

## BSCI338N: Diseases of the Nervous System

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dons/index.html>  
[www.neuroanatomy.wisc.edu](http://www.neuroanatomy.wisc.edu)

### Chapter 4: Clinical Neuroradiology

2D slices called imaging planes along **horizontal** (axial; most CT scans), **coronal** (face), and **sagittal** (side) planes  
**CAT** - computer-assisted (detector reconstructs image)  
**tomography** (rotated)

x-ray source moves around CT gantry aperture, which is absorbed by detector array

absorption varies with density: water/brain is isodense (grey), bone is hyperdense (white), & fat is hypodense (black)

fresh hemorrhages (Fe) are slightly hypodense  
can highlight blood vessels with IV contrast

**MRI** - nuclear magnetic resonance imaging

protons have spin & precession relative to an external static magnetic field

intensity of MRI signal determined by proton density & proton relaxation time

### Relaxation

T1 relaxation along z axis parallel to magnetic field

T2 relaxation along x,y axis perpendicular to magnetic field

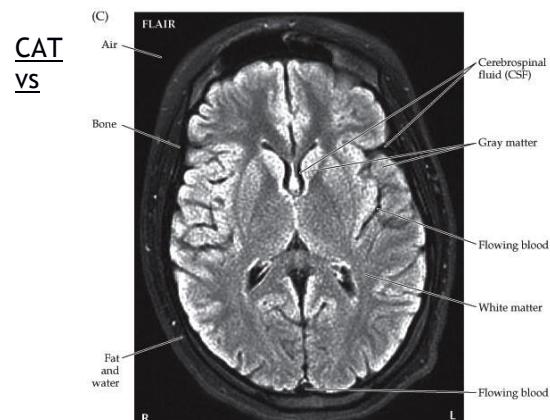
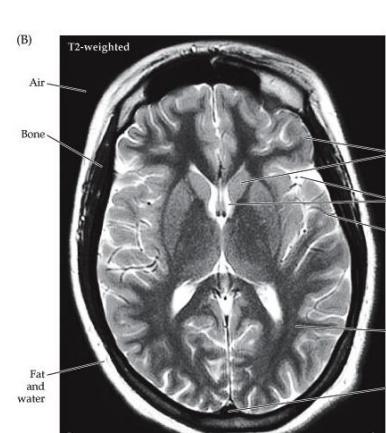
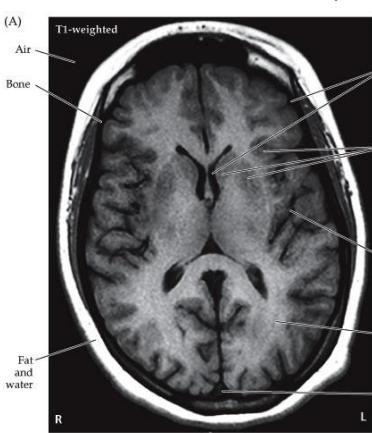
in spin echo (SE) pulse sequence, T1-weighted images from shorter repetition time (TR) & echo time (TE); reverse for T2-weighted images

all: air/bone is black; fat is white

T1: water is dark, lipids (white matter/myelinated axons) bright → vice versa for T2

**FLAIR:** like T2 except CSF is dark so subtle abnormalities are enhanced

TISSUE	T1-WEIGHTED	T2-WEIGHTED	FLAIR
Gray matter	Gray	Light gray	Light gray
White matter	White	Dark gray	Gray
CSF or water	Black	White	Dark gray
Fat	White	White <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>a</sup>
Air	Black	Black	Black
Bone or calcification	Black	Black	Black
Edema	Gray	White	White
Demyelination or gliosis	Gray	White	White
Ferritin deposits (e.g., in basal ganglia)	Dark gray	Black	Black
Ca <sup>2+</sup> bound to protein	White	Dark gray	Dark gray
Proteinaceous fluid	White	Variable	Variable



### MRI:

- CAT is better for bone/blood/restrictions: head trauma, calcified lesions, fresh hemorrhage, pacemaker, obesity, claustrophobia, lower cost & higher speed
- MRI is better for anatomical detail, old hemorrhages, lesion near base of skull, or subtle structures like tumors, infarcts, or demyelination

### Unit 1: Spinal Cord

#### Aim

- afferent sensory pathways bring information from periphery to brain
- efferent motor pathways carry motor commands from brain to muscles
- efferent autonomic pathways control visceral functions

## Brain surface

**gyri** (ridge), **sulci** (trough; wrinkles), & **fissure** (deep gap dividing lobes :)

**primary motor cortex** is on the precentral gyrus, anterior to central sulcus, in front lobe

**primary somatosensory cortex** is on the post-central gyrus, posterior to central sulcus, in parietal lobe

both are superior to Sylvan fissure that separates temporal lobe from frontal/parietal lobes

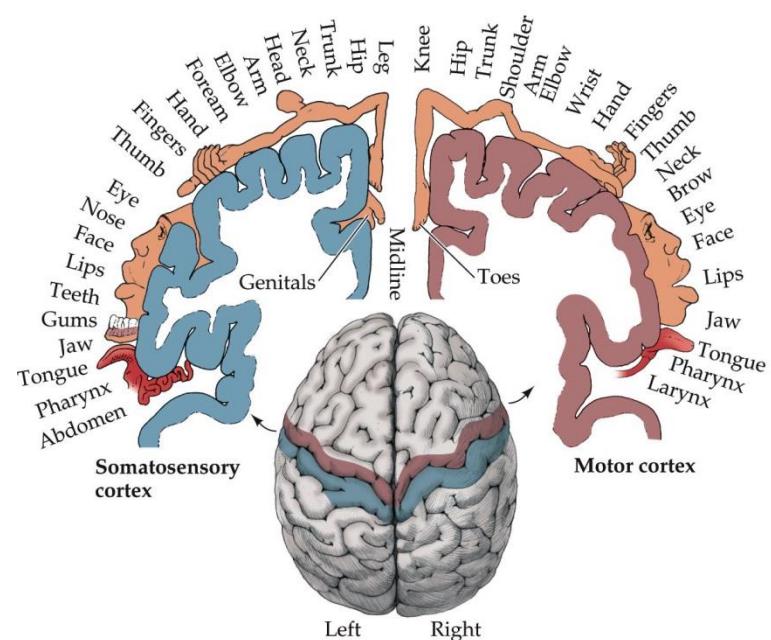
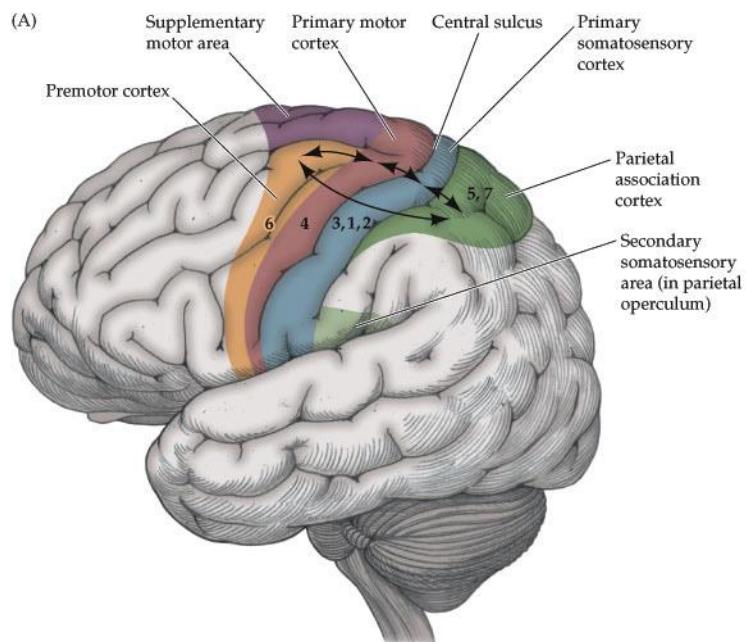
brain stem: pons, midbrain, & medulla

somatotopic organization: specific parts of brain control different parts of body & vice versa

maintained throughout spinal cord

coronal plane homunculus

(A)



## Spinal Cord

axon tracts: **white matter**, descend through **internal capsule**

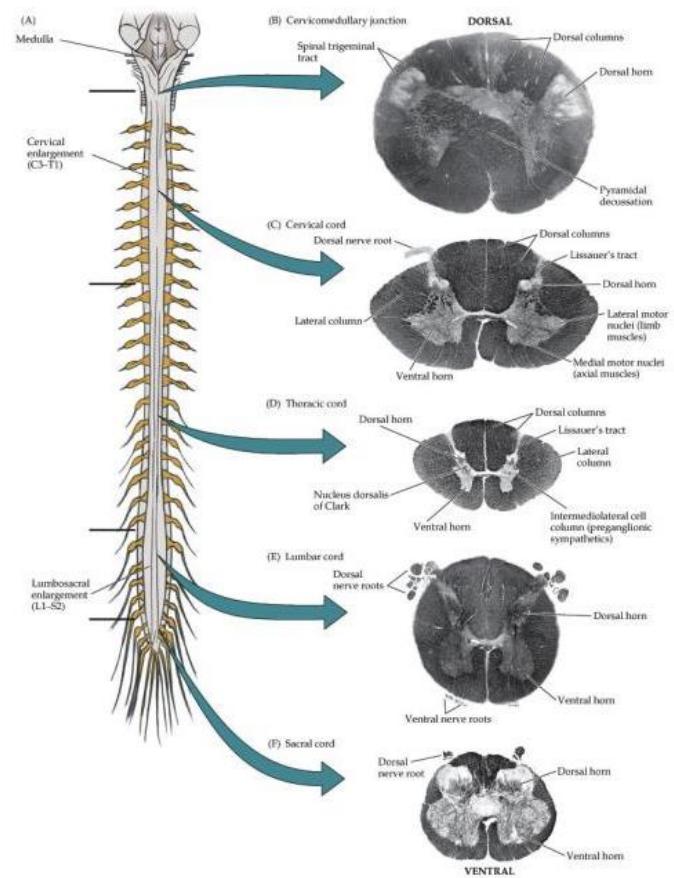
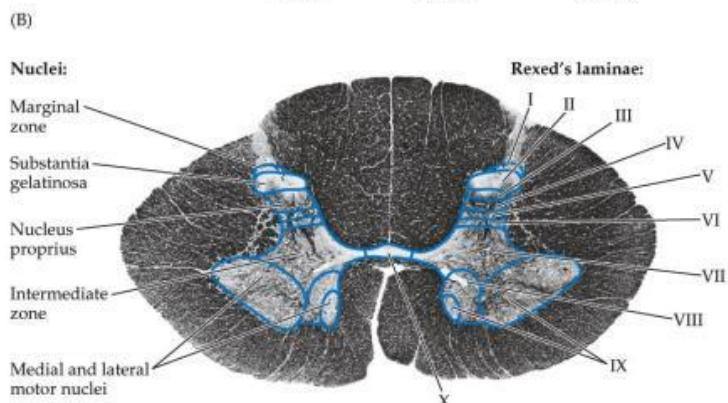
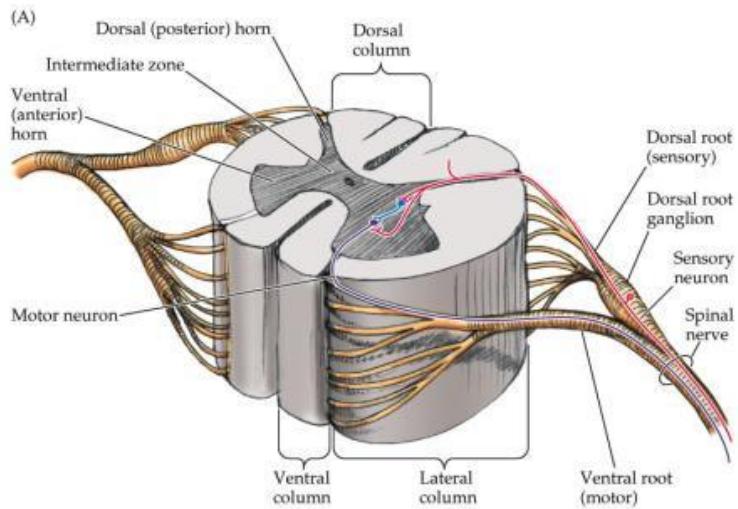
cell bodies in the spinal cord: **grey matter**

sensory in dorsal horn; motor in ventral horn (larger Rexed's numbers); interneurons in intermediate zone

spinal cord: cervical (head & neck), thoracic (torso), lumbar & sacral (legs)

ventral root expansion in cervical & lumbar-sacral regions due to greater fine motor control

pyramidal decussation in medulla: crossing right brain to left half of body & vice versa



## Descending Motor Pathways

### Lamina

layer 6: interface with deep thalamus neurons

layer 5: output neurons (pyramidal cells → special type is Betz cell, huge soma, fine control of muscles)

layer 4: thalamus input

layer 2 & 3: cortical neurons synapse w/ interneurons

layer 1: lateral connections

### Upper Motor Neuron Pathway

1. **corticospinal tracts**: primary motor cortex layer 5 → corticospinal & corticobulbar tracts → posterior limb of internal capsule → basis pedunculi (midbrain) → basis pontis (pons) → ventral column in medulla for crossing in pyramidal decussation (lateral CT) or in ventral column (anterior CT)

LCT: dorsal column & lateral intermediate zone/lateral motor nuclei (LIZ/LMN) (dorsal grey matter) → full cord, movement of contralateral limbs

ACT: ventral column & medial intermediate zone/medial motor nuclei (MIZ/MMN) (ventral grey matter) → cervical/upper thoracic, bilateral axial & girdle muscles

2. **rubrospinal tract**: red nucleus & central tegmental decussation (midbrain) → lateral column  
RST: cervical cord, function not well known in primates

3. **vestibulospinal tracts**: lateral vestibular nucleus (pons) or medial vestibular nucleus (medulla)  
MVT: MIZ/MMN → cervical/thoracic, head & neck positioning

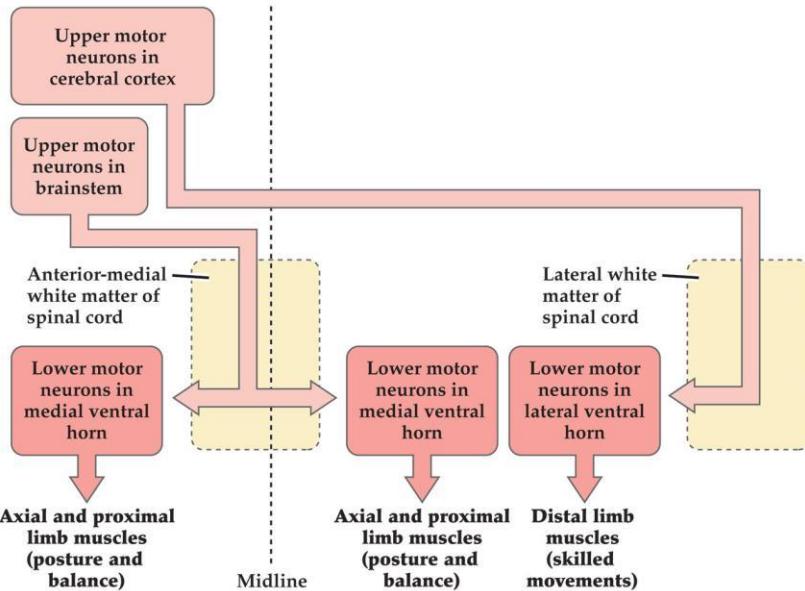
LVT: MIZ/MMN → full cord, balance

4. **reticulospinal tracts**: pontine/medullary reticular formation → medullary reticulospinal tract  
RCT: MIZ/MMN → full cord, gait & posture

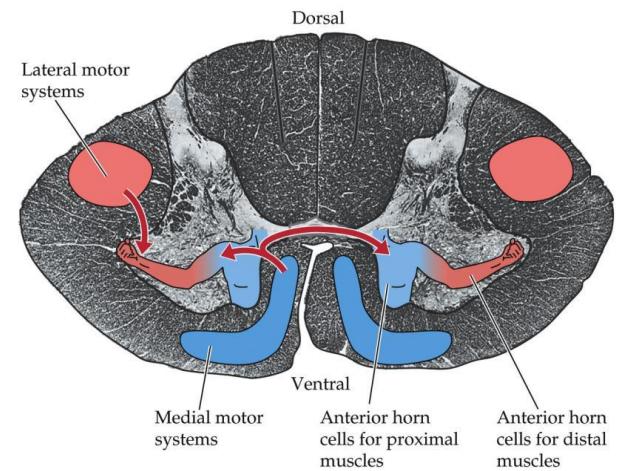
5. **tectospinal tract**: superior colliculus (midbrain) → tectospinal tract

TST: MIZ/MMN → cervical, function not well known in primates

(B)



NEUROSCIENCE 5e, Figure 17.1 (Part 2)  
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NEUROANATOMY 2e, Figure 6.7

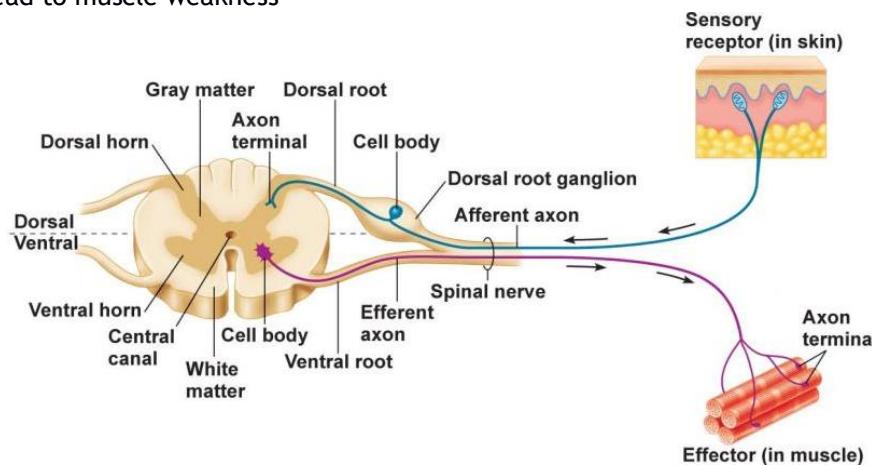
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### Neuromuscular Synapse

motor unit = motor neuron + fiber(s) it innervates (smaller unit = less force, more fine control)  
primary motor neuron → glutamate (major excitatory NT in CNS) → motor interneuron → Ach → muscle

UMN lesions: enhanced muscle tone & reflexes

LMN lesions: muscular atrophy/fasciculations & reduced reflexes/tone  
both lead to muscle weakness



### Reflex Arcs

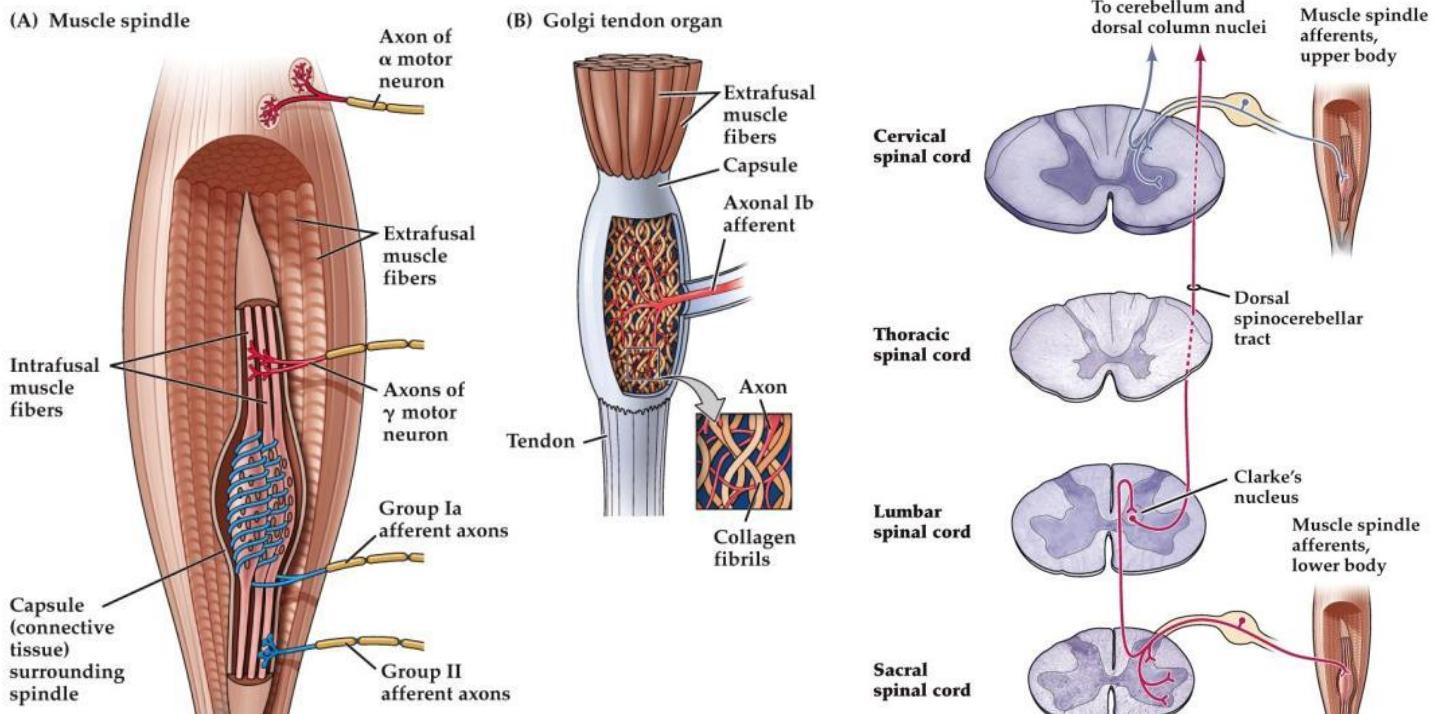
proprioceptors → stretch & withdrawal reflexes

reflex grades: 0 = absent, 1-3 = normal, 4-5 = clonus

muscle spindle (stretch) & Golgi tendon (force) afferents

muscle stretch → la afferent firing rate increases → gamma efferents cause intrafusal fiber contraction & increase gain AND extensor contraction via alpha MN, flexor relaxation via interneurons on alpha MN

input to primary motor cortex → inhibition of inhibition → more input to gamma MN → intrafusal fibers of extensor contract → raise la gain



**withdrawal reflex:**

polysynaptic crossed-extensor reflex  
excitation of ipsilateral flexor & contralateral extensor  
inhibition of ipsilateral extensor & contralateral flexor

**mechanoreceptors → touch**

nerve ending has encapsulated afferent fiber (amplified transducer) which expands sensory SA  
different receptor types have different field sizes on different skin surfaces to detect textures, skin motion, vibration, or skin stretch

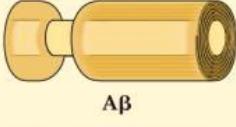
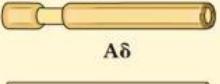
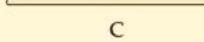
**two-point discrimination:** calipers test integrity of somatosensory input

deficit indicates peripheral neuropathy

receptive fields are more discriminatory in fingers, face, & toes

**thermo/nocioreceptors →** free nerve endings with chemical & heat-sensitive channels (pain, temperature, itch :)

**TABLE 9.1 Somatic Sensory Afferents that Link Receptors to the Central Nervous System**

SENSORY FUNCTION	RECEPTOR TYPE	AFFERENT AXON TYPE <sup>a</sup>	AXON DIAMETER	CONDUCTION VELOCITY
Proprioception	Muscle spindle		13–20 $\mu\text{m}$	80–120 m/s
Touch	Merkel, Meissner, Pacinian, and Ruffini cells		6–12 $\mu\text{m}$	35–75 m/s
Pain, temperature	Free nerve endings		1–5 $\mu\text{m}$	5–30 m/s
Pain, temperature, itch	Free nerve endings (unmyelinated)		0.2–1.5 $\mu\text{m}$	0.5–2 m/s

current flow resistance is proportional to fiber diameter

different processes have axons with different properties

myelin: reduce membrane capacitance → less charge moved for same voltage change → saltatory conduction between nodes of Ranvier

### **Motor Pathology**

#### **UMN Disease**

loss of cortical control of spinal reflex arcs

LST synapses on interneurons to inhibit gamma MNs

rest: increased gamma MN activity enhances muscle tone → shortens spindle, increasing Ia gain

stretch: Ia activity elevation is abnormally high → sudden movements leads to spasticity & clonus

Babinski's sign: extensor (toes fanned) plantar response

### **Autonomic Control**

from hypothalamus, pons, & medulla → cell bodies in medial portions

nAChR → NE or Ach (synapse effector organ via varicosities en passant)

SANS: thoracic/lumbar → intermediolateral nucleus (Rexed's lamina #5) → ventral nerve root →

paravertebral ganglion via white ramus → synapse → to effector organ via grey ramus

preganglionic neuron sends axon collaterals up and down sympathetic chain → generalized response

PANS: brainstem/sacral → sacral parasympathetic nuclei → ventral nerve root → peripheral synapse near effector organ

damage to sacral spinal cord will lead to urination/defecation/sexual function deficits

### **Descending Motor Control Pathology**

Cortical insult/lesion (stroke)

UMN disease (primary lateral sclerosis)

UMN axonal damage (MS)

spinal cord injury (trauma)

LMN disease (ALS)

### **Stroke**

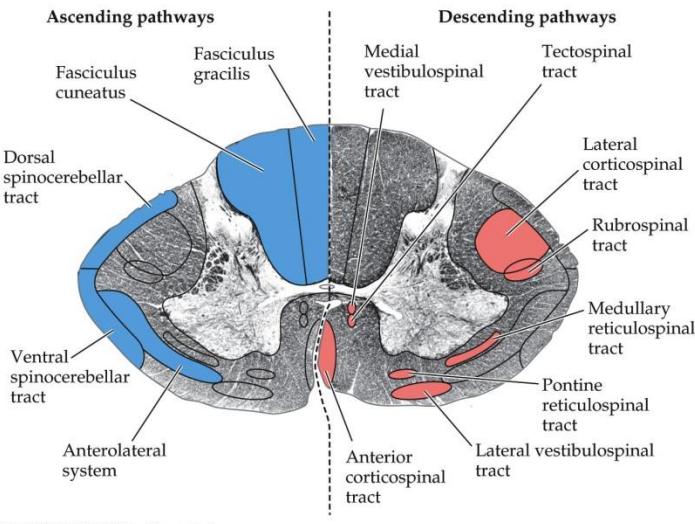
ischemic: blood clot from plaque in artery (thrombotic), break off from elsewhere (embolic), or atherosclerotic plaque

hemorrhagic: burst blood vessel

lacunar infarct: silent stroke, block from deep artery from Circle of Willis

### **Lesions**

cortex → unilateral weakness according to somatotopic mapping  
internal capsule → pure hemiparesis (including lower face)  
pyramidal decussation → hemiparesis sparing face  
spinal cord → weakness below lesion site  
quadriplegia: could be medullary lesion (bilateral lesions are unlikely in cortex & efferents), but more likely generalized motor neuron disease



NEUROANATOMY 2e, Figure 7.4

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### Ascending Sensory Pathways

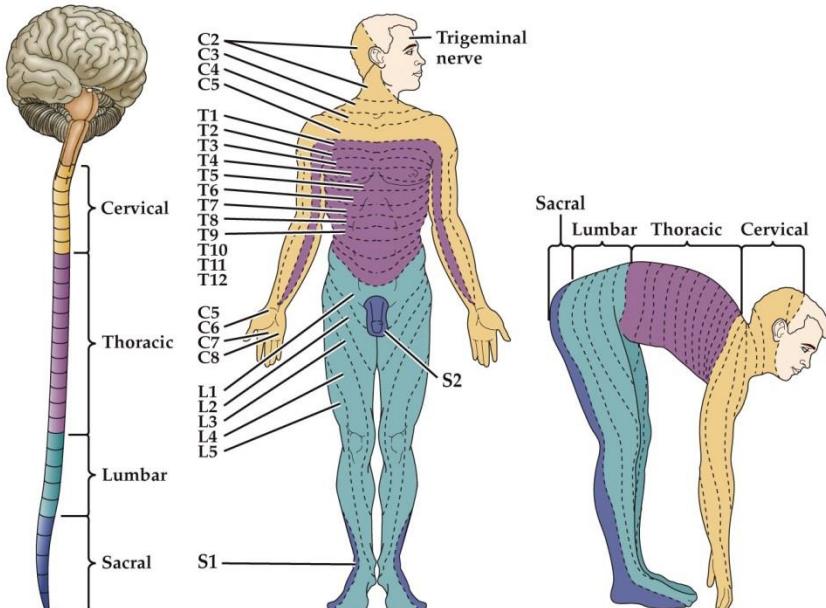
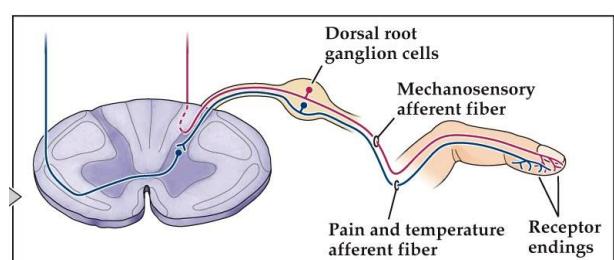


TABLE 7.1 Main Long Tracts of the Nervous System

PATHWAY(S)	FUNCTION	NAME (AND LEVEL) OF DECUSSTATION
Lateral corticospinal tract	Motor	Pyramidal decapsulation (cervico-medullary junction)
Posterior column-medial lemniscal pathway	Sensory (vibration, joint position, fine touch)	Internal arcuate fibers (lower medulla)
Anterolateral pathways	Sensory (pain, temperature, crude touch)	Anterior commissure (spinal cord)



sensory & motor input layout is pretty

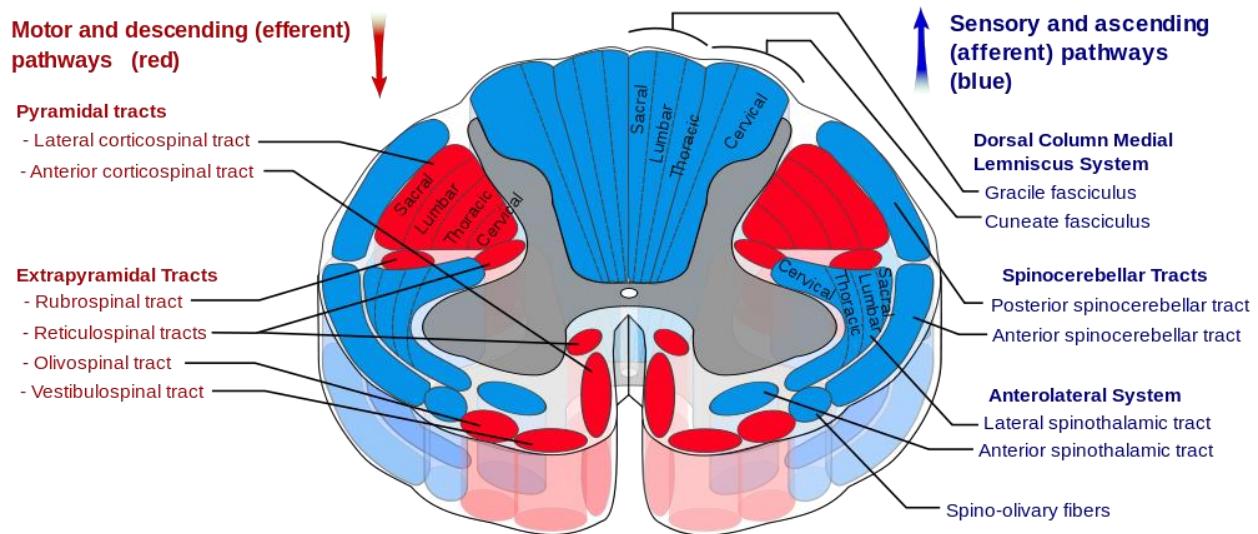
much the same (except that muscles can run across two dermatomes)

### Sensory Pathways

1. **posterior column:** VPL → cross in medulla via medial lemniscus → descend through dorsal columns (fasciculus gracilis for lower body and cuneatus for upper body) → dorsal root ganglion (DRG) → vibration & position sense
2. **anterolateral pathways:** VPL → secondary sensory neuron → anterolateral pathway → cross via anterior commissure → DRG → pain & temperature

3. spinocerebellar tracts: Golgi apparatus & spindle fibers also send synapses to dorsal & ventral spinocerebral tracts to convey point position via collaterals to cerebellum (also cross in medulla) → via posterior column collaterals?

4. trigeminal nerve: emerges from brainstem rather than spinal cord, sensory input for face crosses in trigeminal limneses  
eg Tick de la Rue - facial pain tics



### Primary Somatosensory Cortex

sensory cortex: anterior part of parietal lobe, behind central gyrus (has 3 sections)  
gets input from ventral posterior lateral (VPL) or medial (for facial) nuclei of thalamus  
layer 2 & 3: projections from layer 4; local integration

layer 4: thalamic input

layer 5: output to body

layer 6: output to thalamus

feedback loop: somatosensory projections go to VPL and other brain areas AND output of primary sensory cortex goes to other brain areas → give more weight to raw/reference or processed signal → hormones, pain perception, etc

eg thalamus gets a raw copy from ascending tracts & a processed copy from cortex which affects how it relays & modulates sensory input to cortex

pain modulation in periaqueductal gray matter: input from anterolateral system & hypothalamus/amygdala/cortex modulates output to dorsal horn

### Patterns of Sensory Loss

differentiate primary input vs processing problem

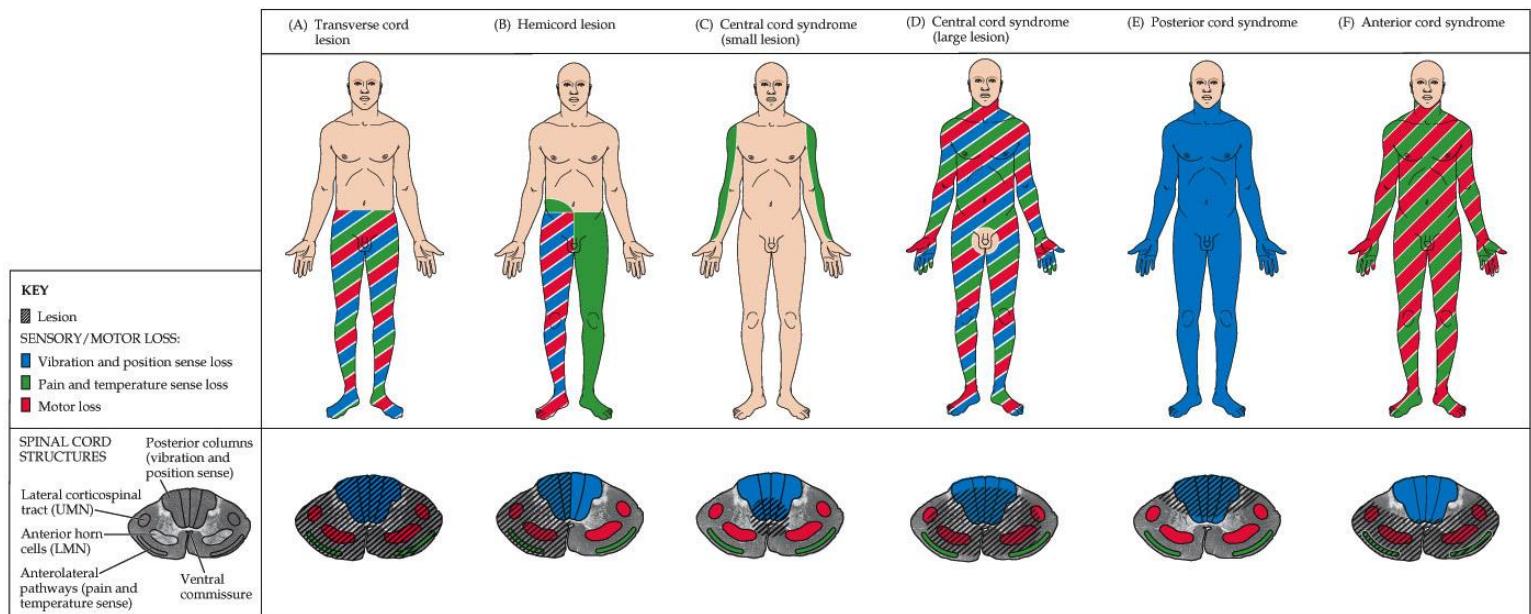
stereognosis - determination of tactile stimulation, mediated by posterior column pathways

graphesthesia - recognition of letters traced on skin, mediated by posterior column pathways & cortical circuits

lesions: pons - contralateral anterolateral/posterior columns tract & ipsilateral trigeminal (already crossed)

peripheral neuropathy - bilateral distal sensory loss (stocking and glove syndrome)

pathways to know: pinprick, temperature, vibration, joint position sense, two-point discrimination, graphesthesia, stereognosis, tactile extinction

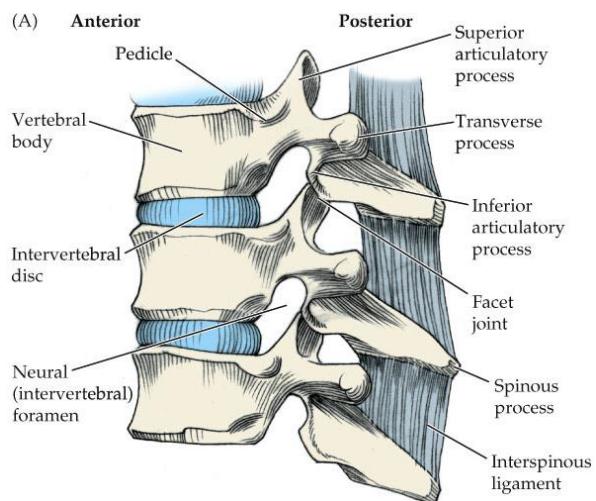
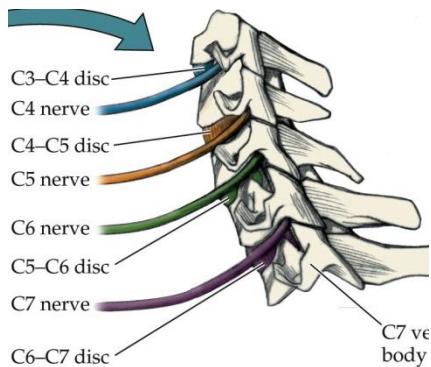


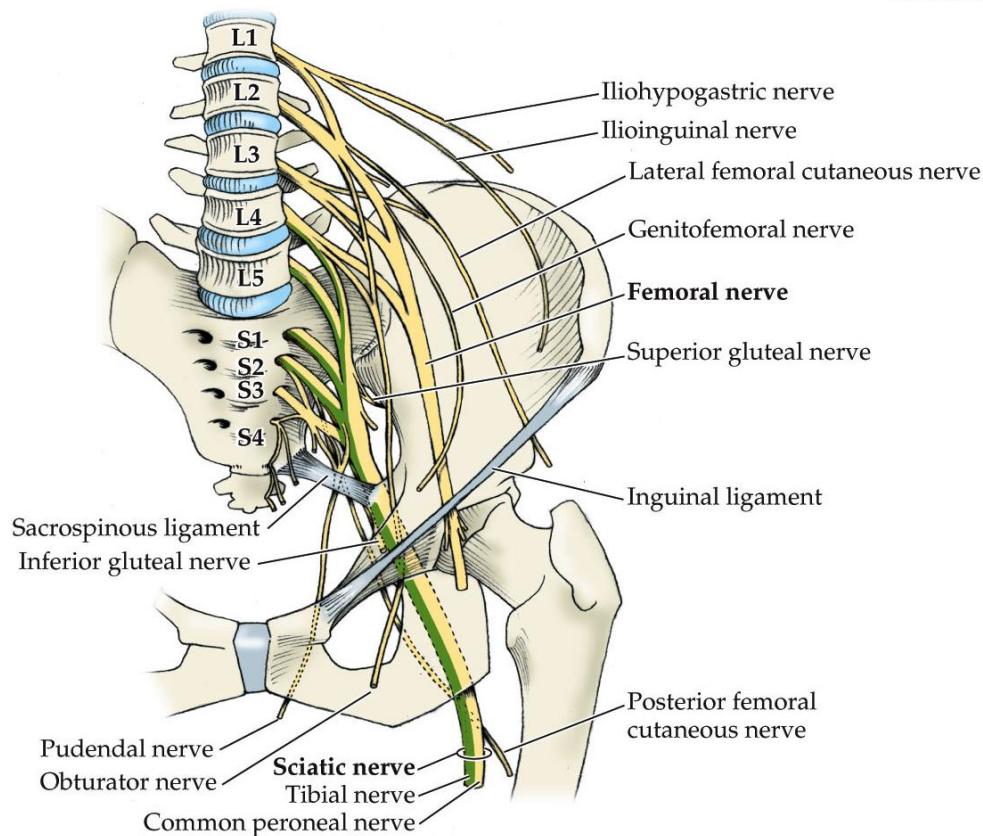
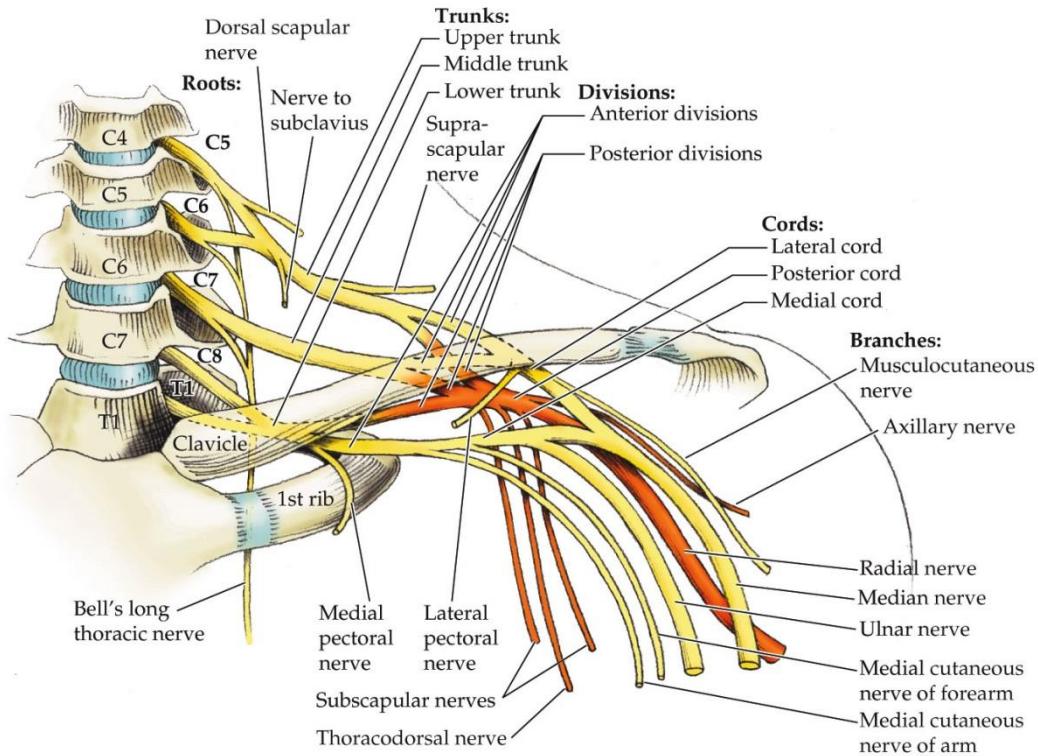
### Nerve Plexus

terms to know: transverse & spinous processes, intervertebral disc (usually herniates laterally), foramen (spinal column)

cervical nerves exit below disc → thoracic & lumbar nerves exit above disc → sacral nerves exit not next to discs

plexuses are susceptible to avulsion (tearing)  
injury → eg whiplash can damage nerves





cervical plexus - C1-C5, including phrenic nerve (C3-C5)  
Brachial Plexus

**radial (C5-T1):**

- motor: arm extension, forearm and thumb movements
- sensory: medial (inner) surfaces of arm

**median (C5-T1):**

- motor: wrist and thumb movements
- sensory: first three fingers, palm

**ulnar (C6,8 and T1):**

- motor: wrist and finger movements
- sensory: outer two fingers and palm

**axillary (C5,6; axilla = armpit):**

- motor: abduction of shoulder
- sensory: sensation on shoulder

**musculocutaneous (C5-7):**

- motor: arm flexion and supination
- sensory: lower arm

**Lumbar Plexus**

**femoral (L2-L4):**

- motor: raise femur (quads), extend shin
- sensory: upper thigh and medial shin

**obturator (L2-L4):**

- motor: adduct femur
- sensory: inner thigh

**sciatic (L4-S2):**

- motor: flex knee (hamstrings)
- sensory: calf and top of foot
- gives rise to: tibial (plantar flexion, sensation on soles of feet) and peroneal (foot eversion, dorsiflexion, sensation on lateral shin and toes) nerves

**TABLE 8.5 Three Important Nerve Roots in the Arm**

NERVE ROOT	MAIN WEAKNESS <sup>a</sup>	REFLEX DECREASED <sup>a</sup>	REGION OF SENSORY ABNORMALITY <sup>b</sup>	USUAL DISC INVOLVED	APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF CERVICAL RADICULOPATHIES
C5	Deltoid, infraspinatus, biceps	Biceps, pectoralis	Shoulder, upper lateral arm	C4–C5	7%
C6	Wrist extensors, biceps	Biceps, brachioradialis	First and second fingers, lateral forearm	C5–C6	18%
C7	Triceps	Triceps	Third finger	C6–C7	46%

**TABLE 8.6 Three Important Nerve Roots in the Leg**

NERVE ROOT	MAIN WEAKNESS <sup>a</sup>	REFLEX DECREASED <sup>a</sup>	REGION OF SENSORY ABNORMALITY <sup>b</sup>	USUAL DISC INVOLVED	APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF LUMBOSACRAL RADICULOPATHIES
L4	Iliopsoas, quadriceps	Patellar tendon (knee jerk)	Knee, medial lower leg	L3–L4	3%–10%
L5	Foot dorsiflexion, big toe extension, foot eversion, inversion	None	Dorsum of foot, big toe	L4–L5	40%–45%
S1	Foot plantar flexion	Achilles tendon (ankle jerk)	Lateral foot, small toe, sole	L5–S1	45%–50%

**Muscle Movements**

Flexion: joint angle decreases  
 Extention: joint angle increases  
 Adduction: away from median plane  
 Abduction: toward median plane  
 Supination:  
     • arm: palm up  
     • leg: weight on lateral edge of foot

Pronation:  
     • arm: palm down  
     • leg: heels in

**TABLE 9.1 Five Important Nerves in the Arm (Part 1)**

NERVE	MOTOR FUNCTIONS	REGION OF SENSORY LOSS WITH NEUROPATHY
Radial	Extension at all arm, wrist, and proximal finger joints below the shoulder; forearm supination; thumb abduction in plane of palm	
Median	Thumb flexion and opposition, flexion of digits 2 and 3, wrist flexion and abduction, forearm pronation	

**TABLE 9.1 Five Important Nerves in the Arm (Part 2)**

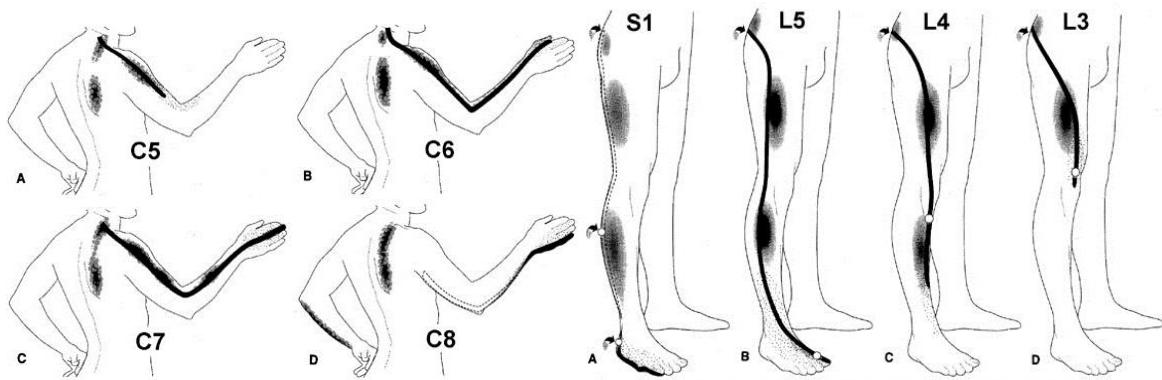
NERVE	MOTOR FUNCTIONS	REGION OF SENSORY LOSS WITH NEUROPATHY
Ulnar	Finger adduction and abduction other than thumb; thumb adduction; flexion of digits 4 and 5; wrist flexion and adduction	
Axillary	Abduction of arm at shoulder beyond first 15°	
Musculo-cutaneous	Flexion of arm at elbow, supination of forearm	

**TABLE 9.3 Important Nerves in the Leg (Part 1)**

NERVE	MOTOR FUNCTIONS	REGION OF SENSORY NERVE LOSS WITH NEUROPATHY
Femoral	Leg flexion at the hip, leg extension at the knee	
Obturator	Adduction of the thigh	
Sciatic	Leg flexion at the knee (see also tibial and peroneal nerves, in column at left)	

**TABLE 9.3 Important Nerves in the Leg (Part 2)**

NERVE	MOTOR FUNCTIONS	REGION OF SENSORY NERVE LOSS WITH NEUROPATHY
Tibial	Foot plantar flexion and inversion, toe flexion	
Superficial peroneal	Foot eversion	
Deep peroneal	Foot dorsiflexion, toe extension	



### Terms review

ventral & dorsal roots merge into a nerve root which exits at spinal canal

nerve - bundle of axons: sensory afferents & motor efferents

nerves move towards dorsal and distal portions of limbs

lower sacral: innervation medial pelvis + descending sympathetic (eg sphincters)

piriformis (hip abductor) muscle can entrap sciatic nerve

### **Every Pathway Ever**

Three major pathways: somatotopic

LCST:

M1 (UMNs)->posterior limb of internal capsule->cerebral peduncles->pyramids->LCST->LMNs

Distinguish UMN and LMN dysfunction with reflexes, tone

Dorsal columns:

gracile (legs, medial) and cuneate (arms and neck, lateral)

DRG->nuclei in medulla->internal arcuate fibers->VPL->S1 posterior limb of internal capsule

Anterolateral system:

DRG->dorsal horn->anterior commissure->VPL->S1 (spinothalamic pathway; discriminative)  
cord->elsewhere (emotional, modulatory aspects of sensation)

### Autonomic efferents

control bladder, rectal, and sexual function

Preganglionic in intermediate zone->postganglionic->target

Sympathetic:

preganglionic cholinergic neurons in thoracic cord

postganglionic noradrenergic neurons in thoracic chain ganglia

Parasympathetic:

preganglionic cholinergic neurons in brainstem and sacral cord

postganglionic cholinergic neurons in ganglia at target tissue

### Major Tracts

**Dorsal (sensory) and ventral (motor and autonomic) roots**

cervical (8), thoracic (12), lumbar (5), and sacral (5) levels

cord ends at L1 vertebra (approximate); cauda equina continue below

most clinically relevant: C5-7 (arms) and L4-S1 (legs)

**Cervical plexus arises from C1-5**

phrenic (C3-5): diaphragm

**Brachial plexus arises from C5-T1**

radial (C5-T1): all arm extension, forearm and thumb, sensation on medial surface of arm

median (C5-T1): wrist and thumb, sensation on first three fingers

ulnar (C6,8 and T1): wrist and finger, sensation on lateral hand

axillary (C5-C6): abduction of shoulder, sensation on shoulder  
musculocutaneous (C5-7): arm flexion, supination, sensation on lower arm

#### Lumbar plexus arises from L1-S4

femoral (L2-L4): raise femur (quads), extend shin, sensation on upper thigh and medial shin

obturator (L2-L4): adduct femur, sensation on inner thigh

sciatic (L4-S2): flex knee (hamstrings), sensation on calf and top of foot

tibial: plantar flexion, sensation on soles of feet; from sciatic

peroneal: foot eversion, dorsiflexion, sensation on lateral shin and toes; from sciatic

### **Motor/Sensory Deficits**

#### ALS & MS

how to diagnose motor deficits:

1. localize level of neuromuscular system by associated symptoms (eg a pure motor problem is probably not a spinal cord lesion)
2. hereditary? family history?
3. distribution: radiculopathy, plexopathy, or peripheral neuropathy? neurogenic or myogenic?

radiculopathy - nerve (eg compression)

damage radiating out from cord

neuropathy - pathological process originating from within the nerve

#### Symptoms:

Aphasia/visual defect: higher cortex

Face: cranial nerves above brain stem

Arms & legs: anything below C5

#### Sensory:

same side: cortical lesion, especially if basic sensation intact but complex processing is impaired

below a level on trunk: spinal cord/brain stem

none: MN disease, myopathy

**TABLE 7.4** Differential Diagnosis<sup>a</sup> of Spinal Cord Dysfunction

Trauma or mechanical	
Contusion	Tertiary syphilis
Compression	Tropical spastic paraparesis
Disc herniation	Schistosomiasis
Degenerative disorders of vertebral bones	Inflammatory myelitis
Disc embolus	Multiple sclerosis
Vascular (see Figure 6.5)	Lupus
Anterior spinal artery infarct	Postinfectious myelitis
Watershed infarct	Neoplasms
Spinal dural AVM (arteriovenous malformation)	Epidural metastasis
Epidural hematoma	Meningioma
Nutritional deficiency	Schwannoma
Vitamin B <sub>12</sub>	Carcinomatous meningitis
Vitamin E	Astrocytoma
Epidural abscess	Ependymoma
Infectious myelitis	Hemangioblastoma
Viral, including HIV	Degenerative/developmental
Lyme disease	Spina bifida
	Chiari malformation
	Syringomyelia

### Muscles:

**appearance:** atrophy or fasciculations, aka spontaneous contractions (lower MN) vs flexor/extensor spasms/clonus, aka hyperreflexia (upper MN)

LCST & all descending pathways are excitatory/glutaminergic & provide input to interneurons (mostly inhibitory/glycinergic)

excitatory: step on a tack → must retract leg & stiffen opposite leg

interneurons synapse with gamma motor neurons, which innervate muscle spindle, increasing gain of stretch reflex

**tone:** :) flaccid (lower) vs rigid (upper)

upper: too much innervation from spindle, leading neurons to believe muscle is always flexed  
lower: less input

**power:** distinguish between tone & strength

upper: arm extensors & abductors affected most; leg flexors more than extensors  
lower: symptoms vary based on MN affected

### Gait:

impaired sensation (proprioception) → high-stepping gait  
eg tabes dorsalis (syphilis) → degeneration of DRG neurons in dorsal columns → loss of vibration and position sense  
sensory neuropathies (chemotherapy, diabetes)  
worsened by removing visual input  
LMN & muscle disorders → foot drop (lower leg weakness) & waddling (hip/core weakness)

#### Motor deficits: acute vs chronic

acute: vascular, toxins, spinal cord injury  
chronic: days/weeks: neoplastic (tumor), infection, inflammation  
months/years: degenerative, endocrine

#### Pathology: nerve root & plexus lesions

disc prolapse  
spondylolisthesis - movement of vertebrae relative to each other → stenosis of canal or nerve compression  
spondylosis - fractures between facet joints  
spinal stenosis - narrowing of spinal foramen  
osteophytes - bony spurs between adjacent vertebrae  
avulsion - tearing underlying fascia/muscle  
Erb-Duchenne: dislocation of shoulder/hip in birth canal

#### Pathology: spinal cord disorders

traumatic myelopathy: whiplash, fracture/vertebral dislocation  
cord transection:  
acute: spinal shock (swelling; flaccid paralysis; loss of reflexes, sensory, & autonomic capabilities)  
chronic: hyperreflexia & clonus except flaccid where ventral roots/LMNs are damaged, intermittent autonomic function, loss of UMN control  
treatment: immediate cold to prevent swelling (corticosteroids don't promote healing)  
sacrolitis - inflammation of sacrum-ileum joint connection (eg reactive gliosis)  
sciatica - disk compression  
L4-L5 disc is frequently herniated which compresses L5 root (narrowest form in lumbar spine)  
can fix with decompression (make a bigger window)

#### Pathology: NMJ & muscle disorders

myasthenia gravis - antibodies target nAChR (autoimmune)  
ptosis (eyelid droop)  
treated with Ach-esterase inhibitors & immunosuppression  
break down of the cytoskeletal structure that defines neuromuscular junction  
muscular dystrophy - dystrophin complex (anchors actin to cell membrane) is mutated  
Duchenne's is worst (no protein), Becker's is milder

#### ALS

Amyotrophic (no muscle nourishment) Lateral (position in spinal cord) Sclerosis (scarring)  
motor neurons die from oxidative stress  
unique expression of transporters, glutamate receptors, Ca buffers?  
other spinal-muscular atrophies: can be UMN or LMN only; can affect brain stem or spinal MNs  
infections that target MNs: polio, West Nile (variant that targets MN specifically)  
post-polio syndrome: surviving neurons innervate more fibers → stressors → activate apoptotic processes

presentation:

20% bulbar onset

40% upper extremity weakness

clinical & pathological overlap with fronto-temporal dementia → MN stressors may be the same as frontal lobe stressors

treatment:

riluzole - Na channel inhibition; presynaptic inhibition to tamper excitotoxicity  
doesn't work well, but cheap & no side effects  
feeding tubes & ventilator

progressive, fatal 3-5 years after onset, death from pulmonary infections

diagnosis:

problems are bilateral, upper & lower, in multiple regions  
mitochondria failing → oxidative stress → not enough ATP → defective axonal transport → not interacting with postsynaptic partners → loss of trophic factors → presynaptic die back → stress → don't buffer calcium well → activate secondary messengers they shouldn't → more mitochondrial damage → reactive gliosis → AHHHHHHHHH  
Wallerian degeneration - damaged nerve retracts from target towards root

familial ALS (<10% cases) have mutated superoxide dismutase 1  
binds copper & zinc, neutralizes free radicals  
several mutations, which vary disease intensity (eg mutation in beta-sheet enzymatic pocket leads to worst prognosis)  
this interferes with mitochondrial ETC, triggering apoptotic pathway  
BCL2 family members regulate apoptosis by modulating cytochrome c release from mitochondria into cytosol  
classic morphology of neuron death can be seen in all degenerative diseases  
cytohistology: p53, tunel labeling

excitotoxicity hypothesis:

NMDA receptors letting in too much calcium, binding too often, too much extracellular glutamate, glial cells aren't reuptaking glutamate  
oxidative stress is a hypothesized cause of many MN degenerative disorders

### Multiple Sclerosis

histology: demyelinating neuropathy → sensory and motor  
myelin - oligodendrocytes (CNS) & Schwann cells (PNS) wrap around axons  
must recognize axon, then have PM proteins on one side that recognize proteins on other side of PM  
scattered demyelination followed by reactive gliosis (astrocytes in CNS are activated, clear debris, and can leave glial scar)

risk factors:

presents at age 20-40, more common in women, increases with distance from equator & positively correlated with hygiene  
genetic predisposition (interleukin receptor mutations)  
is there an initial metabolic insult (mitochondria)?

symptoms:

episodes of focal motor & sensory deficits  
MRI: diffuse glial white matter lesions  
diffuse symptoms: dysarthria, dysphagia, unstable mood, optic neuritis, pain, incontinence  
oligoclonal bands within CSF (autoimmune problem)

treatment:

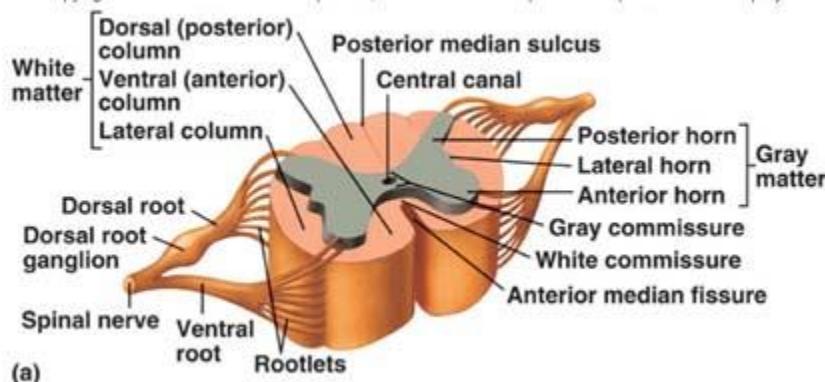
remission can be spontaneous or drug-assisted  
drugs target immune system  
– steroids: inhibit transcription of IL genes in T cells & IL receptors in B cells

- interferons: anti-inflammatory, reduce permeability of BBB to immune cells
  - natalizumab: monoclonal antibody against ECM protein which reduces permeability of BBB to immune cells
- 

### Anatomy & Physiology Quiz

cervical & lumbar enlargements supply upper & lower limbs  
dorsal horn = sensory; ventral horn = motor; lateral horn = autonomic  
stretch reflex: excitatory, no interneuron (eg knee-jerk)  
withdrawal reflex: excitatory, interneuron  
Golgi reflex: inhibitory, interneuron  
crossed extensor reflex: excitatory & inhibitory, interneurons

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### Radiology

#### Introduction

1895 - X-ray machine invented, first brain scan by Cushing at JHU  
“He did a scan of a bullet in the brain, and they’re doing a lot of those down in Baltimore still today” - I. Weinberg

role of radiologist:

disease detection by symptoms → confirmation by imaging

differential diagnosis (could be this, rara avis)

assist in management decisions (anticoagulants, surgery) & monitor therapy research

sources of signal:

CT/electron density: calcifications, hemorrhage, edema, contrast enhancement, mass effect

MRI/water density: same as CT except diffusion, flow, no calcifications

PET/radiotracer density: glucose utilization, receptor density

different pulse sequences & contrast → examine different structures :)

#### Normal Brain Catechism

ventricles & sulci have normal size, shape, & position

no mass effect or midline shift

no abnormal attenuation/signal to suggest hemorrhage or cerebrovascular accident

no abnormal contrast enhancement

#### Differential Diagnosis

infectious

neoplastic

developmental/congenital

vascular  
inflammatory/autoimmune  
environmental  
trauma  
degenerative

### Case Studies

toxoplasmosis - abnormal attenuation from ring-enhancing lesion & inflammation  
cysticercosis - same as above  
meningitis - abnormal contrast enhancement  
abcess  
pilocytic astrocytoma - juvenile tumor, 90% survival  
“If the issue is tissue, the answer is cancer.”  
metastasis  
glioblastoma multiforme - midline shift & mass effect  
meningioma - nothing in the brain is benign (neoplasm, but not cancer because it can't metastasize)  
heterotopia - developmental migration error  
chiari - herniated cerebellar tonsils, smaller cerebellum  
stroke - CT scan, bright white clot & dark hemorrhage with swelling  
internal carotid aneurysm  
crescental epidural hematoma  
subarachnoid hemorrhage  
subdural hematoma  
sarcoid - inflammatory disease, meningeal thickening  
global edema - asphyxiation  
radiation - low attenuation in radiated areas  
drug toxicity - white matter lesions  
grey/white junction hemorrhages - diffuse axonal/shear injury  
frontal lobotomy  
hydrocephalus - enlarged ventricles

### New Stuff

super-fast imaging  
magnetic drug delivery  
small PET/MRI

## BSCI338N Midterm Two: Study Guide

### Cranial Nerves

**Names:** On old Olympus' towering tops, a Finn and German vend snowy hops.

**Functions:** Some say make merry but my brother says bad business making merry.

#### CN1: olfactory nerve [frontal lobe] **special sensory**

olfactory epithelium → olfactory bulb → perform cortex (only sensory with no thalamic relay)  
anosmia & frontal lobe lesions

#### CN2: optic nerve [midbrain] **special sensory**

retinal ganglion cells → *dorsal lateral geniculate nucleus of thalamus* (image-forming)

*superior colliculus* (eye movement → vestibular output)

*superchiasmatic nucleus* (light intensity → pupillary reflex & circadian regulation)

optic neuritis: common symptom of MS

#### CN3: oculomotor nerve [midbrain] **somatic motor parasympathetic**

top eyelid, medial & upward eye movement (roll & cross your eyes)

PANS for pupillary constriction & lens focusing

#### CN4: trochlear nerve [midbrain] **somatic motor**

rotate eyes when head tilts (superior oblique muscles)

#### CN6: abducens nerve [pons] **somatic motor**

move eyes laterally (lateral rectus muscles)

#### CN5: trigeminal nerve [pons] **branchial motor somatic sensory**

somatosensory for face, dental pressure, anterior 2/3 of tongue, sinus meninges

branchial motor: mastication & tensor tympani (middle ear gain of transduction)

trigeminal ganglia above jaw → TMJ

three branches are analogs of spinal pathways

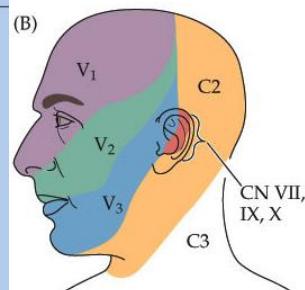
mesencephalic: only case in which primary neurons are in CNS; sensory loss ipsilateral to nuclei lesion

chief: trigeminal ganglion analog of DRG

Wallenberg syndrome - medullary stroke above anterolateral crossing & below trigeminal crossing → loss of pain/temperature sensation contralateral, trigeminal loss ipsilateral

**TABLE 12.6** Analogous Trigeminal and Spinal Somatosensory Systems

NUCLEUS	SENSORY MODALITIES	MAIN PATHWAY TO THALAMUS	MAIN THALAMIC NUCLEUS <sup>a</sup>
<b>TRIGEMINAL SENSORY SYSTEMS</b>			
Mesencephalic trigeminal nucleus	Proprioception	—	—
Chief trigeminal sensory nucleus	Fine touch; dental pressure	Trigeminal lemniscus	VPM
<b>SPINAL SENSORY SYSTEMS</b>			
Posterior column nuclei	Crude touch; pain; temperature	Trigeminothalamic tract	VPM
Dorsal horn	Fine touch; proprioception	Medial lemniscus	VPL
	Crude touch; pain; temperature	Spinothalamic tract	VPL



#### CN7: facial nerve [pons] **branchial motor parasympathetic visceral sensory somatic sensory**

branchial motor: stapedius muscle & facial expressions (including eyelid)

PANS: lacrimal & salivary glands

visceral sensory: anterior 2/3 of tongue (distributed bilaterally)

somatic sensory: external auditory meatus (EAM)

### CN8: vestibulocochlear nerve [medulla] **special sensory**

**hearing:** sound waves enter EAM → transmitted mechanically to middle ear via cochlea → transduced by hair cells to neural signals (excite cochlear nerve, somata in spiral ganglion) → fibers cross extensively in brainstem (trapezoid body fibers) → lateral lemniscus carries output to contralateral inferior colliculus (via superior olive and other brainstem nuclei)

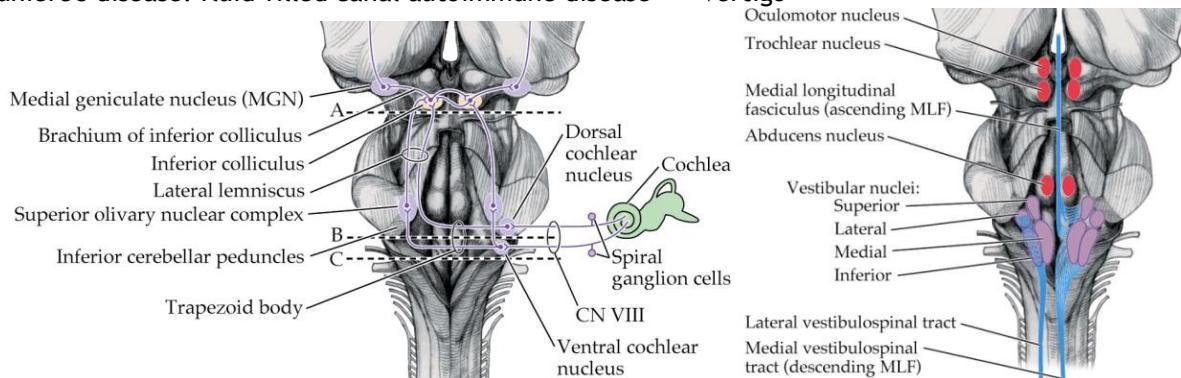
- tonotopy: high frequencies nearer oval window
- mechanical dampening by stapedius & tensor tympani muscles
- unilateral hearing loss must arise from a problem in the cochlea or CN VIII itself
- need auditory input from both ears to compare timing & intensity

### vestibular sense:

vestibular hair cells: stereocilia deflected by medium movement → transmit to vestibular nerves (cell bodies in superior/inferior vestibular ganglia)

- semicircular canals: hair bundles in cupula → activate ampulla → detect angular acceleration
- utricle & saccule: maculae (otoliths in gelatinous layer) → detect linear acceleration & head tilt
- input & output: posture/muscle tone (cerebellum → brainstem motor) & eye position (cortical inputs of eye/head position → extra-ocular systems)
- symptoms: vertigo & nystagmus (eye tracking)
- vestibular nuclei: medial motor system (extrapyramidal, essentially uncrossed)
- lateral tract: extends length of spinal cord for balance and muscle tone
- medial tract: descending: neck, head position; ascending: extra-ocular muscles

Muniere's disease: fluid-filled canal autoimmune disease → vertigo



### CN9: glossopharyngeal nerve [medulla] **branchial motor** parasympathetic **visceral sensory** **somatic sensory**

taste from posterior 1/3 of tongue

somatosensory from middle ear, EAM, pharynx, & posterior 1/3 of tongue

branchial motor to swallowing muscles in throat (sounds that contract the soft palette (G & K))

chemoreceptors (oxygen/carbon monoxide balance and acid/base balance of blood) located in the carotid body and baroreceptors of carotid sinus

PANS to parotid salivary gland

### CN10: vagus nerve [medulla] **branchial motor** parasympathetic **visceral sensory** **somatic sensory**

taste receptors in throat (epiglottis & pharynx)

somatosensory from pharynx, meninges, & EAM

branchial motor: pharyngeal (swallowing) & laryngeal (voice box) muscles

chemo & baroreceptors in aortic arch

PANS to all organs of chest and abdomen (heart, lungs, & digestive tract via splenic flexure)

### CN11: spinal accessory nerve [medulla] **branchial motor**

branchial motor to sternomastoid & upper trapezius → weakness of ipsilateral shoulder shrug & turning head away from lesion

**CN12: hypoglossal nerve** [entire brainstem] **somatic motor**  
somatic motor to tongue

### **Cranial Nerve Pathways**

#### **Eyes:**

muscles: 3 (medial & upward), 4 (superior oblique), 6 (lateral rectus)

pupils & lens: 3

lacrimal glands: 7, 9

#### **Mouth:**

salivary glands: 7

taste: 7 (front), 9 (back), 10 (epiglottis & pharynx)

sensory: 5 (front tongue & teeth), 9 (back tongue)

#### **Ear:**

motor: 5 (tensor tympani) & 7 (stapedius)

somatic sensory: 7 & 10 (outer), 9 (inner & outer)

hearing & vestibular senses: 8

#### **Face:**

motor: 5 (mastication), 7

sensory: 5

UMN: spares forehead (both hemispheres contribute), mild orbicularis oculi weakness (can control eye lashes), lower facial weakness, can also cause arm or hand weakness

LMN (Bell's Palsy): entire face, dry eye, ipsilateral taste loss, no hand weakness or aphasia

herpes zoster (shingles) or autoimmune origin

simultaneous tearing & salivation; blinking and platysma muscle contraction

steroids & nerve stimulation → slow recovery, nerves may regenerate incorrectly

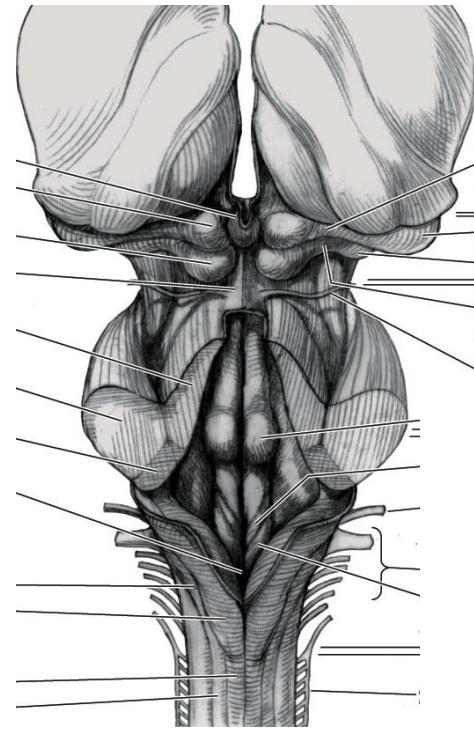
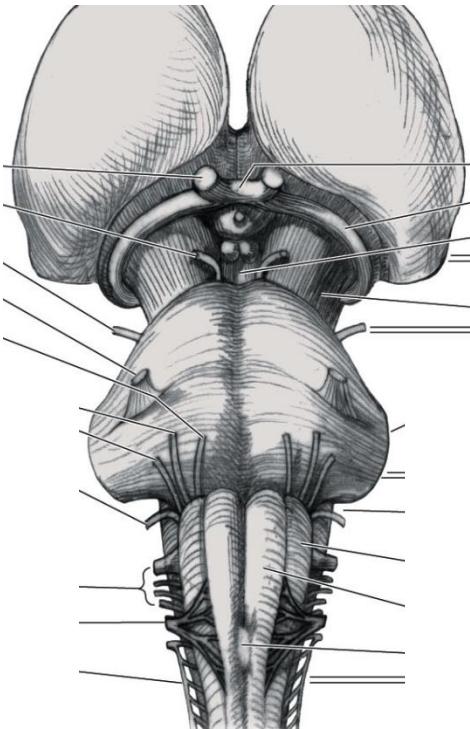
#### **Parasympathetic:**

carotid body chemo & carotid sinus baro-receptor: 9

aortic arch chemo & baro-receptor: 10

#### **Brainstem**

label: 5 structures, 4 junctions, inferior olive, pyramid, pyramidal decussation, superior & inferior colliculus, cerebral peduncle, cerebellar peduncles, nuclei cuneatus & gracilis



**cerebral peduncles** - (direct & indirect motor pathways) → pyramidal tract (flows through pons behind cerebellar peduncles) → pyramidal decussation (indirect motor crossing in medulla)

**crus cerebi** (pes pedunculi) = ventral efferent fibers

middle 1/3<sup>rd</sup> is corticospinal & corticobulbar tracts; remaining is corticopontine tracts

dorsal columns → nucleus gracilis/cuneatus → internal arcuate fibers → medial lemniscus

**cranial nuclei** - sensory & motor pathways carry information from multiple nuclei, but are spatially segregated (motor is medial & sensory is lateral)

**inferior olive** - major integrative center, function unknown

projects to contralateral cerebellum

input from collaterals from contralateral spinocerebellar tract, corticospinal tracts, red nucleus; direct input from ipsilateral M1 & red nucleus

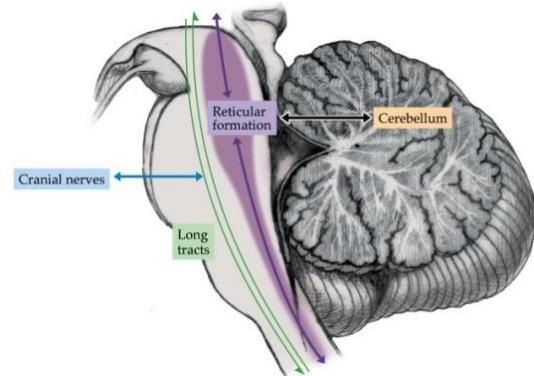
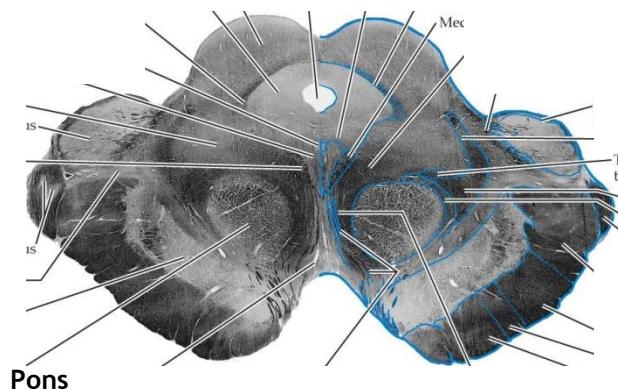
### Midbrain

**tectum:** *superior colliculus* (visual nuclei) & *inferior colliculus* (auditory nuclei)

feed into tecto & vestibulo spinal tracts

**tegmentum:** *substantia nigra* (motor dopamine), *red nucleus* (rubrospinal tract), *periaqueductal grey* (pain modulatory), & *reticular formation* + medial lemniscus (spinothalamic tract)

**basis:** long tracts of corticospinal & corticobulbar fibers



**pontine nuclei:** ipsilateral input from motor cortex → project via middle cerebellar peduncle to contralateral cerebellum as mossy fibers → preparation, initiation, & execution of movement  
where sensory (dorsal) & motor (ventral) tracts split → these have different blood supplies

### Reticular Formation

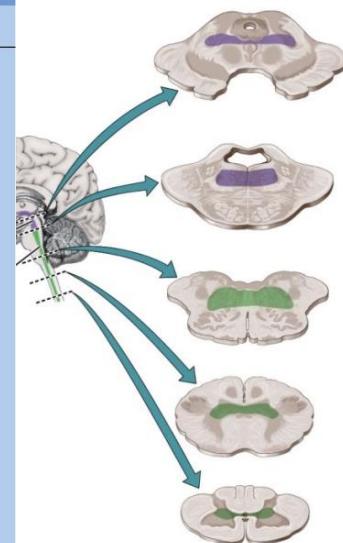
collection of "mesh-like" regulatory nuclei that project to nearly every area

rostral regulates forebrain (alertness)

caudal works with cranial nerve nuclei to modulate cord, reflexes, ANS

**TABLE 14.1** Summary of Brainstem Structures (Part 2)

MAIN FUNCTIONAL GROUPINGS	SUBCOMPONENTS
2. Long tracts (see Chapters 6, 7)	Motor pathways Corticospinal and corticobulbar tracts; other descending somatomotor pathways; descending autonomic pathways  Somatosensory pathways Posterior column-medial lemniscal system; anterolateral system
3. Cerebellar circuitry (see Chapter 15)	Superior, middle, and inferior cerebellar peduncles Pontine nuclei; red nucleus; (parvocellular portion); central tegmental tract; inferior olive nucleus
4. Reticular formation and related structures	Systems with widespread projections Reticular formation; cholinergic nuclei; noradrenergic nuclei; serotonergic nuclei; dopaminergic nuclei; other projecting systems  Nuclei involved in sleep regulation  Pain modulatory systems Periaqueductal gray; rostral ventral medulla  Brainstem motor control systems: somatic, branchial, and autonomic Posture and locomotion (reticular formation; vestibular nuclei; superior colliculi; red nucleus [magnocellular portion]; substantia nigra; pedunculopontine tegmental nucleus); respiration, cough, hiccup, sneeze, shiver, swallow; nausea and vomiting (chemotactic trigger zone); autonomic control, including heart rate and blood pressure; sphincter control, including pontine micturition center



### Neurotransmitters

neuromodulation:

- bulk release of neurotransmitter (e.g., DA, 5-HT)
- action through metabotropic receptors (7-TM domains, G-proteins)
- control of gain/state of circuits (e.g.: 5-HT makes spinal MNs more responsive to input)

functions:

- alertness: all but DA
- mood elevation: NE, 5-HT
- others: breathing control (5-HT); memory (Ach); movements, initiative, & working memory (DA)

up = cortex, thalamus, & basal ganglia

down = cerebellum, medulla, & spinal cord

**NE:** increase MN excitability, sleep, deficits in attention & mood disorders

down from *lateral tegmental area* & up from *locus ceruleus*

**DA:** *substantia nigra* → motor output to striatum, causes gain (tremor) & loss (rigidity) in Parkinson's  
*ventral tegmental area* → motivation/reward (mesolimbic); attention (mesocortical);

**Schizophrenia**

**5-HT:** increases MN excitability, psychiatric disorders (transporter mutations)

down from *caudal raphe nuclei* (caudal pons & medulla) & up from *rostral raphe nuclei* (rostral pons & midbrain)

**Histamine:** *tuberomammillary nucleus* → alertness

**Ach:** *pontine nuclei* → motor function via thalamus, cerebellum, basal ganglia, tectum, medulla/cord

*basal forebrain* → attention & memory via Alzheimer's, theta rhythm (arousal, memory formation)

## Consciousness

### Reticular activating system:

pontomesencephalic reticular formation (PRF) receives inputs from somatosensory (cord), limbic/cingulate cortex, frontoparietal association cortex, & thalamic reticular nucleus

thalamic reticular nucleus: cortical input → modulate other thalamic structures → project to PRF

**Consciousness:** alertness (PRF, thalamus, & cortex); attention (alertness & association cortex); and awareness (abstract cognitive process)

loss of cortex, thalamus, or pontine RAS (not caudal RAS) → coma

*brain dead* (EEG is flat line) → *coma* (some basic reflexes/EEG, severely depressed function throughout) → *vegetative state* (variably depressed diencephalon/PRF) → *minimally conscious* (variably depressed cortex) → *akinetic mutism* (variably depressed frontal lobe)

**Locked-in syndrome:** damage to ventral pons, usually from infarct

bilateral damage to corticospinal and corticobulbar tracts

sensory pathways spared: patient is aware, able to feel, unable to move (save for some eye movements)

severely depressed function in brainstem reflex & motor

## Headaches

cranial nerve disorders: headache & facial pain; equilibrium problems; vision problems  
nociceptors on meninges, BV, nerves, & muscles

headache types:

new (acute onset): subarachnoid hemorrhage, meningitis or encephalitis

subacute onset: temporal arteritis (autoimmune disease, hardening of temporal arteries that feed trigeminal nerve → steroids), trigeminal neuralgia (Tic de la Rue → tricyclic antidepressants), postherpetic neuralgia (shingles of the face)

chronic (ongoing): migraine, cluster headaches

steroids reduce vascular permeability

**migraine:** trigeminal neuralgia, cerebrovascular headache

cortical spreading depression or PAG activation → activation of the trigeminal vascular system → rCBF increases, then decreases (including in red nucleus & substantia nigra)

heightened cortical excitability hypothesis - lack of habituation in migraine patients

Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels: only in neurons, heritable mutation causes migraines

familial hemiplegic migraine: motor aura, CAv2.1 channel in cerebellum & nociception

brainstem nuclei → increase glutamate release in cortex → more CSD

triptans also block transmission from spinal trigeminal nucleus (pain nucleus)

prophylaxis with tricyclics, beta-blockers, CAv2.1 antagonists OR avoid triggers (foods with tyramine, nitrates, stress)

**cluster:** always unilateral, usually behind eye at night

patients have recurrent headaches followed by remission

treated with triptans, Ca channel blockers, steroids OR avoid alcohol/vasodilators

**tension:** bilateral squeezing over forehead, often accompanied by neck spasm and pain

Other: TMJ, dental disease, sinusitis, cervical spine disease

## The Cerebellum

### Gross Anatomy

**purpose:** integrates sensory inputs & motor outputs to modify ongoing movement  
**ataxia** - inability to coordinate smooth limb movement based on sensory feedback  
**bounded by** midbrain tectum, tentorium cerebelli, posterior fossa, & 4<sup>th</sup> ventricle  
**blood supply:** offshoots of basilar artery

**cerebellar peduncles:** fiber tracts that run through brainstem (trace these)

**superior:** primary output of the cerebellum to red nucleus & thalamus

**middle:** input from the contralateral cerebral cortex via the pons

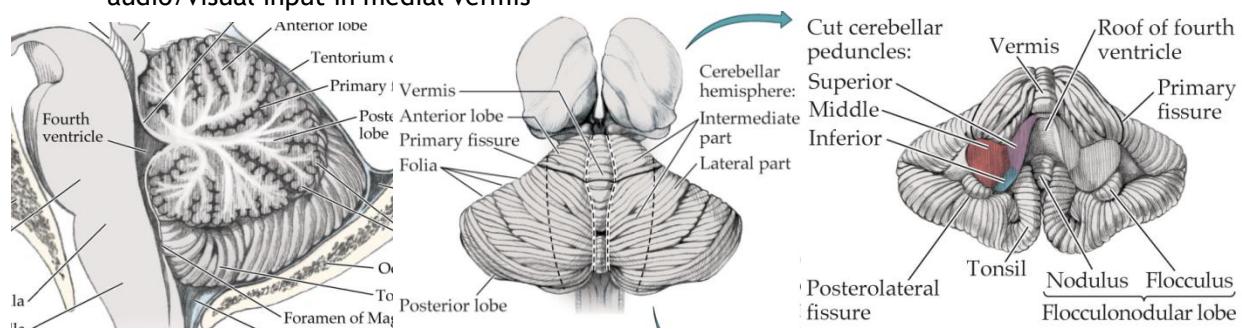
**inferior:** fibers from ipsilateral spinocerebellar tract (proprioceptive), inferior olives,

vestibular nuclei

**somatotopic input:** repeats & layering provide multiple modes of coordination & interactions

inner → outer::head → legs in posterior & anterior lobes

audio/visual input in medial vermis



### Circuitry

each area has the same circuitry, but different inputs & outputs

all ascending fibers are excitatory & descending fibers are inhibitory

**output:** Purkinje (spontaneously active/tonic) → deep cerebellar nuclei

**input:** climbing fibers (inferior olive)

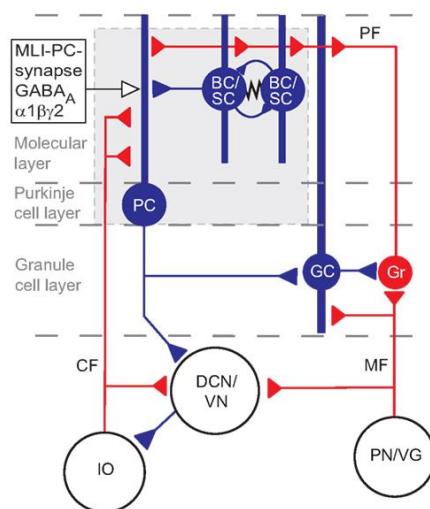
mossy fibers (pontine nuclei & vestibular ganglia) → granule cells → parallel fibers

structures providing input to Purkinje also provide input to structure that receives inhibitory output of Purkinje cells (raw & processed nuclei)

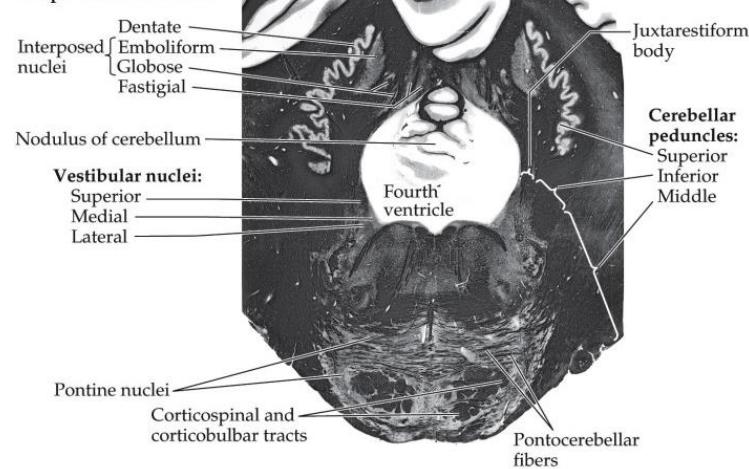
deep cerebellar nuclei/vestibular nuclei

other descending fibers, excited by parallel fibers: *Basket cells* (strongly inhibit Purkinje), *Stellate cells* (weakly inhibit Purkinje) & *Golgi cells* (inhibit granule cells)

eg guided arm movement: compare motor command (move hand) to proprioceptive feedback  
big sensory-motor loop modulated by input from locus coeruleus (NE), raphe nuclei (5-HT)



Deep cerebellar nuclei:



**deep cerebellar nuclei:** each pair of nuclei is associated with a region of the surface anatomy

- dentate nuclei: lateral hemispheres
- interposed nuclei (emboliform & globule): paravermis (intermediate zone)
- fastigial nuclei: vermis

from lateral to medial: *Don't eat greasy foods*

vestibular nuclei receive direct PC input (from flocculonodular lobe)

## Cerebellar Function

**output:**

lateral: extremity motor planning via LCST

intermediate: distal limb coordination via LCST & rubrospinal tract

vermis & flaccid nodular lobe: proximal limb & trunk coordination via ACST & reticulo/vestibulo/tecto-spinal tracts

balance & vestibulo-ocular reflexes via medial longitudinal fasciculus

all these paths are double-crossed: once in decussation of superior cerebellar peduncle & once in spinal cord (pyramidal decussation for cortico or ventral tegmental decussation for rubro)

medial: control over gamma motor system → hypotonia

## lateral cerebellum circuitry:

from dentate nucleus, crosses through superior cerebellar peduncle, to...

1. ventral lateral nucleus of thalamus → motor & associate cortices (motor planning)
2. parvocellular red nucleus → (central tegmental tract, descends with pyramidal tracts) → inferior olive nucleus → (olivocerebellar fibers, second crossing) (distal limb feedback)

lateral zone & dentate lesions lead to decomposition of movements: errors of direction, force, speed, & amplitude of movements

**intermediate cerebellum circuitry:**

(extra)pyramidal systems; from interposed nuclei, crosses through superior cerebellar peduncle, to...

1. VLN → cortex → down lateral corticospinal tract (crosses in pyramids)

2. magno red nucleus (rubrospinal tract & large muscles in upper limbs) → ventral tegmental decussation → down rubrospinal tract

these circuits update movement plan (fire after movement has been initiated)

**medial cerebellum circuitry:**

gait, balance, etc; from fastigial nucleus to...

1. contralateral to tectospinal; bilaterally to VLN → cortex → medial corticospinal

2. reticular formation & vestibular nuclei → cord

loss of excitatory drive to one VN allows others to dominate

**input: spinocerebellar tract**

dorsal (gracile fascicle) & cuneo (cuneate fascicle) tracts (uncrossed): limb position

DRG neurons synapse in Clark's nucleus & ascend ipsilaterally

external cuneate nucleus is extremity version of Clark's nucleus → gives rise to inferior peduncle (mossy fibers)

ventral & rostral tracts (double crossed): spinal interneuron activity

nucleus dorsalis → interneurons in ventral horn → cross in anterior commissure → rise in ACST to cerebellum

**Cerebral Pathology**

infarcts & hemorrhages:

small in SCA: unilateral ataxia

PICA and SCA: vertigo, nausea, horizontal nystagmus, limb ataxia, unsteady gait, headache (from swelling, hydrocephalus, usually occipital)

SCA has brainstem involvement while PICA does not

large infarct causes swelling in posterior fossa → needs immediate treatment

fatal gastroenteritis: nausea/vomiting from infarct

**midline (vermis/flocculonodular) lesions:** truncal ataxia, disequilibrium, eye movement abnormalities

tend to sway towards side of lesion

Romberg's test: if patient sways with eyes closed, vestibular system cannot correct cerebellar deficit (also characteristic of LCST damage)

adult onset Tay-Sachs disease can be mistaken for spinocerebellar disorders (truncal ataxia)

**intermediate lesions:** appendicular ataxia (can be lesions in other areas)

dysrhythmia (abnormal timing) or dysmetria (abnormal trajectories in space)

tests: apply pressure to outstretched arms & release (excessive check); finger to nose

**non-cerebellar ataxias:**

peduncle/pontine lesions; hydrocephalus; prefrontal cortex; spinal cord disorder; contralateral ataxia-hemiparesis

sensory ataxia: loss of joint-position sense

wide-based gait or overshooting movements (reduced by visual input)

look for other cerebellar signs (lack of speech issues, nystagmus, etc)

vestibular ataxia is gravity dependent: goes away when patient lies down

cerebellar ataxia: irregularities in rate, rhythm, amplitude, & force of movements

little muscle weakness and observable tremors during movement

**Disorders of Equilibrium**

pathways to know:

central & peripheral pathways

pathways controlling eye movements

## pathways mediating proprioceptive sensation

vertigo - illusion of movement of body or environment

impulsion - sensation of being pulled into space

oscillopsia - visual illusion of movement

must be distinguished from dizziness (impaired oxygen or glucose delivery to brain :)  
semicircular canal → vestibular nuclei → medial longitudinal fasciculus ascends → 3 cranial oculomotor nerves

vestibulospinal tract descends → lateral (uncrossed) vs medial (bilateral)

**parapontine reticular formation:** input from VN & output to motor nuclei

also receives input from superior colliculus (non-image forming vision)  
where vestibulo & tecto tracts interact

**front eye fields:** activated prior to planned eye movements; also integrate these inputs  
control the excitability of medial motor neurons based on head position

tectospinal does the same thing, except with eye movement

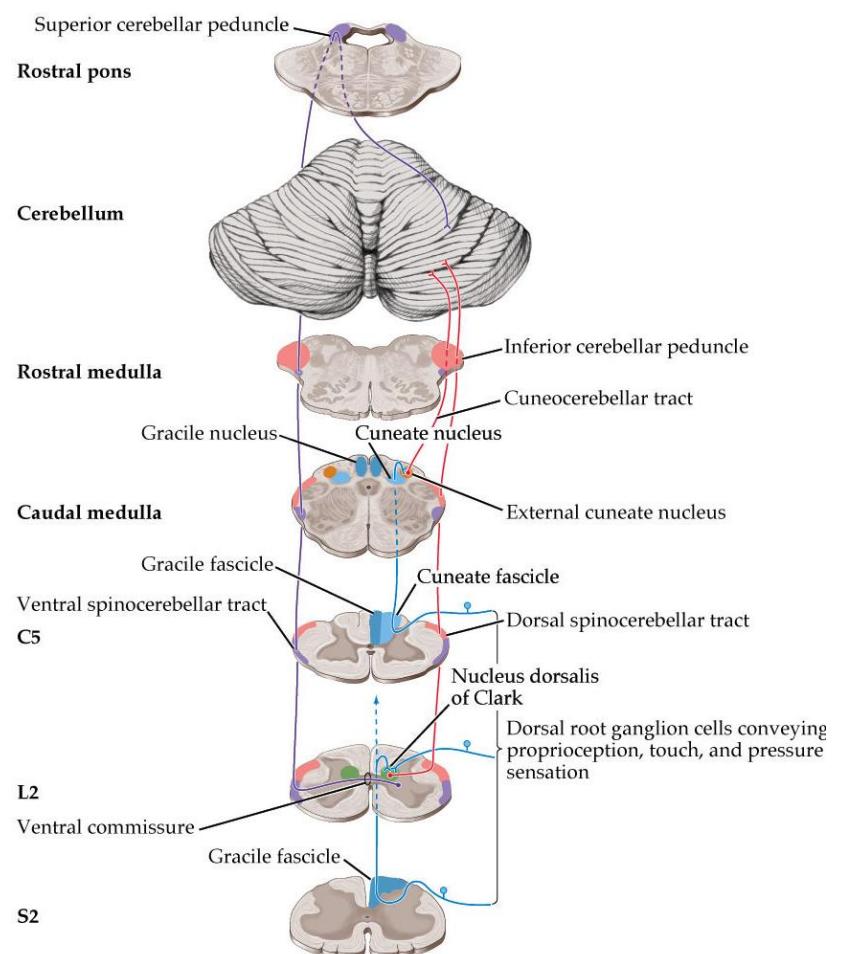
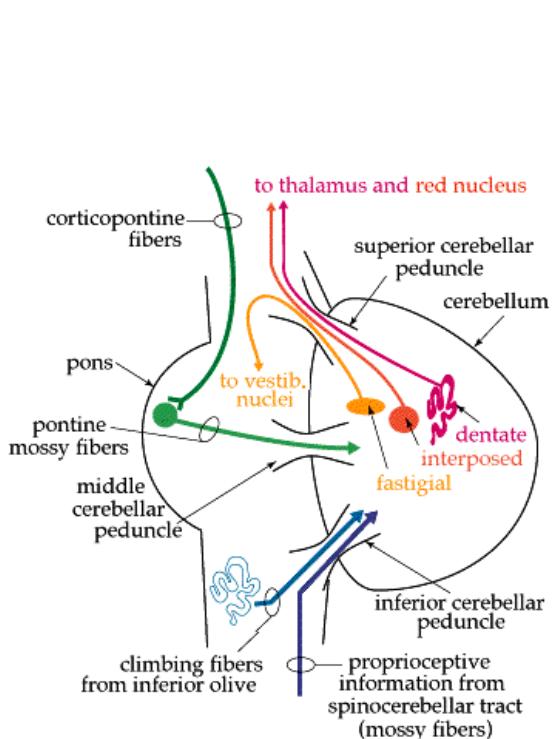
infarct in left superior peduncle: motor symptoms, nausea, aphasia

nausea → must be cerebellar, pressing on brainstem

optokinetic response: eyes move and reset to moving spatial grading (without head movement)

cerebellar atrophy: inherited spinocerebellar ataxia

usually polyglutamine expansion (CAG) which affects channels or other proteins (like PKC) →  
these are in all neurons/cells → kills Purkinje cells



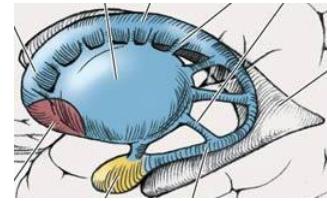
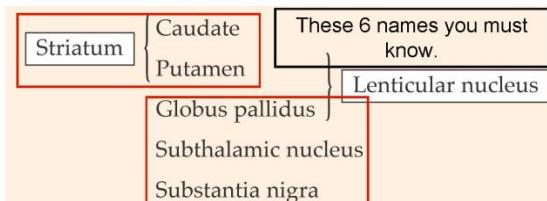
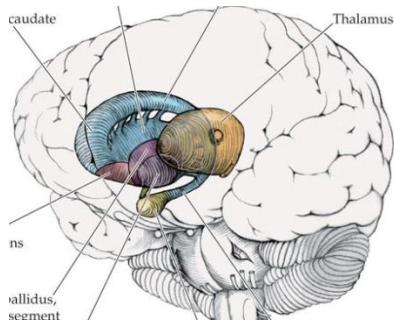
## Basal Ganglia

### Gross Anatomy

**Nuclei:** striatum (caudate + putamen + cellular bridges), globus pallidus (GP), subthalamic nucleus (STN), substantia nigra (SN)

putamen + nucleus accumbens + amygdala = limbic system

limb caudate & thalamus are medial to internal capsule, while lenticular nucleus is lateral



\*The nucleus accumbens and ventral pallidum can also be considered part of the basal ganglia.

### internal capsule

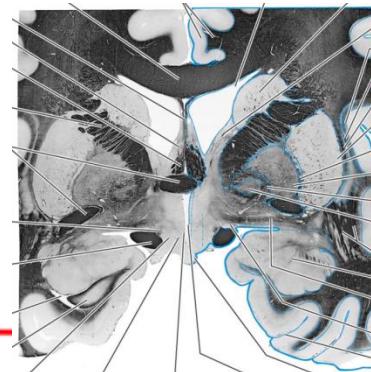
**anterior limb:** frontopontine (corticofugal) & thalamocortical fibers (between lenticular nucleus & head caudate)

**genu ("knee"):** corticobulbar (cortex to brainstem) fibers

**posterior limb:** corticospinal & sensory fibers (medial lemniscus and the anterolateral system)

(between lenticular nucleus & thalamus)

**other:** retrolenticular fibers from LGN, branch to optic radiation  
sublenticular fibers including auditory radiations and temporopontine fibers



### Circuitry

**input:** from striatum (98% GABAergic, 2% cholinergic)

cortical & thalamic + domainergic modulation from SNc

**output:** GABAergic via GP and SNr (pars reticulata)

GPi inhibits thalamus, which projects to frontal lobe

SNr inhibits superior colliculus (visual & vestibular

inputs influence locomotion in Parkinson's)

both output to reticular formation → influence over lateral & medial motor systems

distinct pathways for: motor control, eye movements, cognitive & emotional functions

**direct pathway:** excite thalamus via disinhibition

cortex → striatum → inhibits GPi/SNr → reduces inhibition of thalamus

**indirect pathway:** inhibit thalamus via STN

cortex → striatum → inhibits GPe → reduces inhibition of STN → excites GPi/SNr → inhibit thalamus

dopamine enhances striatum output depending on DA receptor expression: D1Rs excite direct & D2Rs inhibit indirect → disinhibition of thalamus

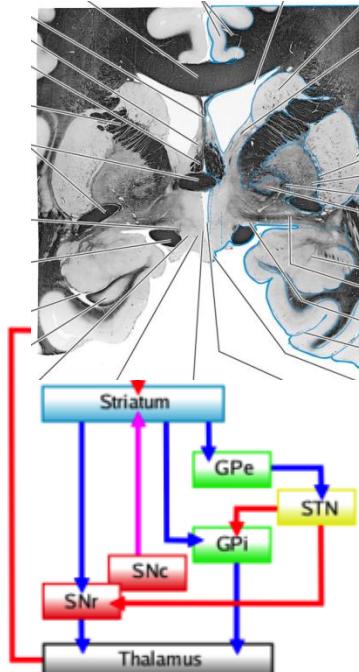
input modulates spontaneous firing activity

low activity: striatum (putamen) & SNc

moderate activity: STN

high activity: GPi & SNr

irregular (low & high): GPe



somatotopy preserved in loops through basal ganglia

**TABLE 16.2** Four Parallel Channels through the Basal Ganglia

SOURCES OF CORTICAL INPUT	BASAL GANGLIA INPUT NUCLEI	BASAL GANGLIA OUTPUT NUCLEI <sup>a</sup>	THALAMIC RELAY NUCLEI <sup>b</sup>	CORTICAL TARGETS OF OUTPUT
<b>MOTOR CHANNEL</b>				
Somatosensory cortex; primary motor cortex; premotor cortex	Putamen	GPi, SNr	VL, VA	Supplementary motor area; premotor cortex; primary motor cortex
<b>OCULOMOTOR CHANNEL</b>				
Posterior parietal cortex; prefrontal cortex	Caudate, body	GPi, SNr	VA, MD	Frontal eye fields; supplementary eye fields
<b>PREFRONTAL CHANNEL</b>				
Posterior parietal cortex; premotor cortex	Caudate, head	GPi, SNr	VA, MD	Prefrontal cortex
<b>LIMBIC CHANNEL</b>				
Temporal cortex; hippocampus; amygdala	Nucleus accumbens; ventral caudate; ventral putamen	Ventral pallidum; GPi; SNr	MD, VA	Anterior cingulate; orbital frontal cortex

### Pathology

movement disorders distinct from cerebellar ataxia: all have cognitive/emotional components  
 hyperkinetic (e.g., Huntington's): uncontrolled involuntary movements, direct pathways  
 hypokinetic (e.g., Parkinson's): rigidity, difficulty initiating movement, indirect pathways

### Parkinson's: symptoms

idiopathic (no known cause), onset 40-70 years, slow (5-15 year) progression  
 degeneration of DA neurons in SNC → initial treatment with L-DOPA  
 motor symptoms: tremor, bradykinesia, cog-wheel rigidity, postural and gait instability (antero- or retro-pulsion)  
 other symptoms: decrease in facial expression and in blinking; cognitive/emotional

### Parkinson's: neural circuitry

DA has opposite effect on direct & indirect pathways → net effect is disinhibition  
 DA in SNC die & DA input from striatum reduced → direct pathway loses strength → inhibition of thalamus & Lewy bodies

### Parkinson's: treatment

initial: levodopa (BBB-permeant DA precursor), increases DA "tone" in striatum, but effects attenuate (circuitry changes)  
 can cause dyskinesias/freezing as levels change: similar to "on-off" syndrome  
 supplement with anti-cholinergics (2% of striatal neurons are cholinergic)  
 deep brain stimulation: stimulate thalamus directly

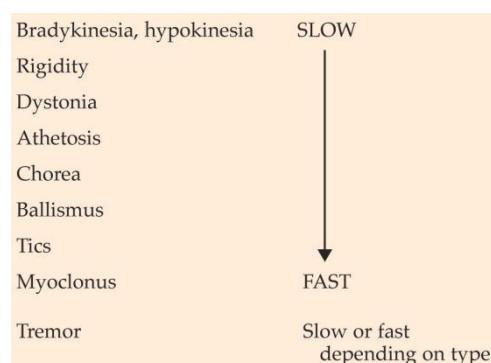
### Huntington's disease: symptoms

degeneration of striatum, particularly of projections to GPe (indirect pathway)  
 STN more excitable → more inhibition of thalamus  
 increased polyglutamine repeats in Huntington gene (autosomal dominant and fully penetrant)  
 initial symptom is chorea (jerky, random movements); cognitive/emotional component arises later

### Other Movement Disorders

differential diagnosis based on basal ganglia involvement:

- signs of UMN/LMN disease?
- sensory loss?



"extrapyramidal" - not cortical or cerebellar in origin, but instead basal ganglia influence on pyramidal tract

**dyskinesia:** MPP+ poisoning outbreaks, boxer's dementia, copper accumulation, or antipsychotic drugs (DA agonists → tardive dyskinesia)

**rigidity:** increased resistance to passive movement, continuous throughout movement

Parkinson's is not velocity dependent, but corticospinal lesions are

**dystonia (distorted positions):** small basal ganglia lesions → treated with botulism toxin

**athetosis & chorea:** involuntary twisting, fluid, or jerky movements

**ballismus:** large amplitude movements of limbs

hemiballismus: contralateral to lesion in STN, decreased indirect pathway

**tics:** urge for action → brief action → relief afterwards

**tremors:** rhythmic oscillations of agonist/antagonist muscles

### **Key Points**

basal ganglia evaluate voluntary motor program & signal to thalamus to continue

basal ganglia loop is more initiation & termination than continuation & positioning

operate on cortical & thalamic inputs

normally results in disinhibition via direct & indirect pathways, which operate on different types of information & are affected differently by dopamine

dopamine is an important neuromodulator: loss of tone leads to underactive thalamus

Parkinson's: key's in the ignition, but the car has trouble starting

inhibition of thalamus → reduction of drive back to motor system

## Limbic System

cortex surrounding corpus callosum & basal ganglia

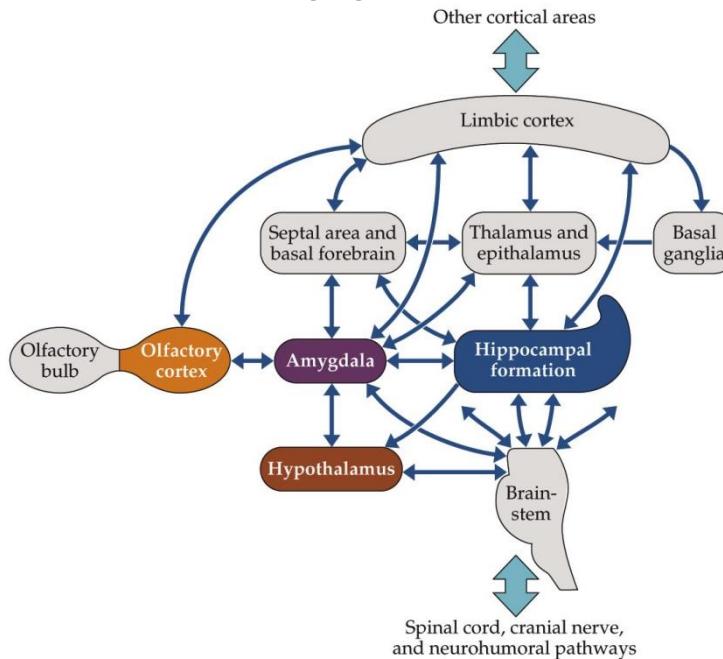
functions: olfaction (olfactory cortex), memory (hippocampal formation), emotion & drives (amygdala), and homeostasis: autonomic & neuroendocrine (hypothalamus)

main focus: hippocampal formation

basal ganglia channel: [temporal cortex; hippocampus; amygdala] → [NA, ventral striatum] → [GPi/SNr, ventral pallidum] → [MD, VA] → [AC, OFC]

olfactory epithelium runs through cribiform plate

ACC – error & conflict monitoring (eg Stroop task)



**TABLE 18.1 Main Components of the Limbic System**

Limbic cortex  
Parahippocampal gyrus  
Cingulate gyrus  
Medial orbitofrontal cortex  
Temporal pole  
Anterior insula

Hippocampal formation

Dentate gyrus  
Hippocampus

Subiculum

Amygdala

Olfactory cortex

Diencephalon

Hypothalamus

Thalamus

Anterior nucleus

Mediodorsal nucleus

Habenula

Basal ganglia

Ventral striatum

Nucleus accumbens

Ventral caudate and putamen

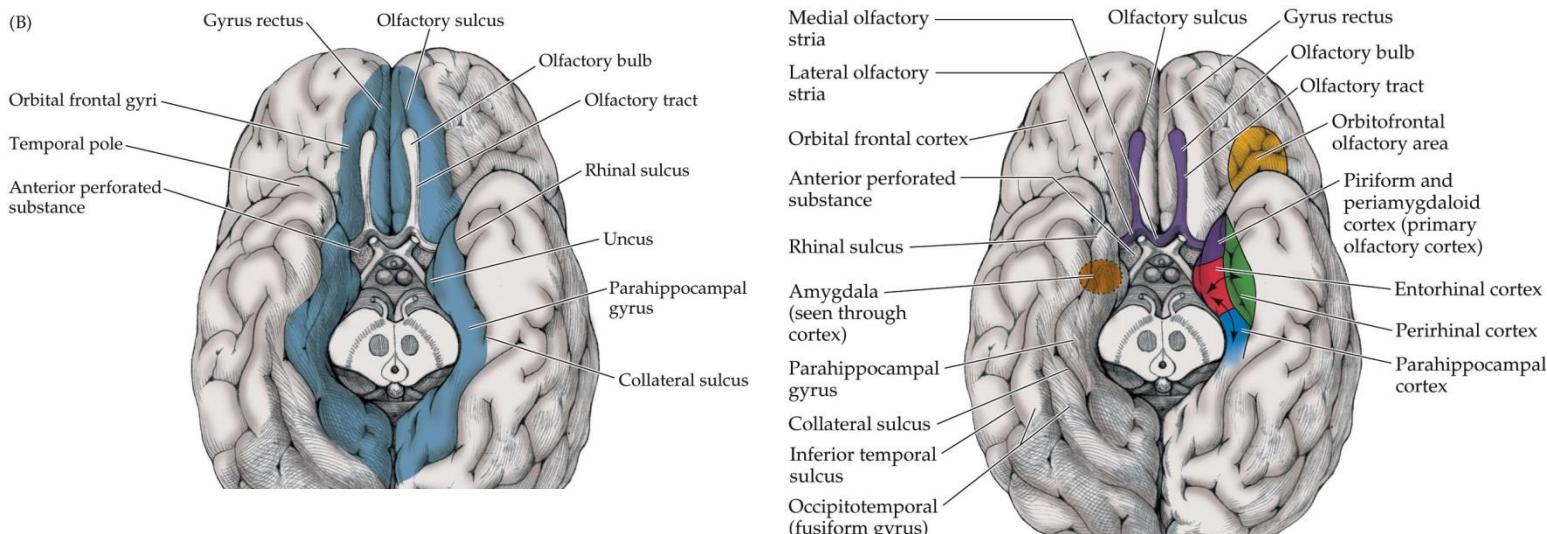
Ventral pallidum

Basal forebrain

Septal nuclei

Brainstem

(B)



## hippocampus

areas for memory:

medial temporal lobe (including hippocampus): communicates with association cortex via bidirectional pathways via entorhinal cortex

medial diencephalic nuclei (around 3<sup>rd</sup> ventricle, including thalamic & mammillary nuclei): communicates with medial temporal lobe via several pathways  
basal forebrain also has projections to cerebral cortex involved in memory

hippocampus: storage & retrieval of short-term memory

input from parahippocampal gyrus: piriform, periamygdaloid, presubiculum, parasubiculum, entorhinal, prorhinal, prerhinal, and parahippocampal cortices

interconnected by several tracts

strong modulation by cholinergic projections from basal forebrain

**hippocampal formation:** dentate gyrus (granule cells), hippocampus (pyramidal cells/cornu ammonis), & subiculum (pyramidal cells)

older cortex because has only three layers

mossy fibers: large terminal which dendrites poke post-synaptic membrane into

hypocampus pyramidal sectors: CA4 (near dentate gyrus) through CA1 (near subiculum)

**perforant pathway:** layers 2 & 3 of entorhinal cortex → dentate gyrus → CA3 via mossy fibers → fornix (CA3 pyramidal cell axons) or CA1 via Schaeffer collaterals → fornix or subiculum

**alveolar pathway:** entorhinal cortex → CA1 & CA3

both pathways primarily output to subiculum → monosynaptic connections to amygdala, OFC, & ventral striatum

example of processed & unprocessed copy to CA3

medial temporal lobe: long-term memory

input: association cortex → perirhinal & parahippocampal cortices → entorhinal cortex → hippocampus

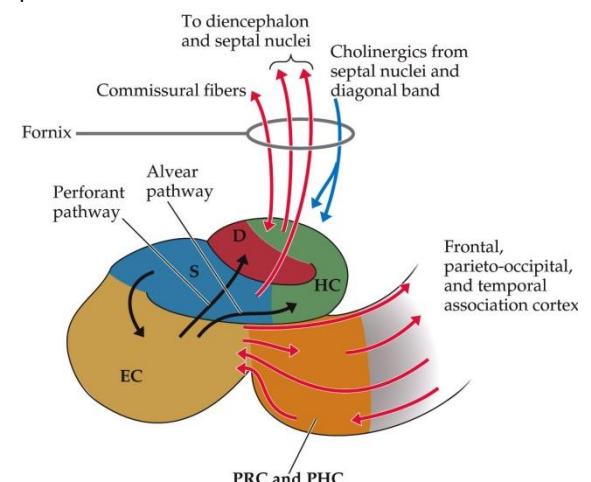
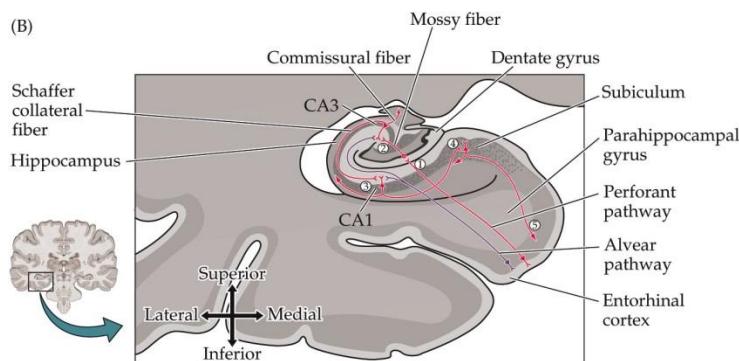
**perforant output pathway** → subiculum → entorhinal cortex → association cortex

fornix: fiber tracts that start in alveus & project counterclockwise around hippocampal formation

**fornix output pathways:** subiculum → mammillary nuclei & lateral septal nuclei

hippocampus → lateral septal nuclei & anterior thalamic nucleus

medial septal nucleus & mammillary nuclei → hippocampal formation



## memory

mechanisms of storage (consolidation) & retrieval of memories are different

long-term memories relies of short-term memory relies on working memory

patient HM has medial temporal lobes resected bilaterally to control epilepsy → declarative memory loss:

long-term retrograde amnesia & short-term anterograde amnesia

causes of memory loss: lesions in bilateral medial temporal lobe, bilateral medial diencephalon, basal forebrain, or diffuse (eg MS)

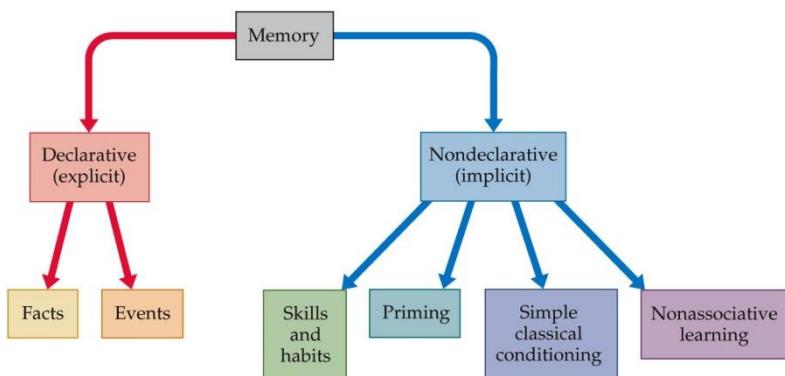
eg Wernicke-Korsakoff: alcoholic encephalopathy caused by B1 deficiency → diencephalon

eg Whipple's disease: bacterial infection → diencephalon

not lesions: seizures, concussions, anoxia, psychogenic, toxins, Alzheimer's

normal: infantile, sleep, passage of time

unilateral lesions do not normally produce severe memory loss, although left temporal/diencephalon lesion = verbal memory loss & right lesion = visual-spatial memory loss



**TABLE 18.6** Memory Mechanisms in the Time Domain and in the Spatial Domain

A. CELLULAR MECHANISMS INVOLVED AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN MEMORY STORAGE			
SECONDS TO MINUTES	MINUTES TO HOURS	HOURS TO YEARS	
Ongoing electrical activity of neurons; changes in intracellular $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ and other ions; changes in second messenger systems	Protein phosphorylation and other covalent modifications; expression of immediate early genes	Additional changes in gene transcription and translation resulting in structural changes of proteins and neurons	
B. ANATOMICAL STRUCTURES INVOLVED AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN STORAGE OF EXPLICIT MEMORIES			
LESS THAN 1 SECOND ("ATTENTION" OR "REGISTRATION")	SECONDS TO MINUTES ("WORKING MEMORY")	MINUTES TO YEARS ("CONSOLIDATION")	YEARS
Brainstem-diencephalic activating systems; frontoparietal association networks; specific unimodal and heteromodal cortices	Frontal association cortex; specific unimodal and heteromodal cortices	Medial temporal structures; medial diencephalic structures; specific unimodal and heteromodal cortices	Specific unimodal and heteromodal cortices

## amygdala

coordinate behavior, autonomic, & endocrine

nuclei (corticomedial, basolateral, central) plus bed nucleus of stria terminalis

stria terminalis: fiber tracts to hypothalamus & septal area (fornix of amygdala)

output: association cortex & subcortical structures like hippocampus, plus olfactory structures

cortical connections: hippocampal formation, OFC, cingulate cortex

subcortical connections: thalamus, septal area, basal forebrain, ventral striatum, hypothalamus

olfactory connections: piriform cortex & olfactory bulb

emotion & drive are interactions between amygdala and other areas

not involved in encoding emotions into memories

lesions: failure to recognize emotion & social cues; placid

septal area associated with pleasure (monkey studies, sham rage)

neuroendocrine function: why depressed patients contract infections more often

## seizures

common seizures: simple partial, complex partial, absence (petit mal), tonic-clonic (grand mal)

types: partial (particular brain structure) vs generalized (cut corpus callosum)

partial: simple (retain consciousness) vs complex; normally no post-ictal deficits

generalized: tonic phase (loss of consciousness, muscle rigidity) & clonic phase (rhythmic bilateral jerking, autonomic output) & recovery (deep breathing to accommodate for acidosis, confusion, amnesia, lethargy, etc)

auras similar to those in migraines in that they are symptomatic of abnormal brain activity

drugs: anticonvulsants & sedatives to reduce neural activity

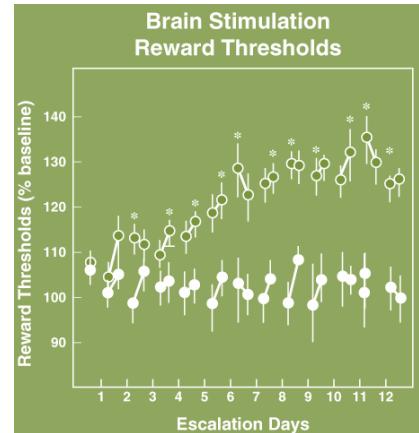
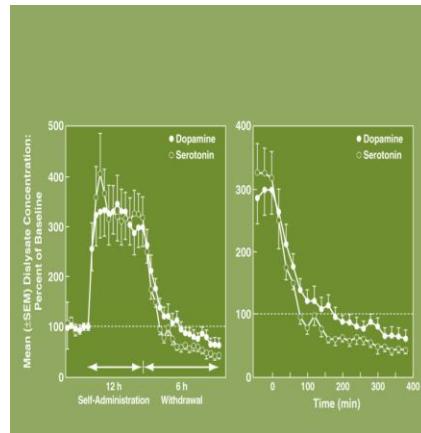
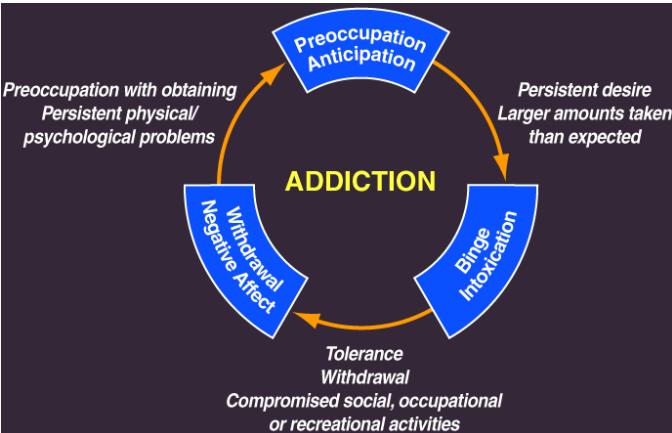
stabilize inactive Na channels, potentiate GABA transmission, or affect Na/Ca channels

## Addiction

addiction - a chronic, relapsing brain disease characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences. It is a disease because it causes brain changes, which are long lasting and cause self-destructive behaviors

key areas: ventral tegmental area (VTA) & ventral striatum in binge stage, amygdala in withdrawal stage, & OFC (+ dorsal striatum, PFC, amygdala, hippocampus, cingulate gyrus, etc) in preoccupation stage

addiction causes changes in the mesolimbic DA pathway leading to plasticity in the striatum, OFC, PFC, cingulate cortex, & amygdala



## dopamine

all rewards increase dopamine in the brain, not just drugs of addiction

dopamine: neuromodulator from midbrain

mesocortical pathway: VTA to prefrontal cortex (attention, anticipation)

mesolimbic pathway: VTA to NA (reinforcement learning, motivation/reward)

nigrostriatal pathway: SNc to dorsal striatum (habits, gain & loss of motor output)

DA neurons signal errors in reward prediction (better or worse than expected)

Schultz in 1997: introduce reward after stimulus → originally fire in response to reward, then fire in response to stimulus & ceases firing in response to no reward at expected time

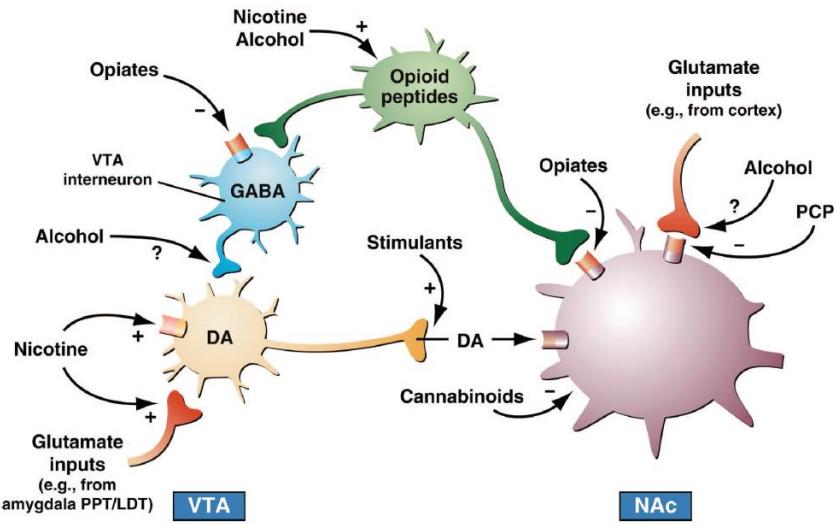
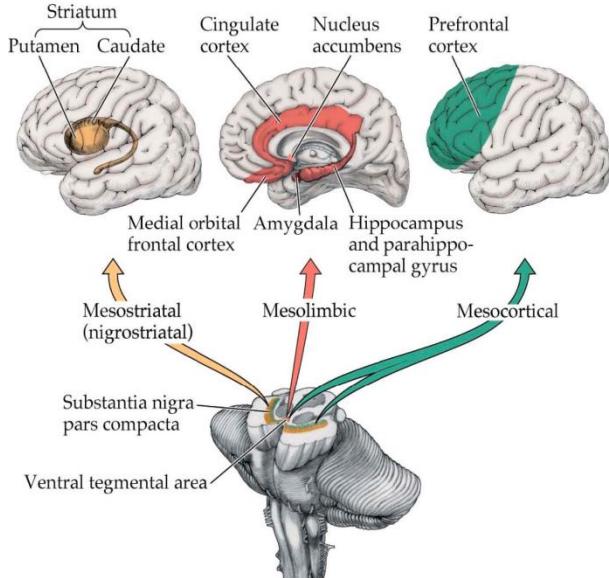
natural rewards are correlated with dopamine release, as measured by microdialysis

artificial rewards also elevate DA (intracranial self-stimulation)

stimulate (threshold) → turn wheel → learn that turning a wheel produces more stimulus

when DA is blocked, rats will no longer work for reward

tonic-phasic theory of DA: phasic = reinforcement learning, tonic = pleasure threshold



## drug action on downstream areas

direct: impact DA receptor

indirect: modulate DA via other receptor systems & NT that modulate DA system

cocaine: direct, binds to and inhibits DAT

alcohol: inhibits GABAergic neurons that project to DA neurons in the VTA

nicotine: activates Ach neurons that project to DA neurons of the VTA

heroin: binds opioid receptors that inhibits GABAergic neurons that project to DA neurons of the VTA

drugs of addiction can work on other NT reward systems, but all of them work on DA

## problems with long-term use

tolerance: long-access rats will press the lever more during a single session than short-access rats

    self-administration frequency & reward threshold both increase

withdrawal: disturbance of ANS, activation of locus coeruleus, & release of corticotrophin releasing factor

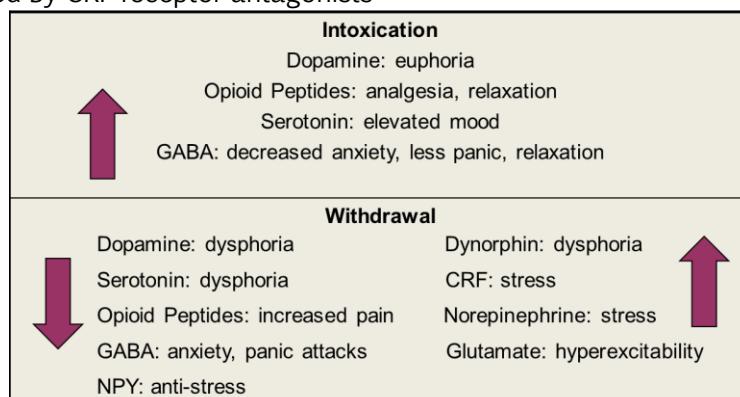
    NT drop below baseline → brain is compensating for overload

stress reliably reinstates drug seeking in rats

    CRF facilitates & enhances freezing, startling, burying, conditioned fear, place aversion, & lack of exploration

    can give them a single injection or foot shock them → will press lever even though saline is administered

    incubation of craving: this frequency never decreases → stress becomes a conditioned stimulus  
    this is attenuated by CRF receptor antagonists



## models of addiction

tolerance: reinforcing properties of drugs are gradually decreased

withdrawal: use is increased to maintain euphoria & avoid withdrawal

dependence: need to maintain this new homeostasis is increased

drug abuse results in structural & functional brain changes with changes in behavior: decreased DAT & decreased DA-D2 receptor binding

dependent in pre-existing receptors (eg different D2 receptors or decrease in DAT make rats more impulsive & subordinate monkeys more likely to self-administer)

model of addiction: percentage of rats who will take a footshock to get the drug is about the same as drug users who become addicted

    these rats have the hardest mPFC DA neurons to drive (frequency of firing given stimulation)

    top-down control of inhibiting things you don't want to do

optogenetics: use selective virus with pond scum activated by light → channel protein transcribed and inserted into PM → blue laser excites only these neurons, green light inhibits only these neurons

    excite mPFC → addiction cured!; inhibit mPFC → addiction worsened!

cocaine abuse decreases metabolism in OFC → inhibits reversal learning (discriminate between two stimuli, then reverse this association)

strong OFC phasic responses to odor that means sucrose

this reward firing was decreased in rats given cocaine

substance abusers all demonstrate executive control deficits (fail to switch to good decks from bad decks in Iowa gambling task)

delay discounting – determine when low reward = high reward + delay

substance abusers have steeper discounting functions

review: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2805560/pdf/npp2009110a.pdf>

## summary

DA pathways:

nigra: regulation of motor output; produces both gain (tremor) & loss (rigidity) in Parkinson's

VTA: motivation/reward (mesolimbic); attention (mesocortical); implicated in Schizophrenia

basal ganglia "decide" between competing cortical programs

modulated by SNc (motor programs) or VTA (limbic programs)

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## Epilepsy

epilepsy – a chronic disorder characterized by recurrent (at least 2) *unprovoked* seizures

seizures – manifestations of excessive & hypersynchronous (usually self-limited) activity of networks of neurons in the brain

seizures transiently interfere with normal brain function

partial seizure: symptoms & signs reflect the part of the brain involved

motor, sensory, autonomic (limbic), psychic (limbic)

hippocampus is very commonly involved

seizures are spontaneous, but some stimuli can trigger a seizure (eg photosensitive epilepsy)

patients can have seizures without being epileptic (eg withdrawal from CNS depressants such as Xanax or alcohol, hypoglycemia)

## types & symptoms

seizure onset: modeled by interictal discharges (brief high amplitude network-driven bursts of high frequency firing)

seizure spread: serial (Jacksonian march), parallel, feedback loop, commissural, distributed (grand mal, usually through thalamus)

aura: fear/anxiety, euphoria, déjà vu, autonomic (epigastric, piloerection), indescribable

complex partial seizure: aura → unilateral nonpurposeful repetitive movements → unresponsive → postictal confusion & amnesia

juvenile myoclonic epilepsy: small myoclonic seizures precede tonic-clonic seizure

loss of breathing (only 1-2 minutes, so not dangerous)

patients with grand mal seizures are more likely to respond to medication (genetic disposition), but are also more likely to die from epilepsy

provoked seizures: usually generalized convulsive types

causes: fever (in young children), head trauma, stroke, infection (eg meningitis), drug withdrawal, medications, electrolyte abnormalities, hypoglycemia

## differential diagnosis

incidence (first clinical presentation): 1 in 1000 in infants, 0.5 in 1000 at age 40, 1.5 in 1000 at age 80

age-specific etiologies: genetic/metabolic/congenital defects in infants; infections in children; trauma in young adults; tumors & vascular disease in adults

vast majority are idiopathic  
after severe traumatic brain injury, 17% occurrence of developing epilepsy over the next 20 years  
epileptogenesis – as neurons recover, become the source of seizures  
other diagnosis: syncope, migraine, pseudoseizure

### imaging

used to supplement family/clinical history, can help classify type of epilepsy & identify abnormal brain area  
EEG: alpha rhythm: resting awake with eyes closed, thalamic-cortical relay  
MRI: detect abnormalities correctable by surgery  
PET: brain metabolism

### treatments & side effects

40% risk of recurrence after first seizure → 70% after second  
comorbidities more common in patients who do not respond to medication  
traumatic accidents, underemployment, cognitive dysfunction, depression/anxiety, endocrine disorders, drug side effects, mortality rate  
50% become seizure-free on first prescription → 67% eventually become seizure free  
non-medication treatments: vagal nerve stimulation  
ketogenic diet (atkins)  
surgery: tissue removed is scarred, dysplastic, has wrong connections & morphology, etc  
corpus callosotomy: prevent seizures from generalizing (makes them less severe)  
surgery: for tumor, vascular problem, sclerosis in hippocampus

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## Schizophrenia

schizophrenia – severe chronic disorder characterized by hallucinations, delusions, & cognitive deficits  
“to split” + “mind” = splitting of mental functions  
disorder of thought & function  
1% of adult population (childhood onset is rare; usually age 18-25)  
most expensive illness to treat (need custodial treatment for full life span)  
affects men 1.5x as often as women (also presents earlier)  
ascertainment bias: men tend to be more aggressive when acting out, tend to recognize emotional disorders in men more than in women  
50% of psychiatric hospital patients are schizophrenic  
neurodevelopmental stages:  
presymptomatic (age <15): risk factors  
prodrome (age 15-18): cognitive/social deficits emerge, unusual thought content, minor functional deficits  
psychosis (age 18-25): acute disability, withdrawal, lack of hygiene  
chronic illness (age 25+): medical complications, long-term disability  
episodic psychosis or delusions (associated with change in mood) is not enough to qualify for the diagnosis  
depression with psychotic features & bipolar disorder can look like schizophrenia, but course of onset differentiates  
severe interactive pervasive delusions are more characteristic of schizophrenia  
**psychosis:** disorder of thought characterized by hallucinations, delusions, & eccentric beliefs  
neurosis: habits, not a thought disorder

### symptoms

positive, negative, & cognitive deficits; all must present for diagnosis

**positive** (added on): hallucinations, delusions, thought disorder, abnormal movements

hallucination: unusual sensory perceptions of things that are not present

auditory: most common, can be command, are very real to unmedicated patients, may be inability to differentiate own mental dialogue from voice of demon

visual: more common to other disorders

delusion: false beliefs that are persistent & organized, do not go away after receiving logical rationalization, normally based on subconscious fears of the individual, misinterpret common experiences as a conspiracy against them

**negative** (taken away): flat affect (even with treatment), anhedonia, apathy, poverty of thought (empty mind), social withdrawal

similar to depression, except no poverty of thought

these are more difficult to treat (external motivation is hard)

lack neural structures of goal-directed behavior

**cognitive deficits**: executive (understand information & use it to make decisions)

working memory: representational knowledge; mental scratch pad; ability to use information immediately after learning it

guides thought, action, & emotion through inhibition of inappropriate thoughts, actions, & emotions  
dorsolateral prefrontal cortex dysfunction

problems with independent daily life: social deficits similar to autism (emotion & motive perceptions) & memory deficits similar to Alzheimer's (sequencing, encoding, naming, object construction)

### **neurodevelopmental hypothesis**

multiple genes act in concert with adverse environmental factors (neonatal or infantile illness) → pathological changes that remain latent while the prefrontal cortex is developing → manifests in early adulthood (once parents are no longer acting as your PFC)

evidence: correlation with obstetrical complications; presence of symptoms before illness; no neurodegeneration

heritability: 10% from parent to child

microenvironment of identical twins (one with lower birth weight or second delivered) is different enough that concordance is only 48%

genome-wide association studies → 80 candidate genes related to synaptic signaling machinery  
1944 Netherlands malnutrition study → 3-4x increase in schizophrenia incidence in children

genetic risk amplified by environmental conditions

similar spikes observed in other regions with famine

### **treatment**

main method: drugs (new class of atypicals has fewer side effects)

D2 receptor antagonists which treat psychotic symptoms (from hippocampus/thalamus)

psychosocial interventions help patients form a meaningful life

some can work part-time, need a support structure to ensure that they get their medication on time

they are more often the victims of crimes than criminals themselves

when the family is involved, relapse rate is significantly decreased

need case managers (will not seek out help on their own)

comorbidity: mood disorders, nicotine addition (may help the side effects), schizoaffective disorder (with depression or bipolar disorder), alcoholism, drug abuse, obesity/diabetes (from drugs)

genetic benefits: may be oncoprotective (have lower solid tumor incidence rate)

rarely get lung cancer from smoking or liver cancer from drinking

most patients are not famous because the onset blunts their careers → not enough mental health funds go to this because it's not visible

## Cortex

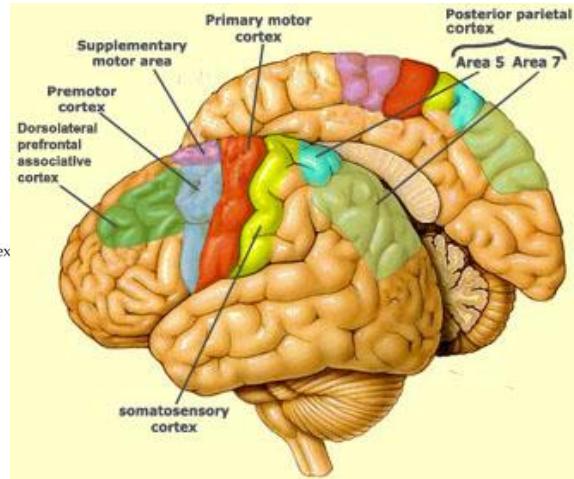
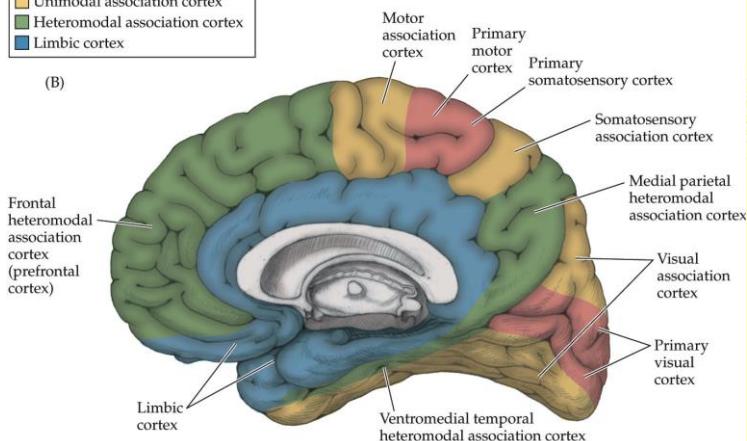
dominant hemisphere: language processing (also praxis, sequential & analytic math/music abilities; following directions in sequence)

non-dominant hemisphere: visual-spatial processing/attention (also prosody, estimation, & orientation)

dominant hemisphere is usually left, (matches motor dominance in general population) but language dominance is less lateralized in left-handed people

Key
Primary motor or sensory cortex
Unimodal association cortex
Heteromodal association cortex
Limbic cortex

(B)



heteromodal areas: eg frontal eye fields, frontal cortex

eg exam (tell me about your childhood): hear & process question, pull memories, select information relevant to context, process language & related motor program

**apraxia** – inability to perform a task due to a higher-order processing deficit

eg unable to move arm even though auditory & motor neurons not affected

complexity of underlying circuits makes false localization a problem

disconnection syndromes can interrupt connections between relevant areas

hemispheric dominance develops postnatally

handedness does not always correlate with dominance in other areas (eg left hemisphere is dominant in language in left-handed people, but right hemisphere is dominant in motor areas)

## cortical aphasias

Wernicke (receptive aphasia): sounds to words (auditory processing deficit) [happy man]

impaired comprehension; speech sounds normal but makes no sense

Broca (expressive aphasia): neural representations of words to sounds, syntax, motor (speech production) deficit [grumpy man]

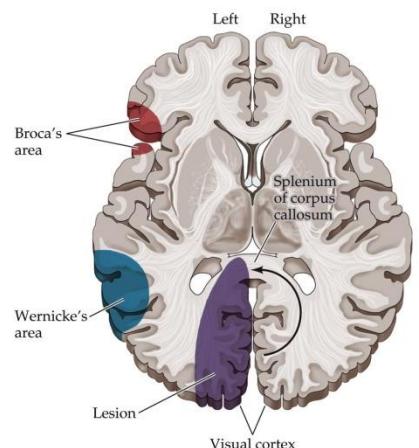
comprehension is intact; speech is labored, affectless, syntaxless, & perseverated; could also be apraxia, hemiparesis, & disarthria

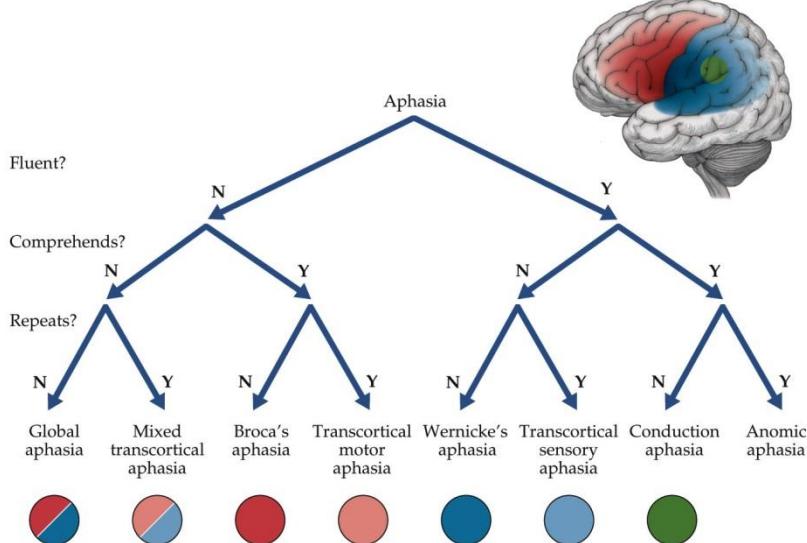
visual → (angular gyrus) → Wernicke's area → (arcuate fasciculus; layer 2/3) → Broca's area → (thalamus & basal ganglia) → motor

reciprocal connections to many other areas

vascular divisions: MCA superior (Broca's) & inferior (Wernicke's)

Broca's in temporal lobe & Wernicke's in posterior lobe





related auditory/motor deficits:

dysarthria: eg basal ganglia disorder (difficulty choosing between motor programs)

apraxia: fine motor control disorder

mutism: psychological disorder

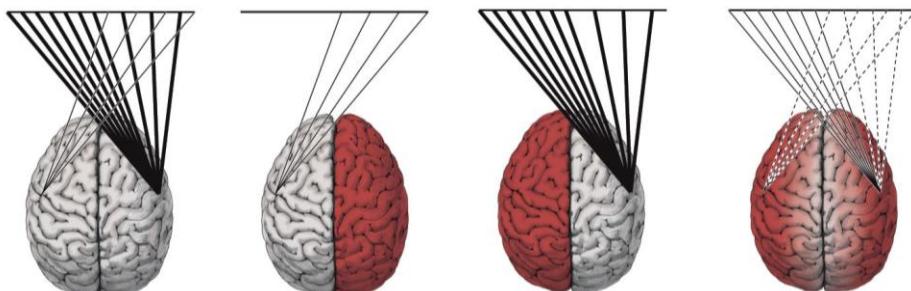
word deafness: inability to differentiate between closely spaced sounds

alexia (loss of reading) & agraphia (loss of writing)

lesion in dominant occipital cortex extending through posterior corpus callosum → right hemianopia  
prevents visual signals from crossing to language areas → patient can write but can't read what s/he has written

eg ipsilateral apraxia caused by infarct in left MCA, disrupting signals from Broca's area to premotor cortex  
language processing is distributed (eg viewing words, listening, speaking, generating word associations)

### visual attention/gestalt: non-dominant hemisphere



vision begins in V1 → V2 & V3 (signals & form) → V4 & V5 (color & movement)

dorsal visual stream (where?): posterior parietal lobe to frontal lobe; motion & spatial relations

ventral visual stream (what?): to temporal lobe (auditory & limbic areas); analysis of form & color;

facial recognition & movement (different areas respond to different movements & face areas)

attention requires multiple areas acting together

opsias: loss of ability to understand a precept

simultanagnosia: unable to perceive visual scene as a whole (one small region at a time)

optic ataxia: inability to use visual information to reach for an object under visual control

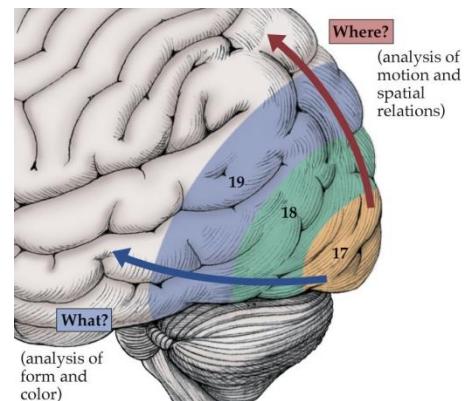
ok with auditory or proprioceptive cues

ocular apraxia: difficulty directing one's gaze toward objects in the peripheral vision through saccades

related to simultanagnosia; can't keep the visual scene all together

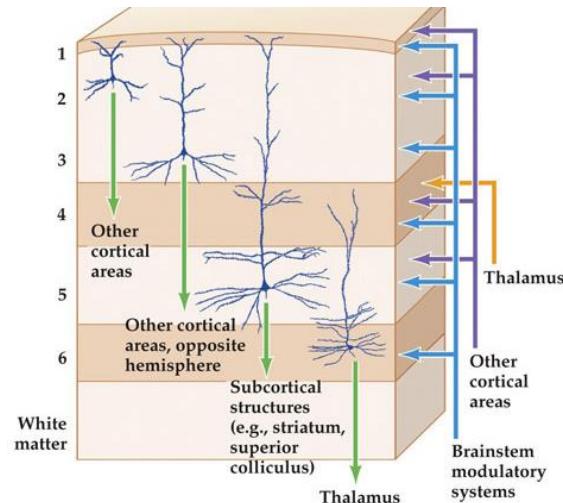
prosopagnosia: unable to recognize people from their faces (eg Oliver Sacks)

agnosia: normal perception stripped of its meaning



know it's a face, can describe it, but cannot identify the individual

hemineglect: lesions in right parietal association cortex in dorsal stream  
 primarily posterior parietal lobes (sensory association areas)  
 exam: extinction of response to stimulus as stimulus moves in space;  
 extinction of motor output  
 eg bisect the line; circle the letter A



## neocortical layers

- 1 – molecular
  - 2 – external granular; interneurons
  - 3 – external pyramidal; interneurons
  - 4 – internal granular; inputs
  - 5 – internal pyramidal (eg Betz cells in PMC); output to spinal cord
  - 6 – polymorphic/multiform; output to thalamus
- perihippocampal cortex has only 4 layers

## frontal lobes

all cognitive/emotional processing that characterizes a "human being"

abstract reasoning, working memory, forming perspectives, planning, insight, sequencing, organization, temporal order

planning: cue → delay → response

novel patterns: dorsolateral PFC

lesions produce profound & often contradictory symptoms

depression vs mania, mutism vs confabulation, akinesia vs distractability, abulia vs environmental dependency

abulia – inability to act or make decisions (eg initiate speech, social interaction, movement)

confabulation – formation of false memories, perceptions, or beliefs

frontal lobotomies & Phineas Gage

dorsolateral PFC common in schizophrenia → loss of motivation

frontal cortex: all areas in front of central sulcus

major areas: orbitofrontal cortex (limbic & olfactory); Broca's area, PFC, FEF, motor areas (premotor, supplementary motor, primary motor), micturition inhibitory area (in supplementary motor area)

connections to every region save primary motor & sensory areas

association cortices, limbic & subcortex structures, thalamus (mediodorsal nucleus), basal ganglia

(head of caudate)

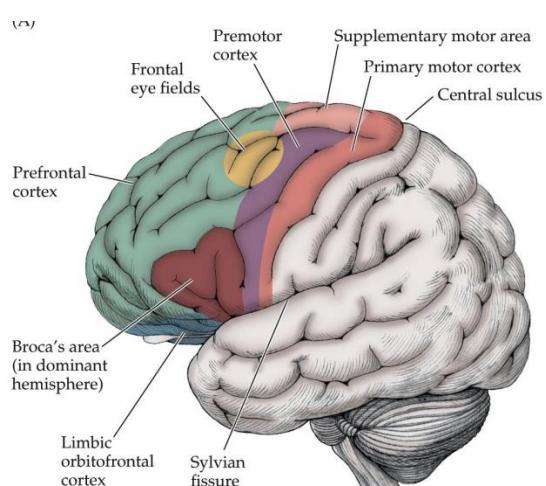
input from all neuromodulatory systems

feneralizations with many exceptions:

- dorsolateral lesions produce an apathetic, lifeless state
- ventromedial orbitofrontal lesions lead to impulsive, disinhibited behavior and poor judgment
- left frontal lesions: depression-like symptoms
- right frontal lesions: behavioral disturbances

patients with lesions may be: catatonic, inappropriate responses to social cues, respond to inappropriate stimuli, give the same answer to multiple questions (perseverate), lack of concentration on single task, lack of abstract reasoning (eg sequencing difficulties)

eg written alternating sequence test – motor perseveration



## dementias

grouped by location pathology (cortical vs subcortical) or relationship to pathology (primary vs secondary)

primary dementia: Alzheimer's (cortical) vs Huntington's (subcortical)

secondary dementia: cortical vs HIV-induced

Alzheimer's: sporadic or familial (lipid transport defects, mutations in ApoE4)

cerebral atrophy, neurofibrillary tangles, amyloid plaques

medial temporal lobes (amygdala & hippocampus), basal temporal cortex, frontal lobes, nucleus

basalis & locus ceruleus

