

The **erector spinae muscles** are really three muscles: **spinalis muscle**, **longissimus muscle**, and **iliocostalis muscle**. To get more specific, anatomists subdivide each of these three muscles into smaller muscles based on the region of the spine they are in

They are also known as the sacrospinalis group of muscles. These muscles lie on either side of the **vertebral column spinous processes** (the bony points up and down the middle of the back) and extend throughout the lumbar, **thoracic**, and **cervical regions** (lower, middle, and upper back and the neck). The erector spinae is covered in the lumbar and thoracic regions (lower back and lower middle back) by the **thoracolumbar fascia**, and in the cervical region (neck) by the nuchal ligament.

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