

# postura

Promoting a greater understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the human spine.

**The**  
**Autonomic**  
**Nervous**  
**System**

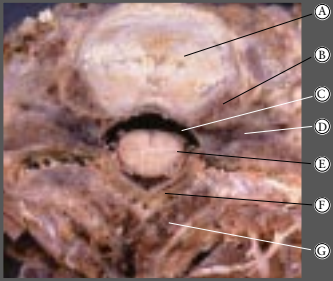
**12 Slides of anatomical  
specimens and MRIs**

Photographs and text by  
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Photo editing and slide design by  
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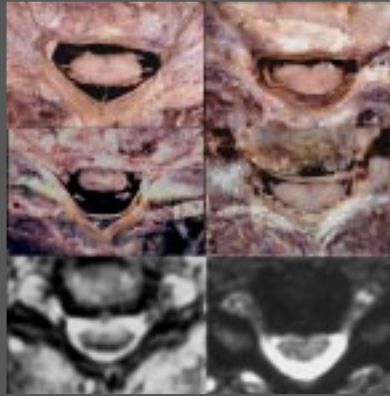
ANS-01

Cross section of normal vertebral column

Note the spinal cord has a nearly round appearance or 1:1 ratio between the sagittal and coronal diameters. Also it is in the posterior aspect of the spinal canal indicating a relaxed lower central nervous system in the supine position, which is normal.

- A. Disc
- B. Uncinate process
- C. Spinal canal
- D. Dorsal root ganglion
- E. Lateral columns of spinal cord
- F. Ligamentum flavum
- G. Lamina

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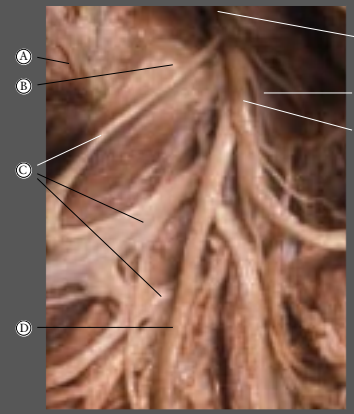


ANS-02

A series of vertebral column cross sections of 6 individuals.

The top 4 are cadavers and the bottom 2 are patients' MRIs. All are in the supine position. Note the lack of 1:1 ratio of the sagittal and coronal diameters; the oval appearance is due to an increase in length of the spinal canal and therefore the spinal cord. Both of the patients would lie down to get relief, which is the position the MRI was taken.

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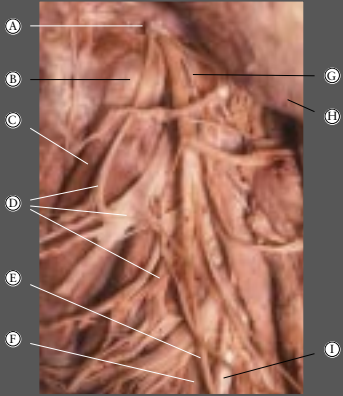


ANS-03

Relationships in the lateral view of the upper cervical area.

- A. Mastoid process
- B. Tip of transverse process of C1
- C. Cervical nerve roots 1, 2 and 3
- D. Cranial nerve X, the vagus nerve
- E. Jugular foramen
- F. Superior sympathetic ganglion
- G. Cranial nerve IX, the glossopharyngeal nerve

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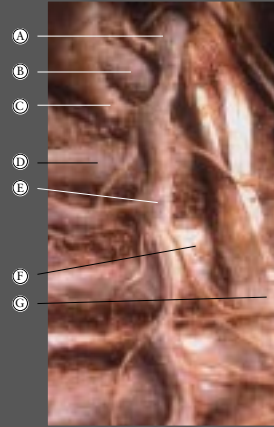


ANS-04

Lateral view of cervical spine.

- A. Jugular foramen
- B. Tip of C1 transverse process
- C. Levator scapulae
- D. Cervical nerve roots 1, 2 and 3
- E. Vagus nerve
- F. Medial scalenes
- G. Superior sympathetic ganglion
- H. Mandible
- I. Brachial plexus

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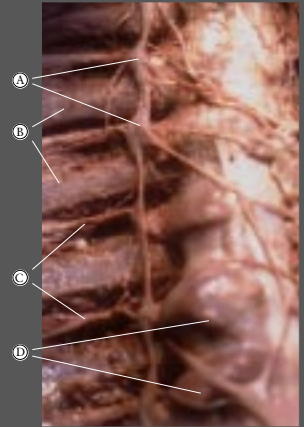


ANS-05

Anterior view of the upper thoracic spine.

- A. Inferior sympathetic ganglion
- B. First rib
- C. First thoracic nerve root
- D. Second rib
- E. Sympathetic chain ganglion
- F. Costovertebral joint ligaments
- G. Anterior longitudinal ligament of the vertebral column

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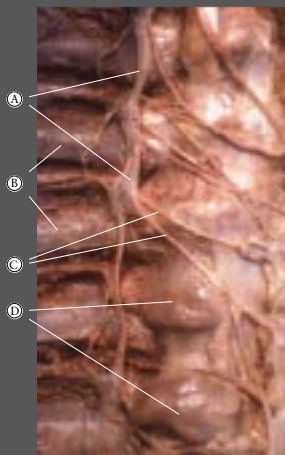


ANS-06

Anterior view of the mid-thoracic spine.

- A. Sympathetic chain ganglion
- B. Ribs
- C. Intercostal nerves
- D. Anterolateral osteophytes of the vertebral column

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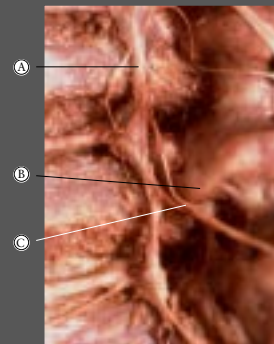


ANS-07

Sympathetic chain ganglion and the vertebral column.

- A. Sympathetic chain ganglion
- B. Ribs
- C. Rami of sympathetic ganglion
- D. Osteophytes of the vertebral column

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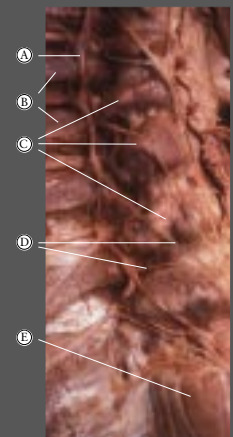


ANS-08

Anterior osteophytes and nerve distress.

- A. Sympathetic chain ganglion
- B. Anterolateral osteophytes of the vertebral column
- C. Sympathetic nerve

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ANS-09

Lower thoracic spine and the sympathetic chain ganglion.

- A. Sympathetic chain ganglion
- B. Ribs
- C. Some of the anterolateral and anterior osteophytes of the vertebral column
- D. Rami of sympathetic nerves
- E. Psoas, superior portion

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ANS10

Lumbar spine degeneration and the sympathetic components

- A. Base of diaphragm
- B. Psoas
- C. Lumbar splanchnic ganglion
- D. Osteophytes of L2-3, L3-4 and L4-5
- E. Lumbar sympathetic nerve
- F. Sacrum

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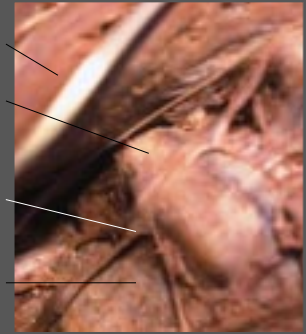


ANS-11

Anterior view of lumbar degeneration

- A. L3-4 osteophyte
- B. Lumbar ganglion
- C. Psoas
- D. L4-5 disc bulge
- E. Lumbar sympathetic nerve
- F. L5-S1 disc bulge
- G. Sacrum

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ANS-12

Close up of anterior view of the lumbar spine and sympathetic nerve.

- A. Psoas
- B. L5-S1 anterior disc bulge
- C. Sympathetic splanchnic nerve
- D. Sacrum

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