# Relieving Painful Cervical Spine (neck) Problems

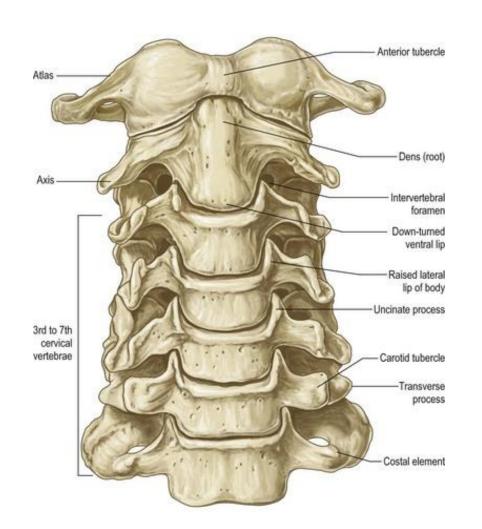
Robert Harper, MD BoulderCentre for Orthopedics & Spine 720-442-0419

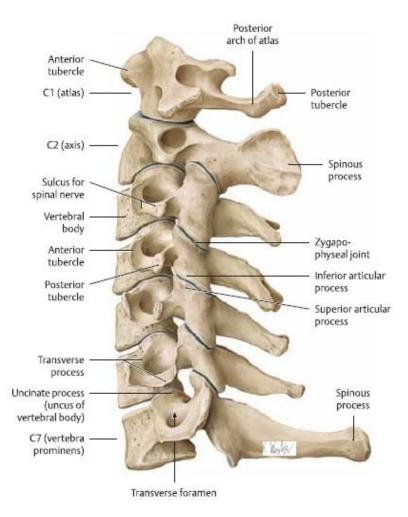




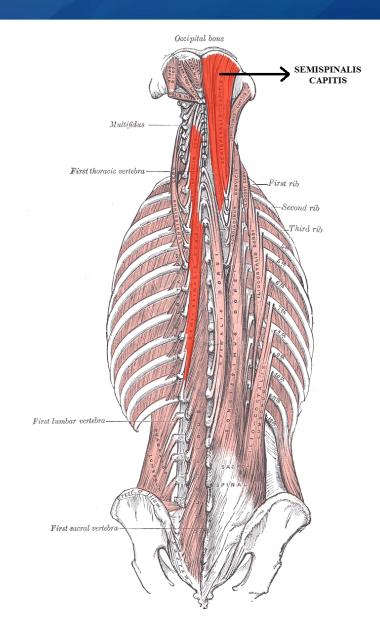


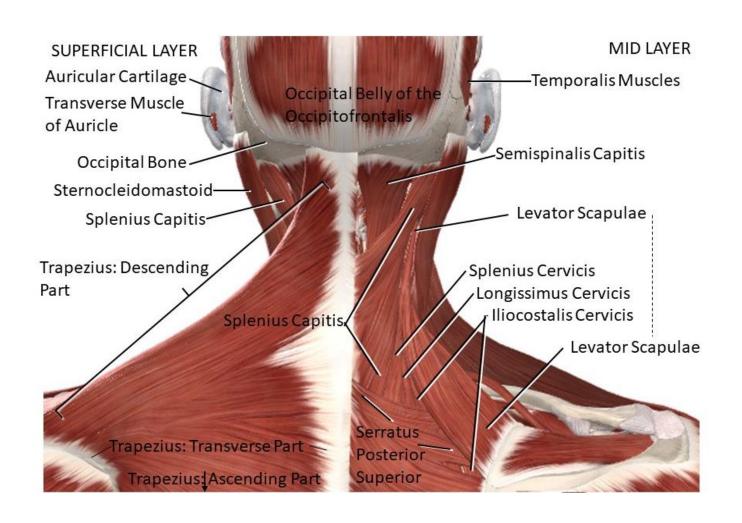




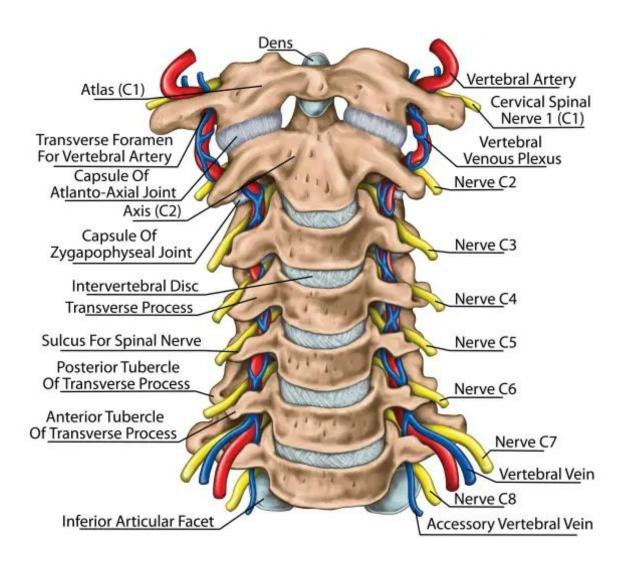


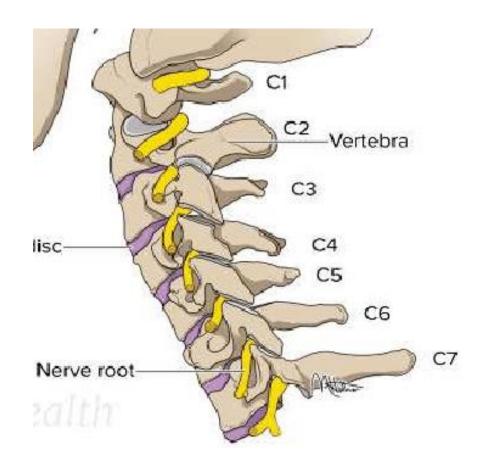






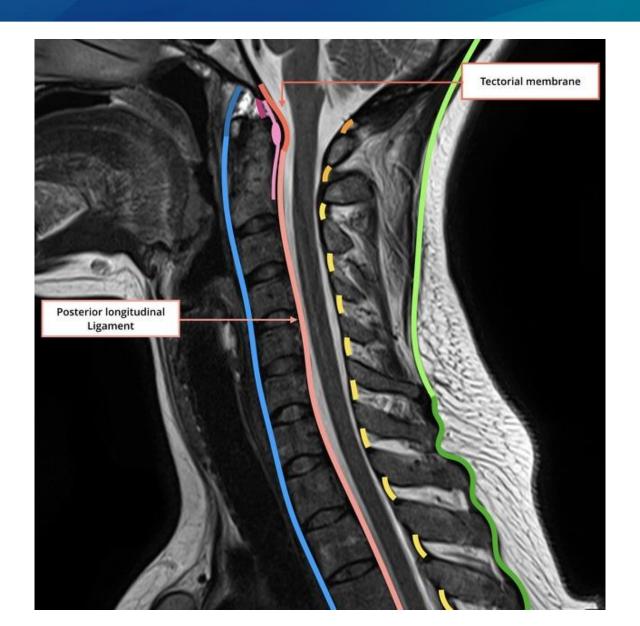














#### Neck Pain



- Very common condition
- Can be related to arthritis, muscle spasm of nerve pinching
- Symptoms:
  - Pain in the back of side of the neck with movement
  - Can be on only one side
  - May also have shoulder pain

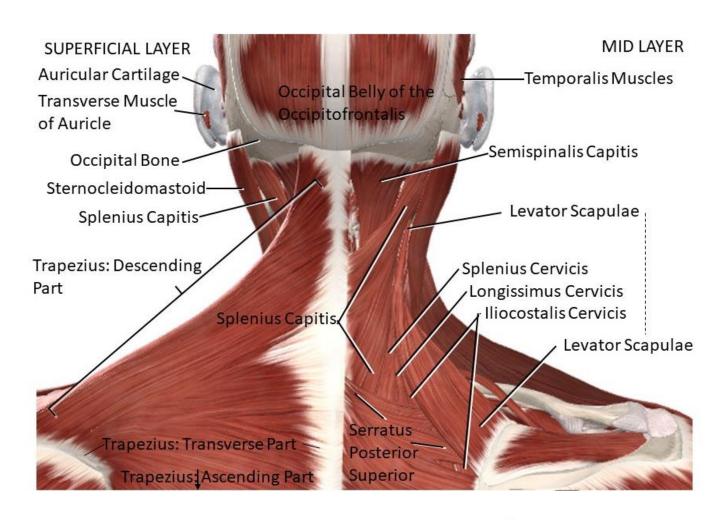




#### Muscle Spasm



- Multiple origins:
  - Trapezius, torticollis, etc.
  - Can be radiculopathy
- Treatments:
  - Dry Needling, botox, PT, massage

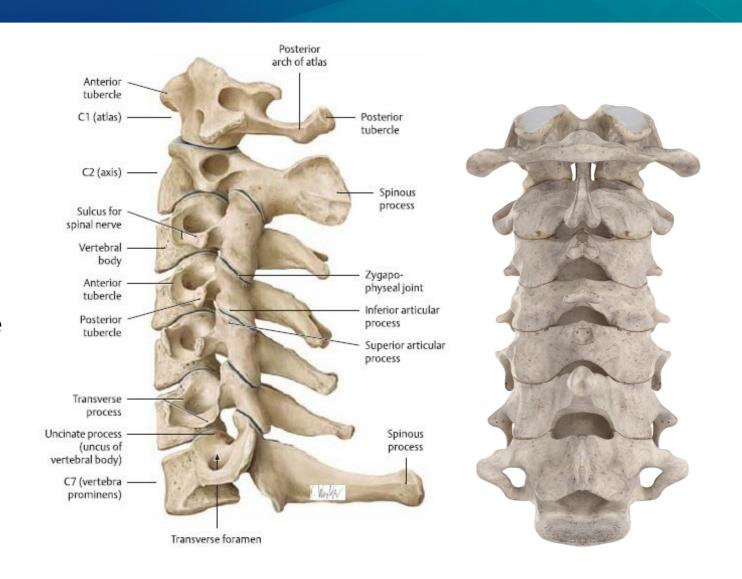




#### Facet Arthritis



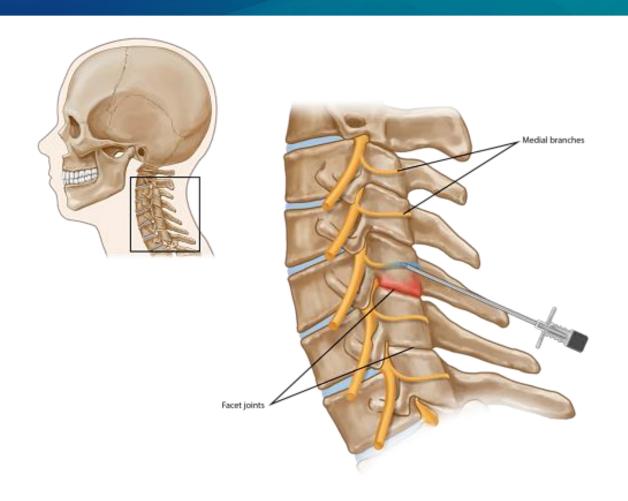
- Degradation of neck joints
- Symptoms:
  - Pain when turning head or with motion
  - Can be on only one side
  - May also have shoulder pain



#### Neck Pain



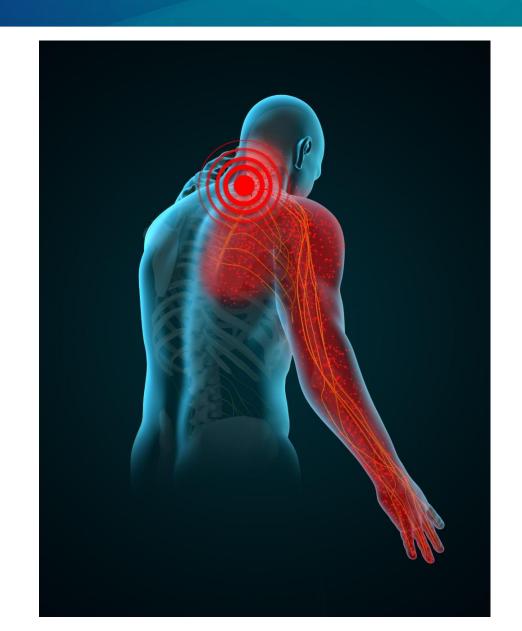
- Treatments:
  - Physical Therapy, massage, dry needling, chiropractic
  - Facet injections, facet blocks





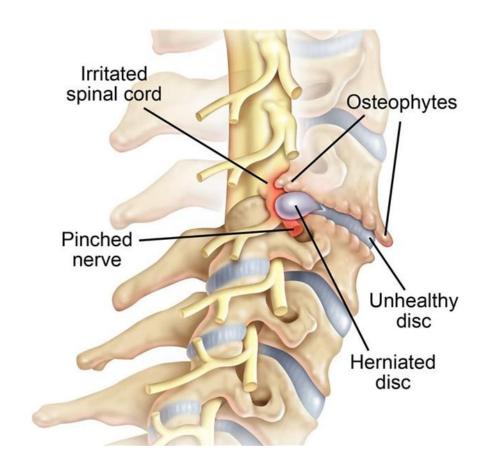


- Compression of a cervical nerve root
- Symptoms:
  - Arm pain, tingling, numbness, weakness
  - Generally travels from the neck to the arm or hand
  - May also feel pain in the shoulder, shoulder blade or upper back





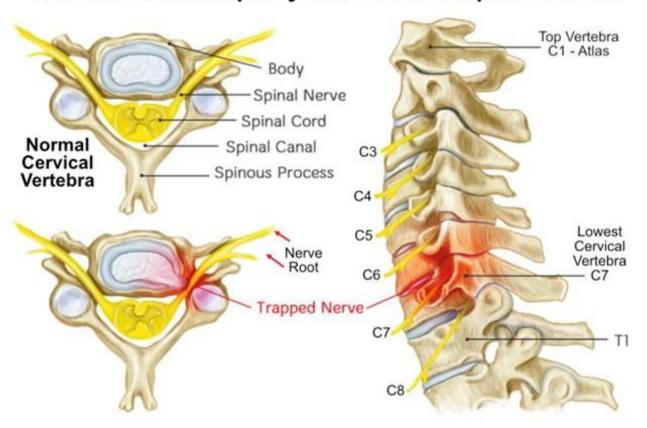
- Compression of a cervical nerve root
- Symptoms:
  - Arm pain, tingling, numbness, weakness
  - Generally travels from the neck to the arm or hand
- Causes:
  - Cervical disc herniation, foraminal stenosis (pinching of the nerve as it exits the spine)

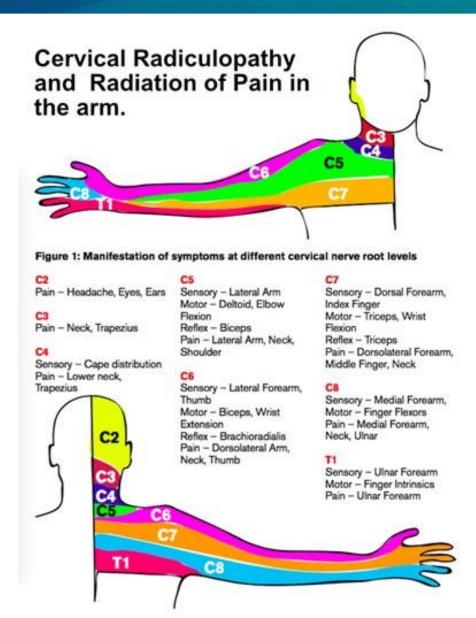






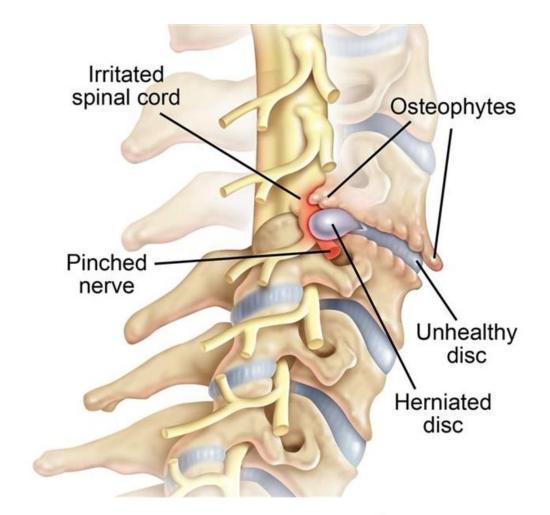
#### **Cervical Radiculopathy and Cervical Spinal Nerves**





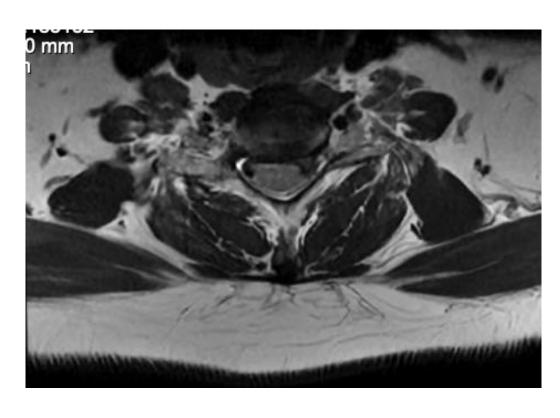


- Treatments:
  - Rest, ice, heat, NSAIDS
  - Epidural steroid injections, gabapentin, oral steroids
  - Surgery















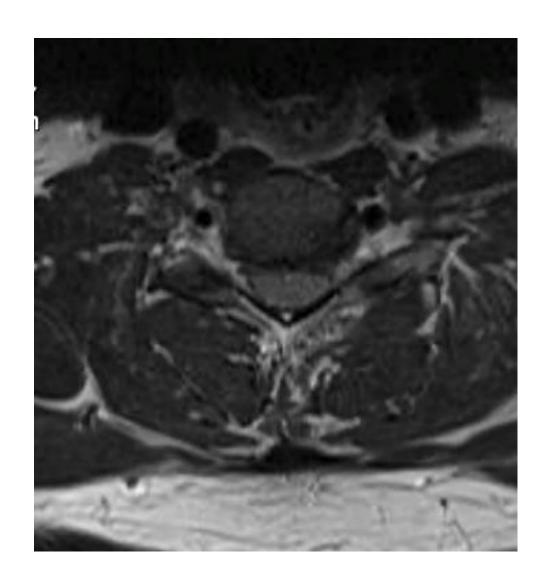


















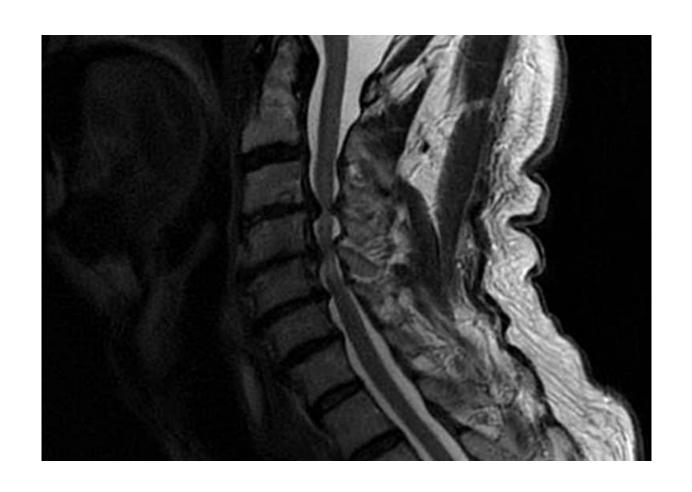








- Severe cervical cord compression often due to degenerative change
- A chronic spinal cord injury
- Generally occurs gradually with a slow deterioration in function







- Difficulty with balance "feel drunk"
- Trouble with hand fine motor tasks
- Upper and lower extremity numbness
- Hyperreflexia
- Weakness of arms and legs





- Mild disease traditionally managed conservatively
- New thinking is to operate early to avoid irreversible decline
- Moderate to severe disease needs surgery
- Surgery is designed to stop progression
- Some patients do improve





- Treatments:
  - ACDF
  - Posterior decompression and fusion
  - Laminoplasty
  - Anterior/Posterior





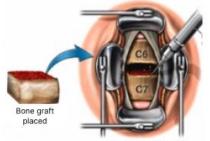
# Anterior Cervical Discectomy with Fusion (ACDF)





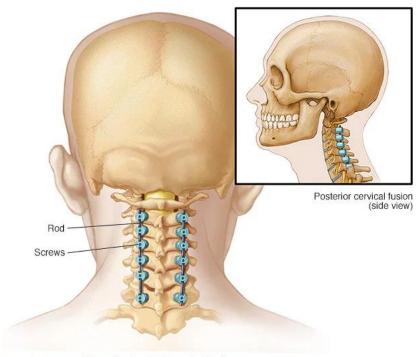
front side of the neck



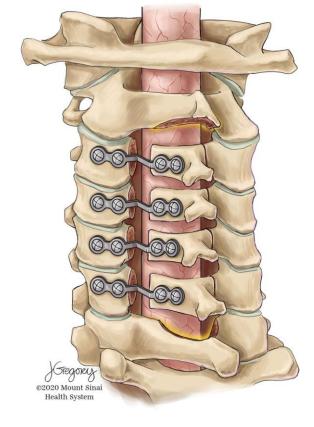


Damaged Disc Removed

Discectomy followed by Fusion



Example of posterior cervical fusion





















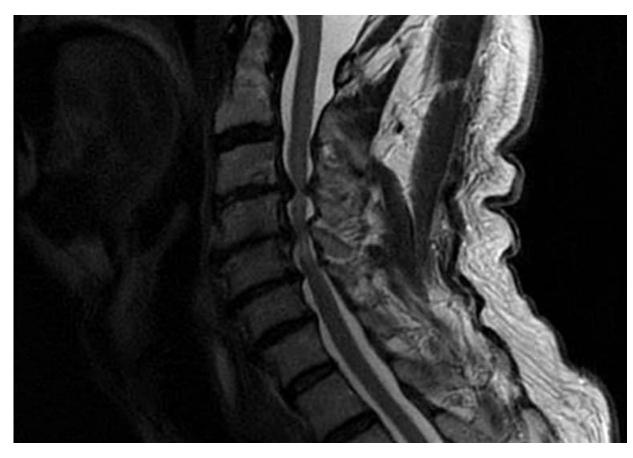














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