

## Medical Terminology: Bone Surface Features

Bone surface descriptors (form) also give us clues to their function.

Depressions and/or openings allow the passage/formation of soft tissue.

- **fissure**: narrow slit/groove/cleft as a passageway for vessels/nerves.
- **foramen**: opening (hole-like) allowing a passageway for vessels/nerves/ligaments.
- **fossa**: shallow depression/trench.
- **fovea**: rounded depression.
- **sulcus**: furrow or linear groove along a bone accomodating vessels/nerves/tendons.
- **meatus**: tubelike opening/passageway.
- **notch**: indentation.
- **sinus**: cavity/space.

Processes which are prominent projections/outgrowths (something sticking out) allowing formation of joints or attachment points for soft tissue.

Joint Processes:

- **condyle**: large, round protuberance/process at end of bone for articulation.
- **facet**: smooth, flat articular surface.
- **head**: rounded articular projection supported on the neck (narrow portion) of bone; enlargement at end of bone.

Attachment Processes:

- **crest**: prominent ridge/long projection on bone.
- **epicondyle**: smaller condyle/process/projection above ("epi") the condyle.
- **line (linea)**: long narrow ridge/long projection that not as severe/distinguished as a crest.
- **ramus**: a large/substantial mass of bone protruding from a body
- **spinous processes**: sharp slender projection.
- **trochanter**: large, blunt process/projection.
- **tubercle**: small, knob-like process/projection.
- **tuberosity**: large, rounded, typically rough-like projection.

Reference

Bliven, K. (2014, May 29). *KINE 5003: Functional anatomy, terminology* [PDF].

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