intertransverse ligaments:** run between adjacent transverse processes

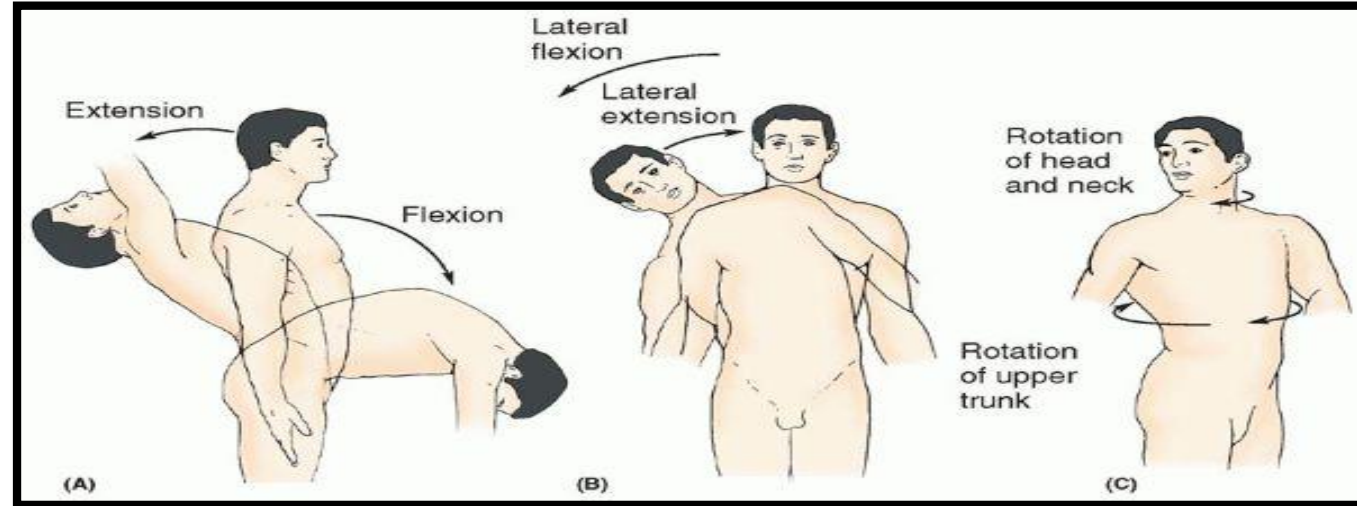
# MOVEMENTS OF THE THORACOLUMBAR SPINE

The following movements are possible on the spine:

1. flexion,
2. extension
3. lateral flexion
4. Rotation
5. Circumduction = circular movement

The type and range of movements depend on:

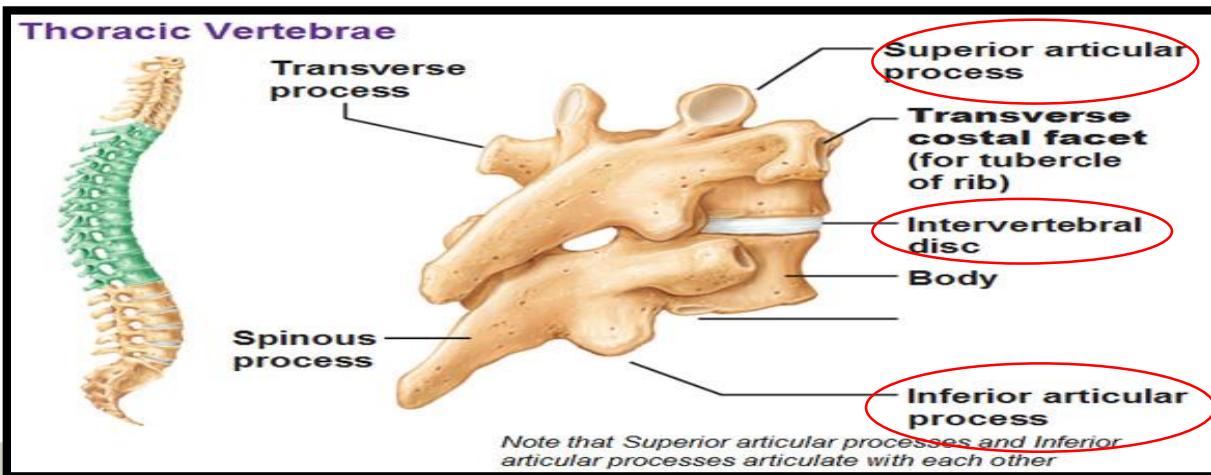
- Thickness of the intervertebral discs
- Shape and direction of the articular processes.



In the thoracic region, the ribs, the costal cartilages, and the sternum **severely restrict the range of movement.**

**Flexion & Extension**  $\longrightarrow$   
 Extensive in the lumbar regions Restricted in the thoracic regions

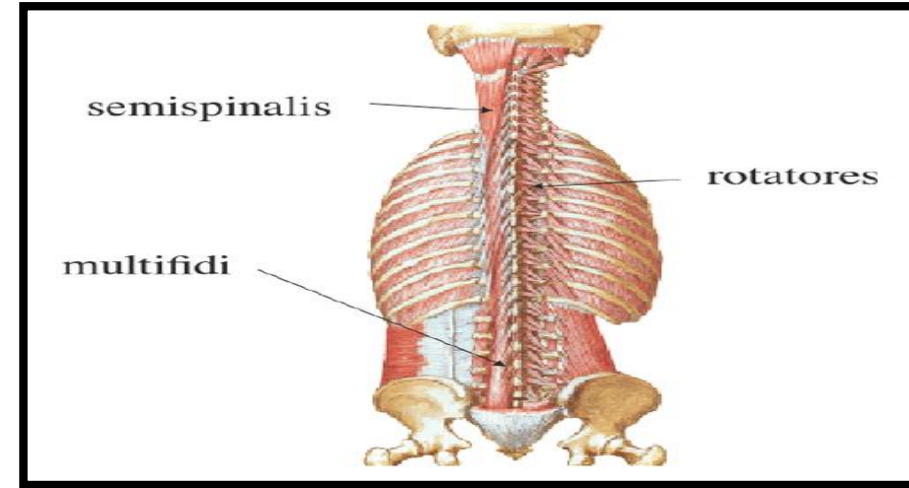
**Rotation**  $\longrightarrow$   
 Extensive in the thoracic regions Less extensive in the lumbar regions



# MUSCLES PRODUCING MOVEMENTS

## Thoracic Region

Rotation produced by **semispinalis and rotator muscles**, assisted by the oblique muscles of the anterolateral abdominal wall.



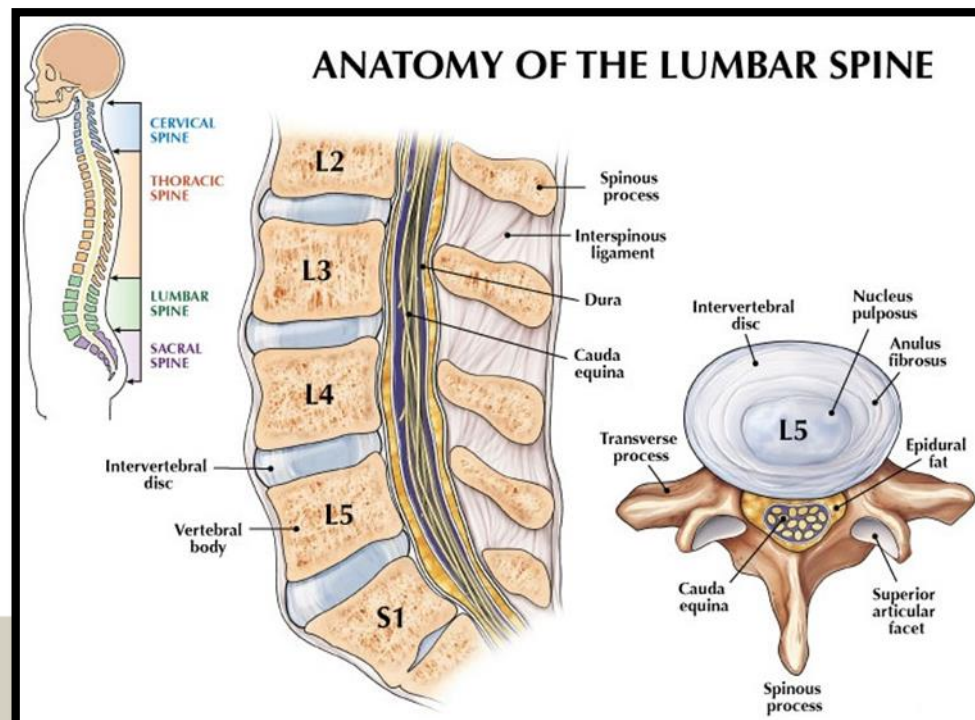
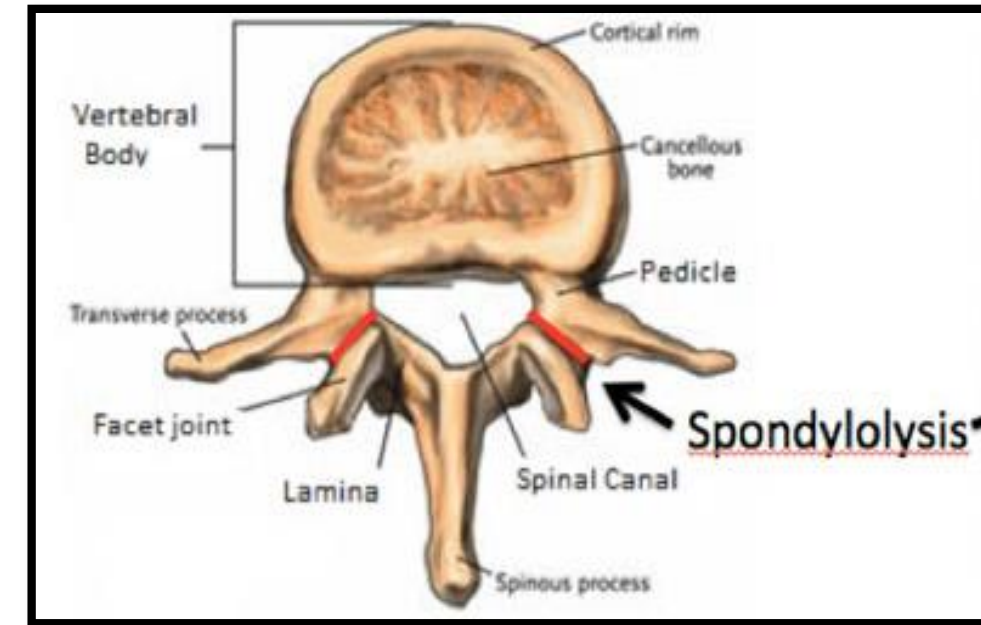
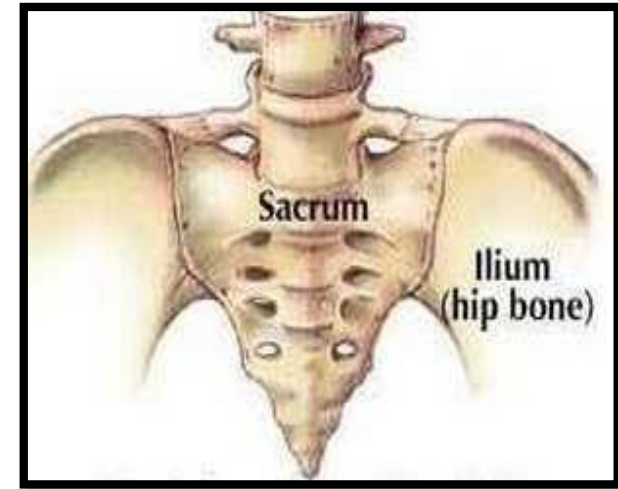
## Lumbar Region

<b>Flexion</b>	produced by <u>the rectus abdominis</u> and the <u>psoas muscles</u> .
<b>Extension</b>	produced by <u>the postvertebral muscles</u> .
<b>Lateral flexion</b>	produced by <u>the postvertebral muscles</u> , <u>the quadratus lumborum</u> , and <u>the oblique muscles of the anterolateral abdominal wall</u> . The psoas may also play a part in this movement.
<b>Rotation</b>	produced by <u>the rotator muscles</u> and <u>the oblique muscles of the anterolateral abdominal wall</u> .



# Vertebra L5

- The **largest** movable vertebra.
- It has **massive body** and thick **transverse processes**.
- It carries the weight of the whole upper body.
- **The L5 body** is largely responsible for the **lumbosacral angle** between the long axis of the lumbar region of the vertebral column and that of the sacrum.
- **Body weight is transmitted from L5 vertebra to** the base of the **sacrum**, formed by the superior surface of S1 vertebra



# Vertebra L5

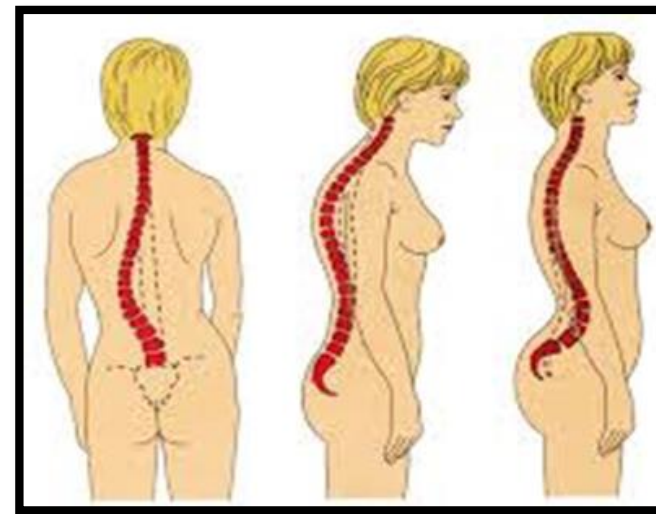
The fifth lumbar vertebra is by far the most **common site** of **spondylolysis** (defect in the pars interarticularis of the vertebral arch) and **Spondylolisthesis** (the forward displacement of a vertebra).

## Normal Curvatures in Spine

- Primary (Thoracic & Pelvic) .
- Secondary (Cervical & Lumbar) .

## Abnormal Curvatures of spine :

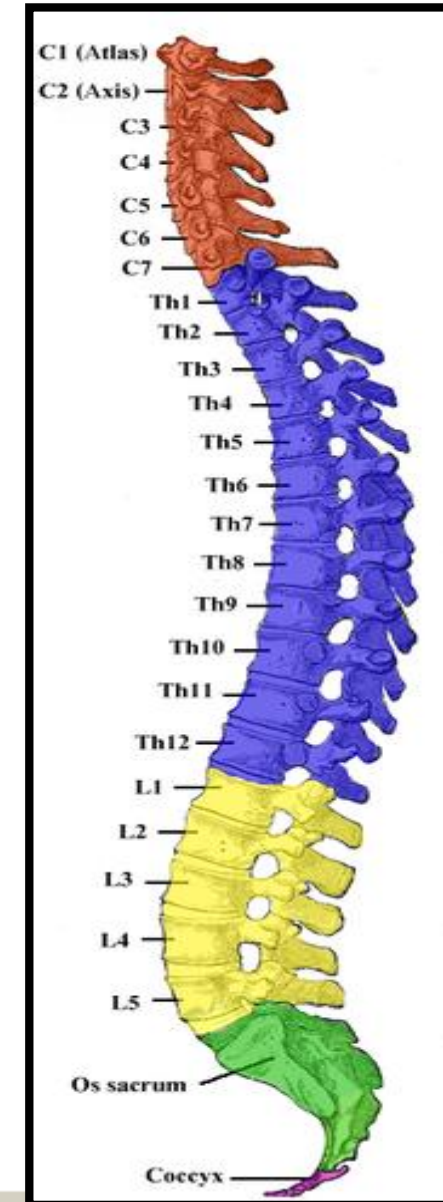
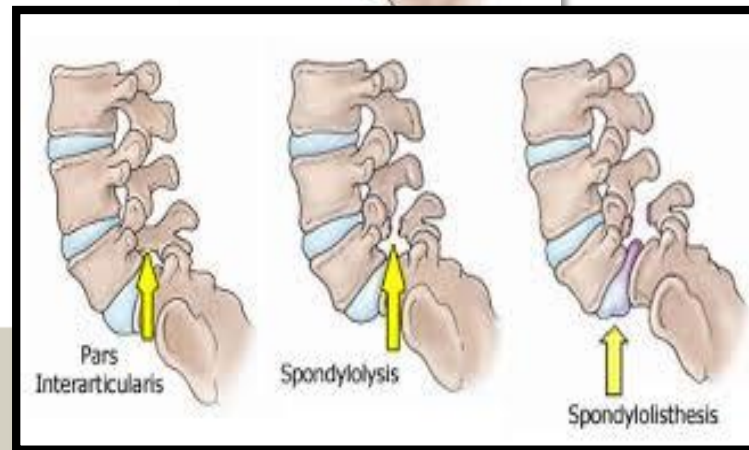
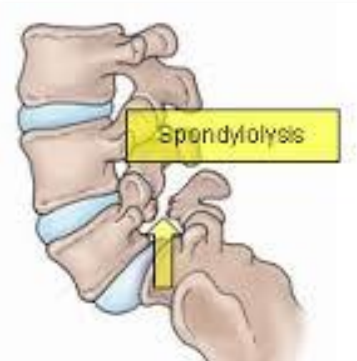
- Exaggerated Thoracic curvatures (**Kyphosis**)
- Exaggerated lumbar curvature (**Lordosis**)
- Lateral curvature of spine. (**Scoliosis**)



Scoliosis

Kyphosis

Lordosis

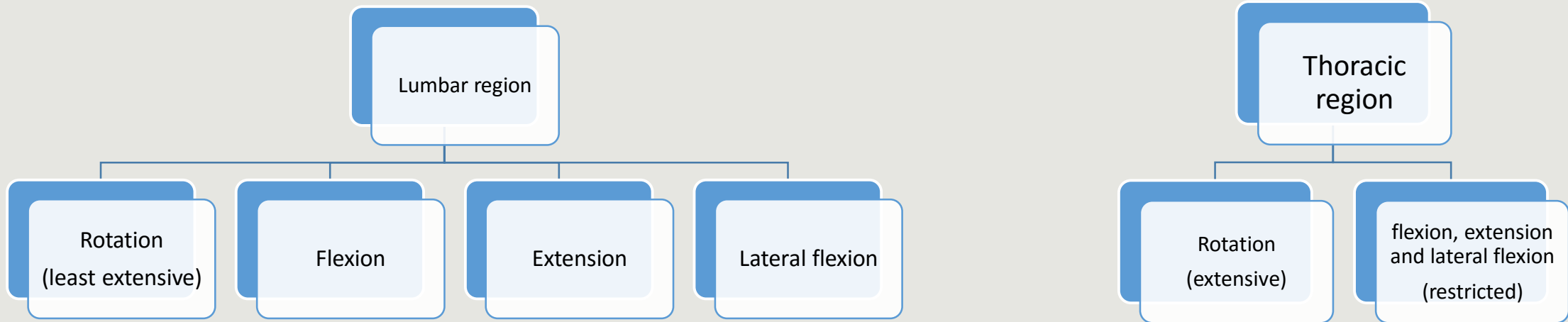


## 😊 SUMMARY

- There are 12 thoracic vertebrae that articulate with the rib cage .
- There are 5 lumbar vertebrae that are strong and highly flexible.
- Superior articular processes facets face backward and laterally, where as the Inferior articular processes face forward and medially.
- Cartilaginous joint between the bodies of the vertebrae and synovial joints between the vertebral arches .
- Only movement in the thoracic region is rotation, where as the lumber region has a variety of movements .



# Type and range of movements



## Don't forget

- No discs between the first & second cervical vertebrae and in the sacrum or coccyx.
- Rupture of the Annulus fibrosus may cause the nucleus pulposus to herniate pressing on the surrounding nerves.
- Normal curvatures in thoracic and lumbar spine .



**Video: The spinal ligaments**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ4193o5Q7Q>

**Video: Spine Anatomy 3D animation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=178XnTK5uHk>



**Application: Essential anatomy 5  
you can have it for free, ask**

[https://twitter.com/Med\\_435](https://twitter.com/Med_435)



**Quiz:**

<https://www.onlineexambuilder.com/thoracolumbar-spine/exam-48810>

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