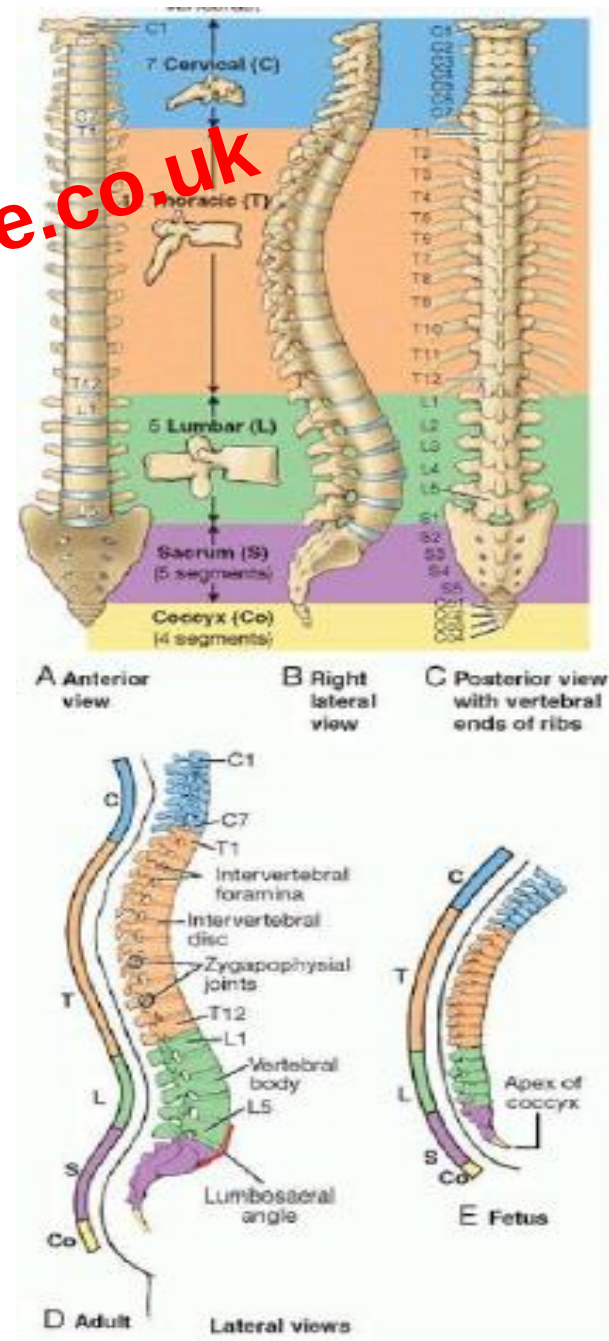
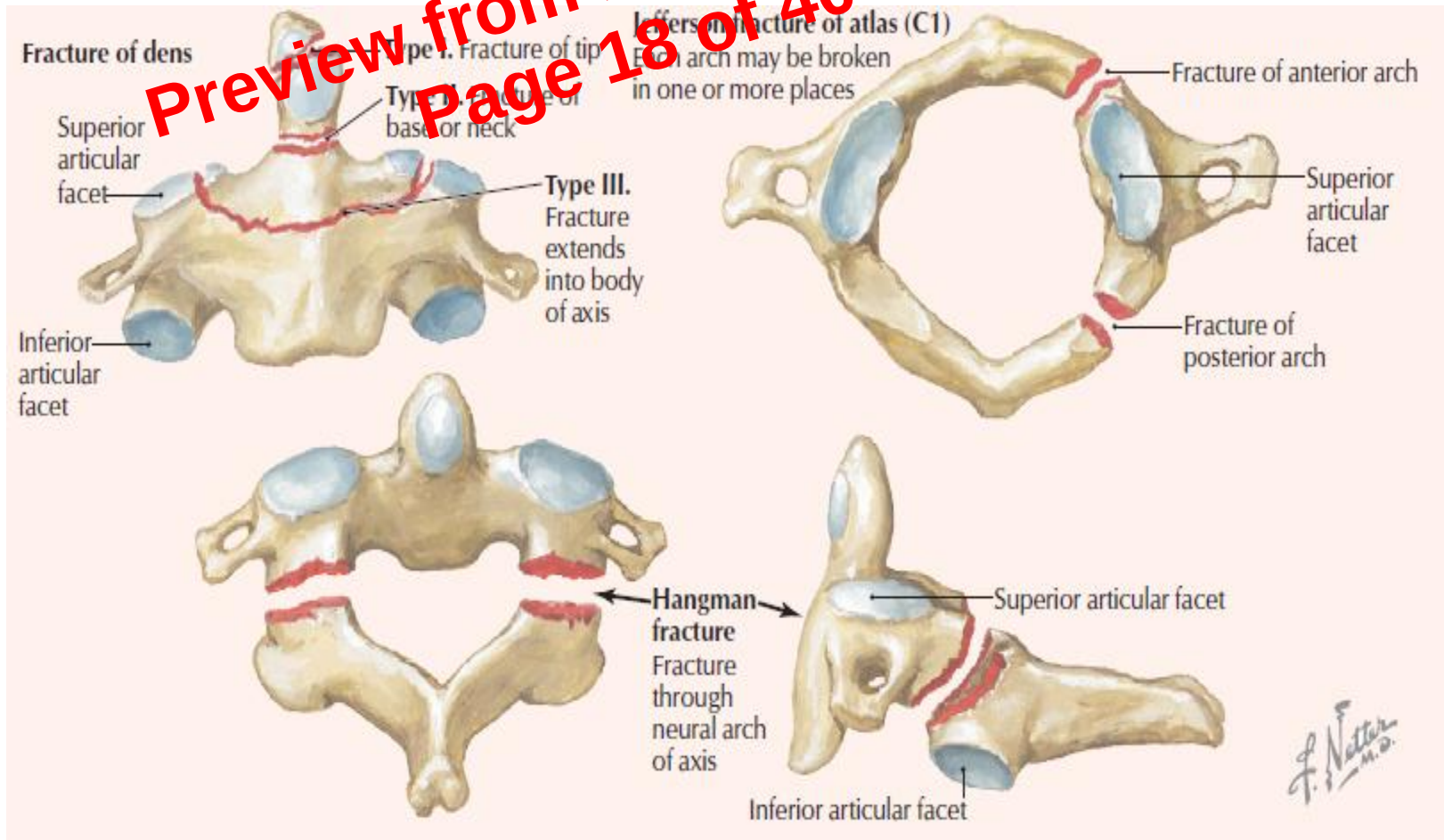


Vertebral Column

- General Characteristics
- The vertebral column consists of **33 vertebrae** (7 cervical, 12 thoracic, 5 lumbar, 5 fused sacral, and 4 fused coccygeal vertebrae).



A Jefferson fracture is a burst fracture of the atlas, often caused by a blow to the top of the head.





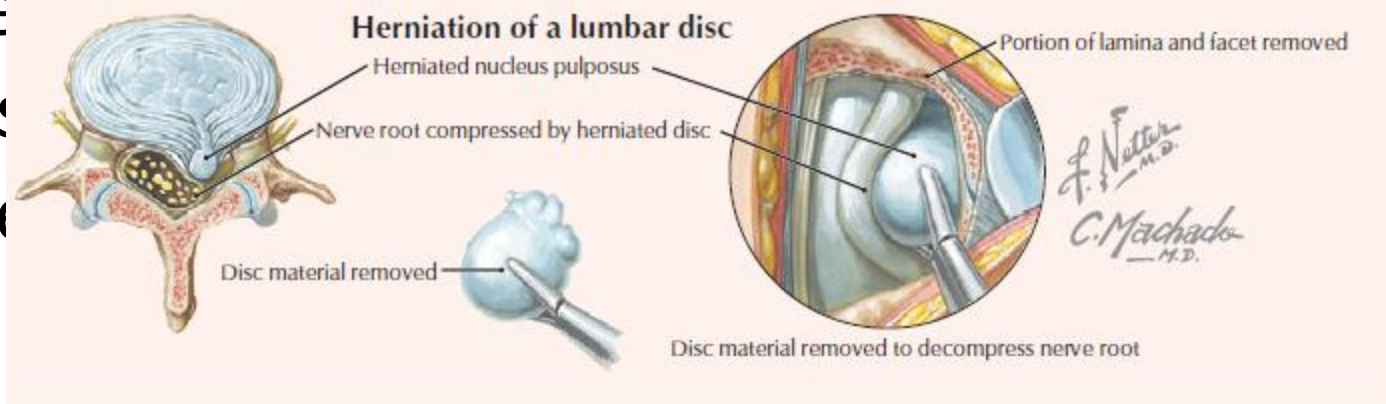
- The “hangman” fracture, a pedicle fracture of the axis, can be stabilized, if subject survives, with or without spinal cord damage
- Hangman's fracture may occur as a result of judicial hanging or automobile accidents. In this fracture, the cruciform ligament is torn and the spinal cord maybe crushed, causing

Spondylitis (ankylosing or rheumatoid spondylitis)

- Involves inflammation of the joints between the vertebrae and sacroiliac joints.
- **Ankylosing spondylitis** is a form of chronic inflammatory arthritis, the most common of which is rheumatoid arthritis, and causes pain, stiffness, swelling, and limited motion in the (lower) back.
- It causes the **affected vertebrae to fuse or grow together**, resulting in a rigid spine (**bamboo spine**) poor posture and deformities. Pain and

A herniated (slipped) disk

- It is a **protrusion of the nucleus pulposus** through the annulus fibrosus of the intervertebral disk into the intervertebral foramen or into the vertebral canal, compressing the spinal nerve root.
- It **commonly occurs posterolaterally** where the annulus fibrosus is not reinforced by the posterior longitudinal ligament.



Sciatica:

- It is characterized by pain radiating from the back into the buttock and into the lower limb and is most commonly caused by herniation of a lower lumbar intervertebral disk.