

Anatomy & Physiology: Bones—Vertebral Column, Sacrum.

STRUCTURE.

- Five sacral bones fuse (between ages 16-18) to form the sacrum.
- Triangular shaped.
- The sacrum is a keystone structure for the lumbo-pelvic-hip complex.
- Female sacrum (to accommodate childbirth): shorter, wider, and more curved than male sacrum.
- The smooth concave portion is directed anteriorly. 4 lines mark the fusion. Bilateral to these lines are 4 sacral foramina from anterior to posterior. Bilaterally like the sacral ala or "wings".
- Median sacral crest: fused spinous processes.
- Lateral sacral crest: fused transverse processes.
- Sacral hiatus: the gap created when the laminae of the 4th and 5th sacral vertebra fail to meet or fail to align neatly (can happen sometimes).
- Sacral promontory: the anterior projecting border of the superior sacrum. This is used as a landmark for measuring the pelvis.
- Auricular surface: "ear"; bilaterally. Articulates with the ilium of the hip bone forming the sacroiliac joint (SI joint).
- Superior articular processes articulate with the inferior articular processes of L5.

FUNCTION.

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

References

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