

LEVEL: CERVICAL 7

A cervical level can always be identified by the large amount of white and gray matter and the ovoid shape of the region.

White Matter. The bulk of this section consists of ascending and descending fibers to the extremities, thorax, abdomen, trunk, and pelvis. Note how the dorsal columns increase in bulk as one ascends. Re-examine:

(1) **thoracic** and note the decrease in bulk of the spinal cord white matter which results from innervating the cervical enlargements (provides innervations to superior extremity); and (2) Figure 29-2 and note the decrease in bulk which results from innervation to the thorax, abdomen, and pelvis.

Gray Matter. In the ventral horn the retrodorsal, dorsolateral, and ventrolateral nuclei innervate the superior extremity.

