

Ligaments

I. Neck

- A. Ligamentum nuchae (Fr. nuque, back of neck)
 - attachments – from C7 spinous process to external occipital protuberance with slips to intervening spinous processes
 - function – attachment for cervical muscles
- B. Transverse (cruciate) of atlas
 - attachments – from lateral mass to lateral mass of atlas
 - function – maintains articulation between dens and anterior arch of the atlas
- C. Tectorial membrane [L. an overlying surface]
 - attachments – from the posterior surface of axial body to anterior margin of the foramen magnum
 - function – supports atlanto-occipital & atlanto-axial joints
- D. Alar (check)
 - attachments – from dens to medial aspect of the occipital condyles
 - function – limits rotation of the median atlanto-axial joint
- E. Anterior atlanto-occipital membrane
 - attachments – from anterior arch of the atlas to the adjacent occipital bone
 - function – supports atlanto-occipital joints & helps to limit extension of the head
- F. Posterior atlanto-occipital membrane
 - attachments – from posterior arch of the atlas to the adjacent occipital bone
 - function – supports atlanto-occipital joints

II. Head

- A. Lateral temporomandibular
 - attachments – from zygomatic process of temporal bone to mandibular neck
 - function – supports joint capsule in maintaining articulation, & helps to limit depression & retraction