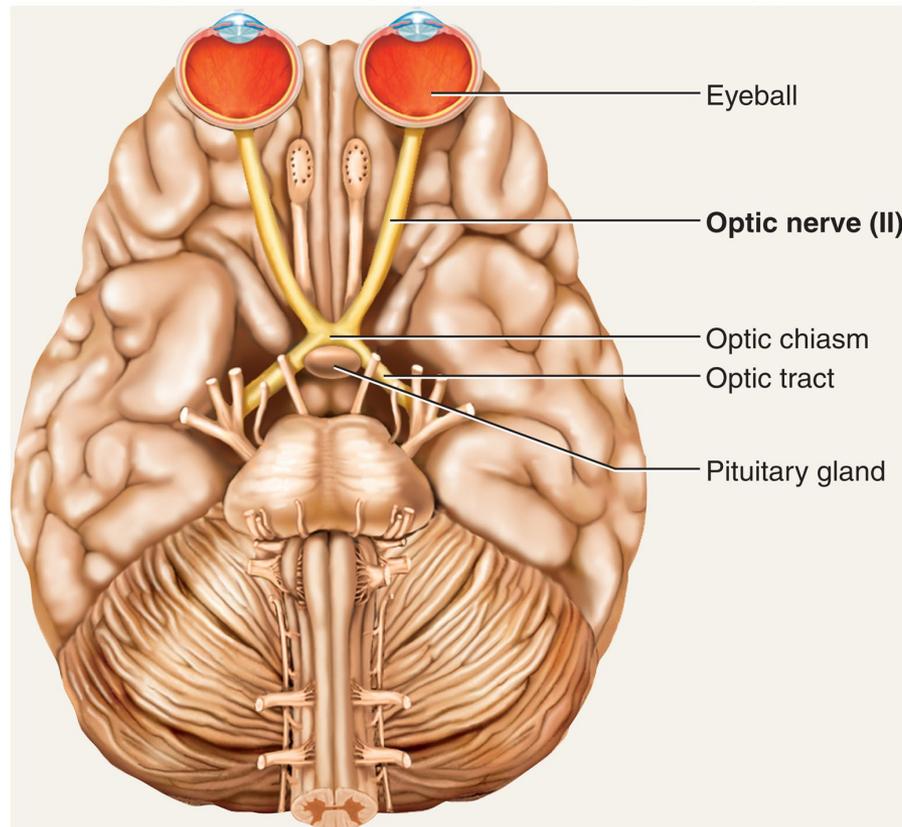


C14.5

Cranial Nerves

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Cranial Nerves

The brain uses spinal nerves to contract skeletal muscles below the neck. /// motor and sensory action potentials travels through the spinal cord

Cranial nerves = 12 pairs of nerves that originate from the base (brain stem) of the brain **/// exit the cranium through foramina in the skull**

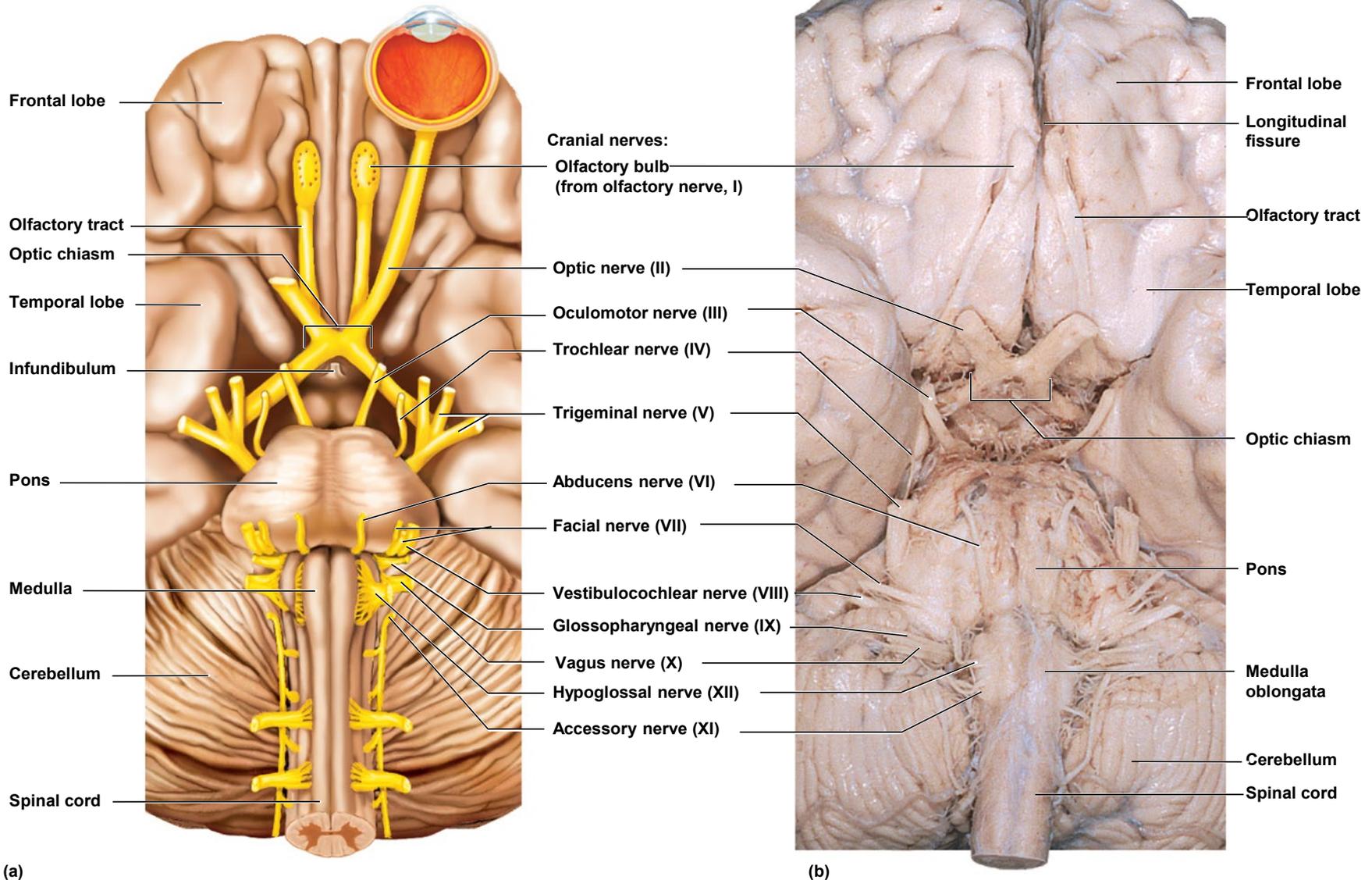
Some are mixed (motor and sensory), but others are only sensory and others only motor

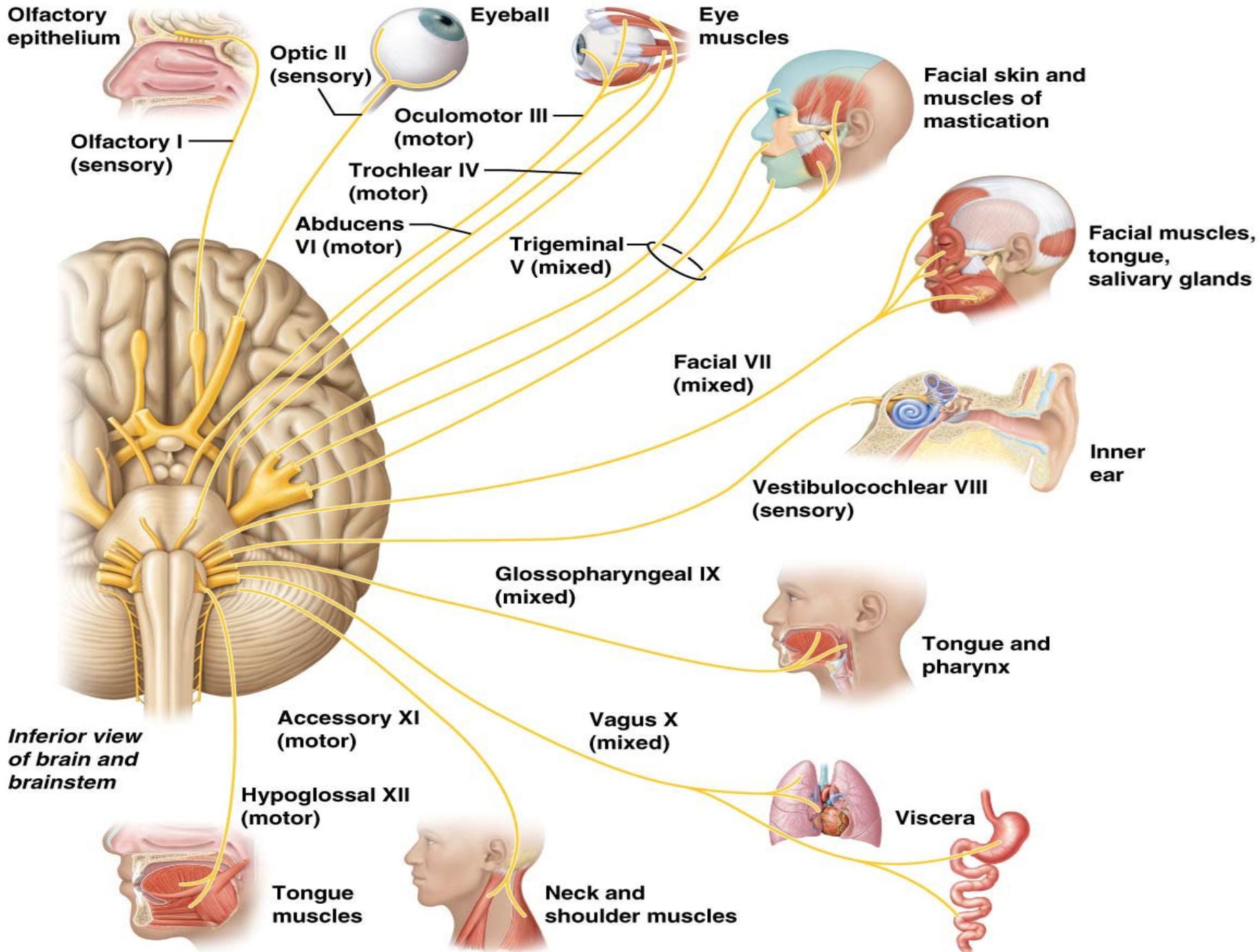
Cranial nerve target tissues are muscles and sense organs located mainly in the head and neck (including facial skeletal muscles)

Canial nerve #10 – Vagus nerve is the exception – innervates thoracic and abdominal/pelvic viscera.

You need to know the functions of these four cranial nerves for the Unit Two Exam. Cranial nerves I, II, VIII, and X

“Oh, once one takes the anatomy final, very good vacation ahead.”





Cranial Nerve Classification

Cranial nerves are classified as **motor, sensory, or mixed**

Sensory (**I, II, and VIII**)

Motor (**III, IV, VI, XI, and XII**) // stimulate muscle but also contain fibers of proprioception

Mixed (**V, VII, IX, X**) // sensory functions may be quite unrelated to their motor function

Facial nerve (VII) has sensory role in taste but motor role in facial expression

Cranial Nerve Pathways

Most cranial nerves carry fibers between brainstem and ipsilateral receptors and effectors

Lesion in left brainstem causes sensory or motor deficit on same side

Exceptions are

- optic nerve where half the fibers decussate
- trochlear nerve where all efferent fibers lead to a muscle of the contralateral eye

You Only Need to Know Four of the 12 Cranial Nerves

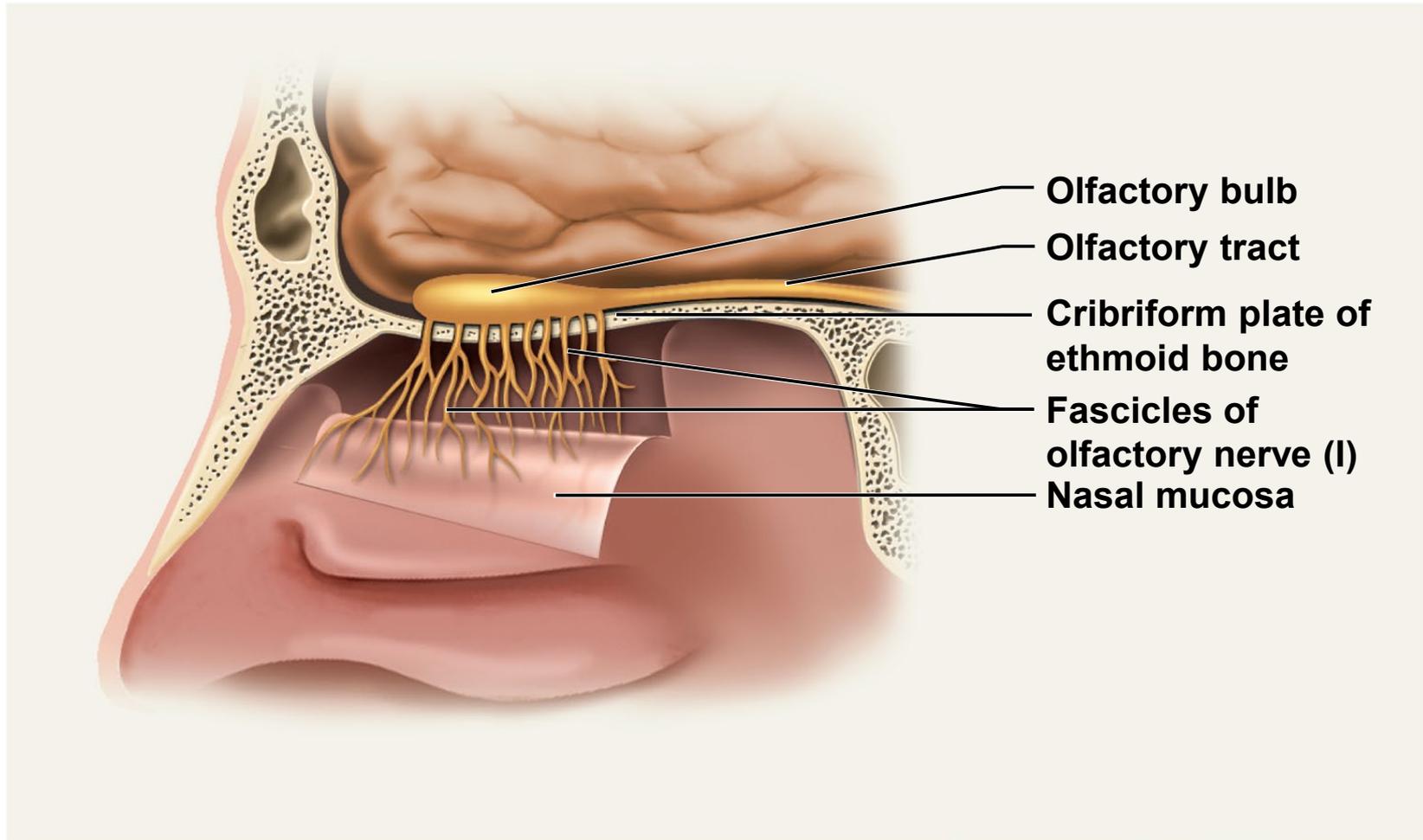
Olfactory Nerve (CN 1)

Optic Nerve (CN 2)

Vestibulocochlear Nerve (CN 8)

Vagus Nerve (CN 10)

I Olfactory Nerve

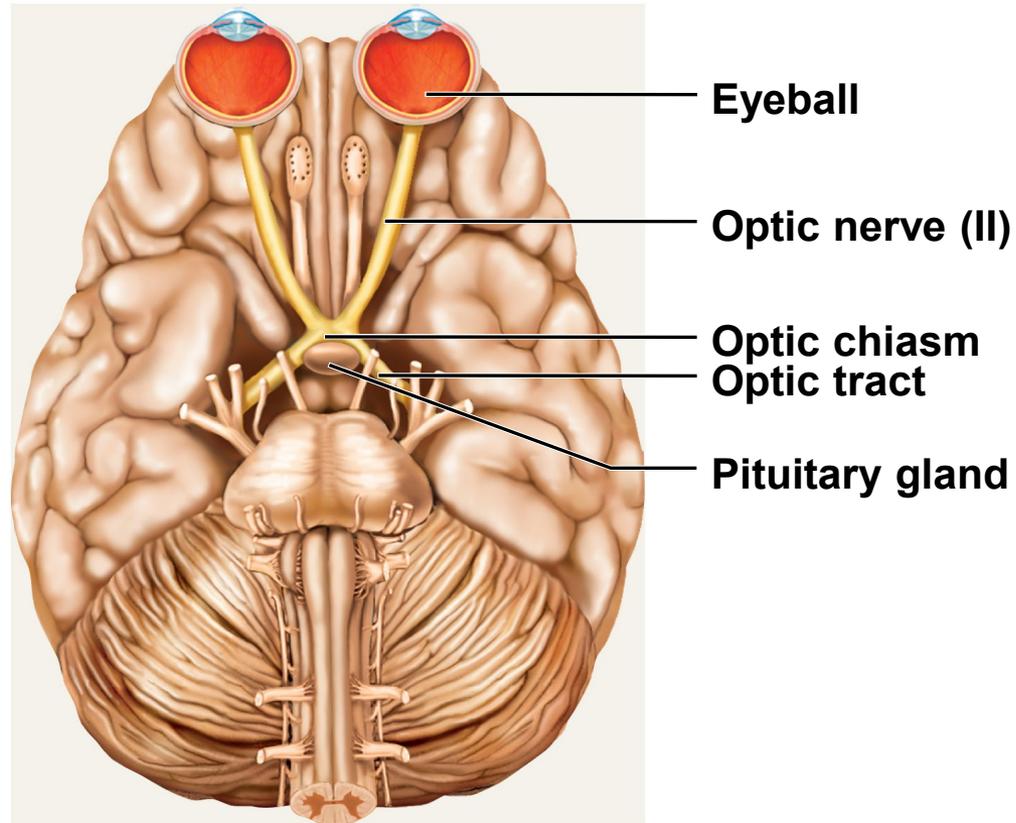


Sense of smell // damage causes impaired sense of smell

What may happen if you hit your forehead against the windshield in a car accident?

II Optic Nerve

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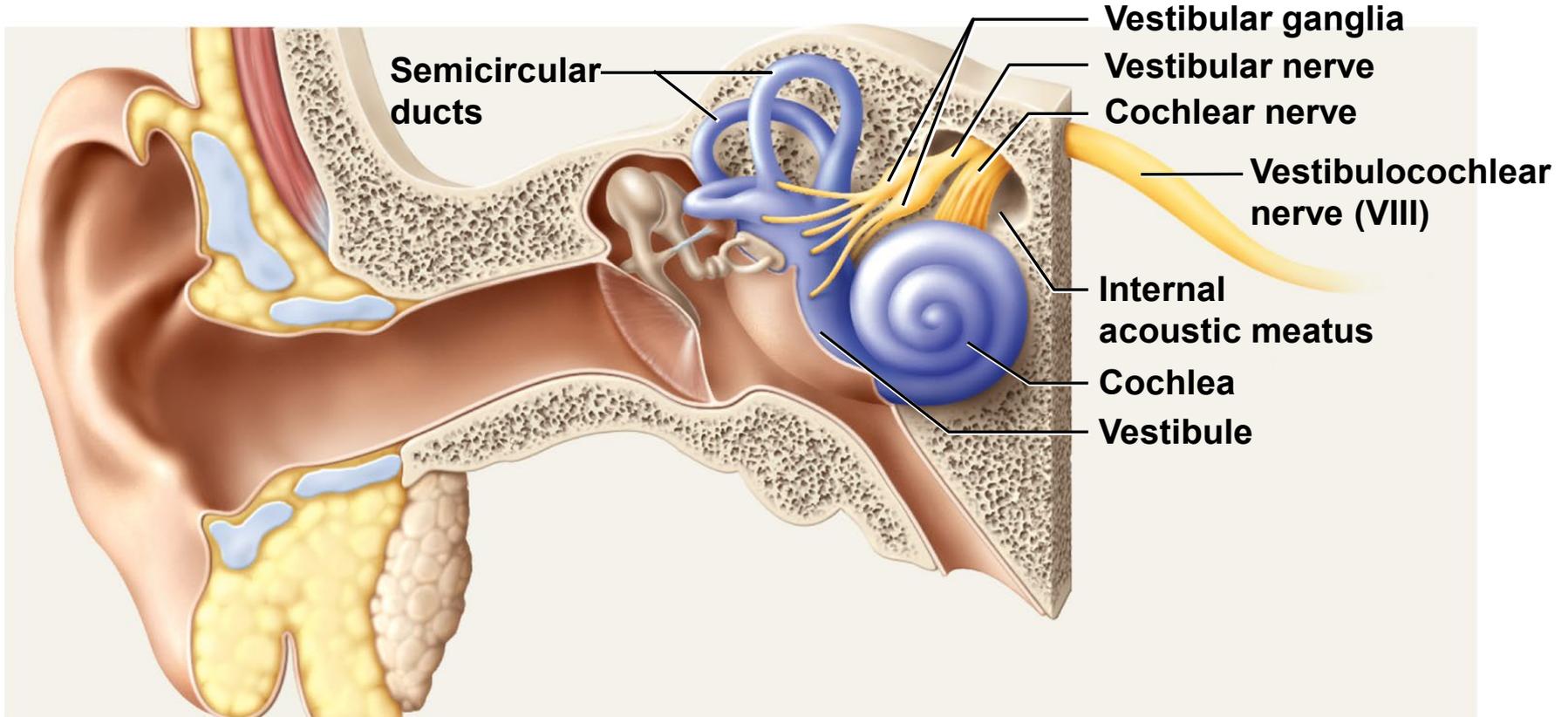


Provides pathway to occipital lobe // vision

Damage causes blindness in part or all the visual field

VIII Vestibulocochlear Nerve

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Nerve of hearing and equilibrium

Damage produces deafness, dizziness, nausea, loss of balance and nystagmus (involuntary rhythmic oscillation of the eyes from side to side)

X Vagus Nerve



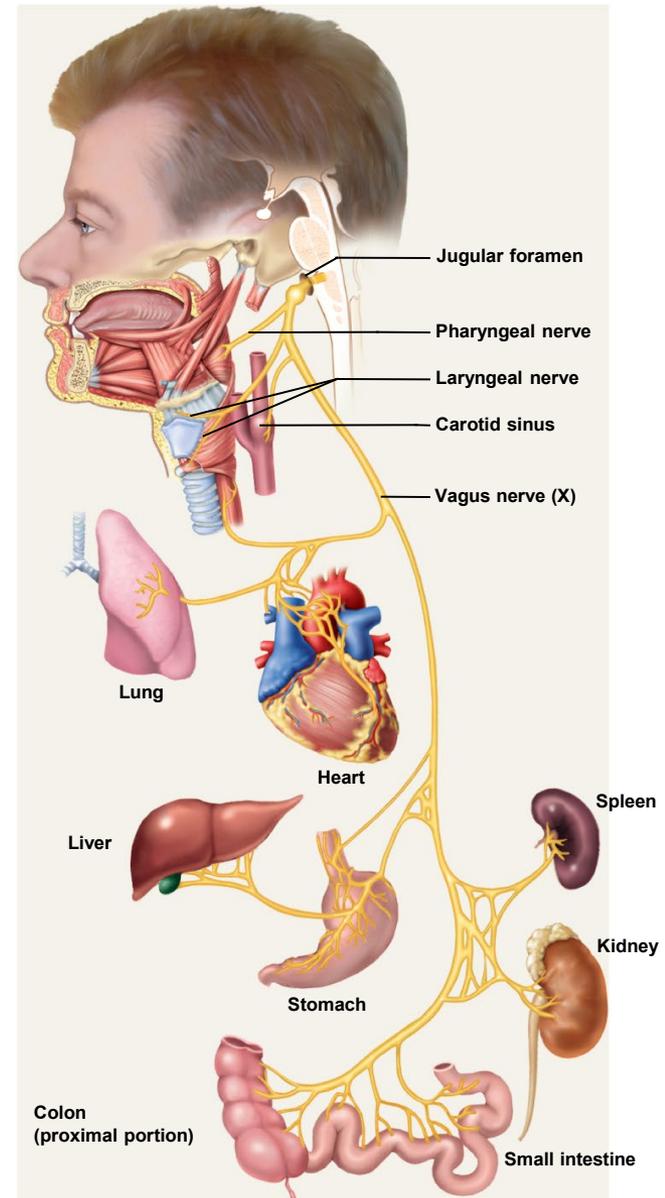
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Most extensive distribution of any cranial nerve

Major role in the control of cardiac, pulmonary, digestive, and urinary function

Swallowing, speech, regulation of viscera

- Damage causes hoarseness or loss of voice, impaired swallowing and fatal if both are cut



Bell's Palsy



Weakness or complete paralysis of the muscles in the face

Associated with **cranial nerve VII** (facial)

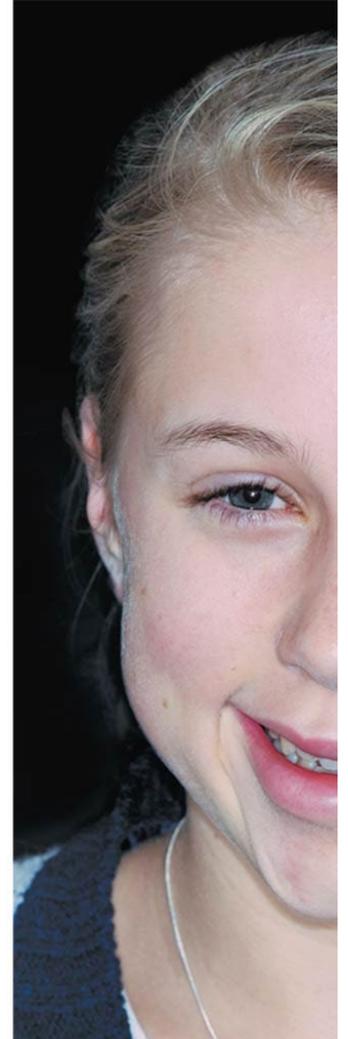
Exact cause unknown but contributing factors may be a virus, tumor, or trauma

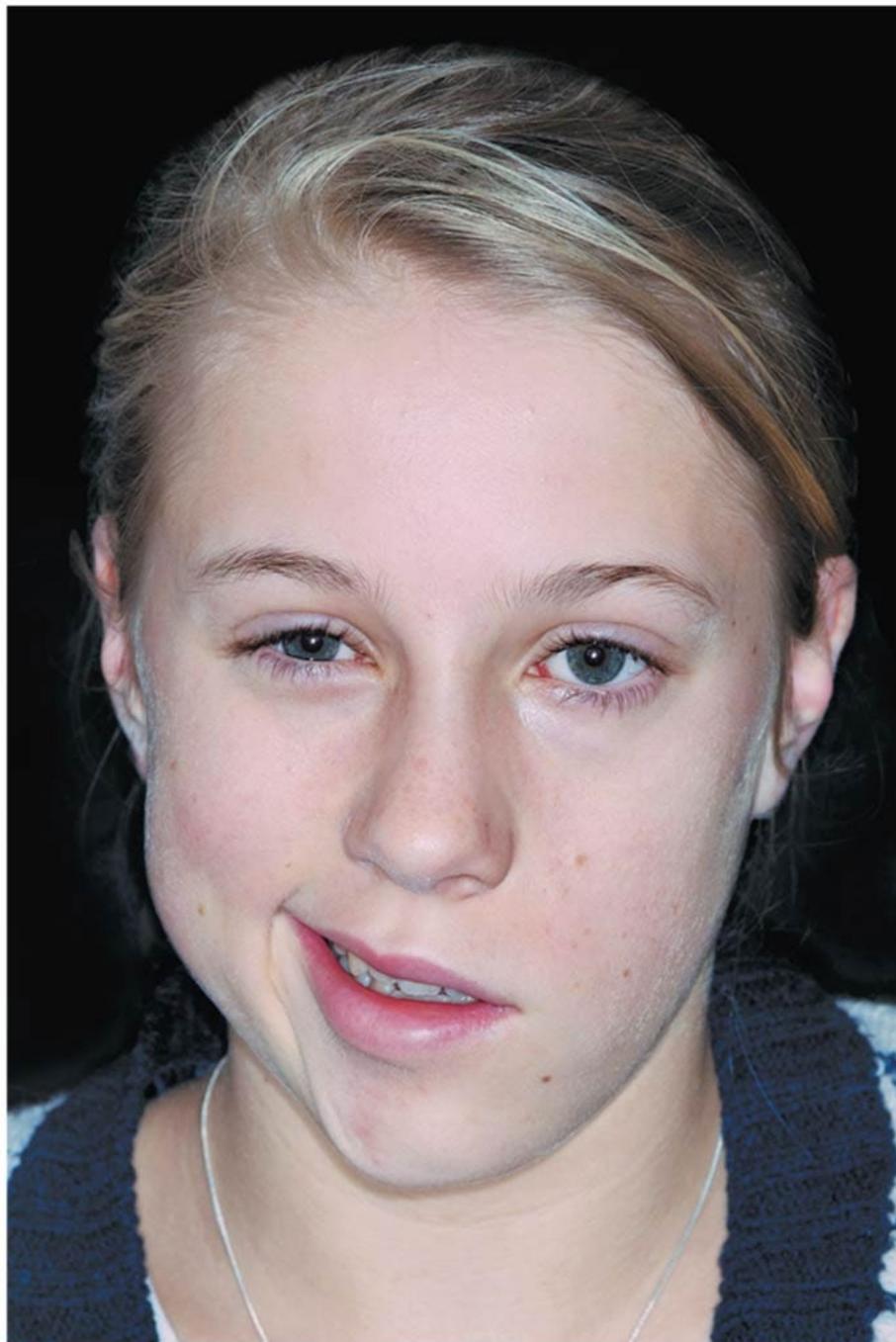
Unaffected side appears normal.

Problems with blinking, lacrimal gland, general facial expression of affected side .

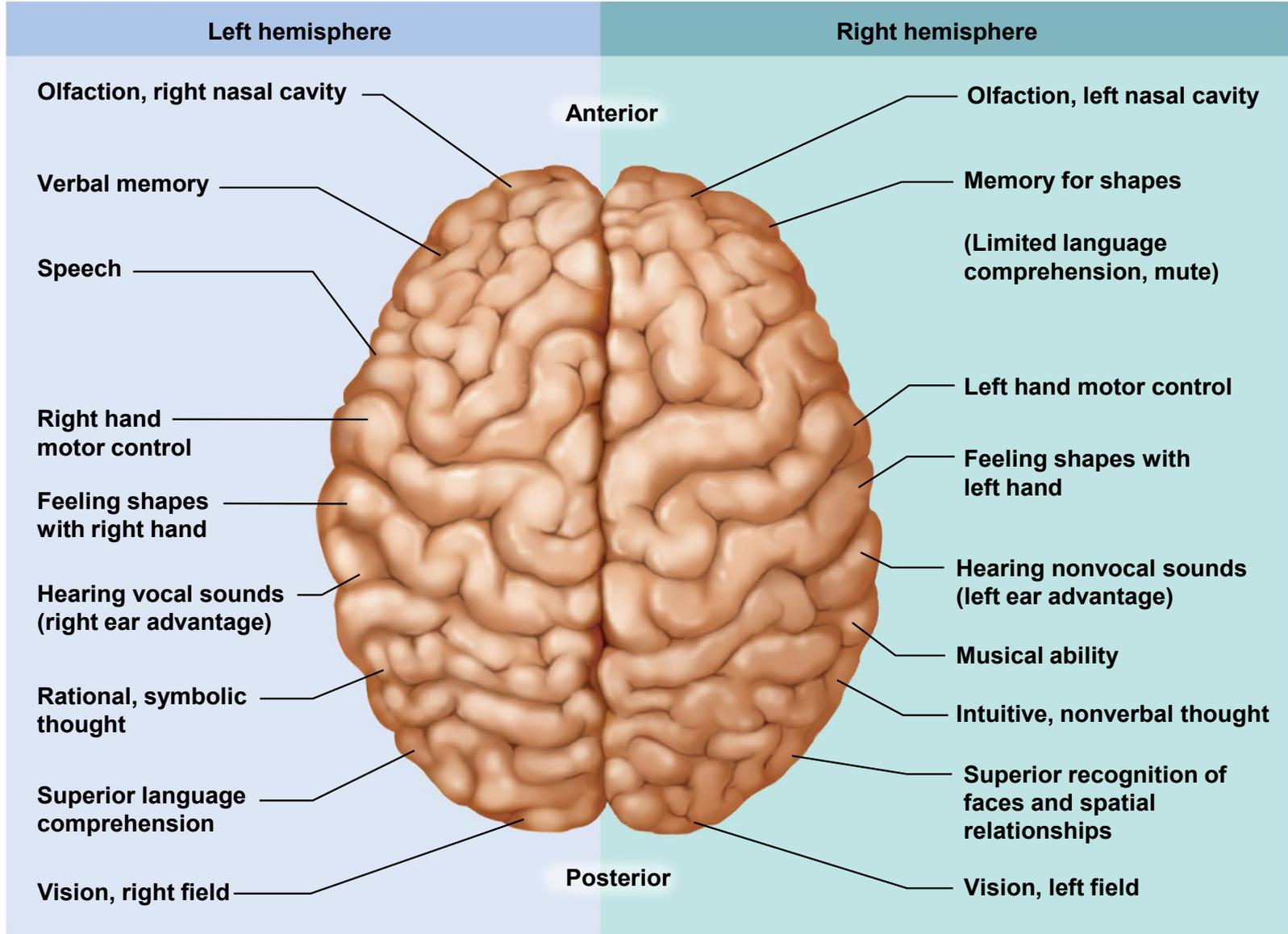
Onset within 72 hours

Often resolves even without treatment.





Cerebral Lateralization



What is the Significance of Cerebral Lateralization?

Similar right-left cerebral structure but the structures have slightly different cerebral functions

Left hemisphere – language - *categorical hemisphere*

- specialized for spoken and written language
- sequential and analytical reasoning (math and science)
- breaks information into fragments and analyzes it in a linear way

Right hemisphere - *representational hemisphere*

- perceives information in a more integrated “holistic way”
- seat of imagination and insight
- musical and artistic skill
- perception of patterns and spatial relationships
- comparison of sights, sounds, smells, and taste
- intonation of language // able to understand what “the cat is in the bag” phrase means

Cerebral Lateralization

Highly correlated with handedness

Left hemisphere is the categorical one in 96% of right-handed people // right hemisphere is categorical in only 4%

Left handed people – right hemisphere is categorical in 15% and left in 70%

Lateralization develops with age

Males exhibit more lateralization than females

Males suffer more functional loss when one hemisphere is damaged // note difference in posterior commissure