

The **fifth cervical dorsal spinal rami** pass posteriorly around the articular processes of C5, medial to the posterior intertransverse muscles and divides into medial and lateral branches. Each medial branch runs in the interval between semispinalis capitis and semispinalis cervicis and passes through the splenius and trapezius muscles to sometimes terminate in the skin (it may not always reach the skin).

Supply

The medial branches of the fifth cervical dorsal spinal rami supply skin of the neck, overlying the trapezius muscle. The lateral branches supply iliocostalis cervicis and longissimus cervicis and capitis muscles.