

# Spinal Cord, Spinal Nerves, and the Autonomic Nervous System

## Anatomy of the Spinal Cord

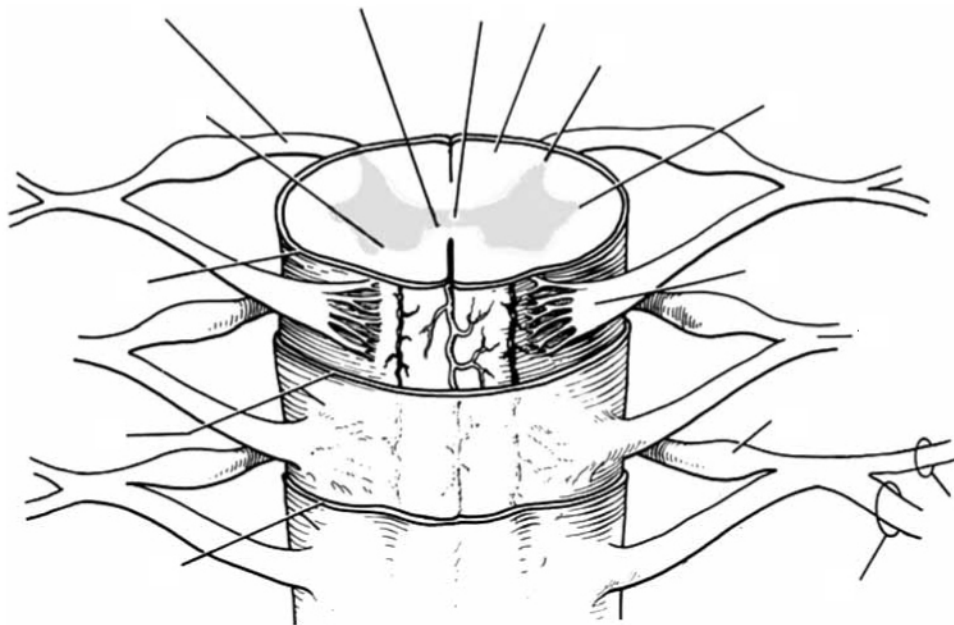
1. Match each anatomical term in the key to the descriptions given below.

Key: a. cauda equina      b. conus medullaris      c. filum terminale      d. foramen magnum

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. most superior boundary of the spinal cord
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. meningeal extension beyond the spinal cord terminus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. spinal cord terminus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. collection of spinal nerves traveling in the vertebral canal below the terminus of the spinal cord

2. Match the key letters on the diagram with the following terms.

- |                                       |                                      |   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. arachnoid mater              | _____ 6. dorsal root of spinal nerve | _____ 11. spinal nerve                  |
| _____ 2. central canal                | _____ 7. dura mater                  | _____ 12. ventral (anterior) horn       |
| _____ 3. dorsal (posterior) horn      | _____ 8. gray commissure             | _____ 13. ventral ramus of spinal nerve |
| _____ 4. dorsal ramus of spinal nerve | _____ 9. lateral horn                | _____ 14. ventral root of spinal nerve  |
| _____ 5. dorsal root ganglion         | _____ 10. pia mater                  | _____ 15. white matter                  |



3. Choose the proper answer from the following key to respond to the descriptions relating to spinal cord anatomy.

Key: a. sensory      b. motor      c. both sensory and motor      d. interneurons

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. neuron type found in dorsal horn    | _____ 4. fiber type in ventral root |
| _____ 2. neuron type found in ventral horn   | _____ 5. fiber type in dorsal root  |
| _____ 3. neuron type in dorsal root ganglion | _____ 6. fiber type in spinal nerve |

4. Where in the vertebral column is a lumbar puncture generally done? \_\_\_\_\_  
*vertebrae.*

Why is this the site of choice? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. The spinal cord is enlarged in two regions, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ regions.

What is the significance of these enlargements? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How does the position of the gray and white matter differ in the spinal cord and the cerebral hemispheres?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. From the key, choose the name of the tract that might be damaged when the following conditions are observed. (More than one choice may apply.)

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. uncoordinated movement     | Key: a. fasciculus cuneatus<br>b. fasciculus gracilis<br>c. lateral corticospinal tract<br>d. anterior corticospinal tract<br>e. tectospinal tract<br>f. rubrospinal tract<br>g. vestibulospinal tract<br>h. lateral spinothalamic tract<br>i. anterior spinothalamic tract<br>j. posterior spinocerebellar tract<br>k. anterior spinocerebellar tract |
| _____ 2. lack of voluntary movement |  |
| _____ 3. tremors, jerky movements   |  |
| _____ 4. diminished pain perception |  |
| _____ 5. diminished sense of touch  |  |

## Dissection of the Spinal Cord

8. Compare and contrast the meninges of the spinal cord and the brain. \_\_\_\_\_  
*meninges:*

\_\_\_\_\_ *vertebral bone and the dura, but the dura of the brain is tightly adhered to the skull.*

9. How can you distinguish between the dorsal and ventral horns? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Spinal Nerves and Nerve Plexuses

10. In the human, there are 31 pairs of spinal nerves, named according to the region of the vertebral column from which they issue. The spinal nerves are named below. Indicate how they are numbered.

cervical nerves \_\_\_\_\_ sacral nerves \_\_\_\_\_

lumbar nerves \_\_\_\_\_ thoracic nerves \_\_\_\_\_

11. The ventral rami of spinal nerves C<sub>1</sub> through T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>12</sub> through S<sub>4</sub> take part in forming \_\_\_\_\_, which serve the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body. The ventral rami of T<sub>2</sub> through T<sub>12</sub> run between the ribs to serve the \_\_\_\_\_. The dorsal rami of the spinal nerves serve \_\_\_\_\_.

12. What would happen if the following structures were damaged or transected? (Use the key choices for responses.)

Key: a. loss of motor function      b. loss of sensory function      c. loss of both motor and sensory function

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. dorsal root of a spinal nerve      \_\_\_\_\_ 3. ventral ramus of a spinal nerve

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. ventral root of a spinal nerve

13. Define *plexus*. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Name the major nerves that serve the following body areas.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. head, neck, shoulders (name plexus only)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. diaphragm

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. posterior thigh

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. leg and foot (name two)

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. anterior forearm muscles (name two)

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. arm muscles (name two)

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. abdominal wall (name plexus only)

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. anterior thigh

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. medial side of the hand

## The Autonomic Nervous System

15. For the most part, sympathetic and parasympathetic fibers serve the same organs and structures. How can they exert antagonistic effects? (After all, nerve impulses are nerve impulses—aren't they?)

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Name three structures that receive sympathetic but not parasympathetic innervation.

---

17. A pelvic splanchnic nerve contains (circle one):

- a. preganglionic sympathetic fibers                      c. preganglionic parasympathetic fibers  
b. postganglionic sympathetic fibers                      d. postganglionic parasympathetic fibers

18. The following chart states a number of conditions. Use a check mark to show which division of the autonomic nervous system is involved in each.

Sympathetic division	Condition	Parasympathetic division
	Secretes norepinephrine; adrenergic fibers	
	Secretes acetylcholine; cholinergic fibers	
	Long preganglionic axon; short postganglionic axon	
	Short preganglionic axon; long postganglionic axon	
	Arises from cranial and sacral nerves	
	Arises from spinal nerves T <sub>1</sub> through L <sub>3</sub>	
	Normally in control	
	"Fight-or-flight" system	
	Has more specific control (Look it up!)	

## Galvanic Skin Response Using BIOPAC®

19. Describe exactly how, from a physiological standpoint, GSR can be correlated with activity of the autonomic nervous system.

---

---

---

20. Based on this brief and unprofessional exposure to a polygraph, explain why this might not be an exact tool for testing the sincerity and honesty of a subject.

---

---

---