

# Posterior column

Posterior bony complex (posterior arch) with interposed posterior ligamentous complex ([supraspinous ligament](#) and [interspinous ligament](#) , facet joints and capsule, and [ligamentum flavum](#) (LF)). Injury to this column alone does not cause instability in flexion.

The posterior column (dorsal column) refers to the area of [white matter](#) in the middle to posterior side of the spinal cord. It is made up of the [gracile fasciculus](#) and the cuneate fasciculus and itself is part of the posterior funiculus. It is part of an ascending pathway that is important for well-localized fine touch and conscious proprioception called the posterior column-medial lemniscus pathway.

Joint capsules, tactile and pressure receptors send a signal through the posterior root ganglia up through the gracile fasciculus for lower body sensory impulses and the cuneate fasciculus for upper body impulses. Once the gracile fasciculus reaches the gracile nucleus, and the cuneate fasciculus reaches the cuneate nucleus in the lower medulla oblongata, they begin to cross over as the internal arcuate fibers. Upon reaching the opposite side, they become the medial lemniscus, which is the second part of the posterior column-medial lemniscus pathway.

Lesions in this pathway can diminish or completely abolish tactile sensations and movement or position sense below the lesion.

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