The cervical spine consists of the first seven vertebrae, referred to as C1-7 (see image below), provides movement and stability in the head while protecting the relatively unencumbered spinal cord. The cervical spine is divided into two parts: upper and lower. Anatomy of the cervical spine. Cervical vertebrae. The upper cervical spine consists of vertebrae C1 and C2. The lower cervical spine consists of vertebrae C3-7. The intervertebral discs separate the vertebrae.