

The fifth thoracic dorsal spinal rami run posteriorly, adjacent to the zygapophyseal joints between T5 and T6 and divide into medial and lateral branches.

The medial branches emerge between the joints and the medial edges of the superior costotransverse ligaments and the intertransversarii muscles, to pass between semispinalis thoracis and multifidus to reach the spinous processes of T5 and T6. Here they pierce the rhomboideus and trapezius muscles to terminate in the overlying skin. The lateral branches emerge between the superior costotransverse ligaments and the intertransversarii muscles to reach the medial border of levatores costarum.

Supply

The fifth thoracic dorsal spinal rami supply the semispinalis thoracis, multifidus, levatores costarum and interspinales muscles as well as the skin overlying the fifth and sixth thoracic spinous processes.