

The Nervous System

HASPI Medical Anatomy & Physiology 11a
Lab Activity

Background

The Nervous System

The nervous system is an incredibly complex network of tissues that are capable of carrying information throughout the human body. The two primary cells of the nervous system are neurons, that actually carry and store information, and glial cells that support the neurons. The nervous system is broken up into a few systems depending on the function and location.

Central Nervous System

The central nervous system, or CNS, is made up of the brain and spinal cord. The retina of the eye is also considered part of the central nervous system. The brain is the control center of the body and is housed within the protective hard skull. Layers of tissues called meninges and cerebrospinal fluid also protect the CNS. The spinal cord extends from the brainstem through the vertebral column. There are 31 segments to the spinal cord, and a pair of spinal nerves extends from each segment into the body.

Peripheral Nervous System

There are 43 pairs of nerves that connect the central nervous system to the rest of the body, and they make up the peripheral nervous system or PNS. The PNS is made up of sensory neurons that are capable of receiving stimuli, and motor neurons that are capable of responding to stimuli. For example, sensory neurons in the eye are capable of receiving light stimuli and motor neurons are attached to muscles that can create movement.

The PNS is broken down into the somatic and autonomic nervous systems, and the autonomic is further broken down into the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems. Diagram A summarizes the relationship between these systems. The somatic NS is the voluntary system that can be controlled consciously, such as movement of muscles. The autonomic NS is the involuntary system and controls unconscious impulses such as the heartbeat. The sympathetic and parasympathetic systems work opposite of one another. For example, the sympathetic system speeds up the heart rate while the parasympathetic system slows down the heart rate.

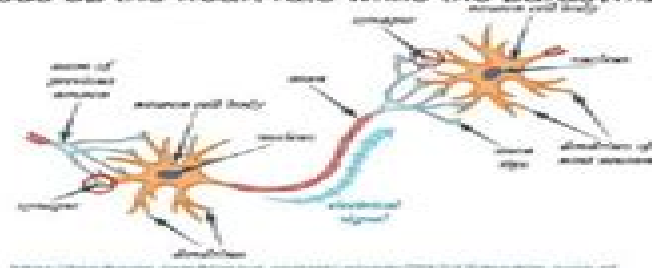
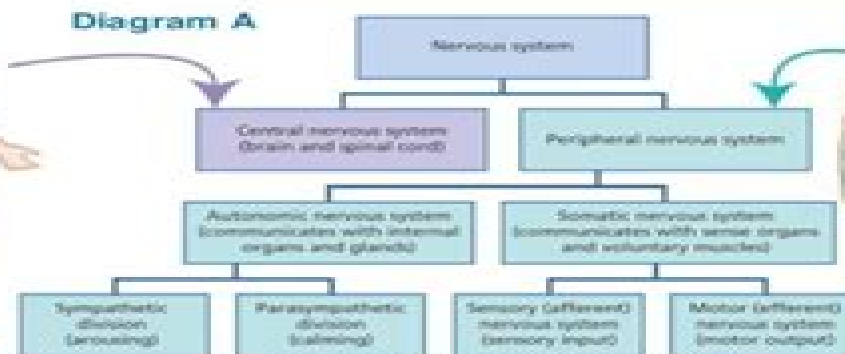


Diagram A



The Neuron

The neuron is the functional cell of the nervous system. It can send and receive nerve impulses. There are billions of neurons in the body, with more than 100 billion on the surface of the brain alone. Even so, approximately 90% of cells in the brain are supportive glial cells and only 10% are actual neurons. Neurons are made up of a cell body, dendrites, an axon, and axon terminals. When

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Anatomy and Physiology : The Nervous System and Our Senses Rumi Michael Leigh, The Nervous System and Our Senses Things You Should Know Questions and Answers explains the anatomy physiology and disorders of the nervous system in a question and answer format The book covers the central and peripheral nervous systems highlighting neurons axons dendrites synapses and neurotransmitters It also describes brain structures such as the cerebrum cerebellum brainstem thalamus hypothalamus and limbic system along with the role of cerebrospinal fluid in protecting the nervous system Key topics include action potentials myelination cranial and spinal nerves sensory receptors and pathways that regulate movement and reflexes The five senses are explained including vision hearing taste smell and touch with attention to conditions such as glaucoma cataracts presbyopia presbycusis anosmia and changes in taste perception The text also examines neurological conditions such as stroke concussion cerebral contusion Alzheimer s disease Parkinson s disease schizophrenia and epilepsy This book will interest students health science learners and general audiences who want to gain knowledge of the nervous system and the senses through a clear question and answer format Physiology of the Nervous System Carlos Eyzaguirre,1969 An Illustrated Review of the Nervous System Glenn F. Bastian,1993 This series of brief inexpensive workbooks supplements texts in A P especially Elaine Marieb s Human Anatomy and Physiology Fifth Edition and provides a quick and efficient study review for nursing and allied health students This workbook reviews the nervous system

The Human Nervous System George Paxinos,2012-12-02 The Human Nervous System is a definitive account of human neuroanatomy with a comprehensive coverage of the brain spinal cord and peripheral nervous system The cytoarchitecture chemoarchitecture connectivity and major functions of neuronal structures are examined by acknowledged authorities in the field such as Alheid Amaral Armstrong Beitz Burke de Olmos Difiglia Garey Gerrits Gibbins Holstege Kaas Martin McKinley Norgren Ohye Paxinos Pearson Pioro Price Saper Sasaki Schoenen Tadork Voogd Webster Zilles and their associates Large clearly designed 8 1 2 x 11 format 35 information packed chapters 500 photomicrographs and diagrams 6 200 bibliographic entries Table of contents for every chapter Exceptionally cross referenced Detailed subject index Substantial original research work Mini atlases of some brain regions Physiology of the Nervous System Jean Pierre Morat,1999 *Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System* Sedgwick Mather,2000

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Table of Contents The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a

1. Understanding the eBook The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - The Rise of Digital Reading The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a User Reviews and Ratings

- The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a Free and Paid eBooks
 - The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a Public Domain eBooks
 - The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a eBook Subscription Services
 - The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a Compatibility with Devices
 - The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Interactive Elements The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
- 8. Staying Engaged with The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Setting Reading Goals The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of The Nervous System Haspi Medical Anatomy And Physiology 11a
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources

13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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