

Nervous system functions

Body's control center

Sensation – awareness of change in body and external evironment

Intregration – interpretation of those changes

Motor – response to change via muscle contraction or glandular secretion

Homeostasis – acts synergistically with endocrine system



Divisions and Functional Organization of the Nervous System



Central nervous system (CNS)

- Control center
- Consists of the brain and spinal cord with *tracts* and *nuclei*
- Sensory input sent to CNS for interpretation
- Origin of nerve impulses for action
- *Nucleus* = a collection of nerve cell bodies in the CNS. *Tract* = bundle of nerve fibers within the CNS

Peripheral Nervous System (PNS)

Connects brain and spinal cord with *effectors* Consists of ganglia, cranial nerves, spinal nerves and peripheral receptors.

Ganglia = a collection of nerve cell bodies in the PNS *Nerve* = bundle of nerve fibers in the PNS

Peripheral Nervous System (PNS)

PNS is subdivided into sensory and motor divisions:

somatic nervous system (SNS) autonomic nervous system (ANS) and the enteric nervous system (ENS) The major components and functions of the nervous system



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Nerve cell types and histology

Neuroglia Neurons

Neuroglia (glial) cell functions

Supportive and protective cells

Can go through mitosis

Surround other nerve cells

Line brain and spinal cord nerves

Produce myelin

Phagocytic

Source of brain cancers

Types of neuroglia cells

- Astrocytes
 - Star shaped, multiple processes, surround and support CNS nerves, attach neurons to blood vessels
- Oligodendroglial (oligodendrocyte)

Fewer and smaller processes, form tissue between CNS neurons, produce myelin sheath for CNS nerves

Types of neuroglia cells

Microglia

Tiny cells, small number of processes, phagocytize pathogens and cell debris

Ependyma

Epithelial, single layer, squamous to columnar, ciliated (cerebro-spinal fluid circulation), line ventricles of brain and spinal cord canal

Schwann

Produces myelin sheath around PNS nerve axons



(e) Sensory neuron with Schwann cells and satellite cells

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(a) Central nervous system

(b) Peripheral nervous system







Neurons

Very limited ability to regenerate. No Mitotic ability. Injuries to nervous tissue are severe Conduct impulses from one part of the body to another

Process relies on copious ATP due to prodigious active transport process mechanisms involved

Neurons

Three structural components:

- *Cell body:* site of nucleus and other organelles
- *Dendrites:* several branches or processes that are extensions of the cell body, conduct impulses toward body
- Axon: long thin process, conducts impulses away from cell body

Neurons

The axon conducts that information to other cells. Because axons tend to be

The structure and function of a representative neuron



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Types of neurons

- Sensory afferent
- Motor efferent
- Interneurons, conduct sensory signal to motor neurons



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