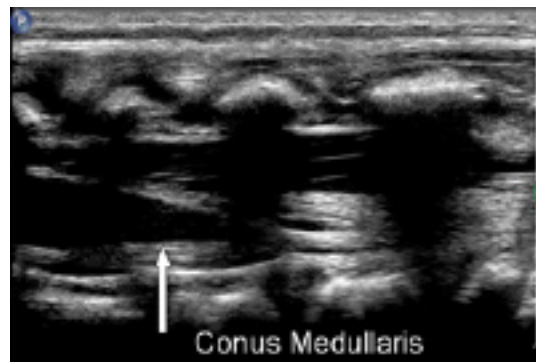


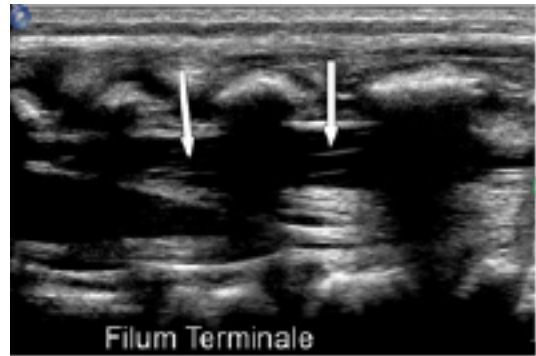
The **Conus Medullaris** is the terminal end of the spinal cord. It extends from the medulla oblongata to the level between the first and second lumbar vertebrae.



The **Filum Terminalis** is a strand of connective tissue, pia mater, extending from the conus medullaris to the spinal dural (thecal) sac that secures the lower end of the spinal cord.

It separates from the nerve roots (cauda equine) as it extends posteriorly in the canal.

The dural, or thecal, sac ends at approximately S2.



The nerve roots below L1 are termed the **Cauda Equina**.

This is a structure at the terminal end of the spinal cord that contains lumbar and sacral nerves.

It has the appearance of a horse's tail, thus the term, cauda equina. The nerve roots pass through the intervertebral foramen of each vertebra.



There are thirty-one pairs of spinal nerves: eight cervical, twelve thoracic, five lumbar, five sacral and one coccygeal.