

Transverse band

Transverse band also known as the transverse atlantic or atlantal ligament: attaches to a small tubercle on the medial cortex of the C1 (atlas) lateral masses on both sides anterior to the tectorial membrane and dura. It passes posterior to the dens, with a small intervening synovial capsule, fixing the dens to the posterior margin of the anterior arch of the atlas. It is the strongest ligament in the whole spine ¹⁾ and arguably the most important!

With the [alar ligament](#), the transverse band is the primary stabilizer of the atlantoaxial joint ²⁾

see [Cruciate ligament of the atlas](#)

¹⁾ , ²⁾

Offiah CE, Day E. The craniocervical junction: embryology, anatomy, biomechanics and imaging in blunt trauma. Insights Imaging. 2017 Feb;8(1):29-47. doi: 10.1007/s13244-016-0530-5. Epub 2016 Nov 4. PMID: 27815845; PMCID: PMC5265194.

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