

Spinal Facet Orientation and Spinal Motion

The superior spinal facets are located at the top of the vertebrae, or superiorly. These facets allow communication between the vertebrae above, and assist in coordination of movement in the spine. The superior facets are organized in a way that assists with congruent motion and fluidity.



PLAY PICMONIC

BUMBULBUM Mnemonic

BUMBULBUM-bees

Recall the surface of the superior facet with the mnemonic "BUMBULBUM".

"BUM" represents cervical because the superior facet surface faces **Back, Up and Medial**.

"BUL" because the superior facet surface faces **Back, Up and Lateral**.

Lastly, "BUM" represents Lumbar because the superior facet surface faces **Back, Up and Medial**.

Spine Facets

Cervical: Backward, Upright and Medial

Cervical-cat Back, Upward and wearing Metal

The surface of the superior facets of the cervical spine faces back, up and towards midline.

Thoracic: Backward, Upward and Lateral

Thor-axe Back, Upward and on a Ladder

The superior facets of the thorax are oriented backwards, upwards and lateral.

Lumbar: Backward, Upward and Medial

Lumberjack Back, Upward and wearing Metal

Facets in the lumbar spine face back, up and medial.

Spinal Motion

Flexion and Extension

Flexing and Extension-cord

The cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine can be moved in flexion and extension. The most noticeable areas of flexion and extension are the cervical and lumbar spine, where the superior facets are oriented backward and medially. Flexion and extension occur along the transverse axis in the sagittal plane.

Rotation

[Rotation](#)

Rotation is seen throughout the spine, and is most noted in the cervical and thoracic regions. Rotation is around the vertical axis, in the transverse plane.

Sidebending

[Sidebending](#)

Sidebending (Lateral Flexion) occurs throughout the vertebral column, and is most noticeable in the cervical and thoracic vertebrae. Sidebending occurs around the anterior-posterior axis, in the coronal plane.