

The eighth cervical ventral nerve roots contain efferent somatic nerve fibers corresponding to the eighth cervical spinal cord segment. They are large and emerge as two or three rows of rootlets from the antero-lateral sulci of the spinal cord. Between adjacent rootlets are inter-radicular spaces, which contain small blood vessels.

The roots pass obliquely infero-laterally over the superior surface of the transverse processes of T1, to join with the eighth cervical dorsal roots to form the eighth cervical spinal nerves. The roots are larger in obliquity and length than the ventral nerve roots above, however, the distance between the spinal attachments and vertebral exit is never greater than the height of one vertebra. They are covered by a sleeve of pia mater, which is continuous with that of the spinal cord, and loosely invested by a prolongation of dura and arachnoid mater (the dural sleeve) almost as far as the spinal nerves.