GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CENTRAL OF CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM ACNIVITY





Major Divisions of the Nervous System



CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Human Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems



FUNCTIONS:

- Relays messages
- Processes information
- Analyzes information

The Major External Features of a Typical Neuron





CNS FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION

Central nervous system is organized in three ways:

- Hierarchical organization
- Lateralized organization
- Localized organization



Building a CNS from the bottom up to understand hierarchical control from the top down

a. Spinal cord:

Reflexes (monosynaptic reflex arc and pain)

Cross Section of the Spinal Cord



b. Add Hindbrain and Cerebellum inactive decerebrate rigidity rudimentary location vital functions

c. Add Midbrain

spontaneous locomotion sleep and wake cycles slight decrease in rigidity "seeing" and "hearing"



d. Hypothalamus & Thalamus drives homeostatic mechanisms emotions hyperactivity



e. Basal Ganglia

slight decrease in hyperactivity perseveration appears inability to shift set



- f. Limbic System
 - normalization of activity & emotions ability to remember



HIERARCHICAL ORGANIZATION g. Cerebral Cortex "normal functioning" individual differences



Divisions of the Adult Human Brain



LATERALIZED ORGANIZATION

Lateralized organization (more later)

- Left hemisphere functions
 e.g., language, analytical reasoning
- Right hemisphere functions
 e.g., spatial skills, processing music



LOCALIZED ORGANIZATION

- brain "centers" for behavior intricately connected with other brain areas involved in the same or related behavior
- localization of sensation (primary & secondary areas), motor (primary & secondary), general areas of language (reading, talking, verbal reasoning), and spatial reasoning



CNS NEURO-ANATOMICAL ORGANIZATION - SPINAL CORD

Dorsal and Ventral Roots of Spinal Cord

1. SPINAL CORD

- white matter myelination of axons and dendrites
- gray matter cell bodies and terminals are not myelinated
- dorsal horn & ventral horn



GRAY MATTER VS. WHITE MATTER

- Gray matter absence of myelin in masses of neurons accounts for the gray matter of the brain (cerebral cortex)
- White matter myelinated neurons gives neurons a white appearance (inner layer of cerebrum)



SPINAL CORD

- Link between brain and rest of body (PNS)
- 31 pairs of spinal nerves
- Reflexes processed directly by spinal cord
 - Reflex quick, automatic, unconscious responses
 - Result of reflex arcs shortest nerve pathways

Cross Section of the Spinal Cord



BRAINSTEM

- BRAINSTEM
- 2.1. Medulla (Myelencephalon) center for vital functions decussation of the pyramids crossing over for most nerve fibers
- 2.2. Pons (Metencephalon) numerous cranial nerves, reticular formation, raphe nucleus
- relays signals between the cerebrum and the cerebellum

Human Myelencephalon and Metencephalon



BRAINSTEM

BRAINSTEM

2.3. Midbrain (Mesencephalon)

- Superior Colliculus
- Inferior Colliculus
- Central Gray
- (periaqueductal gray)
- Substantia Nigra
- Ventral Tegmentum

Schizophrenia Parkinson's disease

Human Mesencephalon



CEREBELLUM

3. CEREBELLUM

(Metencephalon)

- balance and muscle coordination
- smooth coordination of practiced movements
- integrates sensory & motor cognitive functions (with frontal lobe)



HYPOTHALAMUS

4. HYPOTHALAMUS

(Diencephalon) -

22 sets of nuclei

- homeostasis regulates hunger, thirst, fatigue, anger, etc.
- biological rhythms drives
- control of pituitary for endocrine function



THALAMUS

- **THALAMUS** (Diencephalon)
- relay station receives messages from sensory receptors and relays information to proper regions of cerebrum
- topographic arrangement with cortex

Human Diencephalon



BASAL GANGLIA

- BASAL
 GANGLIA
 (Telencephalon) -
- Striatum (Caudate & Putamen)
- Globus Pallidus
- "Substantia Nigra"





Thalamus

LIMBIC SYSTEM

- LIMBIC SYSTEM (Telencephalon) -
- Hippocampus
- Amygdala
- Nucleus
 Accumbens

The Major Structures of the Limbic System



CEREBRAL CORTEX

• CEREBRAL CORTEX

(Telencephalon)

- 6 layered structure
- 2 hemispheres- Right and Left connected by the Corpus Callosum
 - Right side controls- left side

Left side – right side of body

- Four sections – lobes: Frontal Lobe Parietal Lobe Occipital Lobe Temporal Lobe Learning and Senses



The Lobes of the Cerebral Hemispheres



Major Fissures of the Human Cerebral Hemispheres



REFLEX

 An involuntary effector response to a sensory stimulus is called a reflex.



 It is defined as «automatic and reproducible effector response to a sensory stimulus with the involvement of the central nervous system».



- The path through which a reflex action takes place is called a reflex arc. It is composed of the following parts in order:
- Receptor : It receives the sensory stimulus for the reflex and then through production of generator potential produces nerve impulse in the sensory nerve connected to it.
- Afferent path : It is formed by the sensory nerve. It carries the nerve impulse in the form of AP to the centre.
- Centre : It has the synapse through which the impulse in the afferent path is transmitted to the motor neuron through EPSP formation.



- Efferent path : It is formed by the motor nerve. It carries the efferent impulse from the centre to the effector organ in the form of AP.
- Junction with the target organ : The efferent impulse is transferred here to the target organ. In case of myoneural junction it is through EPSP and in other situations also by graded response.
- The effector : It shows the effects of the reflex action. It may be a muscle or a gland which shows the reflex action by contraction and secretion respectively.

SIGNIFICANCE OF A NORMAL REFLEX RESPONSE

- A normal reflex response indicates that this reflex arc is intact. A defect anywhere in the path starting from the receptor to the effector, will lead to abnormality in the reflex response.
- On the basis of the above principle, reflex action is utilized to diagnose defects not only in the reflex arc but also in the associated parts of the CNS, which affect the activity of this path.

