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Introduction

Summary Quiz



Help

- The hypothalamus is one of the last areas of the brain to develop.
- No more neurons are formed after birth, but growth and maturation continues for several years (new evidence!)
- The brain reaches maximum weight as a young adult.

Mind Map

• However, we can always grow dendrites!

Functions

حــامـعــة

الملكس

• Control center for all body activities

Instruction

• Responds and adapts to changes that occur both inside and outside the body (Ex: pain, temperature, pregnancy).



Instruction

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Objectives

- Explain the difference between the central nervous system and the peripheral nervous system.
- Describe the structure and function of a neuron, of a synapse.
- Describe the function of a nerve impulse and how a nerve impulse is created.
- Give the major divisions of the brain and describe the general functions of each.
- Describe the structure and functions of the spinal cord.
- Explain the two divisions of the autonomic nervous system.
- Describe the differences between the somatic nervous system and autonomic nervous system.
- Describe the various diseases and disorders of the nervous system.





Structural Classification of the Nervous System

- Central nervous system (CNS)
 - Brain
 - Spinal cord
- Peripheral nervous system (PNS)

Nerve outside the brain and spinal cord. Cranial nerves (12 pairs) & Spinal nerves (31 pairs)

• Sensory (afferent) division

Nerve fibers that carry information to the central nervous system

• Motor (efferent) division

Nerve fibers that carry information away from the central nervous system. Two subdivisions of the motor division:

- Somatic nervous system = voluntary
- Autonomic nervous system = involuntary









The nervous tissue is composed of:

- Neurons: nerve cells specialized to transmit messages called nerve impulses.
- Neuroglia: supporting cells.

Neuroglia divide whereas neurons do not.

• Nerves are cable-like bundles of axons of the neurons.







Neurons

Major regions of neurons are:

- Cell body
- nucleus and metabolic center of the cell
- Fibers that extend from the cell body
 - Dendrites: short fibers that receive information from other neurons.
 - Axons: long Fibers that send messages to other neurons.

Larger axons (motor nerves) are enclosed by sheaths of myelin (lipid and protein covering) produced by Schwann cells. This sheath increases the speed of nerve impulse conduction (saltatory conduction)

Narrow gaps in the myelin sheath between Schwann cells are called nodes of Ranvier.







Neurons can be classified based on function or by structure.

Structure

Multipolar

- Many processes arising from cell body.
- Brain or spinal cord

Bipolar

- 2 processes (1 from each end of cell body)
- Ear, eyes, nose

Unipolar

- Single process extends from cell body
- Outside of brain and spinal cord







Classification of Neurons

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Function

Sensory Neurons (afferent)

• They carry information from peripheral body parts to brain or spinal cord.

Interneurons

- Lie entirely within the brain or spinal cord; direct incoming sensory impulses to appropriate parts for processing and interpreting.
- Connect sensory and motor neurons

Motor Neurons (efferent)

• They Carry information (impulses) from the brain or spinal cord to effectors (muscles, glands).







Transmission of information

Help

What happens when the signal reaches the end of the axon?

The information is transmitted due to the communication between neurons using a mixture of electrical and chemical signals through a gap called synapse.

• Axons end in axonal terminals which contain vesicles with neurotransmitters.

• Electrical impulse triggers vesicles to move to the synapse membrane.

• Vesicles fuse with the membrane and release neurotransmitters which diffuse toward the next cell's plasma membrane (receiving neuron).

• Once enough receptors have neurotransmitters bound to them, the signal is transmitted...







- Between birth and age 3 the brain makes lots of new synapses. A toddler has 2-3 times more synapses than an adult.
- As the brain matures, it prunes synapses to make it more efficient. During adolescence the brain has a major tidy-up and gets rid of lots of connections it isn't using.
- This is a critical and delicate process. It is thought that conditions such as schizophrenia could be the result of it going wrong.
- Some evidence suggests that using drugs can disrupt this process



Figure 45-17a Biological Science, 2/e © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.





Neuroglia or Glia

Astrocytes

Abundant, star-shaped cells that brace neurons and maintain the nutrient and chemical levels in neurons.

Microglia (CNS)

Spider-like phagocytes that remove debris







Ependymal cells (CNS)

Line cavities of the brain and spinal cord

Circulate cerebrospinal fluid.

Oligodendrocytes(CNS)

Produce myelin sheath around nerve fibers in the central nervous system and help in supporting the neurons.

Satellite cells

Protect neuron cell bodies at the peripheral nerve system.







- The brain interprets the information it gets though your senses in order to monitor and regulate your body functions. The brain is being responsible for thinking, learning, memory and emotion.
- The brain is composed of four chambers filled with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF):
 - Cerebral hemispheres or Cerebrum
 - Diencephalon
 - Brain stem
 - Cerebellum







🕨 Cerebral Hemispheres (Cerebrum) 🛛 🔵

Introduction

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- Contains two hemispheres with an outer portion called the cerebral cortex
- The two hemispheres are divided in two lobes and still connected by a bridge called the corpus callosum of nerve fibers that relay information between the two hemispheres.
- The left and right lobes are each divided into four lobes or parts:
 - Frontal lobe
 - Parietal lobe
 - Occipital lobe
 - Temporal lobe



Content

Summary

Quiz







- Involved with higher brain functions.
- Processes sensory information.
- Initiates motor functions.
- Integrates information.
- The left hemisphere
 - Specializes in language, math, logic operations, and the processing of serial sequences of information, and visual and auditory details.
 - Specializes in detailed activities required for motor control.
- The right hemisphere
 - Specializes in pattern recognition, spatial relationships, nonverbal ideation, emotional processing, and the parallel processing of information.







Specialized area of the cerebrum

Cerebral areas involved in special senses

- Gustatory area (taste)
- Visual area
- Auditory area
- Olfactory area

Interpretation areas of the cerebrum

- Speech/language region
- Language comprehension region
- General interpretation area.

Memory and Learning.

- Short-term memory stored in the frontal lobes.
- The establishment of long-term memory involves the hippocampus.







Diencephalon

Introduction

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Help

- Enclosed by the cerebral hemispheres
- Made up of three parts:
 - Thalamus
 - Hypothalamus
 - Epithalamus
- Surrounds the third ventricle
- The relay station for sensory impulses
- Transfers impulses to the correct part of the cortex for localization and interpretation.



Content

Quiz

Summary

Objectives





Thalamus

- Relay center for sensory tracts from the spinal cord to the correct part of the cortex for localization and interpretation.
- Contains centers for sensation of pain, temperature, and touch.
- Involved with emotions and alerting or arousal mechanisms.
- Regulates sleep and arousal.







Hypothalamus

- Important autonomic nervous system center
 - Helps regulate body temperature
 - Controls water balance and thirst.
 - Regulates metabolism and blood pressure
- Sleep/wake cycles, appetite, sexual arousal
- Control of endocrine functioning: acts on the pituitary gland (synthesizes PP hormones & regulates functions of AP by releasing hormones).

Epithalamus

• Houses an endocrine gland, the pineal body







Attaches to the spinal cord and made up of:

- Midbrain
- Pons

Medulla oblongata

Midbrain

- Contains ascending and descending tracts to the cerebrum and thalamus.
- Involved with visual reflexes (center for eye muscles).

Pons

Controls certain respiratory functions









Medulla Oblongata

- The lowest part of the brain stem and may be regarded as an extension of the spinal cord.
- Almost all of the cranial nerves arise from this region.
- Contains important control centers that regulate many functions: Heart rate control, blood pressure, breathing, swallowing, vomiting.







Cerebellum

| Help

- (Two hemispheres with convoluted surfaces.
- Provides involuntary coordination of body movements.
- Area that coordinates musculoskeletal movement to maintain posture, balance, and muscle tone.



(a)



The CNS is protected by the meninges composed of three layers of membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord :

Meninges

- Dura mater: Outer layer fibrous membrane.
- Arachnoid layer: middle membrane
- Pia mater: inner layer containing several blood vessels







Protection of the CNS

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Cerebrospinal Fluid

- Similar to blood plasma composition
- Formed by the choroid plexus
- Forms a watery cushion to protect the brain (between the first 2 layers).
- Circulated in arachnoid space, ventricles, and central canal of the spinal cord







- Extends from the medulla oblongata to the region of T12
- Below T12 is the cauda equina (a collection of spinal nerves)
- Enlargements occur in the cervical and lumbar regions







Spinal Cord Anatomy

• Exterior white mater

Contains myelinated axons (conduction tracts).

• Internal gray matter

Inner tissue with darker color that contains neuron cell bodies and their dendrites and unmyelnated nerve fibers.

- Dorsal (posterior) horns (sensory pathway)
- Anterior (ventral) horns (motor pathway)
- The white matter surrounds an inner core of gray matter.







Spinal Cord Anatomy

Central canal

Filled with cerebrospinal fluid that runs down the entire length of the spinal cord.

Meninges

Cover the spinal cord.

Nerves leave at the level of each vertebrae

• Dorsal root: associated with the dorsal root ganglia – collections of cell bodies outside the central nervous system.

Central canal horn of gray matter Dorsal root Lateral horn of ganglion gray matter Spinal nerve Anterior or ventral horn of gray matter Dorsal root of spinal nerve Pia mater Ventral root of spinal nerve Arachnoid Dura mater

Posterior or dorsal

White matter

Ventral root





Peripheral Nervous System

- Nervous structures outside the brain and spinal cord
- Nerves allow the Central nervous system to receive information and take action.
- Functional components of the PNS
 - Sensory inputs and motor outputs categorized as somatic or visceral
 - Sensory inputs also classified as general or special.

Nerves

Visible bundles of axons and dendrites that intend from the brain and spinal cord to all other parts of the body







Peripheral Nervous System

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Structure of a Nerve

- Nerve = bundle of neuron long fibers (axons)
- Nerve fibers are bundled by connective tissue
- Endoneurium surrounds each fiber
- Groups of fibers are bound into fascicles by perineurium
- Fascicles are bound together by epineurium

Classification of Nerves

- Mixed nerves: both sensory and motor fibers
- Afferent (sensory) nerves: carry impulses toward the CNS
- Efferent (motor) nerves: carry impulses away from the CNS

There is a pair of spinal nerves at the level of each vertebrae







neurotransmitter is acetylcholine

 Remember as the "D" division: digestion, defecation, and diuresis (urinating)



Relax bladder

ejaculation and

vaginal contraction

Promote

Promote erection of genitals

Contract bladder





Peripheral Nervous System

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Summary

Comparison of Somatic and Autonomic Nervous Systems







Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)

- Commonly called a stroke
- The result of a ruptured blood vessel supplying a region of the brain
- Brain tissue supplied with oxygen from that blood source dies
- Loss of some functions or death may result

Degenerative brain diseases

- Schizophrenia
- Parkinson's
- Alzheimer's
- Huntington's Chorea
- Epilepsy





Summary | Quiz

Disorders of The nervous system

Degenerative brain diseases

Parkinson's disease

• The brain does not produce enough of the neurotransmitter that transmits messages from the brain to the muscles which causes tremors, weakness of muscles, and difficulty walking and loss of facial expression.

Causes

- Genetics
- Environmental chemicals (e.g., PCBs)
- Thyroid disorders
- Repeated head injury







Summary | Quiz

Disorders of The nervous system

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Degenerative brain diseases

Alzheimer's Disease

- Progressive degeneration of neurons in the brain, eventually leading to death
- Mostly seen in the elderly, but may begin in middle age
- Structural changes in the brain include abnormal protein deposits and twisted fibers within neurons
- Victims experience memory loss, irritability, confusion and ultimately, hallucinations and death.

Huntington's Chorea

• Hereditary disease with uncontrollable, jerking movements and progressive loss of neural control.

Epilepsy

- Abnormal transmission of messages between the neurons in the brain
- Symptoms: seizures











Summary

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Summary

- The central nervous system is composed of the brain and spinal cord.
- The cerebrum is the largest part of the brain and is divided into two hemispheres subdivided into four lobes: frontal, parietal, temporal and occipital.
- The diencephalon contains the thalamus and hypothalamus.
- The brain stem consists of three parts: the midbrain, pons, and medulla oblongata.
- The cerebellum is the final (hind) area of the brain.
- The spinal cord is continuous with the brain and consists of 31 spinal segments.
- The basic function of the spinal cord is to carry sensory information from the body to the brain and motor information from the brain to the muscles and glands of the body.





- All neurons are composed of a cell body, the shorter and more numerous dendrites that receive information for the cell body, and the longer axons that bring an impulse from the cell body to the dendrite of the next neuron.
- There are three separate types of neurons to carry out the functions of the nervous system: the afferent (sensory) nerves, the efferent (motor) nerves, and the interpretive interneurons that act as "interpreters" between the afferent and efferent nerves.
- A synapse is the space (gap) between the axon of one neuron and the dendrite of the next. At the end of each axon is the synaptic knob, which contains vesicles that produce neurotransmitters. These are released by the synaptic bulb to allow impulse transmission to continue to the next neuron.





- The peripheral nervous system consists of the peripheral nerves located throughout the body. It is divided into two distinct systems: the somatic and autonomic nervous systems.
- The somatic nervous system connects the CNS to the skin and skeletal muscle (voluntary functions).
- The autonomic nervous system connects the CNS to the internal organs (involuntary functions). Its motor portion is divided into the sympathetic system, which prepares the body for "fight or flight" (stressful) situations, and the parasympathetic system, which is the body's everyday "resting" system for normal situations.
- There are many and varied diseases and disorders related to the nervous system.

