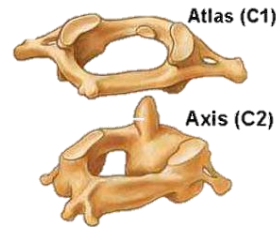


VERTEBRAL COLUMN

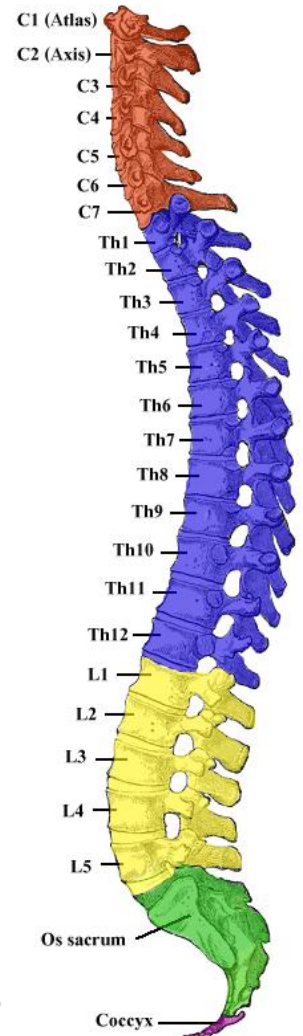
The vertebral column, also known as the spinal column, is the central axis of the skeleton in all vertebrates. The vertebral column provides attachments to muscles, supports the trunk, protects the spinal cord and nerve roots and serves as a site for haemopoiesis (production of blood).

In a human vertebral column, there are normally 33 vertebrae:

- **Cervical spine:** 7 vertebrae (C1–C7), C1 called atlas, C2 called axis.
- **Thoracic spine:** 12 vertebrae (T1–T12).
- **Lumbar spine:** 5 vertebrae (L1–L5).
- **Sacrum:** 5 (fused) vertebrae (S1–S5).
- **Coccyx:** 4 (fused) vertebrae.

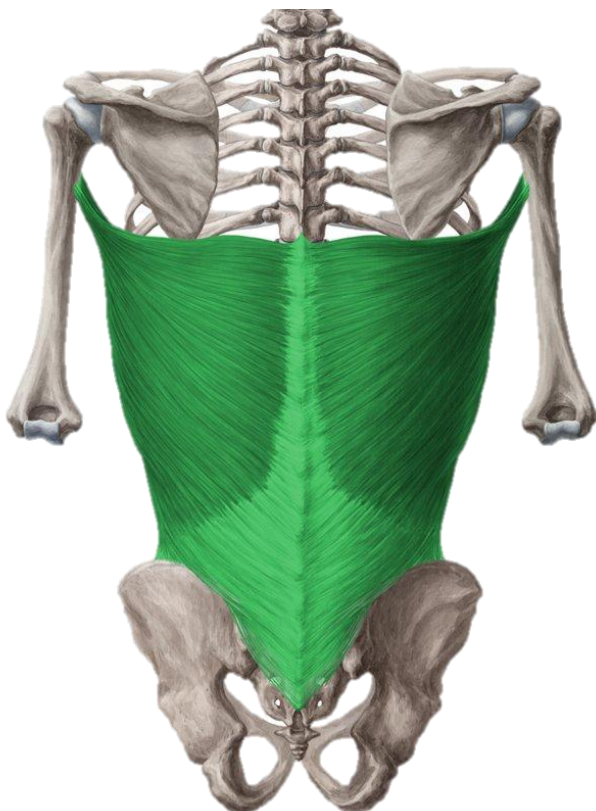


The upper 24 pre-sacral vertebrae are articulating and separated from each other by intervertebral discs, and the lower nine are fused in adults, five in the sacrum and four in the coccyx. The articulating vertebrae are named according to their region of the spine.

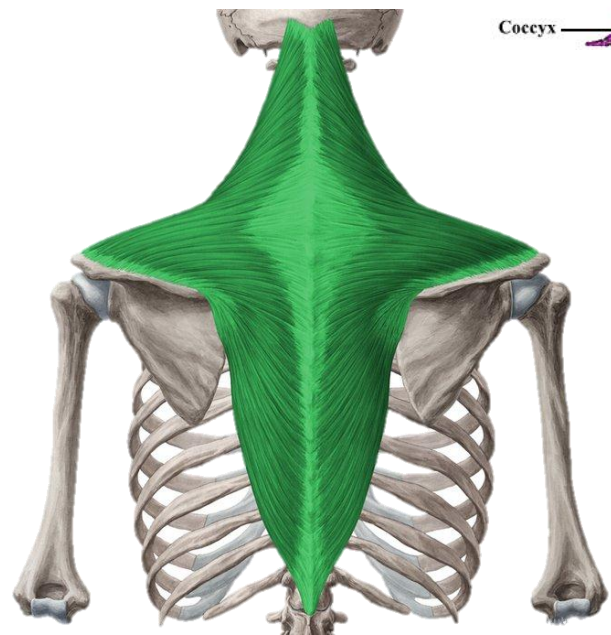


MAJOR MUSCLES OF THE BACK

- Latissimus dorsi muscle.
- Trapezius muscle.



Latissimus dorsi



Trapezius