

On the anterior surface of the inferior articular processes lie vertically positioned oval, antero-laterally facing convex facets, known as the 'inferior articular facets'. These facets are covered with hyaline cartilage and articulate with the superior articular facets of the sacrum at the zygapophysial joints below. The inferior articular processes of the fifth lumbar vertebra are more widely set and flatter than those of the other lumbar vertebrae.