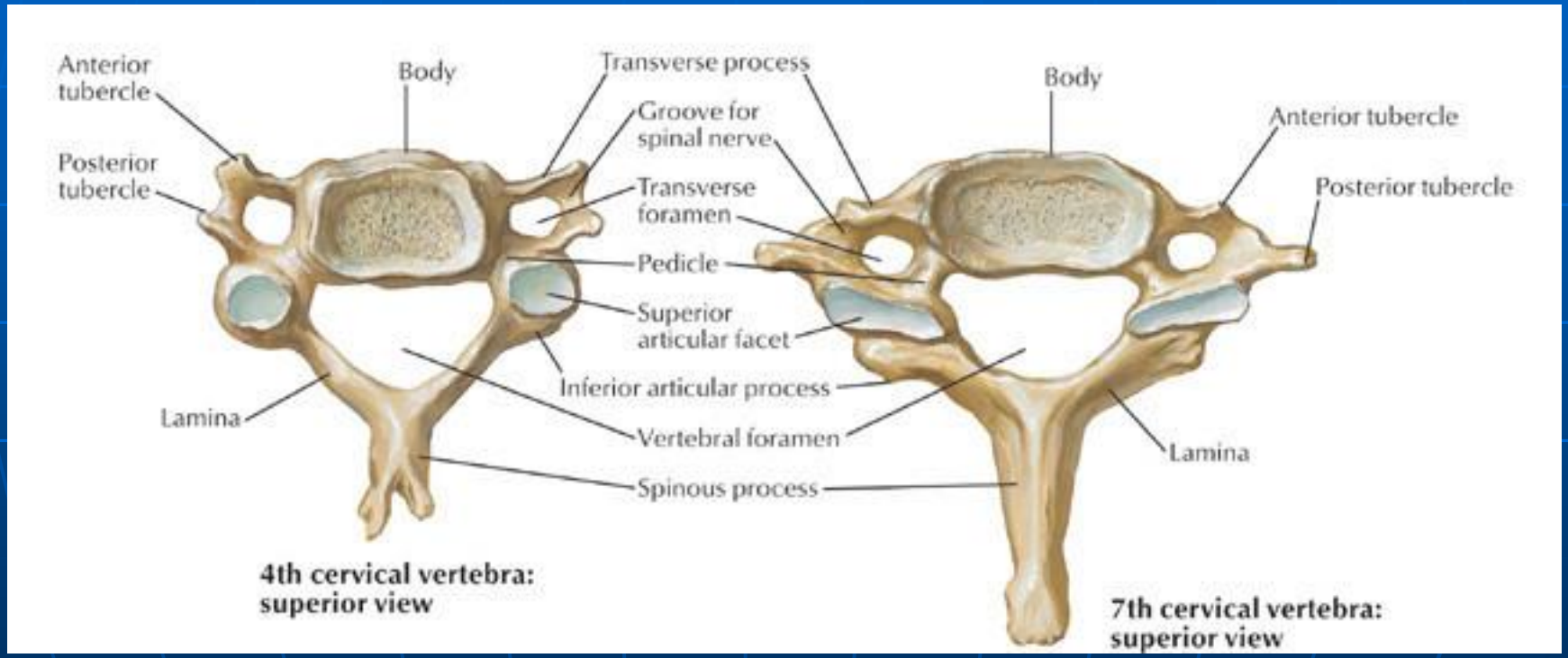
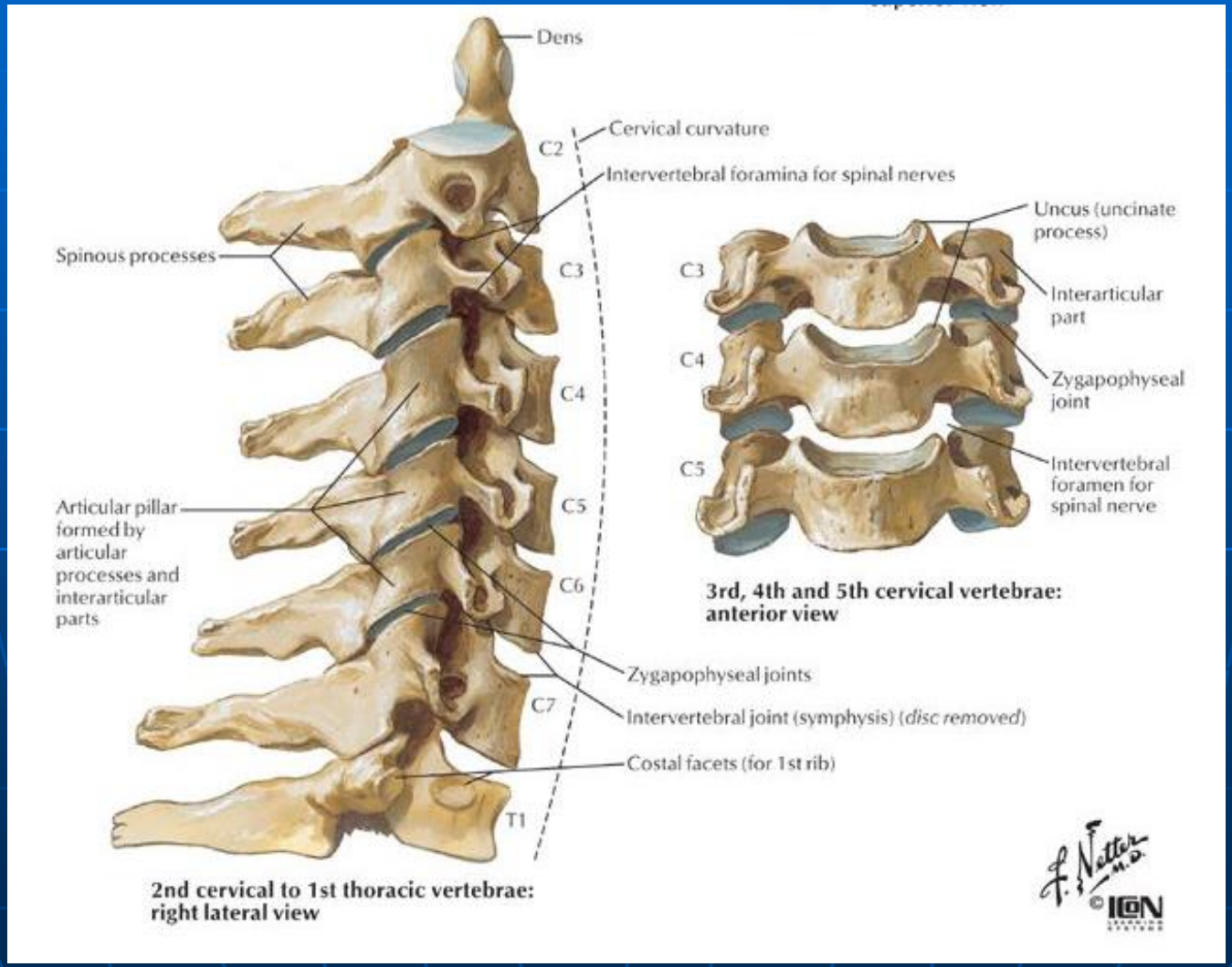
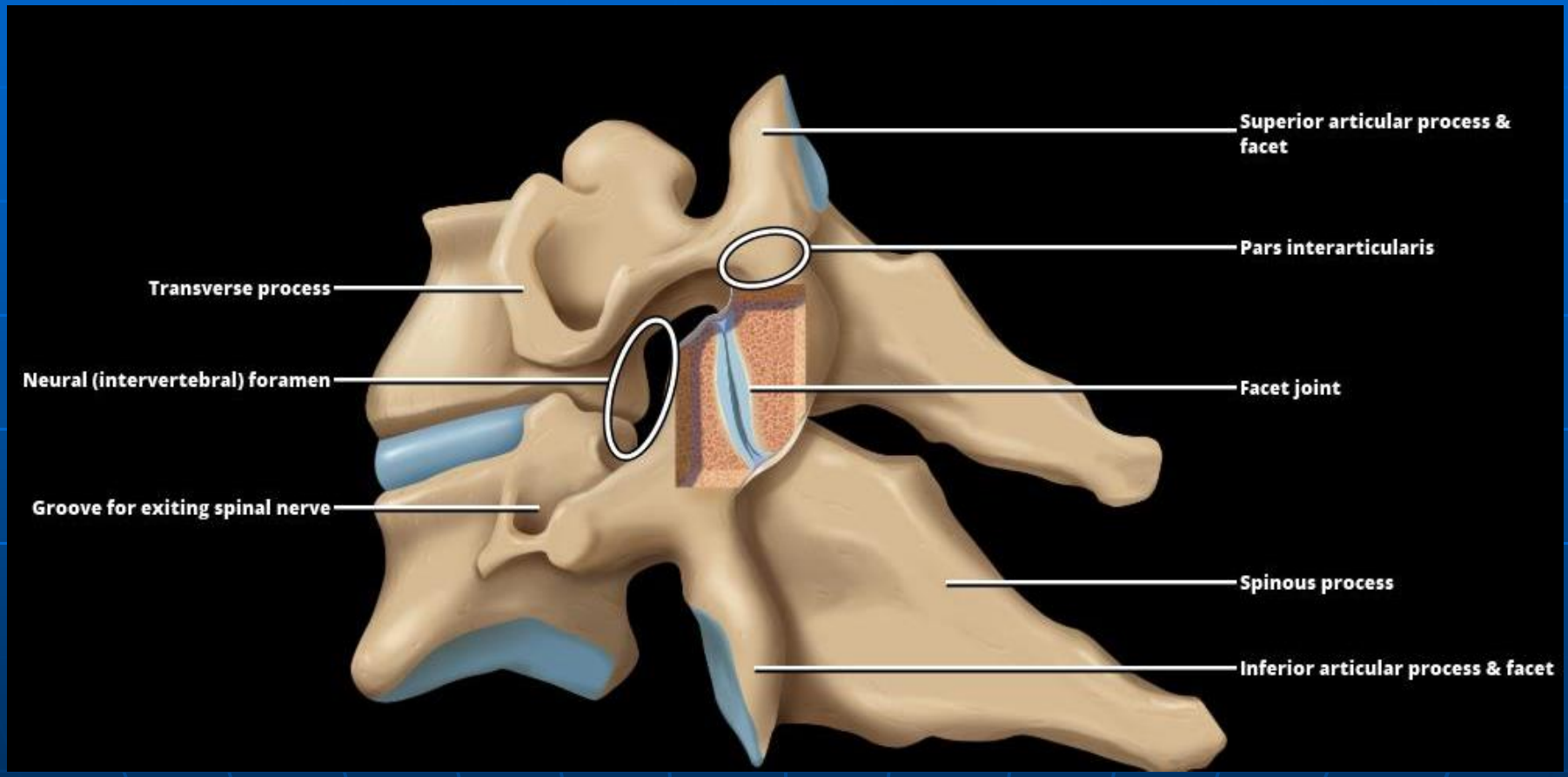
Axial

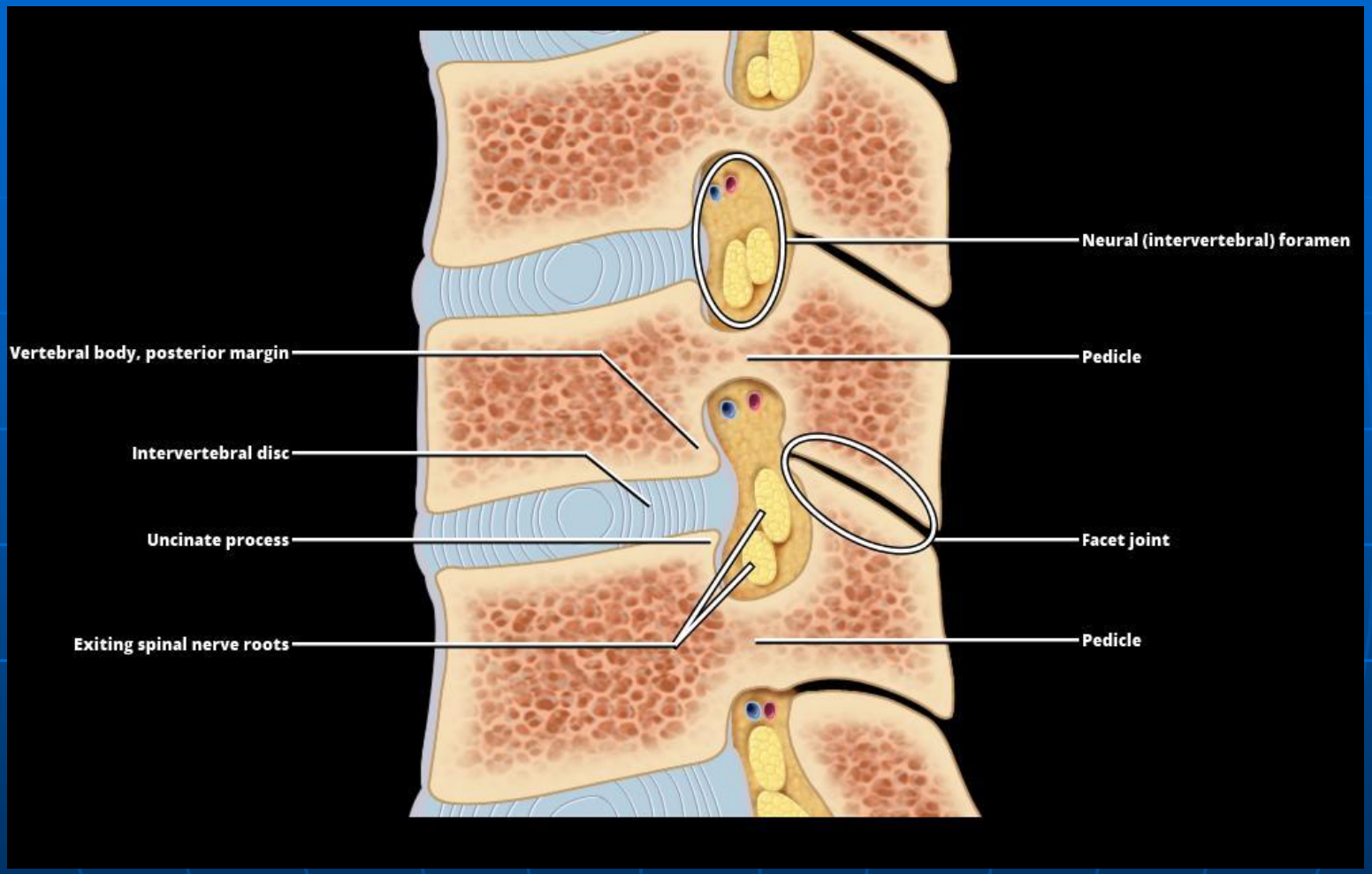

Anterior tubercle
Body
Transverse process
Groove for spinal nerve
Posterior tubercle
Transverse foramen
Pedicle
Superior articular facet
Inferior articular process
Lamina
Vertebral foramen
Spinous process
4th cervical vertebra: superior view
Body
Anterior tubercle
Posterior tubercle
Lamina
7th cervical vertebra: superior view

Coronal & Saggital





Lateral graphic of 2 consecutive typical cervical vertebrae with cutout shows facet (zygapophyseal) joint detail. Note also the prominent groove on superior surface of transverse process for exiting spinal nerves.



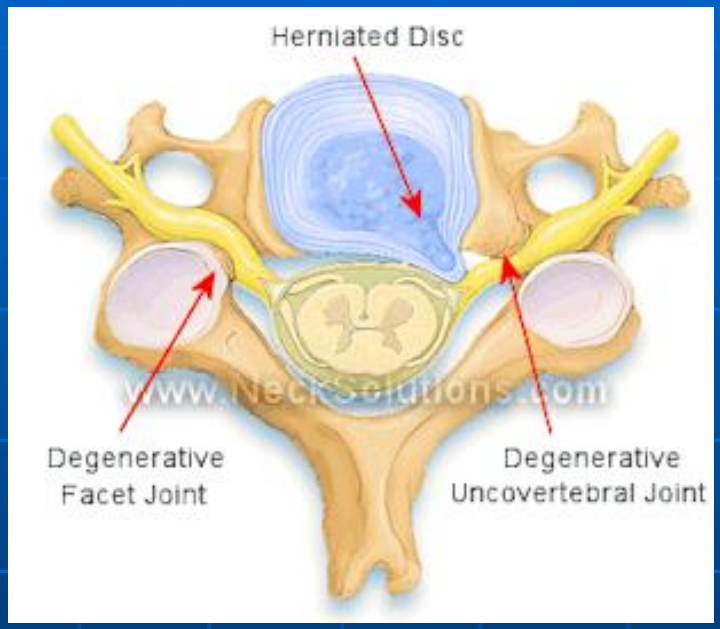
Sagittal graphic through cervical neural foramen shows position of exiting spinal nerves within lower part of neural foramen.

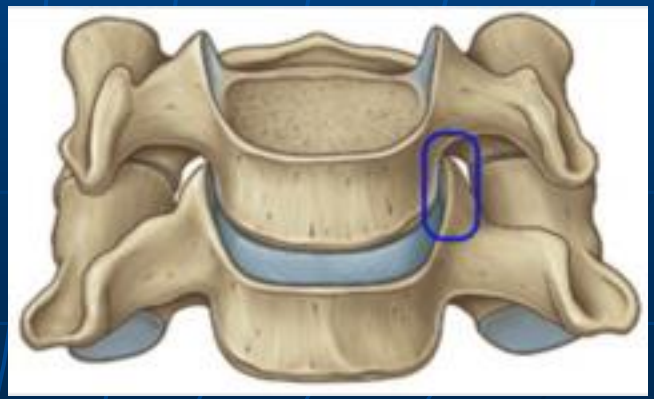
Neural foramina are oriented anterolaterally (compare with thoracic and lumbar regions).

Anterior boundary of neural foramen includes uncinate process, intervertebral disc, and vertebral body from inferior to superior. Pedicles form superior and inferior boundaries. Posterior boundary is the facet joint complex.

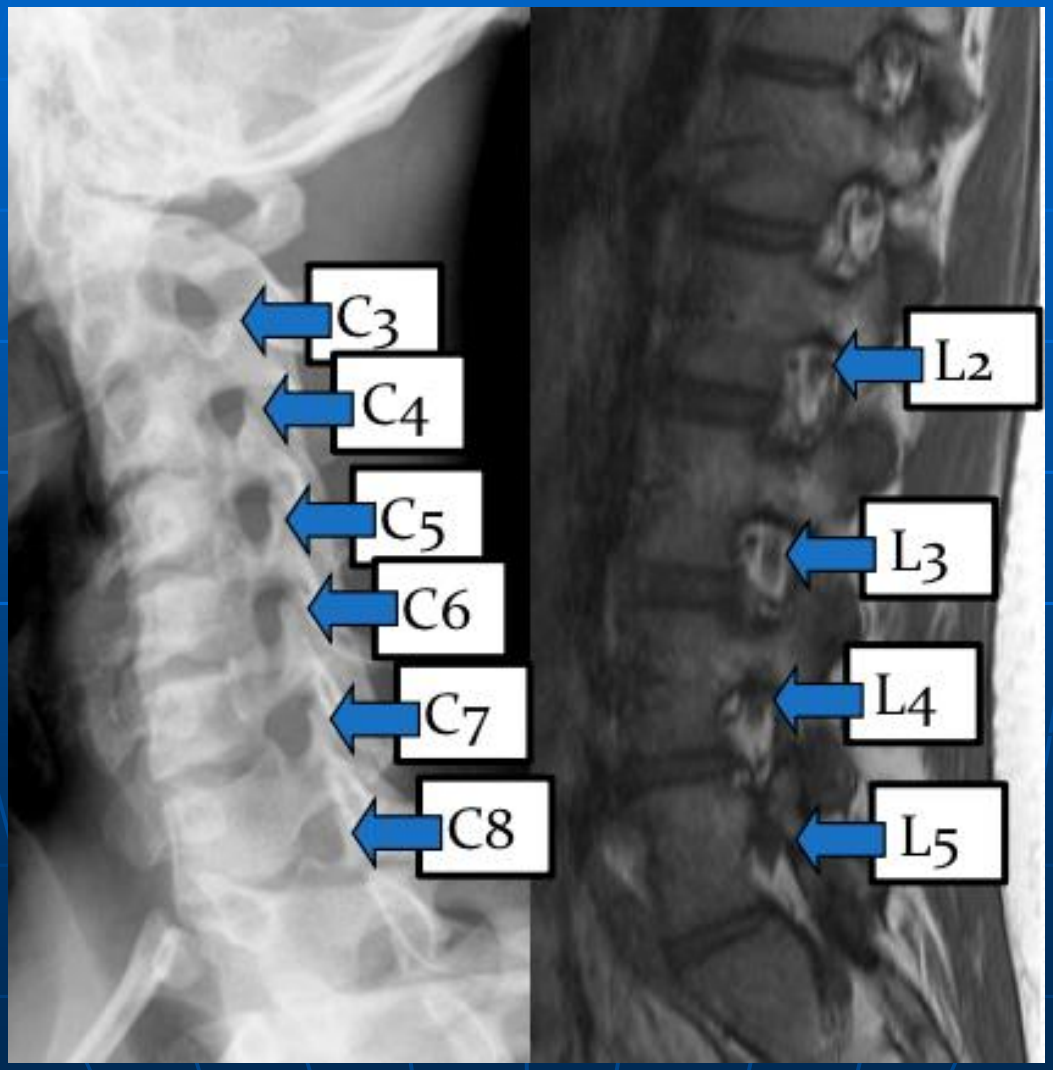
Uncovertebral joints (of Luschka)

- C2-3 thru C6-7 @ posterolateral vertebra/disc
- None at C7-T1
- Barrier to posterolateral disc herniations in C-spine
- Osteophytes often narrow neural foramina





C –Spine Nerve Roots

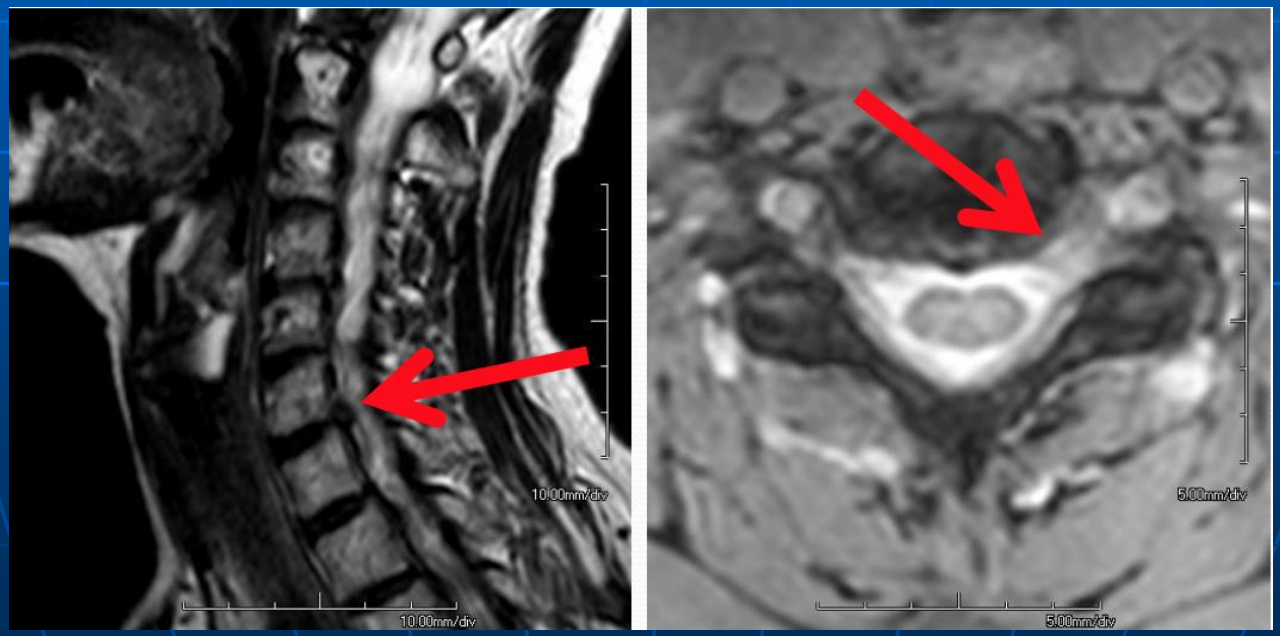


Cervical Spine

Prominent T2 signal in Neural foramen is not CSF, it is normal prominent Venous epidural plexus.

Look out for very small HNPs

- Small HNPs can still be very symptomatic



Osteophytes

- Disk/osteophyte complex" or "hard disc"
- Gradient-echo imaging in cervical spine helps distinguish disc from osteophyte
- Hypointense → osteophyte; Hyperintense → disc