## VERTEBRAL COLUMN



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### STRUCTURE

#### VERTEBRAE

- 7 cervical
- 12 thoracic
- 5 lumbar
- 5 sacral
- 3±1 coccygeal
- INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS
- each disc is formed of 2 parts
- Annulus fibrosus
- a fibrous ring in the periphery of the disc
- Nucleus pulposus
- a gelatinous material
- in the center of the disc to absorb shocks

annulus fibrosis

nucleus pulposus



# PARTS OF VERTEBRA

- A-Body:
- B- 2 vertebral (neural)arches: each arch is formed of
- Pedicle:
- Lamina:
- N.B.:- Vertebral foramen (or canal): <sup>sup. artic. process</sup> lies between the 2 vertebral arches & the body lamina C- 7 processes: <sup>spine</sup>
- Spine: directed posteriorly
- 2 transverse processes: directed laterally
- 2 Superior articular processes: articulate with the inferior articular process of the vertebra above
- 2 Inferior articular processes:
- articulate with the superior articular process of the vertebra below



# JOINTS OF VERTEBRA

Intervertebral disc

type & variety:- Secondary cartilaginous between:- the 2 vertebral bodies Facet joint

type & variety:- plane synovial between:- The superior and inferior articular processes of two adjacent vertebrae



## LIGAMENTS OF VERTEBRA

- Anterior longitudinal ligament
- ( )the anterior surfaces of the vertebrae & IVD
- Posterior longitudinal ligament
- () the posterior surfaces of the vertebrae &IVD
- Ligamentum flavum
- () the laminae of the vertebrae
- Intertransverse ligaments
- () the transverse processes of the vertebrae
- Interspinous ligaments
- () the spines the vertebrae
- Supraspinous ligaments:
- () the tips of vertebral spines



HOW TO IDENTIFY THE VERTEBRA

- If it has a foramen in the transverse process :
  - it is a cervical vertebra
- If no foramen in the transverse process with a facet on the side of the body of the vertebra :
- it is thoracic vertebra
- If no foramen in the transverse process and the body has no facet : it is lumbar vertebra.



### CERVICAL VERTEBRAE NO. 7



7 its spine is not bifid



C7 cervical vertebra



Atlas (C1): inferior view

### CERVICAL VERTEBRAE C1 ATLAS

- The medial side of each lateral mass presents a tubercle for attachment of the transverse ligament of the atlas.
- The anterior arch carries an anterior tubercle.
- Posterior arch shows a posterior tubercle







Axis (C2): posterosuperior view





## ATLANTO OCCIPITAL JOINT

- Type: synovial.
- Variety: condylar.
- **Articular surfaces:**
- Above:
- occipital condyles of the skull Atlanto-occipital joint Below:
- the kidney shaped
- articular facet of C1(atlas)
- **Movements: (head nodding = saying yes)**
- 1- Flexion.
- By longus capitis & rectus capitis anterior
- 2- Extension
- By semispinalis capitis, rectus capitis posterior major & minor, sup. oblique



#### **ATLANTO OCCIPITAL JOINT** Ligaments:

- 1- Anterior Atlanto-occipital membrane.
- From: upper border of anterior arch of atlas
- To : anterior margin of foramen magnum
- 2- Posterior Atlanto-occipital membrane.
- From: upper border of posterior arch of atlas
- To : posterior margin of foramen magnum



Ant. atlanto occipital memb.

Post. atlanto occipital memb.



### **ATLANTO AXIAL JOINTS**



## ATLANTO AXIAL JOINTS

- 3 joints (1 median & 2 lateral Atlanto axial) **Type:** synovial
- Variety: the median is pivot
  - while the 2 lateral are plane
- **Articular surfaces:**
- The median Atlanto axial:
- Between the odontoid process of axis
- & anterior arch of atlas and transverse ligament of atlas
- The lateral Atlanto axial joints:
- Between the articular facets of atlas & axis **Movements:** - (head rotation = saying no)
- By rectus capitis post major, inferior oblique, splenius capitis of one side & Sternomastoid of the opposite side





#### **ATLANTO AXIAL JOINTS** Ligaments:

- 1- Apical ligament.
- From: tip of odontoid process of C2
- To : anterior margin of foramen magnum.
- 2- Alar ligament.
- From: sides of odontoid process of C2
- To : medial sides of occipital condyle.
- 3-Cruciate ligament:
- Transverse ligament between two tubercles on the atlas.
- Vertical ligament, upper band, from transverse ligament to the basilar part of occipital bone, lower band from transverse ligament to the body of the axis



### **ATLANTO AXIAL JOINTS**

#### Ligaments:

- 4- Memberana tectoria
- the continuation of post. Long. ligament
- From: back of body of C2
- To : clivus in front of foramen magnum



