Compact Bone (Cortical Bone)

Cortical bone is dense and compact. It forms the outer layer of the bone.

PubMed Health Glossary
(Source: NIH - National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases)

Related terms: Cortex of bone
Part of: Bone
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About Bone
Made mostly of collagen, bone is living, growing tissue. Collagen is a protein that provides a soft framework, and calcium phosphate is a mineral that adds strength and hardens the framework. This combination of collagen and calcium makes bone strong and flexible enough to withstand stress. More than 90 percent of the body's calcium is contained in the bones and teeth. The remaining 1 percent is found in the blood.

Two types of bone found in the body—cortical and trabecular. Cortical bone is dense and compact. It forms the outer layer of the bone. Trabecular bone makes up the inner layer of the bone and has a spongy, honeycomb-like structure.

Terms to know

Bone
A living, growing tissue made mostly of collagen.

Bone Marrow
The soft, sponge-like tissue in the center of most bones. It produces white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets.

Calcium
A mineral needed for healthy teeth, bones, and other body tissues. It is the most common mineral in the body.

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