

The posterior longitudinal ligament is a strong band supporting the posterior aspect of the vertebral column. It is wider superiorly (10-15mm) and narrower and denticulate inferiorly (6-8mm over the bodies; 10-15mm over the discs). It extends from the posterior surface of the body of C2 to the posterior surface of S1. It is 1-1.4mm thick and consists of two dense layers of collagen fibers. The superficial fibers extend over three or four vertebrae and the deeper ones pass between adjacent vertebrae. The fibers attach to the intervertebral discs and the adjacent margins of the vertebral bodies. Between attachments they are separated from the bodies by basivertebral veins and their communications with the anterior internal vertebral venous plexus. Superiorly, the ligament is continuous with the tectorial membrane.