

SPINE MCQS

1. Thoracic vertebrae have

- A: a circular vertebral foramen ✓
- B: bifid spinous processes
- C: perforated transverse processes
- D: short, blunt spinous processes

2. The articular facets of typical cervical vertebrae are

- A: nearly vertical and directed anteriorly and posteriorly
- B: oblique and directed nearly horizontally ✓
- C: oblique and directed laterally
- D: vestigial

3. You pull a bone from your study stash and find that it is kidney-shaped. You have a

- A: lumbar vertebra ✓
- B: mid-thoracic vertebra
- C: second cervical vertebra
- D: typical cervical vertebra

4. The attachments of the transverse ligament of the atlas are

- A: the anterior arch of the atlas and the foramen magnum
- B: the lateral masses of the atlas ✓
- C: the lateral masses of the atlas and the dens
- D: the transverse processes of the atlas

5. How many cervical vertebrae does a caboodle have? (Yes, this is in the text.)

- A: 5
- B: 6
- C: 7 ✓
- D: 8

6. A reckless young man has dived into a shallow pool, striking the top of his head. The most likely vertebral injury is

- A: atlanto-occipital dislocation
- B: compression fracture of the lateral masses of C1
- C: fracture of the anterior and posterior arches of C1 ✓
- D: odontoid (dens) fracture of C2

- 7: Your patient has returned from CT and the radiologist has already called you about his fracture of the pars interarticularis of C2. The mechanism of injury is
- A: hyperextension of the head on the neck ✓
 - B: forced flexion of the head on the neck
 - C: rapid deceleration of the head and neck on a fixed thorax
 - D: rotation and hyperextension of the head on the neck
8. The annulus fibrosis
- A: inserts into the epiphyseal rims of the vertebral bodies ✓
 - B: is thinnest anteriorly
 - C: maintains the flexibility and resilience of the intervertebral disc
 - D: receives blood supply from the nucleus pulposus
9. The posterior longitudinal ligament
- A: attaches to the intervertebral discs ✓
 - B: is stronger than the anterior longitudinal ligament
 - C: runs outside the spinal canal
 - D: will prevent hyperextension of the vertebral column
10. The erector spinae muscles
- A: are the chief rotators of the thoracic spine
 - B: form the deep layer of the intrinsic back muscles
 - C: have a common tendon attaching to the cervical vertebrae
 - D: receive supply from the posterior rami of the spinal nerves ✓
11. You are about to perform a lumbar puncture. You hope to pierce many layers, but not the
- A: arachnoid mater
 - B: filum terminale ✓
 - C: ligamentum flavum
 - D: supraspinous ligament
12. Herniation of the nucleus pulposus is most common
- A: in the elderly
 - B: in the lower cervical spine
 - C: posterolaterally ✓
 - D: with forced extension