

of the odontoid process is more compact than that of the body. The **pedicles** are broad and strong, especially in front, where they coalesce with the sides of the body and the root of the odontoid process. They are covered above by the superior articular surfaces. The **laminæ** are thick and strong, and the vertebral

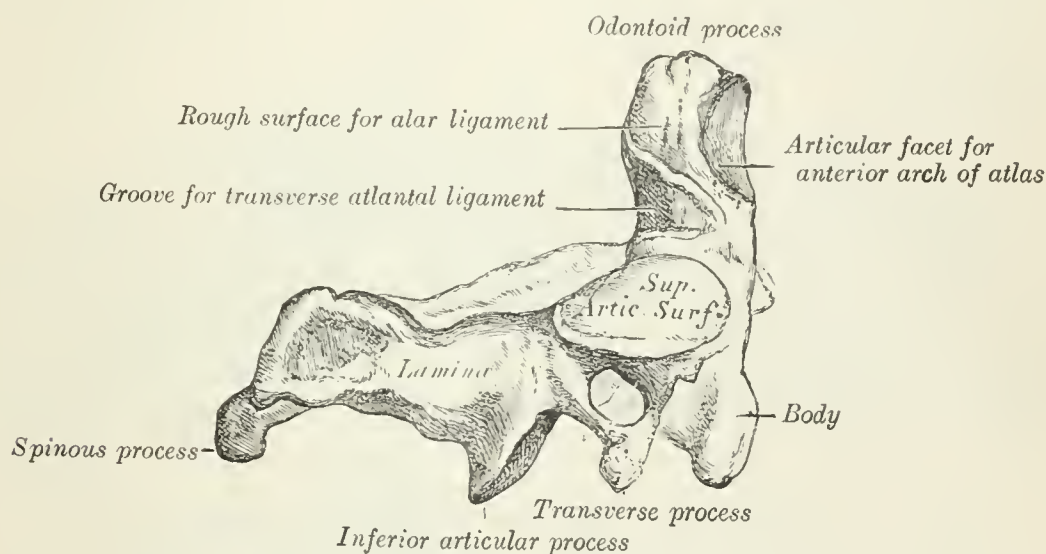


FIG. 88.—Second cervical vertebra, epistropheus, or axis, from the side.

foramen large, but smaller than that of the atlas. The **transverse processes** are very small, and each ends in a single tubercle; each is perforated by the foramen transversarium, which is directed obliquely upward and lateralward. The **superior articular surfaces** are round, slightly convex, directed upward and lateralward, and are supported on the body, pedicles, and transverse processes. The **inferior articular surfaces** have the same direction as those of the other cervical vertebræ. The **superior vertebral notches** are very shallow, and lie behind the articular processes; the **inferior** lie in front of the articular processes, as in the other cervical vertebræ. The **spinous process** is large, very strong, deeply channelled on its under surface, and presents a bifid, tuberculated extremity.

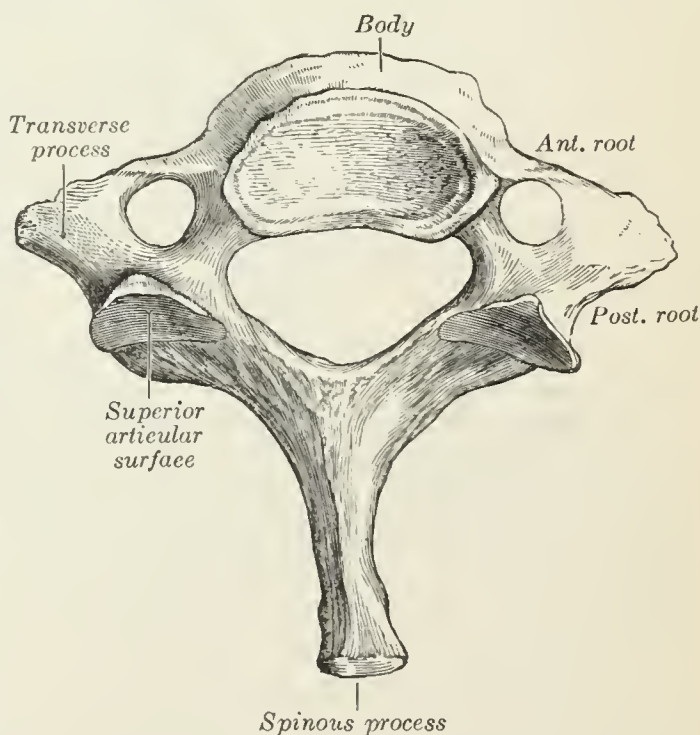


FIG. 89.—Seventh cervical vertebra.

The Seventh Cervical Vertebra (Fig. 89).—The most distinctive characteristic of this vertebra is the existence of a long and prominent spinous process, hence the name **vertebra prominens**. This process is thick, nearly horizontal in direction, not bifurcated, but terminating in a tubercle to which the lower end of the ligamentum nuchæ is attached. The **transverse processes** are of considerable size, their posterior roots are large and prominent, while the anterior are small and faintly marked; the upper surface of each has usually a shallow sulcus for the eighth spinal nerve, and its extremity seldom presents more than a trace of bifurcation. The foramen

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