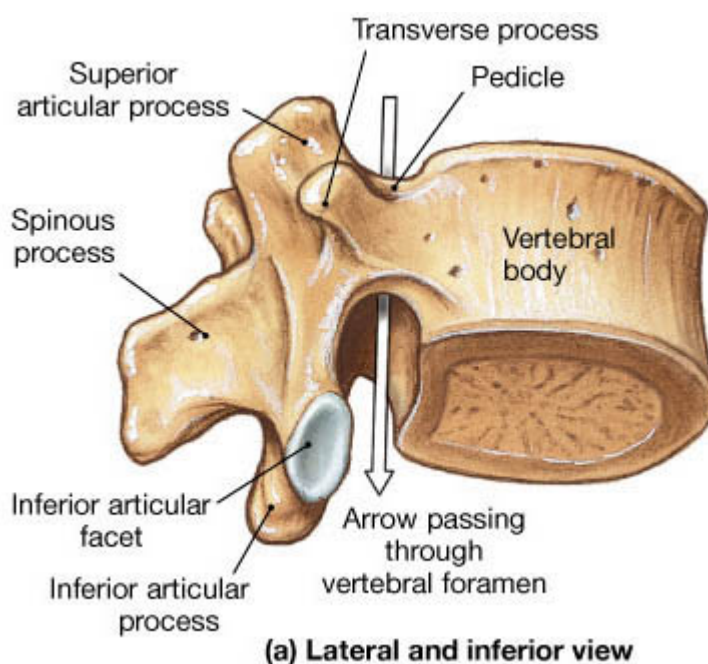


# Spinous process



The spinous process of a [vertebra](#) is directed backward and downward from the junction of the [laminae](#) (in humans), and serves for the attachment of [muscles](#) and [ligaments](#). In animals without an erect stance, the process points upward and may slant forward or backward. Spinous processes are exaggerated in some animals, such as the extinct *Dimetrodon* and *Spinosaurus*, where they form a sail- or finback.

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