

Introduction to OMM for MDs and DOs

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- NCOPPE & KCOM



ATSU

National Center for Osteopathic
Principles and Practice Education

Diagnosing Cervical Segmental Vertebral Somatic Dysfunction

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Objective

- Demonstrate methods to screen for cervical somatic dysfunction.
- Describe the motion patterns permitted at the occipitoatlantal, atlantoaxial, and typical cervical regions.
- Demonstrate diagnosis of the occipitoatlantal, atlantoaxial, and typical cervical regions.

Recommend Preparation

- Review cervical anatomy
- Review somatic dysfunction diagnosis of the thoracic and lumbar spine

Types of Vertebral Somatic Dysfunction

Somatic Dysfunction –

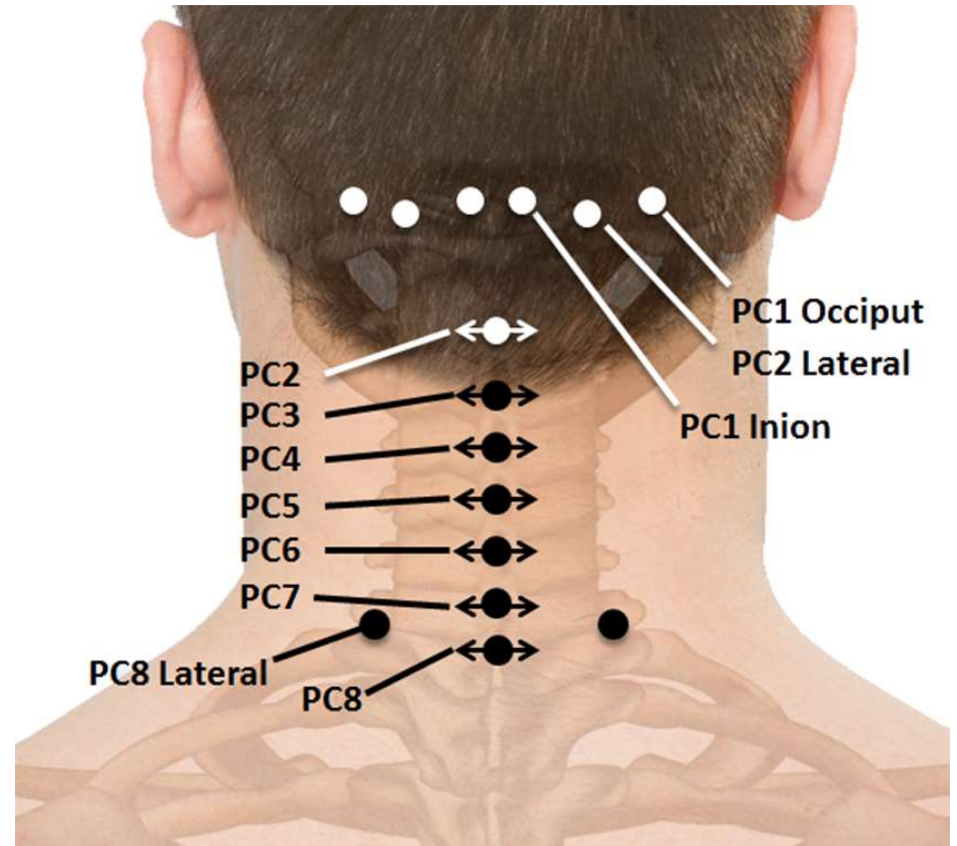
- Impaired or altered function of related components of the somatic (body framework) system: skeletal, arthrodial, and myofascial structures, and related vascular, lymphatic, and neural elements.



Types of Vertebral Somatic Dysfunction

Somatic Dysfunction –

- Tenderness
- Asymmetry
- Restricted range of motion
- Tissue texture abnormalities

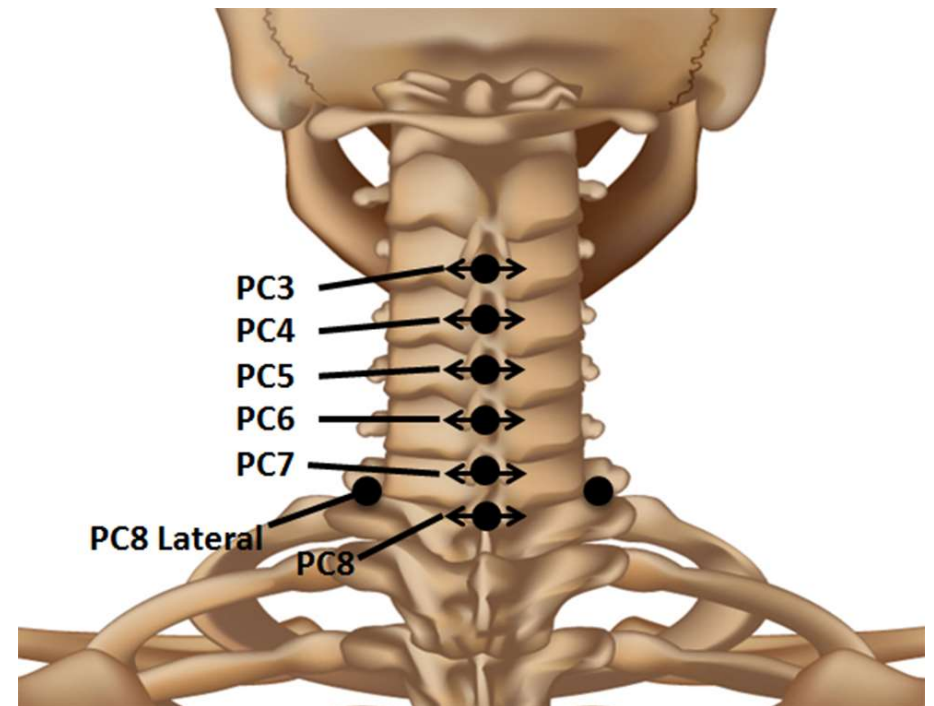


Types of Vertebral Somatic Dysfunction

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Different types of osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) target different types of somatic dysfunction



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Types of Vertebral Somatic Dysfunction

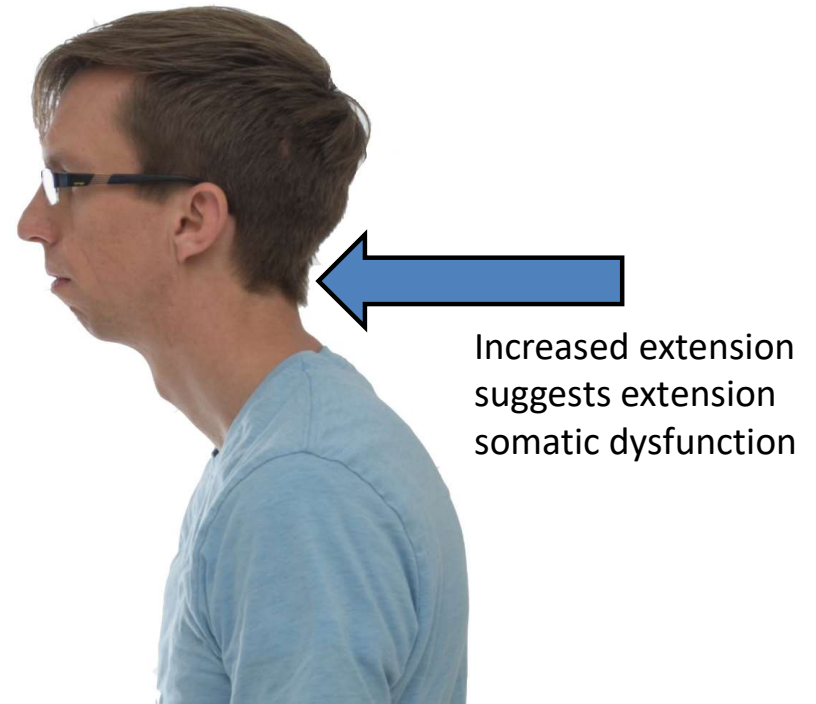
Somatic Dysfunction –

- Tenderness
- **Asymmetry**
- **Restricted range of motion**
- Tissue texture abnormalities
- Primary type of diagnosis used with high velocity/low amplitude and muscle energy OMT techniques



Screening for Cervical Somatic Dysfunction

- Cervical asymmetry (Inspection)
 - Postural imbalance
- Reduced gross cervical range of motion
- Cervical tissue texture abnormalities and tenderness
- Reduced segmental motion



Anterior Head Posture

Cervical Vertebra

Regional Gross Range of Motion

- Flexion – 45°
- Extension – 45°
- Rotation – 80°
- Sidebending – 45°
 - Also known as lateral flexion



Flexion



Extension

Cervical Vertebra

Regional Gross Range of Motion

- Flexion – 45°
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Rotation Right



Rotation Left

Cervical Vertebra

Regional Gross Range of Motion

- Flexion – 45°
- Extension – 45°
- Rotation – 80°
- Sidebending – 45°
 - Also known as lateral flexion



Sidebending Right



Sidebending Left

Cervical Gross Range of Motion

- Assess gross range of motion
 - Sidebending (lateral flexion)
 - Rotation
 - Flexion
 - Extension



Sidebending left



Sidebending right



Flexion



Extension



Rotation left



Rotation Right

Lab Exercise - Cervical Gross Range of Motion

- Assess gross range of motion
 - Sidebending (lateral flexion)
 - Rotation
 - Flexion
 - Extension



Sidebending left



Sidebending right



Flexion



Extension



Rotation left



Rotation Right

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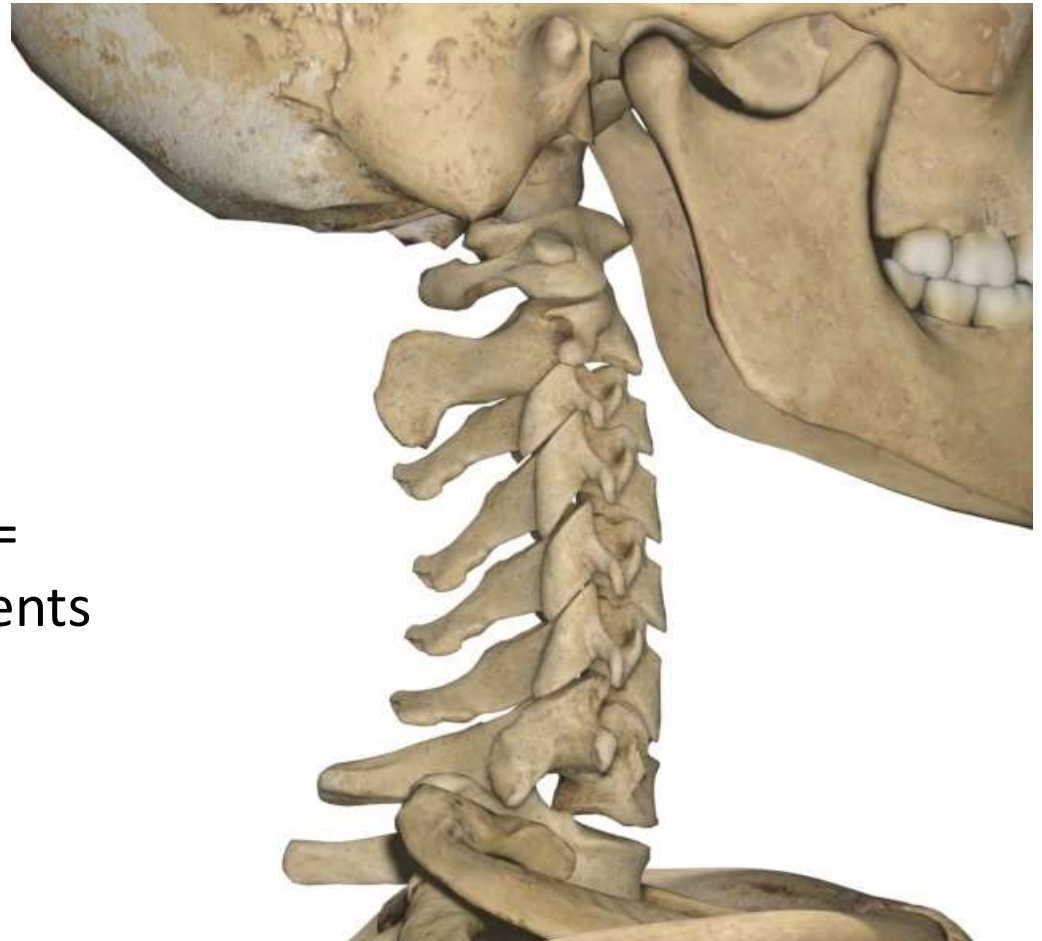
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Types of Cervical Vertebra Joint Motion

- Typical Cervical Motion C2-7
- C1-C2, Atlantoaxial (AA)
- C0-C1, Occipitoatlantal (AO)
- Intersegmental range of motion = motion between vertebral segments
- Intersegmental motion varies by measurement method



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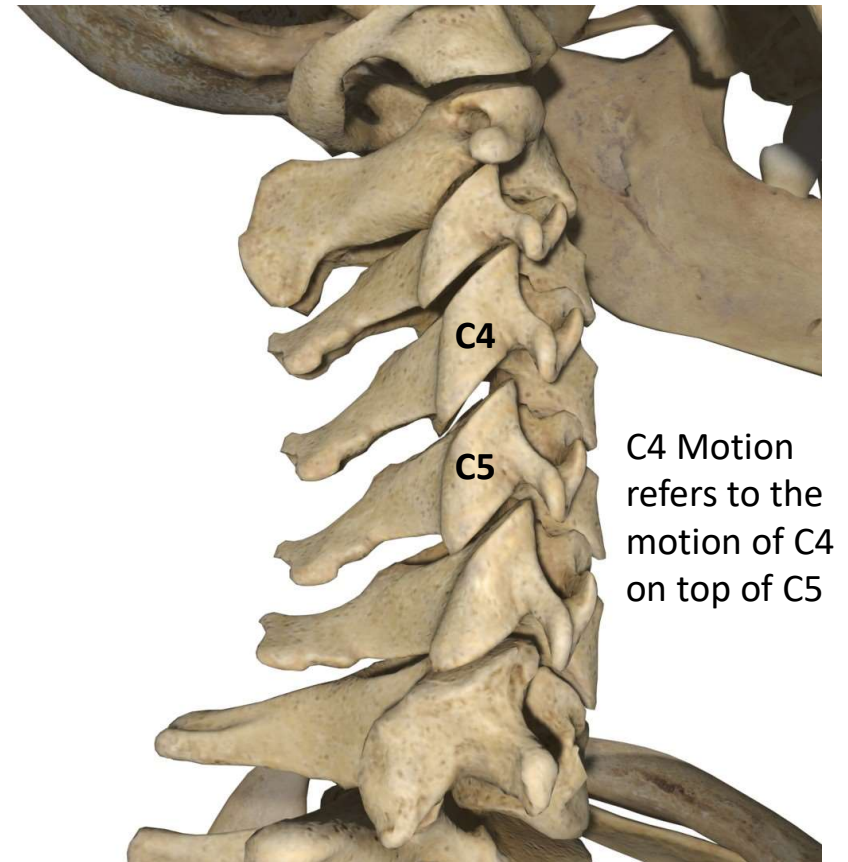
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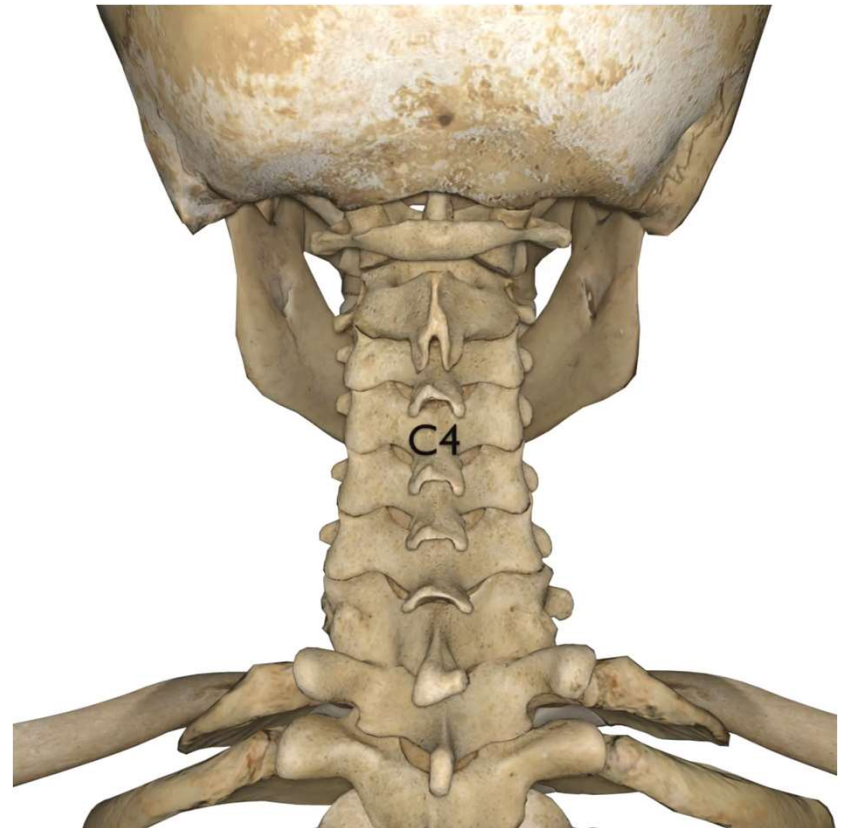
Typical Cervical Mechanics

- C2-7 Typical cervical joint motion
- Refers to motion of vertebra above on vertebra below
 - Example C4 movement on C5
- Type II Non-neutral -type mechanics
- Flexion and Extension
- Sidebending and rotation occur to the same side with some flexion or extension



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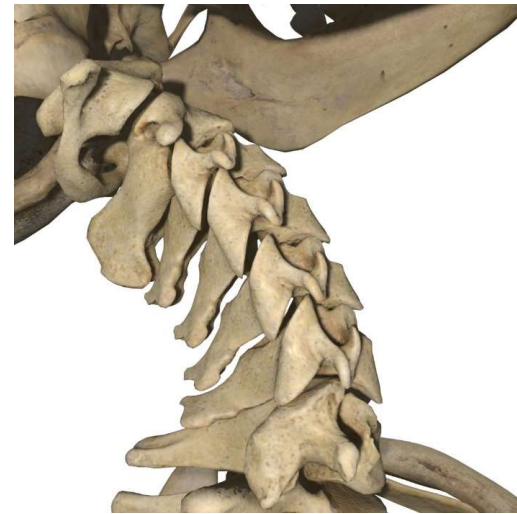


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Cervical Flexion



Cervical Extension

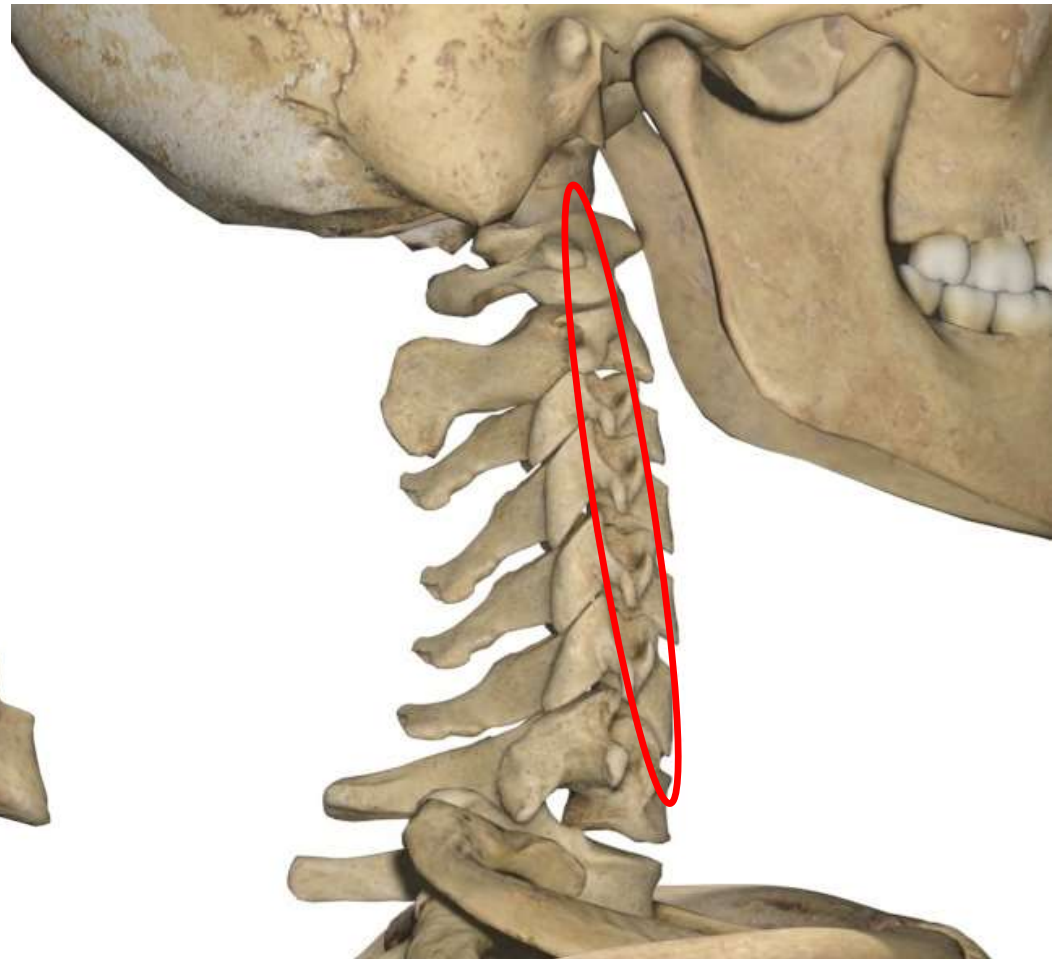
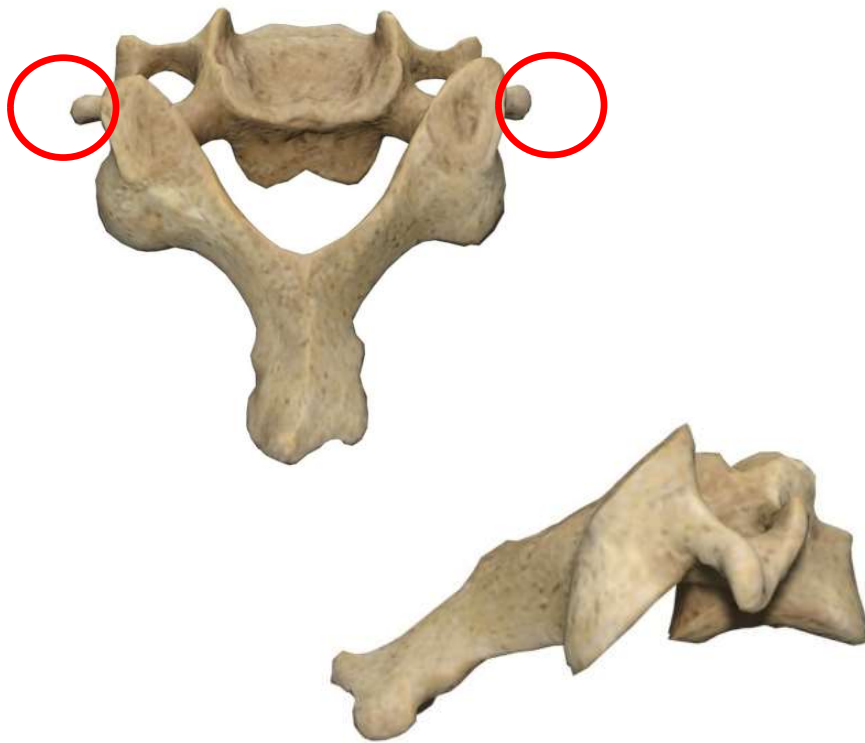
Typical Cervical Mechanics

- C2-7 Typical cervical joint motion
- Refers to motion of vertebra above on vertebra below
 - Example C2 movement on C3
- Type II Non-neutral -type mechanics
- Flexion and Extension
- Sidebending and rotation occur to the same side and must be accompanied by some flexion or extension



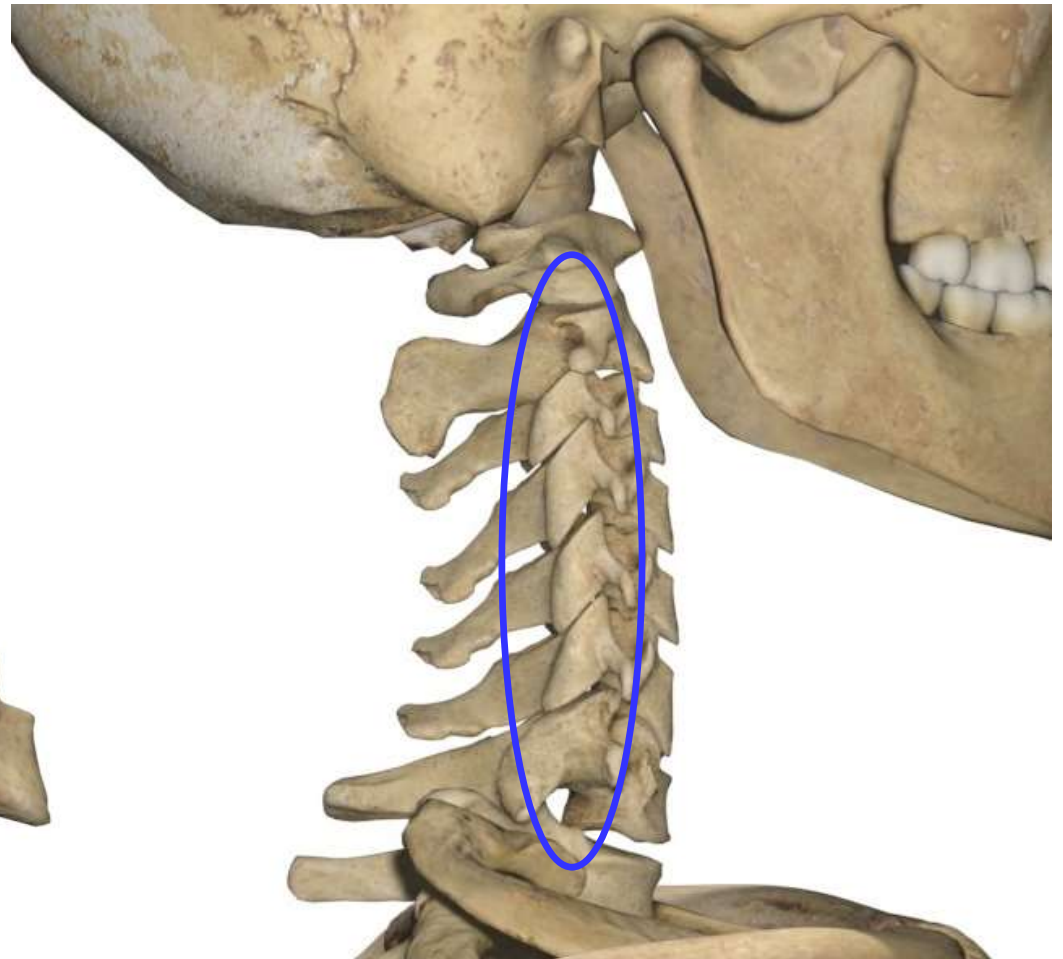
Typical Cervical Mechanics

- Saddle shaped vertebral bodies



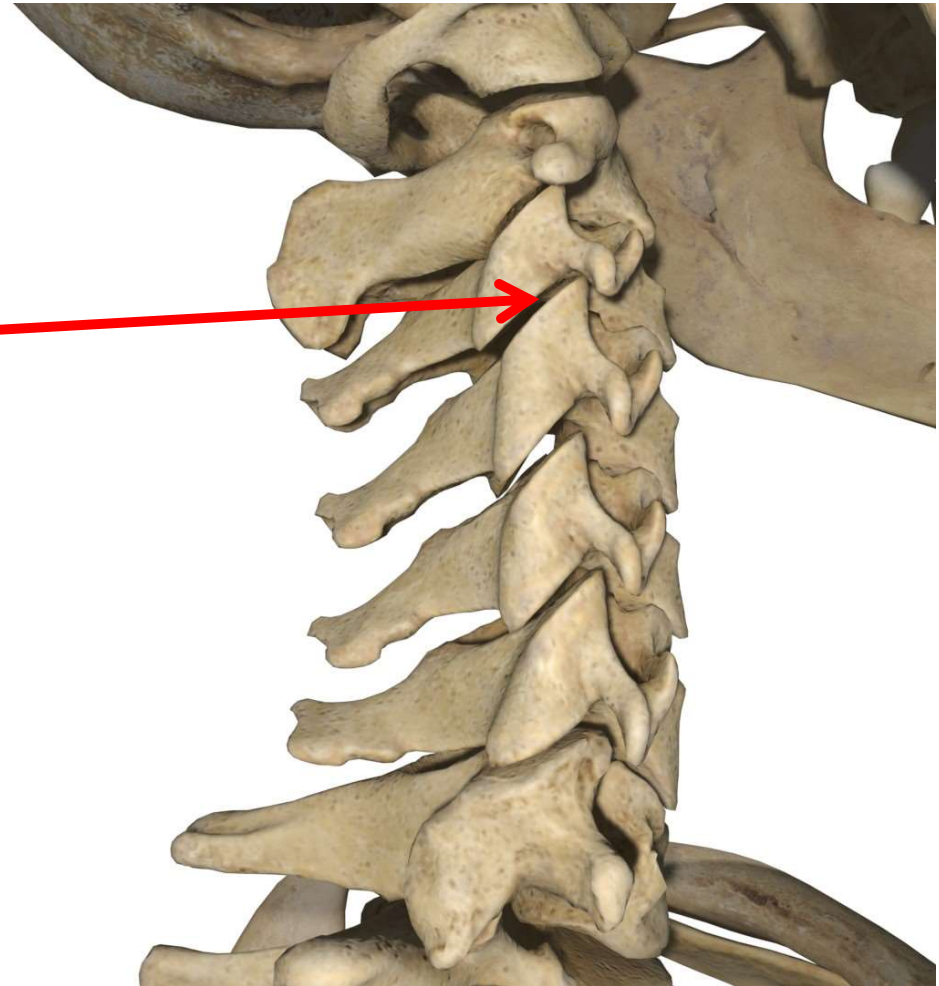
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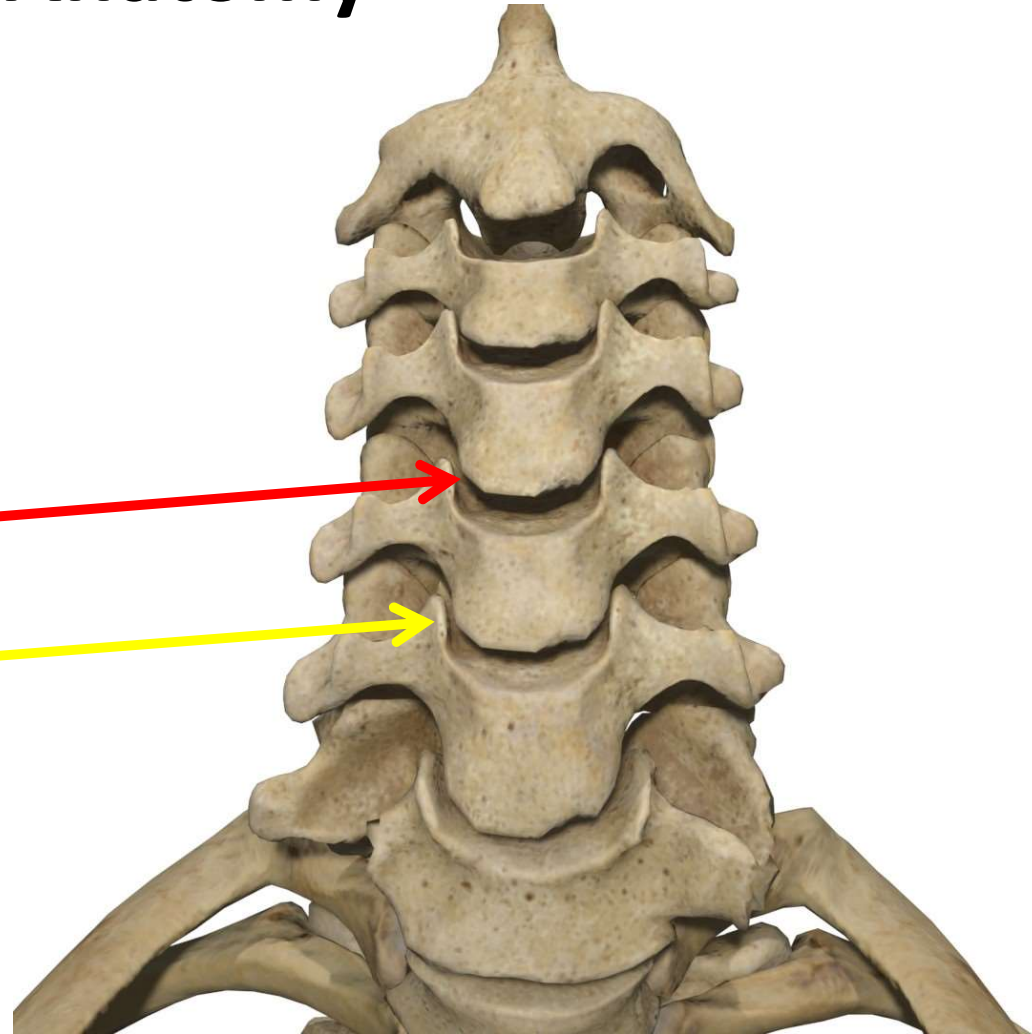
Cervical Anatomy

- Typical Cervical Vertebra
 - Four joints
- Zygapophyseal joints
 - 2 Facet joints
- Uncinate joints
 - 2 Uncovertebral joints of Luschka
 - Lateral aspect of vertebral bodies (uncinate processes)
 - Saddle shaped vertebral body
- Sidebending and rotation to occur to the same side with flexion or extension



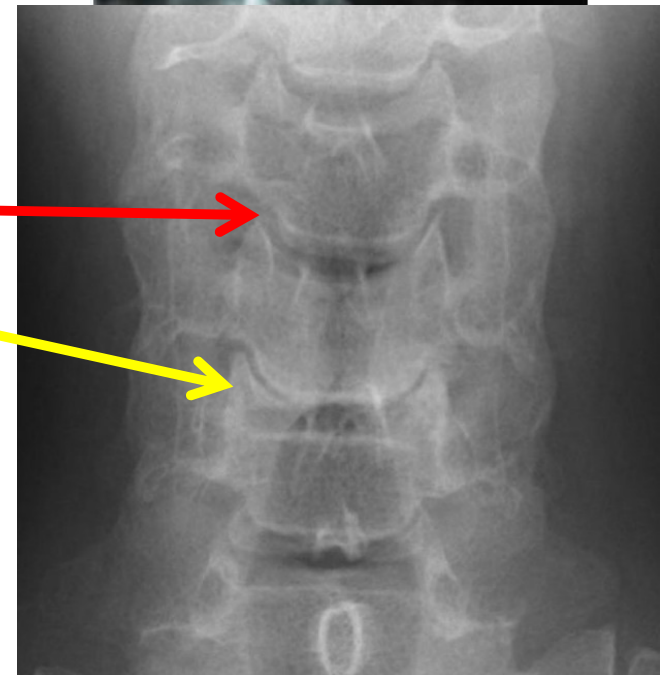
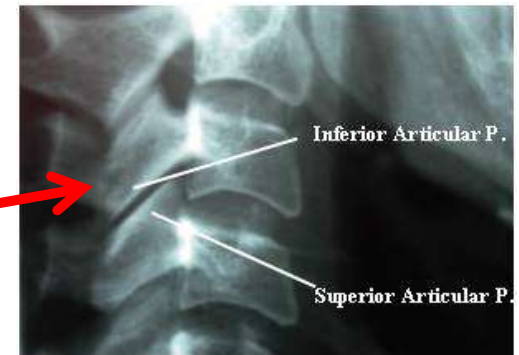
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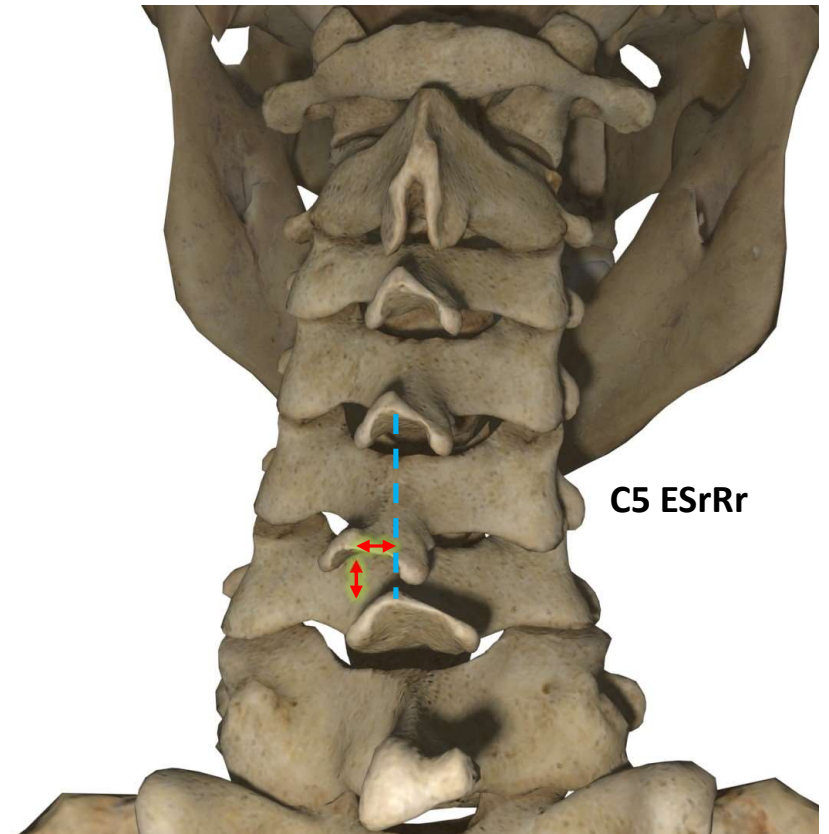
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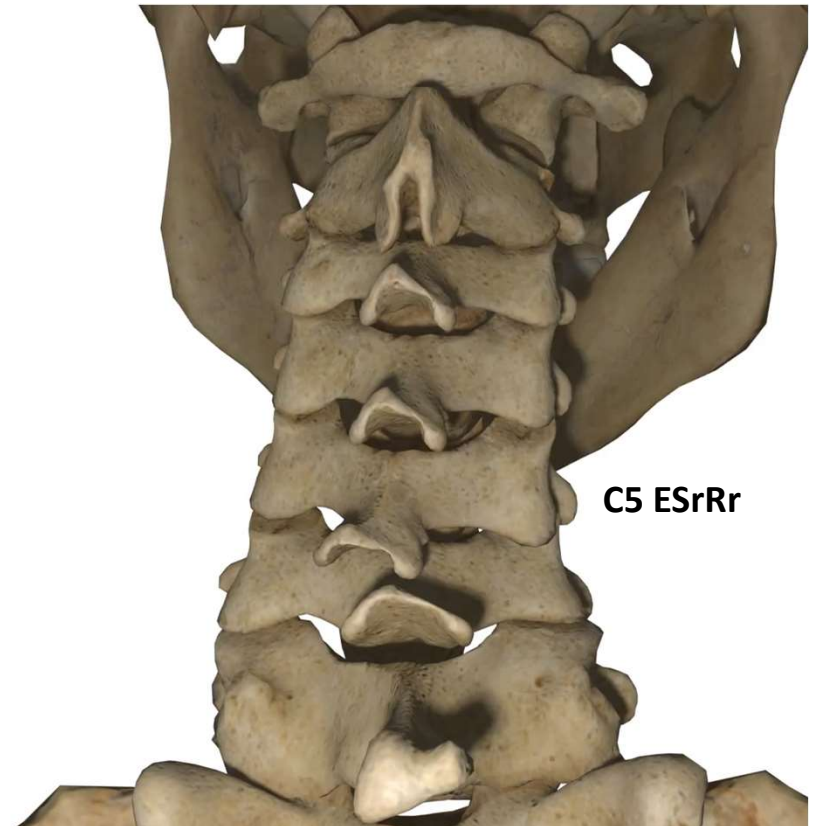
Cervical Segmental Somatic Dysfunction

- Somatic Dysfunction
 - Flexed
 - Extended
 - Flexed, sidebent right, and rotated right (FSrRr)
 - Flexed, sidebent left, and rotated left (FSlRl)
 - Extended, sidebent right, and rotated right (ESrRr)
 - Extended, sidebent left, and rotated left (ESlRl)



Cervical Segmental Somatic Dysfunction

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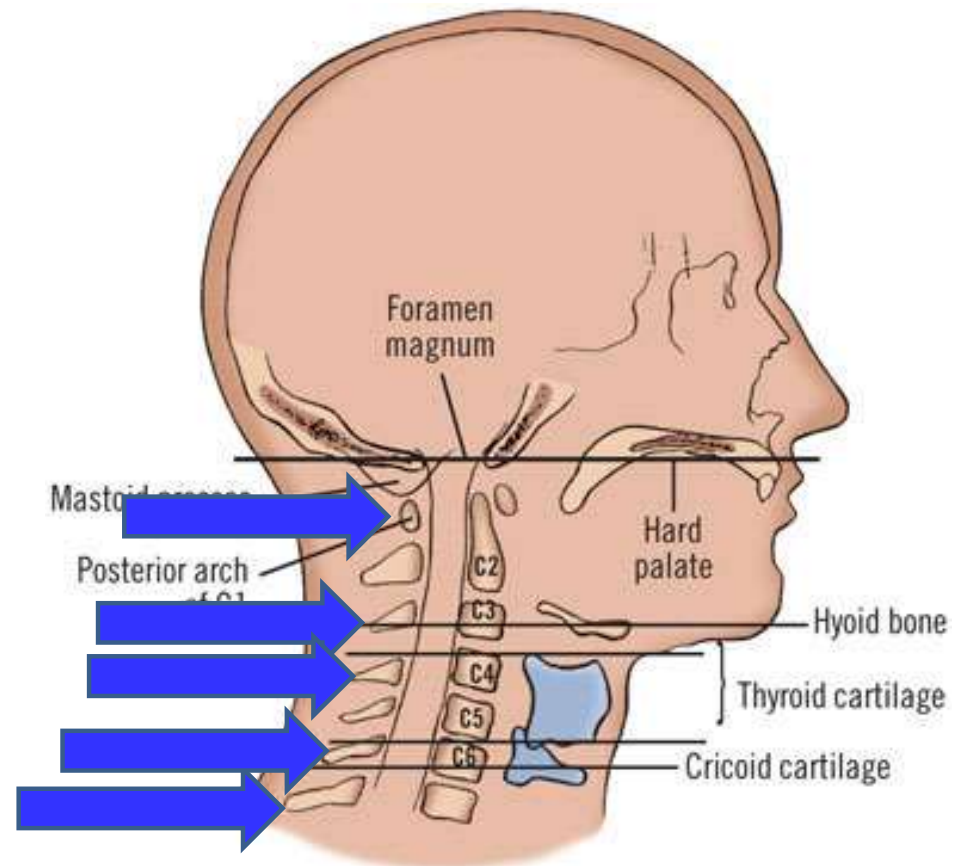
Typical Cervical Diagnosis

- Multiple methods of diagnosis
- Flexion/extension
- Sidebending/translation
- Rotation
- Each motion can be assessed separately or in combination



Cervical Localization

- C1 - first spinous process
- C3 – level of hyoid
- C4 – top of thyroid cartilage
- C6 – cricoid cartilage
- C7 – vertebral prominens



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Cervical Translation

Screening for

- Occipitoatlantal Joint
- Typical Cervical Spine
 - C2-C7
- Translation is equivalent to sidebending to the opposite side
 - Right translation is equal to left sidebending
 - Left translation is equal to right sidebending



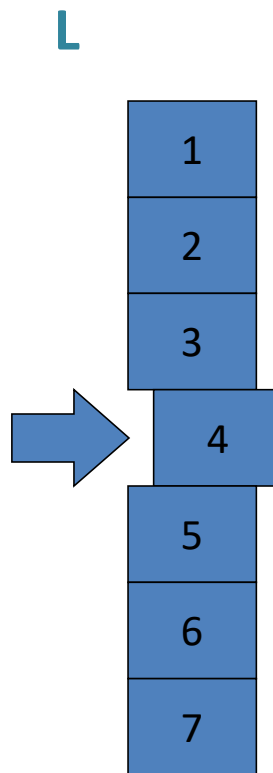
Translation to left induces sidebending to the right



Translation to right induced sidebending to the left

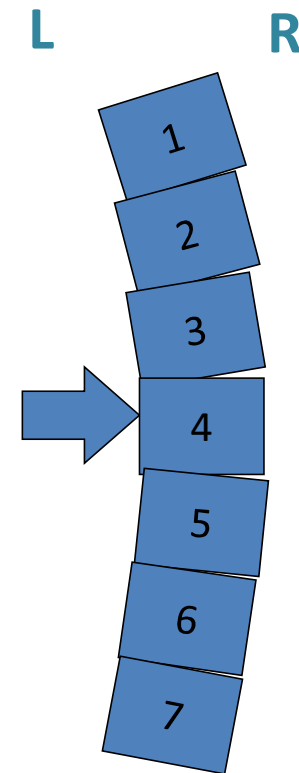
Cervical Translation

Right translation
is pushing from
the left to the
right

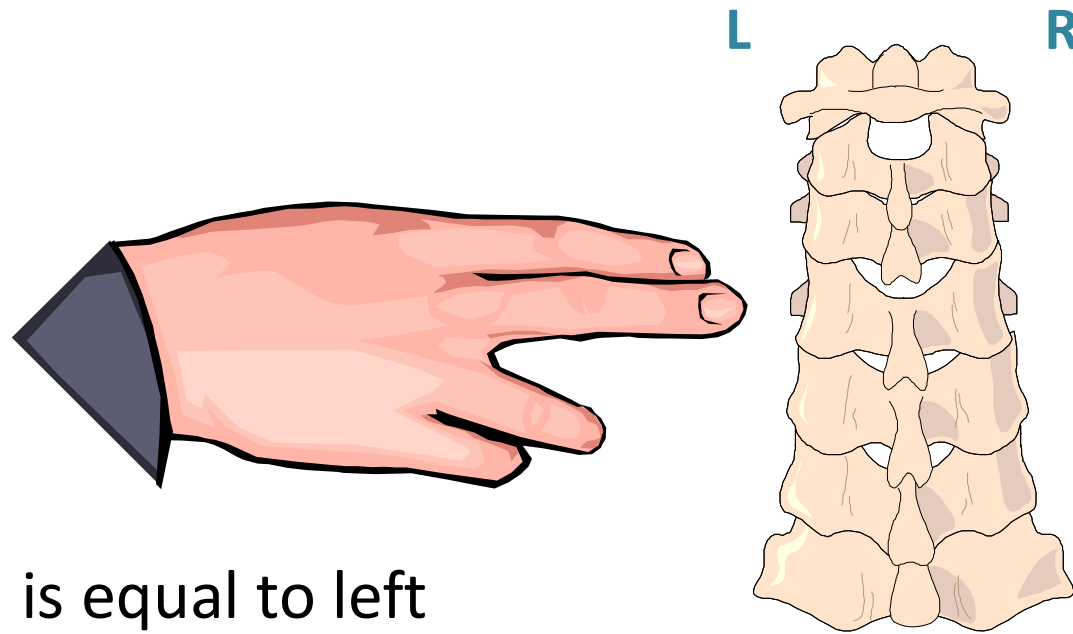


Right
translation
causes left
sidebending

Posterior View



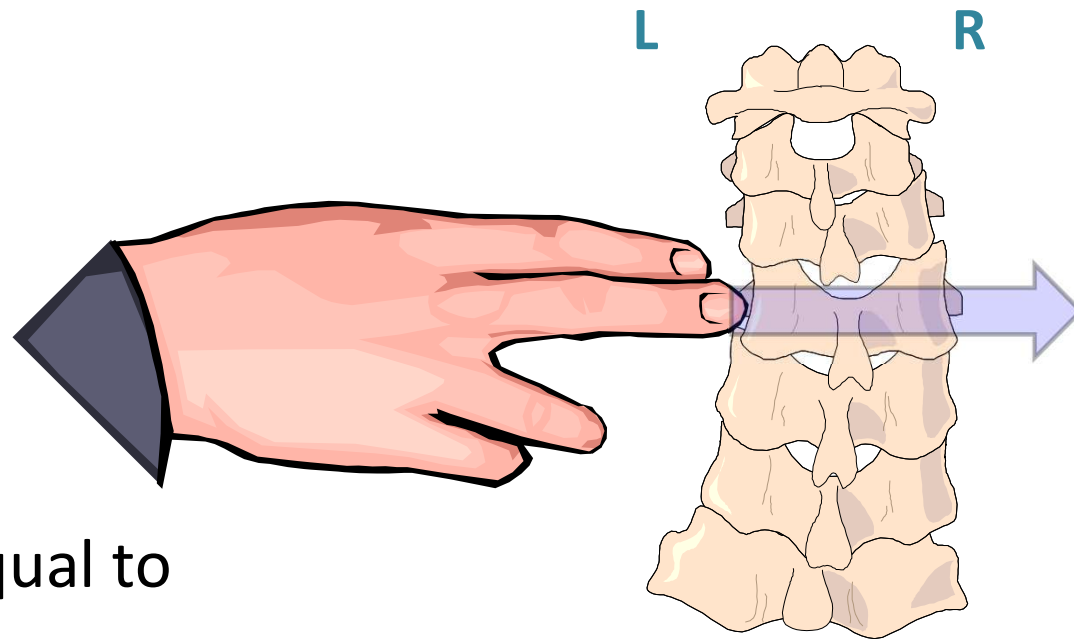
Cervical Translation



- Right translation is equal to left sidebending
- Left translation is equal to right sidebending

Posterior View

Cervical Translation



Posterior View

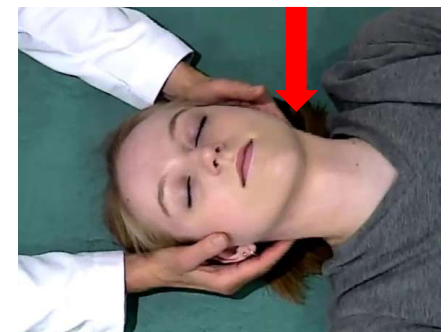
- Right translation is equal to left sidebending
- Left sidebending is coupled with left rotation C2-C7

Cervical Translation Test

- Apply alternating lateral translation on the articular pillars of individual segments
- Identify restricted motion
- Assess translation motion in neutral, flexed, and extended positions
- Named for motion preference



Translation to left in neutral



Translation to right in neutral



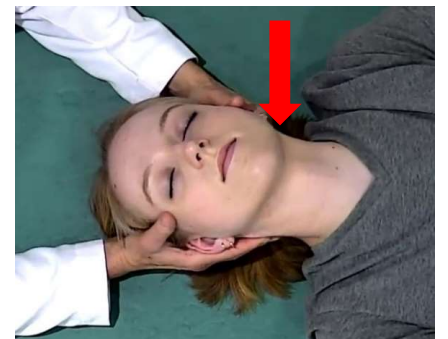
Translation to left in flexion



Translation to right in flexion



Translation to left in extension



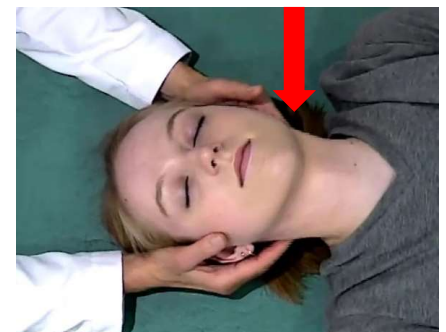
Translation to right in extension

Lab Exercise - Cervical Translation Test

- Apply alternating lateral translation on the articular pillars of individual segments
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Translation to left in neutral



Translation to right in neutral



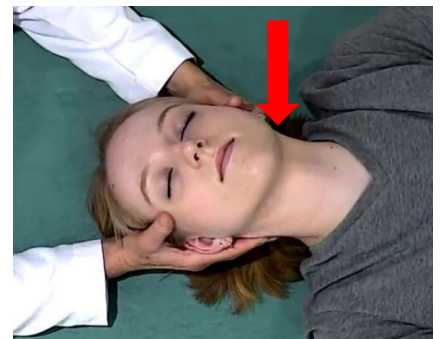
Translation to left in flexion



Translation to right in flexion



Translation to left in extension



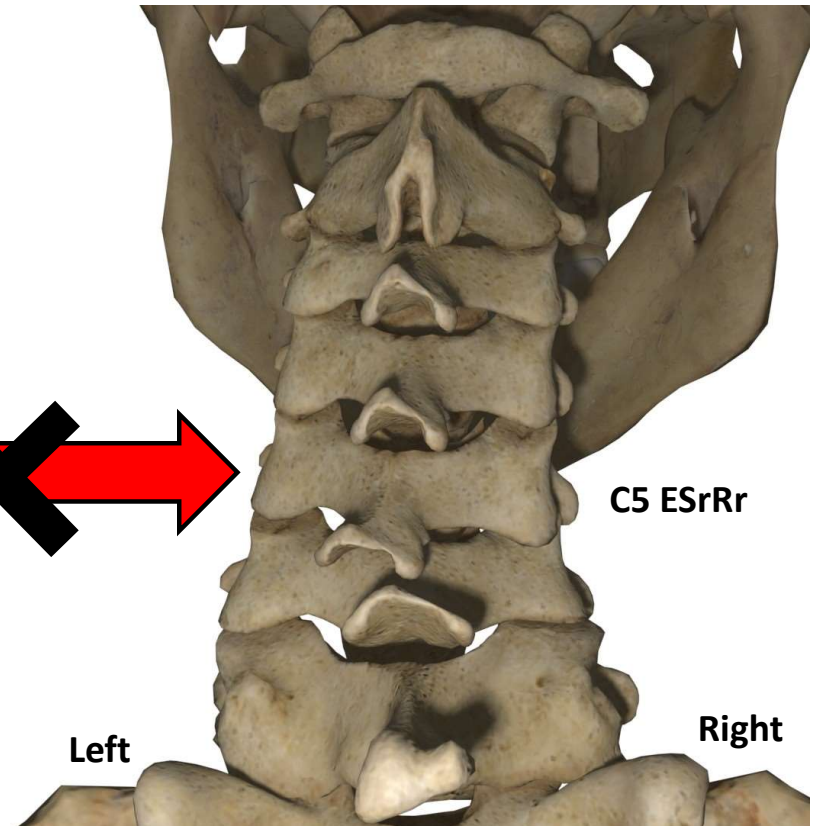
Translation to right in extension

Cervical Segmental Somatic Dysfunction

- Example

- Extended, sidebent right, and rotated right (ESrRr)

- Normal right sidebending motion
 - Resists translation from the left to the right
 - Resists right translation
 - Resists left sidebending
 - Rotation motion preference assumed to same side as sidebending preference
 - Motion worsens in flexion
 - Motion improves in extension



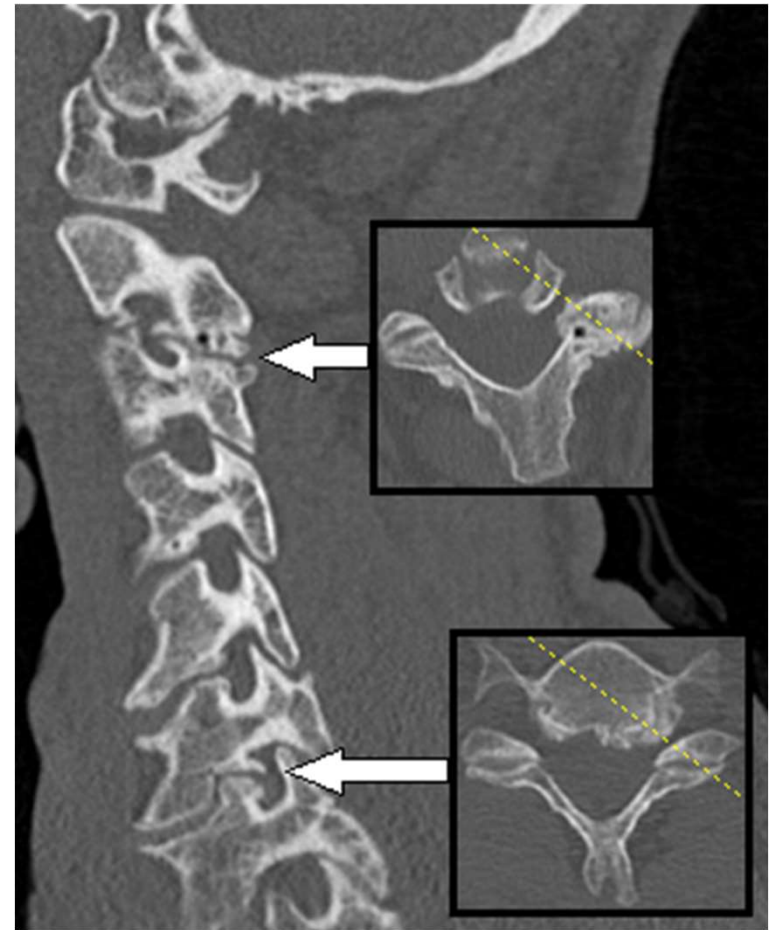
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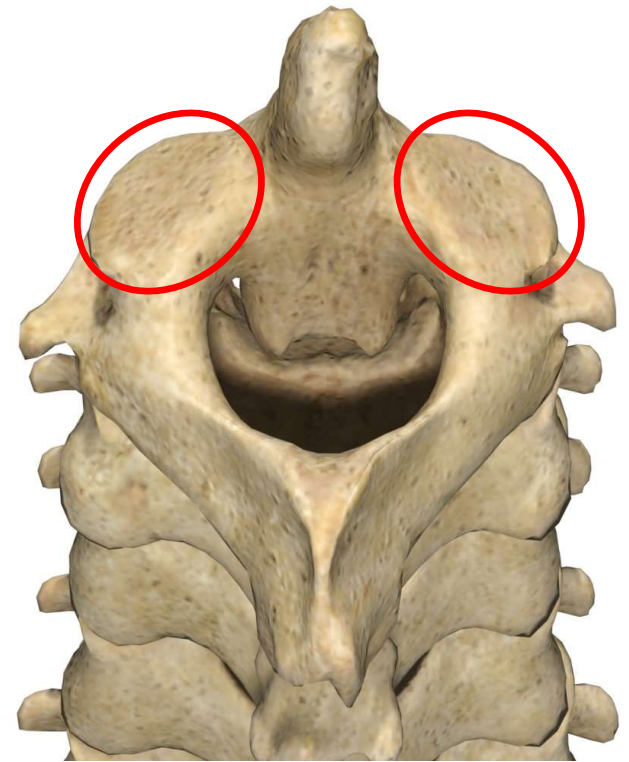
Typical Cervical Dysfunction

- Mechanical neck pain
- Headaches
- Wry neck/Torticollis
- Degenerative joint disease



Atlantoaxial Mechanics

- Composed of 3 articulations
 - Laterally - two C1-C2 synovial facet joints
 - Midline - atlantodental joint
- Localized ROM
 - Primarily rotation
 - 55–77% of the total cervical spine rotation
 - Average unilateral rotation 33.1° (22.4–55.5°)
 - Small amount of flexion and extension are permitted
 - Minimal sidebending (lateral bending)



Atlantoaxial Mechanics

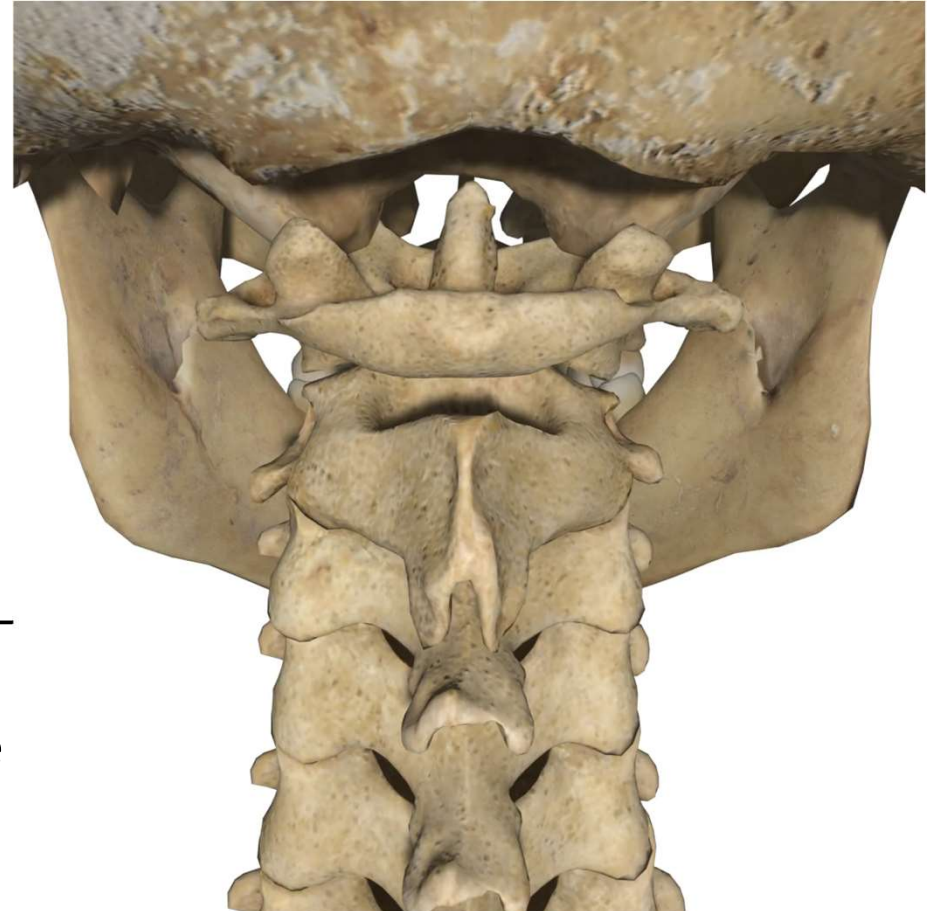
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Atlantodental Joint

Atlantoaxial Mechanics

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Diagnosing AA

Assess for right and left rotation motion restriction and motion preference

Method 1 (Screen)

1. Markedly flex the cervical spine, rotate head left and right to physiologic barrier.
2. Identify direction of motion restriction and direction of ease of motion

When motion restriction is present, name dysfunction for motion preference



Method 1 – Flex the cervical spine



Assess right rotation



Assess left rotation

Diagnosing AA

Assess for right or left rotation motion restriction and motion preference

Method 2

1. Palpate lateral masses of C1 bilaterally
2. Rotate C1 left and right to physiologic barrier.
3. Identify direction of motion restriction and direction of ease of motion

When motion restriction is present, name dysfunction for motion preference



Method 2 – Assess rotation by rotating C1 to the left and right

Lab Exercise - Diagnosing AA

Assess for right or left rotation
motion restriction and motion
preference

- Method 1 (Screen)
 1. Markedly flex the cervical spine, rotate head left and right to physiologic barrier.
 2. Identify direction of motion restriction and direction of ease of motion
- Method 2
 1. Palpate lateral masses of C1 bilaterally
 2. Rotate C1 left and right to physiologic barrier.
 3. Identify direction of motion restriction and direction of ease of motion

Name for motion preference



Method 1 – Flex the cervical spine



Assess right rotation



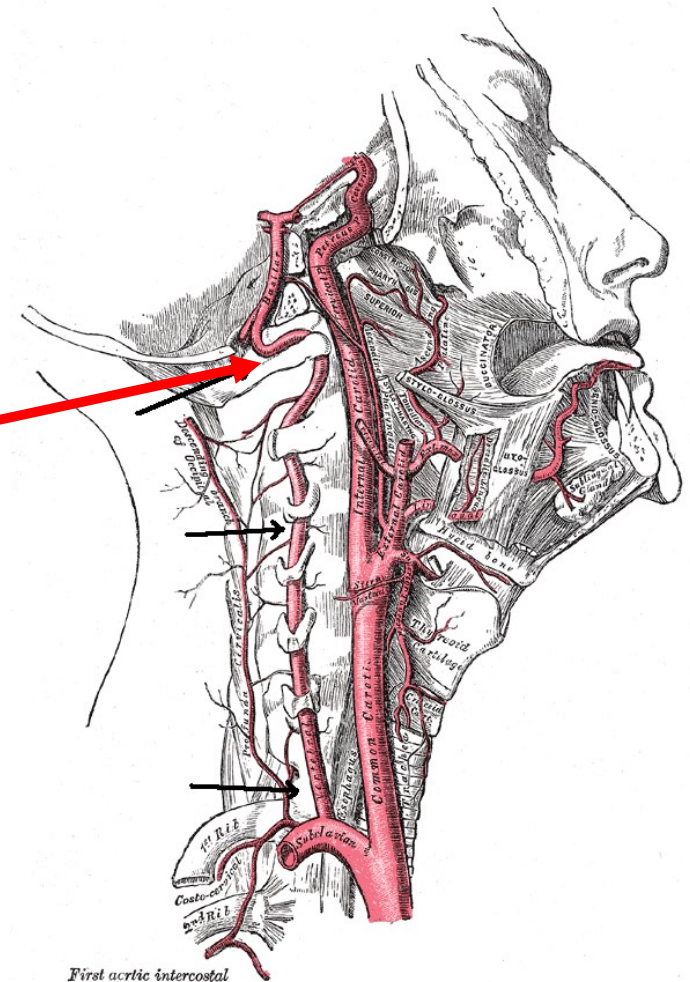
Assess left rotation



Method 2 – Assess rotation by rotating C1 to the left and right

Atlantoaxial Dysfunction

- Articular dysfunction associated with
 - Upper neck pain
 - Headaches
- OMT Precaution
 - Vertebral artery insufficiency
 - OA, AA diagnosis and treatment precaution
 - Conditions prone to Dens degeneration, AA instability and dislocation
 - DJD, rheumatoid arthritis, Downs



Atlantoaxial Dysfunction

- Articular dysfunction associated with
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 - DJD, rheumatoid arthritis, Downs

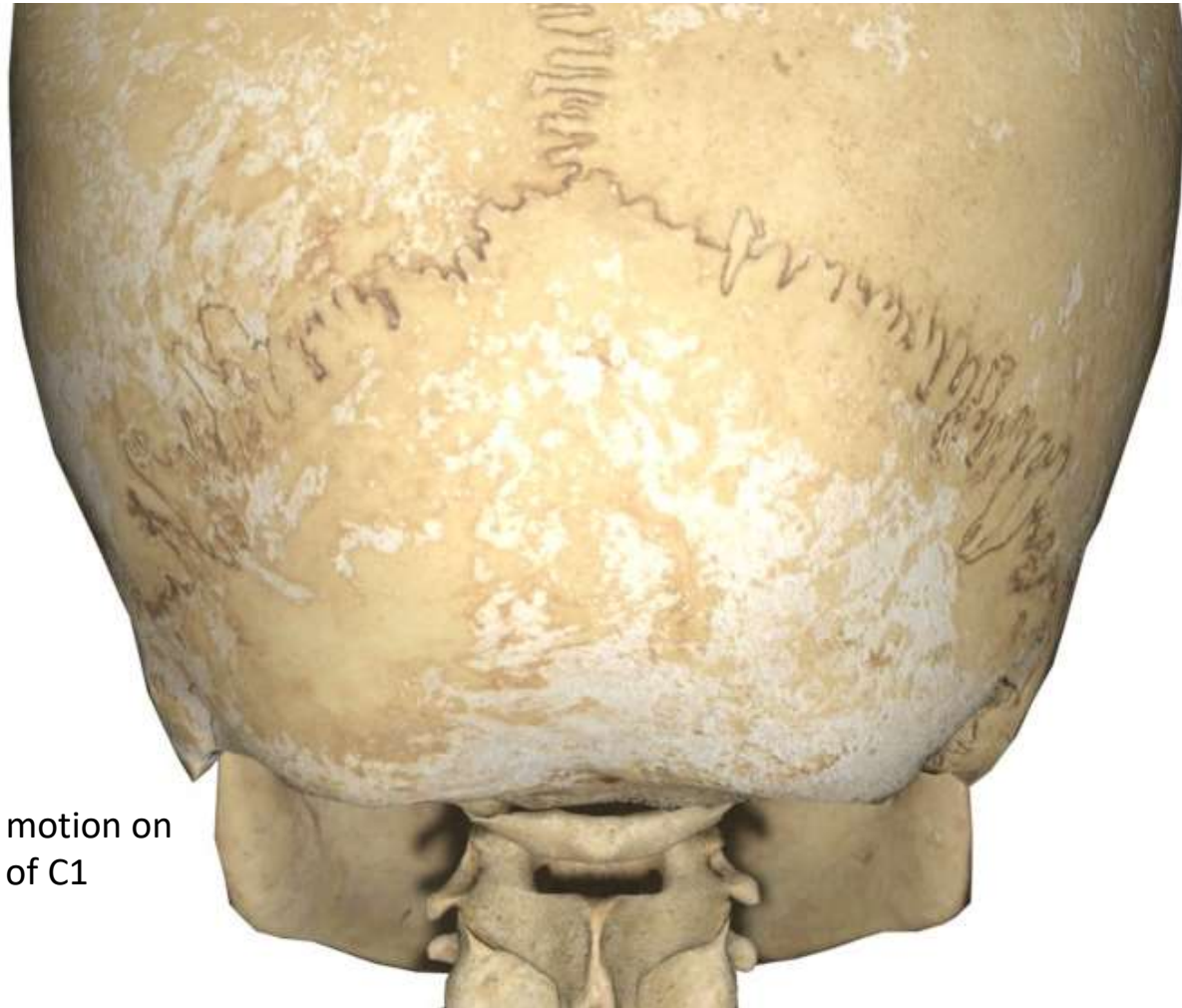
Unstable Dens
can lead to AA
subluxation



Occipitoatlantal Mechanics

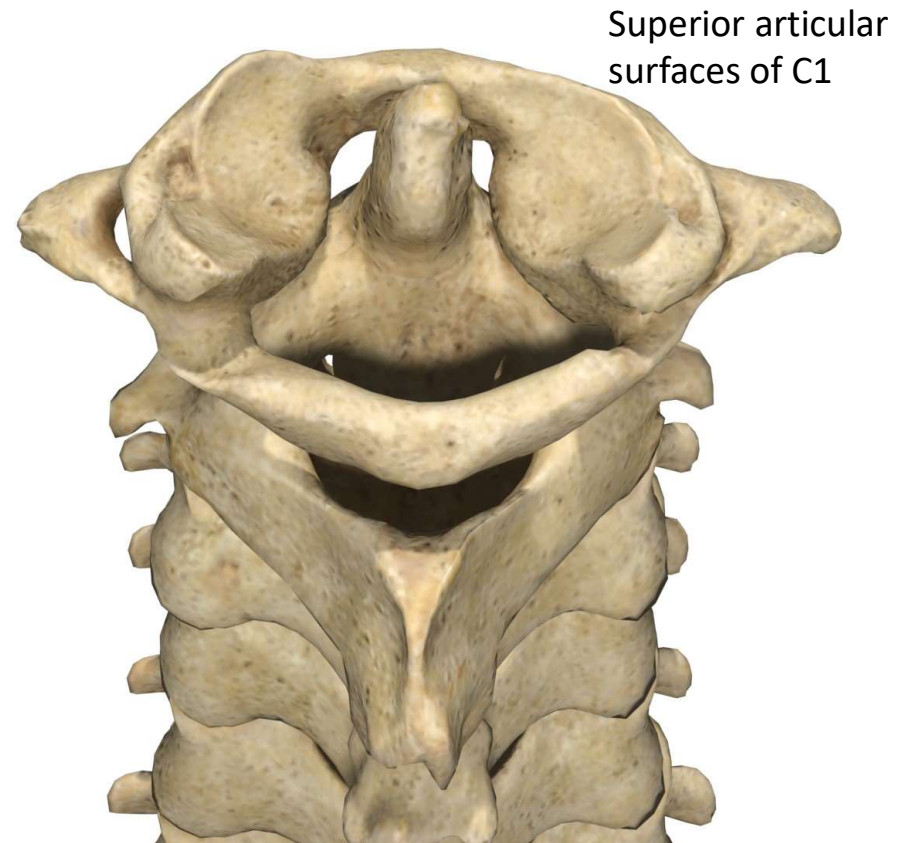
- OA joint (C1-C0)
- Head region
- Joint shape allows
 - Flexion and Extension
 - Sidebending and rotation occur to the opposite sides with some flexion or extension

Occipital motion on
top of C1



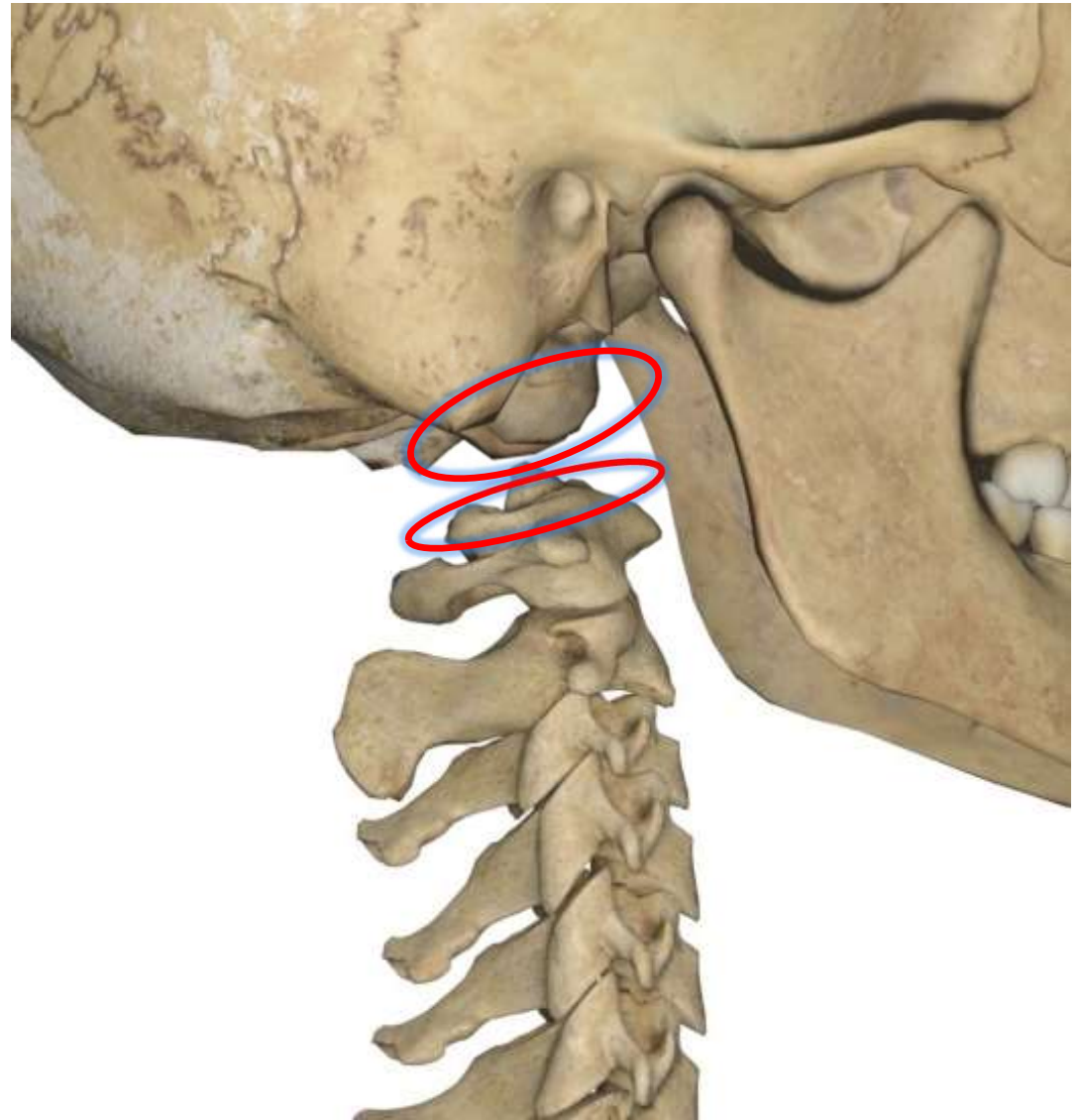
Occipitoatlantal Mechanics

- OA joint
 - 2 joints
- Head region
- Joint shape allows
 - Flexion and Extension
 - Sidebending and rotation occur to the opposite sides with some flexion or extension



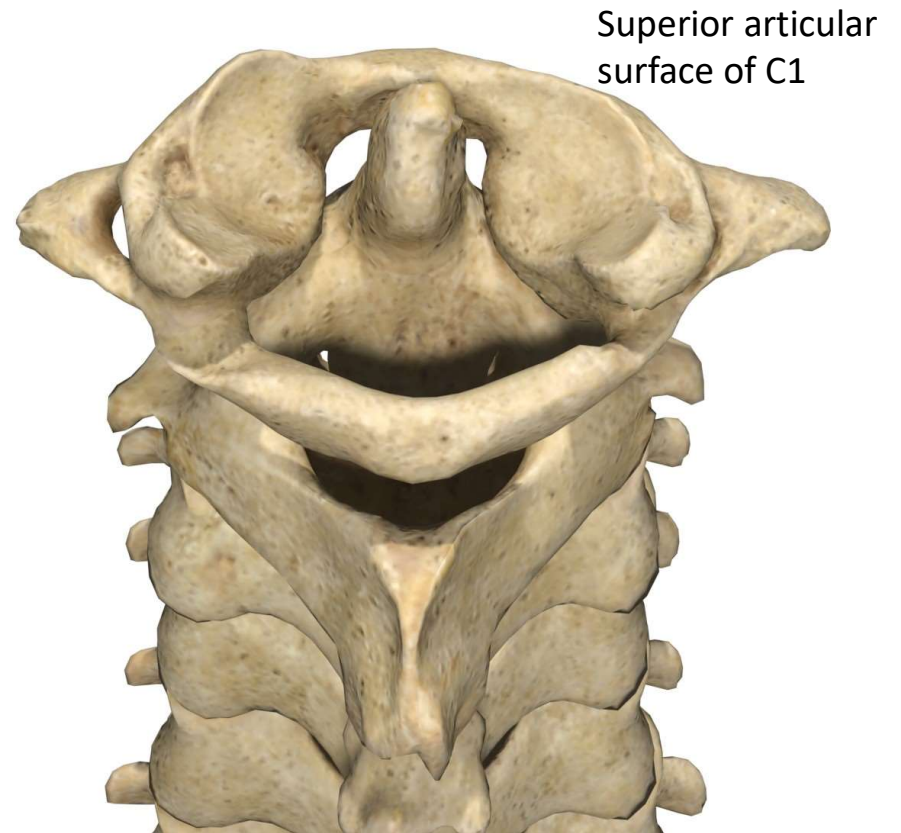
Occipitoatlantal Mechanics

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Occipitoatlantal Mechanics

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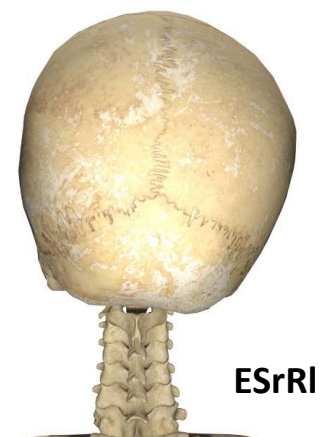
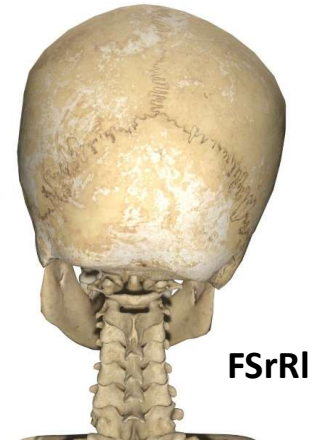
Occipitoatlantal Mechanics

- OA joint
- Head region
- Joint shape allows
 - Flexion and Extension
 - Sidebending and rotation occur to the opposite sides with some flexion or extension
- OA Sidebending – 8 °
- OA rotation - <5°



Occipitoatlantal Somatic Dysfunction

- Somatic Dysfunction
 - Flexed
 - Extended
 - Flexed, sidebent right, and rotated left (FSrRI)
 - Flexed, sidebent left, and rotated right (FSrRI)
 - Extended, sidebent right, and rotated left (ESrRI)
 - Extended, sidebent left, and rotated right (ESrRI)

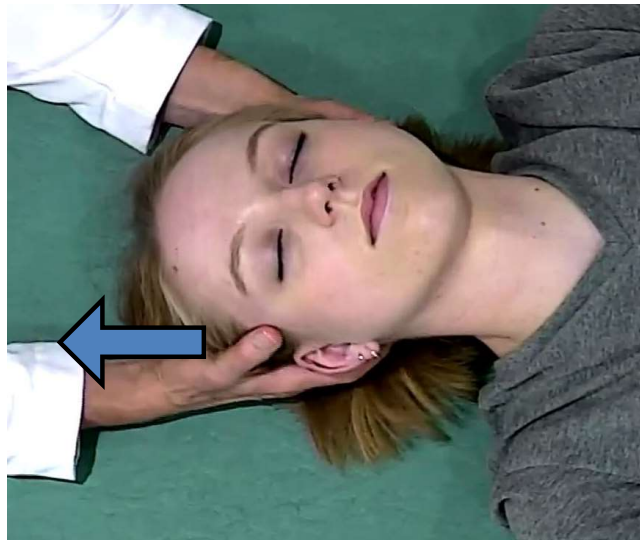


Occipitoatlantal Somatic Dysfunction

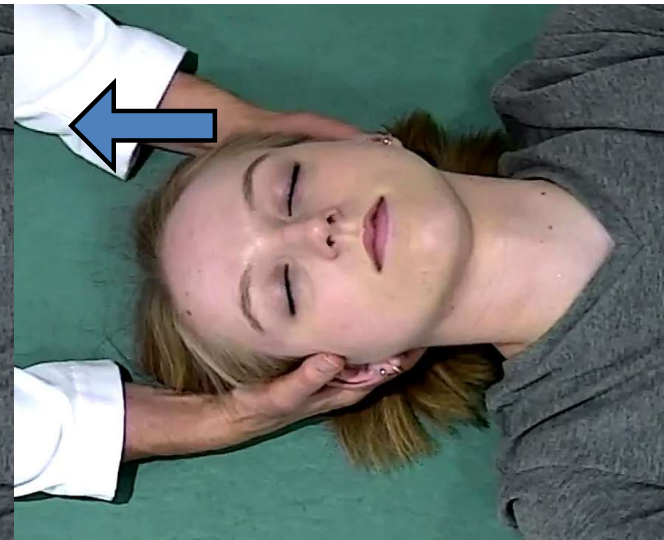
- Flexion and Extension coupled with rotation and sidebending to opposite sides

Sidebending

- Screen and Diagnosis
- Translation
 - Translation to right = left sidebending
 - Translation to the left = right sidebending



Pull superiorly on right occiput to assess left sidebending



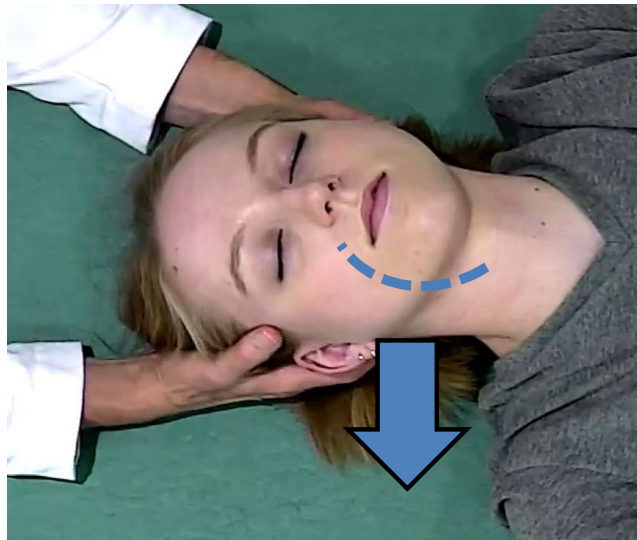
Pull superiorly on left occiput to assess right sidebending

Occipitoatlantal Somatic Dysfunction

- Flexion and Extension coupled with rotation and sidebending to opposite sides

Sidebending

- Screen and Diagnosis
- Translation
 - Translation to right = left sidebending
 - Translation to the left = right sidebending



Translation to the right induces sidebending to the left



Translation to the left induces sidebending to the right

Occipitoatlantal Somatic Dysfunction

- Flexion and Extension coupled with rotation and sidebending to opposite sides

Rotation

- Static asymmetry
 - posterior prominence of occipital base
- Motion preference
 - Rotated to each side



Assessing left rotation



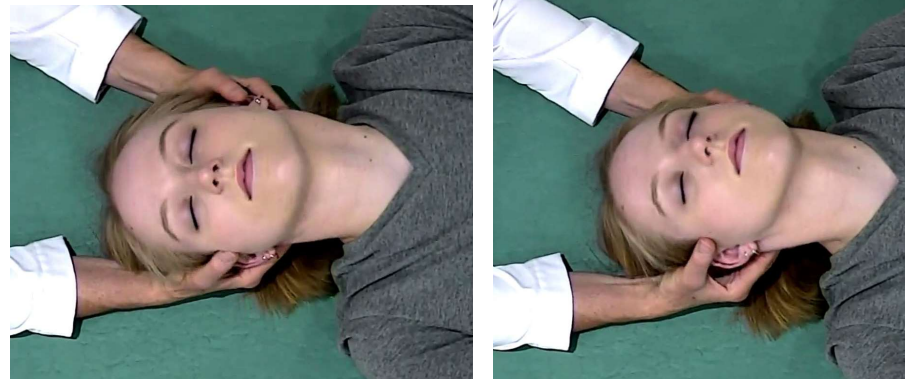
Assessing right rotation

Occipitoatlantal Somatic Dysfunction

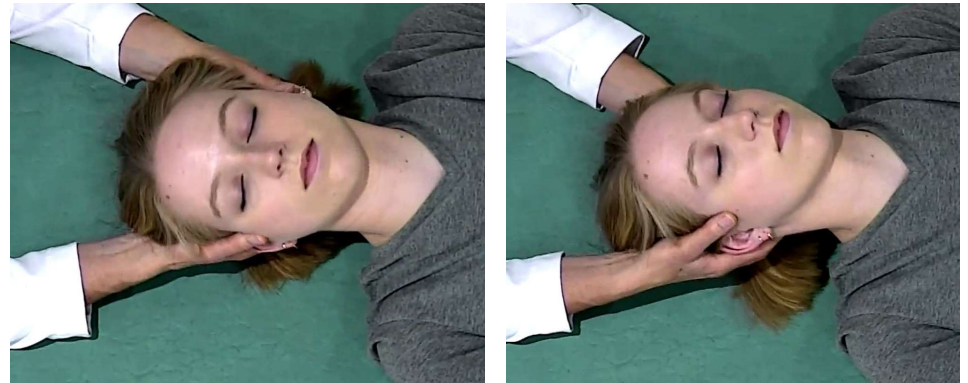
- Flexion and Extension coupled with rotation and sidebending to opposite sides

Sagittal Plane

- Flexion
- Extension
- Sidebending and rotation preference will become less obvious in preferred sagittal motion position



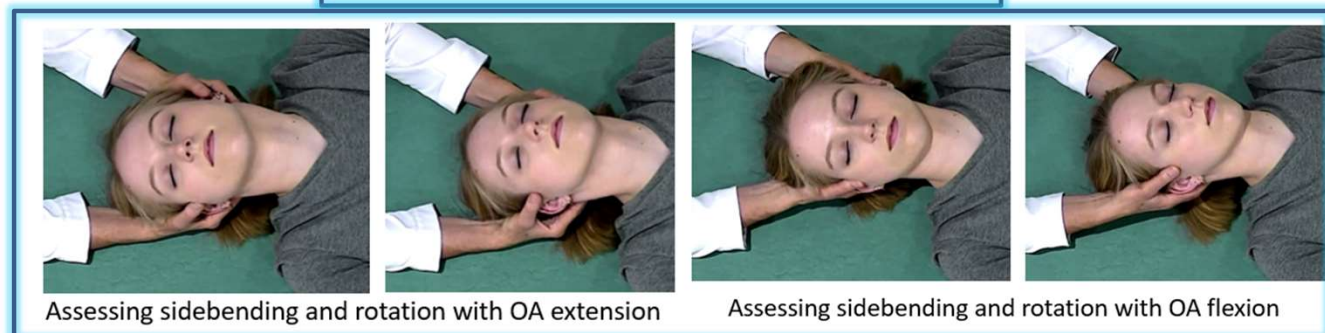
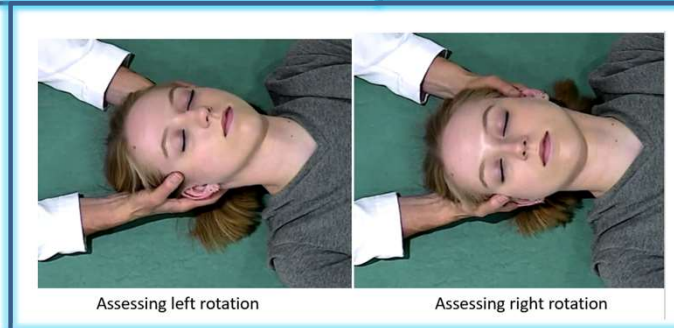
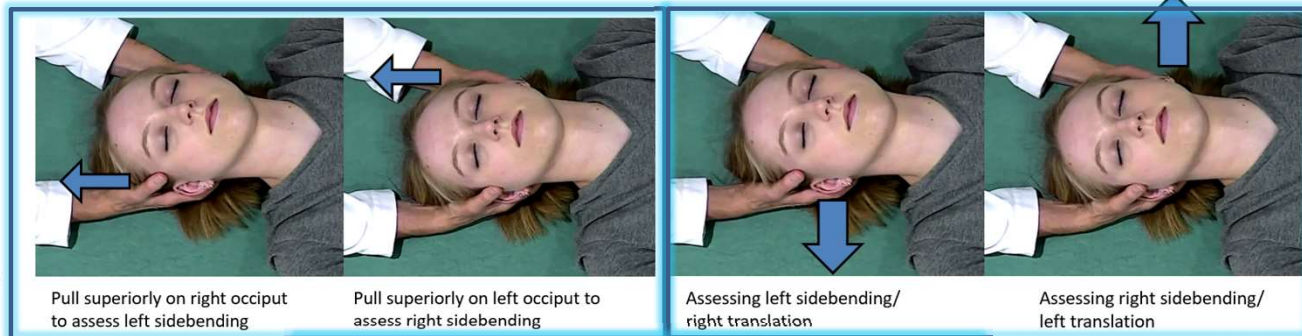
Assessing sidebending and rotation with OA extension



Assessing sidebending and rotation with OA flexion

Lab Exercise - OA Somatic Dysfunction

- Screen by pulling superiorly on right, then left occipital base
- Assess for sidebending motion restriction and motion preference
- Assess for rotation motion restriction and motion preference
- Reassess rotation and/or sidebending for motion restriction and preference in flexion and extension
- Name dysfunction based on the motion preference



Diagnosing OA

Somatic dysfunction diagnosis is named for motion preference

OA flexed, sidebent right, and rotated left (FSrRI)

- Reduced left sidebending (right translation)
- Prefers right sidebending (left translation)
- Reduced right rotation
- Prefers left rotation
- Sidebending and rotation motion restriction not evident when occiput is flexed
- Sidebending and rotation motion restriction worse when occiput is extended



FSrRI

Occipitoatlantal Dysfunction

- OA Dysfunction
 - Tension headaches
 - Migraine headaches
 - Occipital neuralgia
 - Temporal bone dysfunction
 - TMJ dysfunction
 - Dizziness/vertigo
 - Ear infections
 - Impaired lymphatic drainage from the head



Sample Test Question

A 32-year-old man reports sudden onset neck pain upon awakening 2 days ago. The pain is located at the left lower neck and is exacerbated by turning his head to the left. Physical examination reveals tenderness and muscular hypertonicity in the left lower cervical region and a posterior prominence of the right C7 articular pillar. Right translation at C7 is reduced, but left translation is normal. The translation motion restriction seems to resolve in flexion, but worsens in extension. The C7 somatic dysfunction diagnosis is

- A. Flexed, sidebent left, and rotated left
- B. Flexed, sidebent left, and rotated right
- C. Flexed, sidebent right, and rotated right
- D. Extended, sidebent left, and rotated left
- E. Extended, sidebent right, and rotated left
- F. Extended, sidebent right, and rotated right

Sample Test Question

A 32-year-old man reports sudden onset neck pain upon awakening 2 days ago. The pain is located at the left lower neck and is exacerbated by turning his head to the left. Physical examination reveals tenderness and muscular hypertonicity in the left lower cervical region and a posterior prominence of the right C7 articular pillar. Right translation at C7 is reduced, but left translation is normal. The translation motion restriction seems to resolve in flexion, but worsens in extension. The C7 somatic dysfunction diagnosis is

- A. Flexed, sidebent left, and rotated left
- ~~B. Flexed, sidebent left, and rotated right~~
- C. Flexed, sidebent right, and rotated right
- D. Extended, sidebent left, and rotated left
- ~~E. Extended, sidebent right, and rotated left~~
- F. Extended, sidebent right, and rotated right

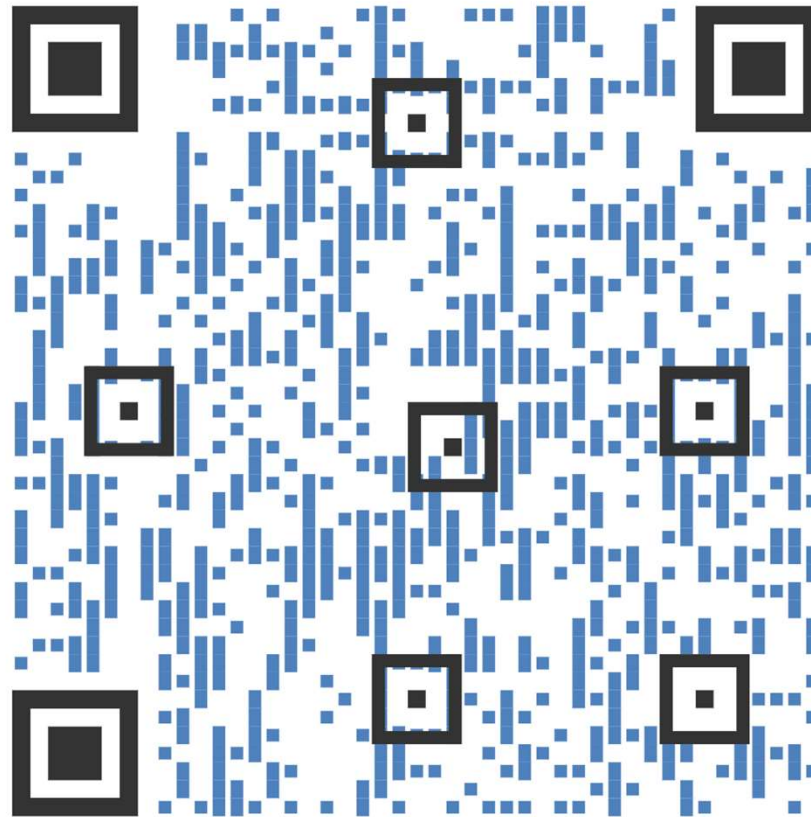
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- C. Flexed, sidebent right, and rotated right
- D. Extended, sidebent left, and rotated left
- ~~E. Extended, sidebent right, and rotated left~~
- F. Extended, sidebent right, and rotated right



Session Evaluation



Grievance Policy

All grievances should be in writing and should specify the nature of the grievance. Initially, all grievances should be directed to MAOPS Executive Director, who will then forward said grievance to the Education & Convention Committee. All grievances will receive an initial response in writing within 30 days of receipt. If the participant does not receive a satisfactory response, then they can then submit a complaint in writing to the Bureau of Osteopathic Education of the AOA at 142 East Ontario Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

References

- Chapter 27: Osteopathic Segmental Examination, Walter C. Ehrenfeuchter, Raymond J. Hruby Foundations of Osteopathic Medicine: Philosophy, Science, Clinical Applications, and Research, 4e. 2019
- Chapter 2 Back and Spine. Sabine Hombach-Klonisch, Thomas Klonisch and Jason Peeler. Sobotta Clinical Atlas of Human Anatomy, 2019 39-82
- Chapter 5 Cervical Spine. Kapandji IA. The Physiology of the Joints. 6th ed., English ed. Churchill Livingstone/Elsevier; 2008.
- Chapter 3 Physical Examination of the Cervical Spine - Lisa Huynh MD and David J. Kennedy MD. Musculoskeletal Physical Examination: An Evidence-Based Approach, 18-30
- Lorente AI, Hidalgo-García C, Rodríguez-Sanz J, Maza-Frechín M, Lopez-de-Celis C, Pérez-Bellmunt A. Intersegmental Kinematics of the Upper Cervical Spine: Normal Range of Motion and its Alteration After Alar Ligament Transection. Spine. July 2021.
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