STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

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Homeostasis

maintains the stability of the human body's internal environment in response to changes in external conditions



Nervous system

organ system containing a network of specialized cells (neurons and glia)that coordinate the actions of an organism and transmit signals between different parts of its body



Nervous tissue

- one of four major classes of vertebrate tissue
- composed of
 - neurons transmit impulses
 - glial cells assist propagation of the nerve impulse as well as provide nutrients to the neuron

Neuron



Structural classification of neurons:

- A. multipolar neurons
- **B.** bipolar neurons
- C. pseudounipolar neurons
- **D.** unipolar neurons





Zones of a neuron



Axoplasmic transport

 a distribution of many substances and organelles through the cytoplasm to and from the neuronal body

axoplasm = cytoplasm of the axon

Axoplasmic transport

Speed

fast rate >100 mm/day (i.e., hundreds of mm/day)

slow rate < 10 mm/day</pre>

Direction

- anterograde movement from the cell body to the terminals fast+ slow
 retrograde movement toward the cell body
 - fast

Anterograde transport

- Rapid (at a speed of 300-400 mm/day)
 - Synaptic vesicles, transmitters, mitochondria, lipids and proteins of the plasma membrane
 - Slow (at 5-10 mm/day)
 - skeletal elements, proteins and other substances to renew and maintain the axoplasm, soluble enzymes

Retrograde transport

- Rapid (at a speed of 150-200 mm/day)
 transport of exhausted organelles and old membrane constituents(e.g. receptors, ...)
 - transport of trophic and other signalling molecules from the periphery to the neuronal body
 - some neurotropic viruses such as poliomyelitis, herpes, and rabies and neurotoxins enter peripheral nerve endings and ascend to infect the cell body via retrograde transport

Fast axonal transport



Slow axonal transport



Cytoskeletal components

Glial cells

PNS (neural crest)

- Schwann cells
- satellite glial cells
- enteric glial cells

CNS

Microglia (mesoderm)

specialized macrophages capable of phagocytosis that protect neurons of the central nervous system

Macroglia (ectoderm)

- Astrocytes
- Oligodendrocytes
- Ependymal cells
- Radial glia

Glia of PNS

- Schwann cells
 - myelinating Schwann cells form myelin sheaths around peripheral axons
 - non-myelinating Schwann cells
 - terminal Schwann cells



Myelination in the PNS





Schwann cell development



Node of Ranvier



Terminal Schwann cells



Pacinian corpuscle



Glia of PNS

satellite glial cells - support neurons in the PNS ganglia





Glia of CNS

- Astrocytes provide a link between the vasculature and neurons
- Oligodendrocytes form the myelin sheath around axons of the CNS
- Microglia phagocyte cells that migrate through the CNS removing foreign matter and degenerated brain tissue
- Ependymal cells line the ventricular system of the CNS, are involved in the secretion of the cerebrospinal fluid and aid in its circulation





Myelin sheath in the CNS



BLOOD - BRAIN BARRIER



BARRIERS OF THE CNS

Intracellular compartment Extracellular compartment Compartment of CSF Intravascular compartment

Meningeal barrier

Blood - CSF barrier

Blood - brain barrier

BLOOD - BRAIN BARRIER

A barrier separating the circulating blood from the extracellular space of the CNS

Functions

- protects the brain from "foreign substances" in the blood that may injure the brain
- protects the brain from hormones and neurotransmitters in the rest of the body
- maintains a constant environment for the brain

Structural components of BBB



mechanisms

Tight junctions

Lipid soluble

transport

• Endothelial cells connected by tight junctions

Astrocyte

processes

- Foot processes of astrocytes
- Basement membrane





Transport through the BBB

- simple diffusion (lipofillic substances)
- facilitated diffusion through a protein carrier energy independent
- simple diffusion through an aqueous channel
- active transport energy dependent

Circumventricular organs

> areas of the human brain without the BBB:

- Pineal body (epiphysis)
- Neurohypophysis (posterior pituitary) releases neurohormones (oxytocin and vasopressin) into blood
- Area postrema: "vomiting center"
- Subfornical organ: important for the regulation of body fluids
- Vascular organ of lamina terminalis: a chemosensory area that detects peptides and other molecules
- Median eminence: regulates anterior pituitary through release of neurohormones

