



Navicular Bone

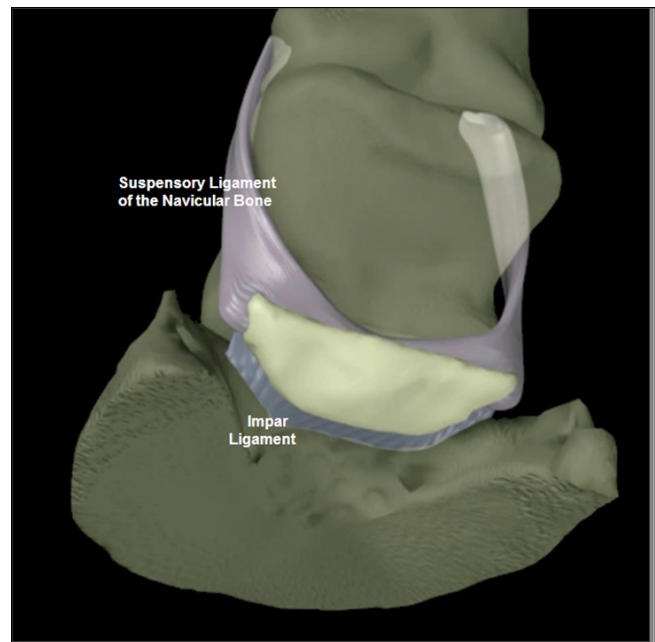
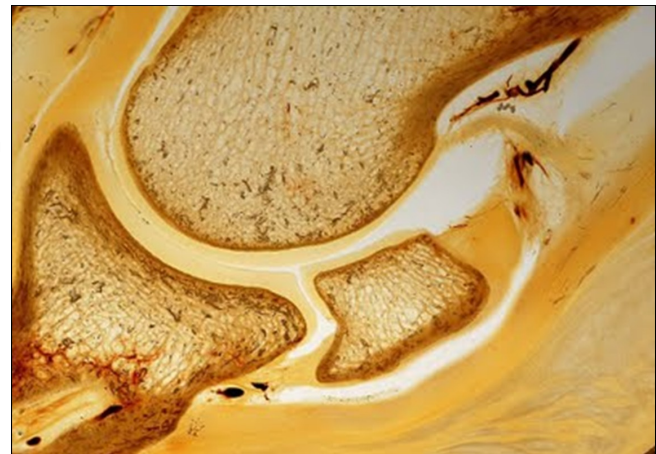
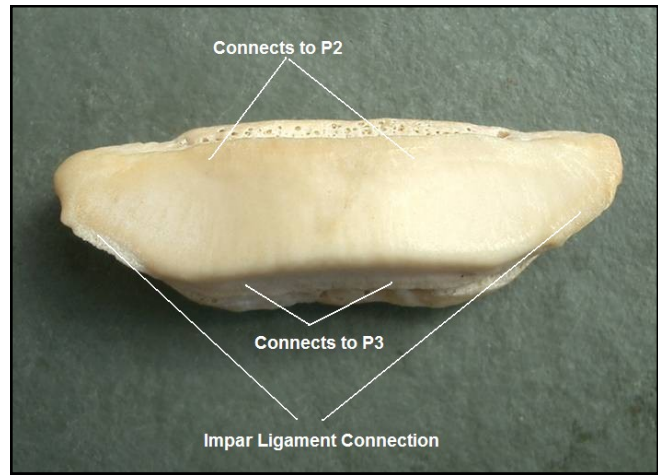
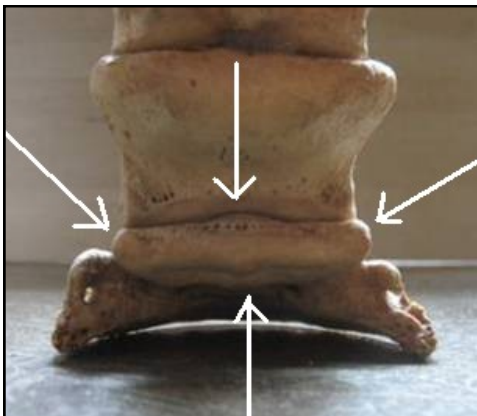
The navicular bone is so called because it is shaped like a boat. It shares a narrow joint surface with P3 (coffin bone). The main joint connection of the navicular bone is with P2 (short pastern bone)

The navicular bone moves (articulates) with P3 via a narrow distal articular surface that runs the full width of the coffin joint. Caudodistal to this articular surface is a narrow ridge where the impar ligament attaches across to P3. The main articulation of the navicular bone is with P2, in the palmar region of the distal articular surface of P2.

In the picture on the right you can see the cartilage where the joint surfaces are covered to prevent friction.

The main function of the navicular bone, which is also known as the distal sesamoid bone, is to change the direction of the deep digital flexor tendon which runs over (or better said: under) the navicular bone and there changes direction to run more upwards towards the fetlock and the sesamoid bones (also known as proximal sesamoids).

The navicular bone hangs in a ligamentous sling in the palmar aspect of P3.



Pictures courtesy of Todd Merrell, Zenequine, Dr. von Horst, and the Glass Horse

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