Chapter 14.2B

An Introduction to Brain Structure

(Lab Objectives)



The Three Divisions of the Adult Brain

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Know This For Your Exam

cerebrum is 83% of brain volume; cerebral hemispheres, gyri and sulci, longitudinal fissure, corpus callosum

cerebellum contains 50% of the neurons; second largest brain region, located in posterior cranial fossa

brainstem the portion of the brain that remains if the cerebrum and cerebellum are removed



Brainstem



Know This For Your Exam

- After the cerebrum and cerebellum are removed from the brain, you are left with the brainstem and diencephalon.
- Major components of the brainstem
 - diencephalon
 - connects brainstem to cerebrum
 - thalamus, epithalamus, hypothalamus
 - midbrain
 - pons
 - medulla oblongata







Note: Diencephalon also includes hypothalamus and epithalamus (pineal gland & habenula)

This structural arrangement is commonly used in the study of embryonic growth and development.

- Forebrain
 - Diencephalon
 - Cerebrum
- Midbrain
- Hindbrain
 - Brain Stem
 - Pons
 - Midbrain
 - Cerebellum

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(c) Lateral view c: © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc./Rebecca Gray, photographer/Don Kincaid, dissections











(a) Sagittal section, medial view





Note: Diencephalon also includes hypothalamus and epithalamus (pineal gland & habenula)



Cerebrum Structures

- longitudinal fissure deep groove that separates cerebral hemispheres
- central sulcus shallow groove // separates motor and sensory functions
- gyri thick folds
- sulci shallow grooves



(b) Superior view

Gyrus singular (plural: gyri) Sulcus singular (plural: sulci)

The Gross Anatomy of the Cerebrum



- Consist of two cerebral hemispheres // divided by longitudinal fissure
 - hemispheres connected by white fibrous tract the corpus callosum
 - gyri and sulci increases amount of cortex in the cranial cavity
 - gyri increases surface area for information processing capability
 - sulci divide each hemisphere into five lobes named for the cranial bones that overlie them
 - cerebral cortex = tissue directly beneath pia matter / 4 mm
 - each hemisphere if flattened would be the size of a 13" pizza

Directional Terms, Landmarks, and Divisions 🕇

- corpus callosum thick nerve bundle at bottom of longitudinal fissure that connects hemispheres
- rostral toward the forehead
- caudal toward the occipital lobe / spinal cord
- adult human brain weighs about
 - 1600 g (3.5 lb) in men
 - 1450 g in women





Association areas:

- Unimodal association areas
- Multimodal association areas

Chapter Opener 12 Colored three-dimensional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan showing the white matter pathways of the brain, lateral view.



Cerebrum

Right hemisphere

Left hemisphere



Anterior view



Gray and White Matter

- gray matter consists of the neuron's cell bodies, dendrites, and synaptic knobs
 - dull grey-white color when fresh
 - due to little myelin on the surface of the cell bodies, dendrites and synaptic knobs
 - grey matter forms surface layer of cerebrum "the cortex" is about 4mm thick
 - cerebral cortex covers the entire superficial surface of the cerebrum (similar cortex associated with cerebellum)
 - clusters of soma also form nuclei deep within brain (i.e. grey islands // control specific function like heart rate, sneezing, etc.)



(c) Frontal section of brain and spinal cord



Gray and White Matter

White matter = bundles of myalinated axons

- lies deep to cortical gray matter, opposite relationship in the spinal cord
- pearly white color from myelin around nerve fibers
- this myelin arranged as tracts = bundles of axons
- within cerebrum connect one part of the brain to another, and to the spinal cord





How white and gray matter in the CNS is organized in the brain and spinal cord.





(c) Frontal section of brain and spinal cord



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The key to understanding how our brains work lies in determining how each nerve cell or neuron continuously integrates the information it receives from other neurons via connections called synapses. For example, each pyramidal neuron (colored green) can receive tens of thousands of synapses from neurons belonging to several different brain regions. Interneurons (colored red) form local connections onto pyramidal neurons to form specific microcircuits. By using a combination of approaches including electrophysiology, microscopy, molecular biology and computer modeling, scientists are able to approach the complex puzzle of understanding how the 100 billion neurons in our brains make us who we are.

Technical Details:

The image was produced using array tomography. This technique involves collecting thousands of ultrathin serial sections of brain tissue that was fixed and stained, imaging them with a fluorescent microscope, and aligning all of them into a 3D reconstruction using a computer. The resulting image enables the detailed patterns of connectivity to be mapped between fluorescently-labeled neurons.

Credit:

Erik Bloss, PhD and Nelson Spruston, PhD., HHMI, Janelia Research Campus







(b) Parasagittal section

A possible pathway for conduction of an action potential in the brain.



The Limbic System



Limbic System Structues (incomplete)





Structure of the basal nuclei. (anterolateral view)



Ventricles of the brain.







(a) Lateral view



Structure of the cranial meninges and dural sinuses.





(c) Cranial meninges, frontal section

Structure of the cranial meninges and dural sinuses.



(a) Cranial meninges

(b) Dural folds and dural sinuses

Formation and flow of cerebrospinal fluid (Blood CSF Barrier)



The blood-brain barrier.



Astrocyte

Tight

junction



Note: There is a blood-cerbrofluid barrier but no cerbrofluid-brain barrier (from ventricles into interstitial fluid around brain's neurons).

Cerebellum

- occupies
 <u>posterior cranial</u>
 <u>fossa</u>
- marked by gyri, sulci, and fissures
- about 10% of brain volume
- contains over 50% of brain neurons



Cerebellum

The Big Picture of Brain Anatomy.



Introduction to Brain Function $\star \star$

(Different functions are "mapped" to specific locations.)



Lateral view of right cerebral hemisphere

Strange Factoids About Brain Function

Structurally, we have one brain, however. Functionally, we have many brains with different "types of memories" and different "states of awareness" (i.e. conscious, subconscious, and unconscious). This brings into questions how we reach decisions or form opinions and why! It's complicated. So how would you explain the following......

If there is a "foul smell" in the room then you are more likely to make a "harsh decision".

If you sit near a container of "hand sanitizer cleaner" then your political opinions shift more toward the "political right".

If you hold a cup of "hot coffee" then you will have a "more pleasant feeling about your mother".

If a woman's iris is dilated then men find her more "desirable".



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