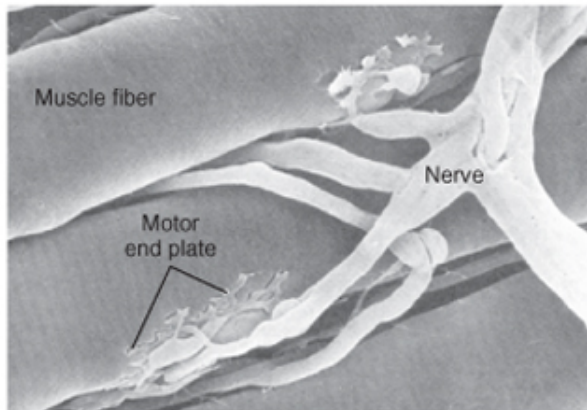


A



B

Figure 12-7 Skeletal muscle is a voluntary muscle controlled by the central nervous system, with efferent signals (i.e., action potentials) passing through an  $\alpha$  motor neuron to muscle fibers. Each motor neuron may innervate many muscle fibers within a muscle, although each muscle fiber is innervated by only one motor neuron (A). B, Scanning electron micrograph showing innervation of several muscle fibers by a single motor neuron. (B, From Bloom W, Fawcett DW: A Textbook of Physiology, 12th ed. New York, Chapman & Hall, 1994.)

Koeppen & Stanton: Berne and Levy Physiology, 6th Edition.  
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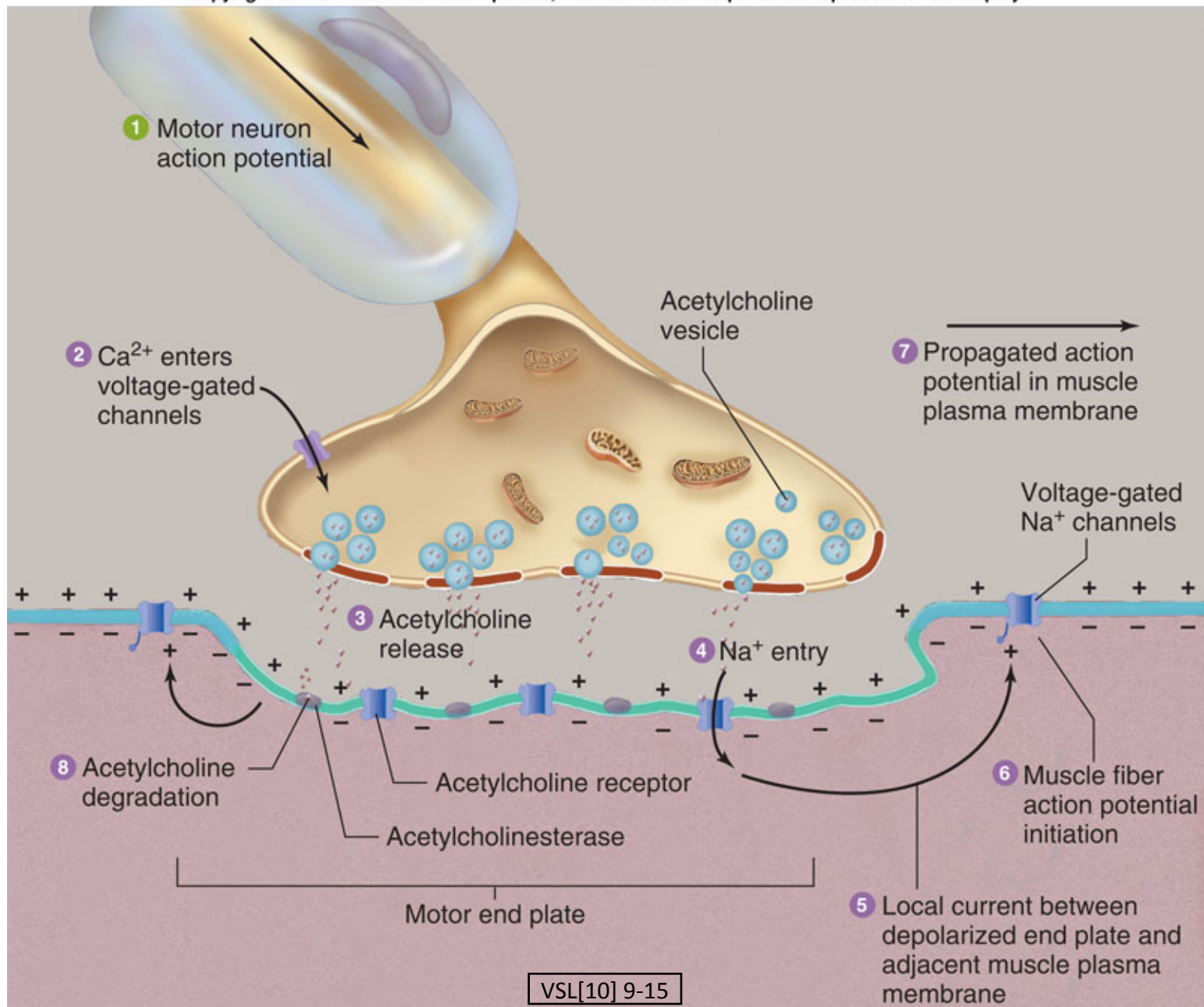


TABLE 9-2

*Sequence of Events Between a Motor Neuron Action Potential and Skeletal Muscle Fiber Contraction*

VSL[10]

1. Action potential is initiated and propagates to motor neuron axon terminals.
2. Calcium enters axon terminals through voltage-gated calcium channels.
3. Calcium entry triggers release of ACh from axon terminals.
4. ACh diffuses from axon terminals to motor end plate in muscle fiber.
5. ACh binds to nicotinic receptors on motor end plate, increasing their permeability to  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$ .
6. More  $\text{Na}^+$  moves into the fiber at the motor end plate than  $\text{K}^+$  moves out, depolarizing the membrane and producing the end plate potential (EPP).
7. Local currents depolarize the adjacent muscle cell plasma membrane to its threshold potential, generating an action potential that propagates over the muscle fiber surface and into the fiber along the T-tubules.
8. Action potential in T-tubules induces DHP receptors to pull open ryanodine receptor channels, allowing release of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from lateral sacs of sarcoplasmic reticulum.
9.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binds to troponin on the thin filaments, causing tropomyosin to move away from its blocking position, thereby uncovering cross-bridge binding sites on actin.
10. Energized myosin cross-bridges on the thick filaments bind to actin:  

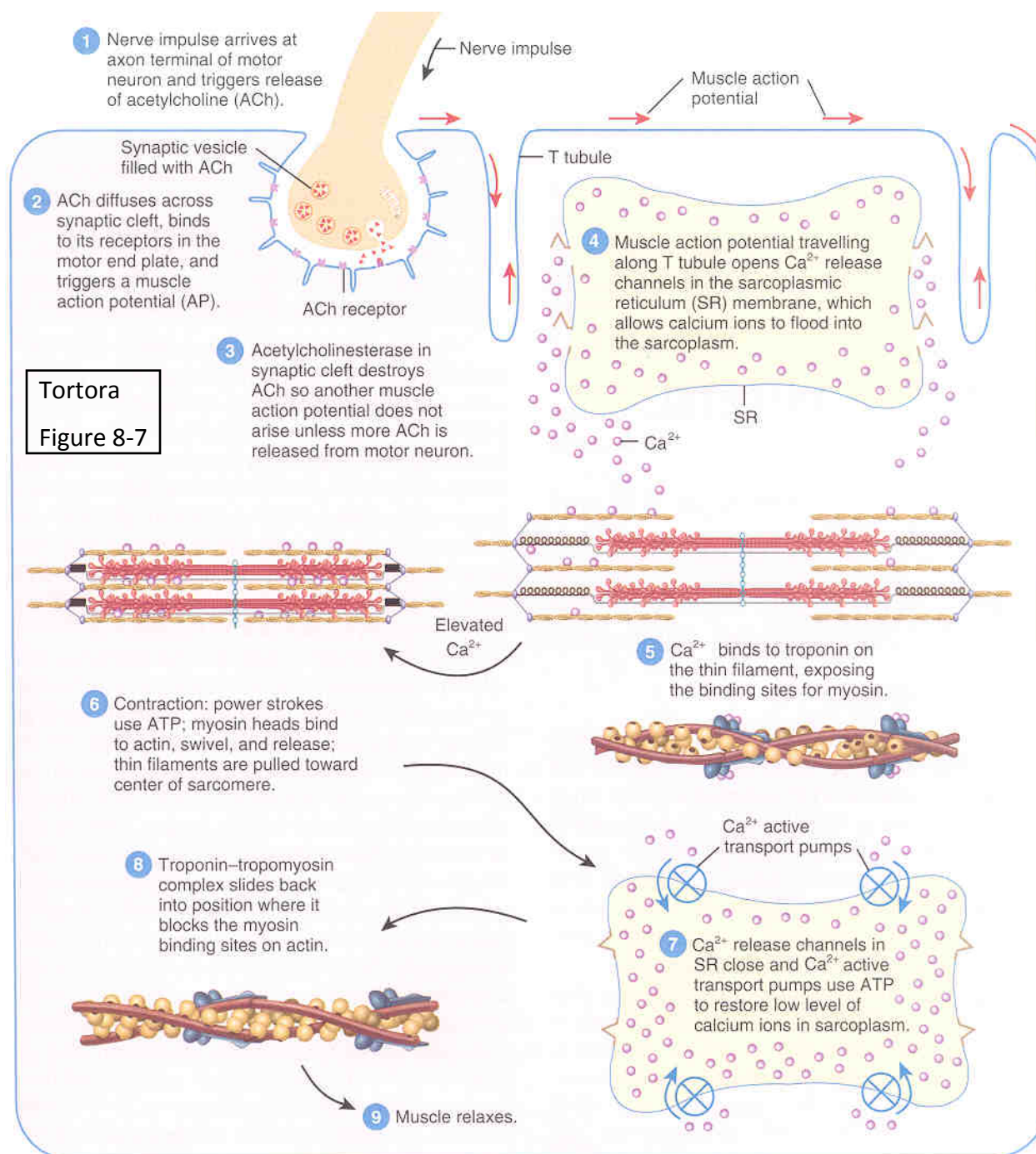
$$\text{A} + \text{M} \cdot \text{ADP} \cdot \text{P}_i \rightarrow \text{A} \cdot \text{M} \cdot \text{ADP} \cdot \text{P}_i$$
11. Cross-bridge binding triggers release of ATP hydrolysis products from myosin, producing an angular movement of each cross-bridge:  

$$\text{A} \cdot \text{M} \cdot \text{ADP} \cdot \text{P}_i \rightarrow \text{A} \cdot \text{M} + \text{ADP} + \text{P}_i$$
12. ATP binds to myosin, breaking linkage between actin and myosin and thereby allowing cross-bridges to dissociate from actin:  

$$\text{A} \cdot \text{M} + \text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{A} + \text{M} \cdot \text{ATP}$$
13. ATP bound to myosin is split, energizing the myosin cross-bridge:  

$$\text{M} \cdot \text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{M} \cdot \text{ADP} \cdot \text{P}_i$$
14. Cross-bridges repeat steps 10 to 13, producing movement (sliding) of thin filaments past thick filaments. Cycles of cross-bridge movement continue as long as  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  remains bound to troponin.
15. Cytosolic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration decreases as  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase actively transports  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  into sarcoplasmic reticulum.
16. Removal of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from troponin restores blocking action of tropomyosin, the cross-bridge cycle ceases, and the muscle fiber relaxes.





Tortora  
Figure 8-7

**END**

**Video 6, Module 3**