

UPPER LIMB AND BACK 1

You are supposed to learn about:

1. Repetition: bones, joints, ligaments, superficial and functional anatomy of the vertebral column
2. Vasculature and innervation of the vertebral column
3. Surface anatomy of the back, regions of the back, cutaneous innervation of the back, superficial vasculature of the back, lymphatic drainage of the back (you will find it in anatomical atlases)
4. Fasciae of the back
5. Extrinsic muscles of the back: attachments, topography, innervation, vascularization, actions
6. Intrinsic muscles of the back: attachments, topography, innervation, vascularization, actions
7. Surface anatomy of back muscles
8. Suboccipital and deep neck muscles: attachments, topography, innervation, vascularization, actions; suboccipital triangle and its contents
9. Repetition of the spinal cord, spinal nerves, spinal meninges
10. Contents of the vertebral canal
11. Arteries and veins of the vertebral canal

Always read the relevant clinical blue boxes to have an idea about clinical significance of structures you learn about. Attend the lectures for more clinical anatomy and supplementary anatomical data.

In the dissection room, you are supposed to recognize:

1. Features of vertebrae and vertebral column, ligaments and joints of the vertebral column
2. Extrinsic muscles of the back (superficial: trapezius, latissimus dorsi, levator scapulae, rhomboids; intermediate: serratus posterior superior, serratus posterior inferior)
3. Thoracolumbar fascia
4. Intrinsic muscles of the back (superficial layer: splenius muscles; intermediate layer: erector spinae – iliocostalis, longissimus, spinalis; deep layer: transversospinales muscles, interspinales, intertransversarii, levatores costarum)
5. Suboccipital muscles: rectus capitis posterior major, rectus capitis posterior minor, obliquus capitis inferior, obliquus capitis superior)
6. Suboccipital triangle: boundaries and contents (suboccipital nerve, vertebral artery)
7. Vertebral canal: periosteum, spinal dura mater, epidural space, internal vertebral venous plexus, segmental medullary arteries
8. Spinal arachnoid mater, pia mater, denticulate ligament, filum terminale
9. Spinal cord, conus medullaris, cauda equine
10. Spinal nerves: anterior roots, posterior roots, posterior root ganglia, anterior branch, posterior branch, medullary branch, white and grey rami communicantes.

Look for a specimen with the vertebral canal dissected by laminectomy; investigate all anatomical details possible. Consider the anatomy of the lumbar puncture, spinal anesthesia, epidural anesthesia, sacral anesthesia.

Always investigate the topography of structures and look at variations present in various specimens!