Chapter 7: The Skeletal System: The Axial Skeleton
The Skeletal System: The Axial Skeleton
Chapter 7

- Divisions of the Skeletal System
- Types of Bones
- Bone Surface Markings
- Skull
- Hyoid Bone
- Vertebral Column
- Thorax
Divisions of the Skeletal System

- The human skeleton consists of 206 named bones
- Bones of the skeleton are grouped into two principal divisions:
  - **Axial skeleton**
    - Consists of the bones that lie around the longitudinal axis of the human body
    - Skull bones, auditory ossicles (ear bones), hyoid bone, ribs, sternum (breastbone), and bones of the vertebral column
  - **Appendicular skeleton**
    - Consists of the bones of the upper and lower limbs (extremities), plus the bones forming the girdles that connect the limbs to the axial skeleton
## Divisions of the Skeletal System

### TABLE 7.1

The Bones of the Adult Skeletal System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION OF THE SKELETON</th>
<th>STRUCTURE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF BONES</th>
<th>DIVISION OF THE SKELETON</th>
<th>STRUCTURE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF BONES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Axial Skeleton</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Appendicular Skeleton</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skull</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pectoral (shoulder) girdles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cranium</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clavicle</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Face</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scapula</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hyoid</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Upper limbs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auditory ossicles</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vertebral column</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ulna</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thorax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Radius</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sternum</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Carpals</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ribs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Metacarpals</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Phalanges</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Subtotal = 80</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Subtotal = 126</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total in an adult skeleton = 206</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Divisions of the Skeletal System
Types of Bones

- Bones can be classified into five types based on shape:
  - Long
  - Short
  - Flat
  - Irregular
  - Sesamoid
Types of Bones

- **Long Bones**
  - Greater length than width and are slightly curved for strength
  - Femur, tibia, fibula, humerus, ulna, radius, phalanges

- **Short bones**
  - Cube-shaped and are nearly equal in length and width
  - Carpal, tarsal

- **Flat bones**
  - Thin and composed of two nearly parallel plates of compact bone tissue enclosing a layer of spongy bone tissue
  - Cranial, sternum, ribs, scapulae

- **Irregular bones**
  - Complex shapes and cannot be grouped into any of the previous categories
  - Vertebrae, hip bones, some facial bones, calcaneus

- **Sesamoid bones**
  - Protect tendons from excessive wear and tear
  - Patellae, foot, hand

- **Sutural bones**
  - Small bones located in sutures of cranial bones
Bone Surface Markings

- Bones have characteristic **surface markings**
  - Structural features adapted for specific functions

- There are two major types of surface markings:
  - 1) Depressions and openings
    - Allow the passage of blood vessels and nerves or form joints
  - 2) Processes
    - Projections or outgrowths that form joints or serve as attachment points for ligaments and tendons
# Bone Surface Markings

## Table 7.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKING</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depressions and Openings:</strong> Sites allowing the passage of soft tissue (nerves, blood vessels, ligaments, tendons) or formation of joints</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fissure (FISH-ur)</td>
<td>Narrow slit between adjacent parts of bones through which blood vessels or nerves pass.</td>
<td>Superior orbital fissure of the sphenoid bone (Figure 7.12).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foramen (fō-RĀ-men = hole; plural is foramina)</td>
<td>Opening through which blood vessels, nerves, or ligaments pass.</td>
<td>Optic foramen of the sphenoid bone (Figure 7.12).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossa (FOS-a = trench; plural is fossae, FOS-e)</td>
<td>Shallow depression.</td>
<td>Coronoid fossa of the humerus (Figure 8.5a on page 240).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulcus (SUL-kus = groove; plural is sulci, SUL-sī)</td>
<td>Furrow along a bone surface that accommodates a blood vessel, nerve, or tendon.</td>
<td>Intertubercular sulcus of the humerus (Figure 8.5a on page 240).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meatus (mē-Ă-tus = passageway; plural is meati, mē-Ă-tī)</td>
<td>Tubelike opening.</td>
<td>External auditory meatus of the temporal bone (Figure 7.4a).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processes:</strong> Projections or outgrowths on bone that form joints or attachment points for connective tissue, such as ligaments and tendons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes that form joints</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condyle (KON-dī; condylus = knuckle)</td>
<td>Large, round protuberance at the end of a bone.</td>
<td>Lateral condyle of the femur (Figure 8.13a on page 252).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facet (FAS-et or fa-SET)</td>
<td>Smooth flat articular surface.</td>
<td>Superior articular facet of a vertebra (Figure 7.18d).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>Roudned articular projection supported on the neck (constricted portion) of a bone.</td>
<td>Head of the femur (Figure 8.13a on page 252).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes that form attachment points for connective tissue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crest</td>
<td>Prominent ridge or elongated projection.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epicondyle (epi- = above)</td>
<td>Projection above a condyle.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line (linea)</td>
<td>Long, narrow ridge or border (less prominent than a crest).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinous process</td>
<td>Sharp, slender projection.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trochanter (trō-KAN-ter)</td>
<td>Very large projection.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubercle (TOO-ber-kul; tuber- = knob)</td>
<td>Small, rounded projection.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberosity</td>
<td>Large, rounded, usually roughened projection.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iliac crest of the hip bone (Figure 8.10b on page 246).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medial epicondyle of the femur (Figure 8.13a on page 252).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linea aspera of the femur (Figure 8.13b on page 252).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinous process of a vertebra (Figure 7.17).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater trochanter of the femur (Figure 8.13b on page 252).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater tubercle of the humerus (Figure 8.5a on page 240).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischial tuberosity of the hip bone (Figure 8.10b on page 246).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skull

- Skull (cranium)
- Consists of 22 bones
- Bones of the skull are grouped into two categories:
  - Cranial bones
    - Eight cranial bones form the cranial cavity
      - Frontal bone, two parietal bones, two temporal bones, the occipital bone, the sphenoid bone, ethmoid bone
  - Facial bones
    - Fourteen facial bones form the face
      - Two nasal bones, two maxillae, two zygomatic bones, the mandible, two lacrimal bones, two palatine bones, two inferior nasal conchae, vomer
Skull

- The cranial and facial bones protect and support special sense organs and the brain
- Besides forming the large cranial cavity, the skull also forms several smaller cavities
  - Nasal cavity
  - Orbits (eye sockets)
  - Paranasal sinuses
  - Small cavities which house organs involved in hearing and equilibrium
Skull

- Immovable joints called sutures fuse most of the skull bones together
- The skull provides large areas of attachment for muscles that move various parts of the head
- Skull and facial bones provide attachment for muscles that produce facial expressions
- The facial bones form the framework of the face and provide support for the entrances to the digestive and respiratory systems
Skull (Cranial Bones)

- **Frontal Bone**
  - Forms the forehead

- **Parietal Bones**
  - Form the sides and roof of the cranial cavity

- **Temporal Bones**
  - Form the lateral aspects and floor of the cranium

- **Occipital Bone**
  - Forms the posterior part and most of the base of the cranium

- **Sphenoid Bone**
  - Lies at the middle part of the base of the skull

- **Ethmoid Bone**
  - Located on the midline in the anterior part of the cranial floor medial to the orbits
  - A major superior supporting structure of the nasal cavity
  - Contain thin projections called conchae which are lined by mucous membranes
  - Increased surface area in the nasal cavity helps to humidify inhaled air trapping inhaled particles
Skull

Coronal suture
Sella Turcica:
  Dorsum sellae
  Tuberculum sellae
  Hypophyseal fossa
Frontal sinus
Crista galli
Cribriform plate
Perpendicular plate
NASAL BONE
SPHENOID BONE
Sphenoidal sinus
INFERIOR NASAL CONCHA
VOMER
MAXILLA
PALATINE BONE
MANDIBLE
HYOID BONE

PARIETAL BONE
Squamous suture
Lambdoid suture
TEMPORAL BONE
  Internal auditory meatus
  External occipital protuberance
OCCIPITAL BONE
  Hypoglossal canal
  Occipital condyle
  Styloid process
  Pterygoid processes
  Mandibular foramen

(a) Medial view of sagittal section
Skull

Sagittal suture

PARIETAL BONES

Sutural bones

OCCIPITAL BONE

Lambdoid suture

Superior nuchal line

External occipital protuberance

Inferior nuchal line

TEMPORAL BONE

Foramen magnum

Mastoid process

Inferior nasal concha

Styloid process

Hard palate:

Occipital condyle

Horizontal plate of palatine bone

VOMER

Palatine process of maxilla

MANDIBLE

Posteroinferior view

Figure 07.06 Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Skull (Facial Bones)

- **Nasal Bones**
  - Form the bridge of the nose

- **Maxillae**
  - Form the upper jawbone
  - Form most of the hard palate
    - Separates the nasal cavity from the oral cavity

- **Zygomatic Bones**
  - Commonly called cheekbones, form the prominences of the cheeks

- **Lacrimal Bones**
  - Form a part of the medial wall of each orbit

- **Palatine Bones**
  - Form the posterior portion of the hard palate

- **Inferior Nasal Conchae**
  - Form a part of the inferior lateral wall of the nasal cavity
Skull (Facial Bones)

- **Vomer**
  - Forms the inferior portion of the nasal septum

- **Mandible**
  - Lower jawbone
  - The largest, strongest facial bone
  - The only movable skull bone

- **Nasal Septum**
  - Divides the interior of the nasal cavity into right and left sides
  - “Broken nose,” in most cases, refers to septal damage rather than the nasal bones themselves

- **Orbits**
  - Eye socket

- **Foramina**
  - Openings for blood vessels, nerves, or ligaments of the skull
Skull

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Skull

(a) Superior view of sphenoid bone in floor of cranium

(b) Anterior view of sphenoid bone

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Skull

- Coronoid process
- Mandibular foramen
- Condylar process
- Mandibular notch
- Ramus
- Angle
- Body
- Alveolar process
- Mental foramen

Right lateral view
Skull

Figure 07.12 Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Unique Features of the Skull
- Sutures, Paranasal sinuses, Fontanels

Sutures
- An immovable joint that holds most skull bones together

Paranasal Sinuses
- Cavities within cranial and facial bones near the nasal cavity
- Secretions produced by the mucous membranes which line the sinuses, drain into the nasal cavity
- Serve as resonating chambers that intensify and prolong sounds

Fontanels
- Areas of unossified tissue
- At birth, unossified tissue spaces, commonly called “soft spots” link the cranial bones
- Eventually, they are replaced with bone to become sutures
- Provide flexibility to the fetal skull, allowing the skull to change shape as it passes through the birth canal
Skull

Figure 07.13  Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Skull

POSTERIOR FONTANEL

Parietal bone

ANTEORIOR FONTANEL

Future coronal suture

Frontal bone

ANTEROLATERAL FONTANEL

Sphenoid bone

Temporal bone

Future lambdoid suture

Occipital bone

Future squamous suture

POSTEROLATERAL FONTANEL

Right lateral view

Figure 07.14. Torture – PAP 13e
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Hyoid Bone

- Does not articulate with any other bone
- Supports the tongue, providing attachment sites for some tongue muscles and for muscles of the neck and pharynx
- The hyoid bone also helps to keep the larynx (voice box) open at all times
Vertebral Column

- Also called the spine, backbone, or spinal column
- Functions to:
  - Protect the spinal cord
  - Support the head
  - Serve as a point of attachment for the ribs, pelvic girdle, and muscles
- The vertebral column is curved to varying degrees in different locations
  - Curves increase the column strength
  - Help maintain balance in the upright position
  - Absorb shocks during walking, and help protect the vertebrae from fracture
Vertebral Column
Vertebral Column

- Various conditions may exaggerate the normal curves of the vertebral column
  - Kyphosis
  - Lordosis
  - Scoliosis

- Composed of a series of bones called **vertebrae** (Adult=26)
  - 7 **cervical** are in the neck region
  - 12 **thoracic** are posterior to the thoracic cavity
  - 5 **lumbar** support the lower back
  - 1 **sacrum** consists of five fused sacral vertebrae
  - 1 **coccyx** consists of four fused coccygeal vertebrae
Vertebral Column

(a) Scoliosis

(b) Kyphosis

(c) Lordosis

Figure 07.25 Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Vertebral Column (Intervertebral Discs)

- Found between the bodies of adjacent vertebrae
- Functions to:
  - Form strong joints
  - Permit various movements of the vertebral column
  - Absorb vertical shock
- Vertebrae typically consist of:
  - A Body (weight bearing)
  - A vertebral arch (surrounds the spinal cord)
  - Several processes (points of attachment for muscles)
Vertebral Column

(a) Superior view

(b) Right posterolateral view of articulated vertebrae

Figure 07.17 Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Vertebral Column (Regions)

- **Cervical Region**
  - Cervical vertebrae (C1–C7)
  - The atlas (C1) is the first cervical vertebra
  - The axis (C2) is the second cervical vertebra

- **Thoracic Region**
  - Thoracic vertebrae (T1–T12)
  - Articulate with the ribs

- **Lumbar Region**
  - Lumbar vertebrae (L1–L5)
  - Provide for the attachment of the large back muscles

- **Sacrum**
  - The sacrum is a triangular bone formed by the union of five sacral vertebrae (S1–S5)
  - Serves as a strong foundation for the pelvic girdle

- **Coccyx**
  - The coccyx, like the sacrum, is triangular in shape
  - It is formed by the fusion of usually four coccygeal vertebrae
# Vertebral Column

## Table 7.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Cervical</th>
<th>Thoracic</th>
<th>Lumbar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall structure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foramina</td>
<td>One vertebral and two transverse.</td>
<td>One vertebral.</td>
<td>One vertebral.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinous processes</td>
<td>Slender and often bifid (C2–C6).</td>
<td>Long and fairly thick (most project</td>
<td>Short and blunt (project posteriorly rather than inferiorly).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transverse processes</td>
<td>Small.</td>
<td>fairly thick).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articular facets for ribs</td>
<td>Absent.</td>
<td>Fairly large.</td>
<td>Large and blunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direction of articular facets</td>
<td></td>
<td>Present.</td>
<td>Absent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of intervertebral discs</td>
<td>Thick relative to size of vertebral bodies.</td>
<td>Thin relative to size of vertebral bodies.</td>
<td>Massive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vertebral Column

(a) Posterior view of articulated cervical vertebrae

(b) Superior view of atlas (C1)

(c) Superior view of axis (C2)

(d) Superior view of a typical cervical vertebra

Figure 07.18a-b Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Vertebral Column

(a) Right lateral view of several articulated thoracic vertebrae

(b) Superior view

(c) Right lateral view

Figure 07.19a-c Tortora - PAP 13/e
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Vertebral Column

(a) Right lateral view of articulated lumbar vertebrae

(b) Superior view

(c) Right lateral view

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Vertebral Column

Figure 07.21 Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Thorax

- Thoracic cage is formed by the:
  - Sternum
  - Ribs
  - Costal cartilages
  - Thoracic vertebrae

- Functions to:
  - Enclose and protect the organs in the thoracic and abdominal cavities
  - Provide support for the bones of the upper limbs
  - Play a role in breathing
Thorax

- **Sternum**
  - “Breastbone” located in the center of the thoracic wall
  - Consists of the manubrium, body, xiphoid process

- **Ribs**
  - Twelve pairs of ribs give structural support to the sides of the thoracic cavity

- **Costal cartilages**
  - Costal cartilages contribute to the elasticity of the thoracic cage
Vertebral Column

Figure 07.22 Tortora - PAP 12/e
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Vertebral Column
End of Chapter 7

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