

ACTIVITY 8: SPINAL CORD, SPINAL NERVES, SENSORY ORGANS

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) **How to get ready:** Read [Chapter 16 and 19, McKinley et al., Human Anatomy, 5e](#). All text references are for this textbook. **You can also complete most of Table 3 BEFORE you come to lab.**
- 2) Identify structures in the gross anatomy of the spinal cord on both models and cadavers or wet specimens.
- 3) Identify structures in the cross section of the spinal cord on classroom models.
- 4) Identify the nerve plexuses and specific nerves from each. **AT THIS POINT, STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPECIFIC SENSORY FUNCTIONS AND MUSCLES INNERVATED BY EACH PERIPHERAL NERVE LISTED.**
- 5) Identify structures from the human eye on models.
- 6) ★ Dissect a cow eye and identify the structures listed. **YOU MUST BRING GLOVES FOR THIS ACTIVITY.**
- 7) Identify structures of the ear on classroom models.
- 8) Histology: Observe and identify structures in a histology slide of the cochlea.
- 9) **Before next class:** Preview Heart and Blood terms lists from SLCC Anatomy Laboratory website or your printed laboratory manual and your textbook.

**TABLE 1. GROSS ANATOMY OF THE SPINAL CORD, POSTERIOR VIEW**

STRUCTURE	TEXTBOOK REFERENCE & NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> cervical enlargement	described: p. 483 fig. 16.1
<input type="checkbox"/> thoracic region of the spinal cord	
<input type="checkbox"/> lumbar enlargement ( <u>or</u> lumbosacral enlargement)	
<input type="checkbox"/> conus medullaris	
<input type="checkbox"/> cauda equina	
<input type="checkbox"/> filum terminale	
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior median sulcus	described: p. 483 fig. 16.2b, 16.3
<input type="checkbox"/> anterior median fissure	
<input type="checkbox"/> anterior rootlets	described: p. 489 fig. 16.2b, 16.3
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior rootlets	
<input type="checkbox"/> spinal nerves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> cervical spinal nerves (C1-C8)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> thoracic spinal nerves (T1-T12)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lumbar spinal nerves (L1-L5)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> sacral spinal nerves (S1-S5)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> coccygeal spinal nerve (Co1)</li> </ul>	described: p. 489 fig. 16.1, 16.7-16.11
<input type="checkbox"/> denticulate ligaments	described: p. 487 fig. 16.1b

**TABLE 2. CROSS SECTION OF THE SPINAL CORD**

STRUCTURE	TEXTBOOK REFERENCE & NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> central canal	described: p. 447 fig. 16.2, 15.6
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior median sulcus	described: p. 483 fig. 16.2b
<input type="checkbox"/> anterior median fissure	
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior ( <u>or</u> dorsal) root	described: p. 489 fig. 16.2b, 16.4
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior rootlets	
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior ( <u>or</u> dorsal) root ganglion	
<input type="checkbox"/> anterior ( <u>or</u> ventral) root	
<input type="checkbox"/> anterior rootlets	
<input type="checkbox"/> gray matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> posterior (dorsal) horns</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> gray commissure</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lateral horns</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> anterior (ventral) horns</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> white matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> posterior white columns (funiculus)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> anterior white columns (funiculus)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lateral white columns (funiculus)</li> </ul>	described: p. 489 fig. 16.3a
SPINAL MENINGES & SPACES (superficial to deep)	
<input type="checkbox"/> epidural space	described: pp. 485,487 fig. 16.2a
<input type="checkbox"/> dura mater	
<input type="checkbox"/> subdural space	
<input type="checkbox"/> arachnoid mater	
<input type="checkbox"/> subarachnoid space	
<input type="checkbox"/> pia mater	

**TABLE 3. MAJOR NERVE PLEXUSES AND SELECTED NERVES:** You are now responsible for the listed nerves, the muscles they innervate (only) from your muscle lab list, and sensory functions, when appropriate. Refer to Chapter 12, Chapter 16 and your muscle tables from Activities 5 & 6 to fill in any blanks in the following tables.

STRUCTURE	MOTOR FUNCTION	SENSORY FUNCTION
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CERVICAL PLEXUS</b> described: p. 492 fig. 16.8, table 16.2		
<input type="checkbox"/> phrenic nerve (also contains fibers from brachial plexus)	<b>diaphragm</b>	NONE

STRUCTURE	MOTOR FUNCTION	SENSORY FUNCTION
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BRACHIAL PLEXUS</b> described: p. 493 fig. 16.9, table 16.3		
<input type="checkbox"/> long thoracic nerve	serratus anterior	NONE
<input type="checkbox"/> medial pectoral nerve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ pectoralis major</li> <li>▪ pectoralis minor</li> </ul>	NONE
<input type="checkbox"/> lateral pectoral nerve	pectoralis major	NONE
<input type="checkbox"/> axillary nerve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ deltoid</li> <li>▪ teres minor</li> </ul>	lateral arm near shoulder
<input type="checkbox"/> median nerve	anterior forearm muscles ( <u>LIST 6</u> )	
<input type="checkbox"/> musculocutaneous nerve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ biceps brachii (both heads)</li> <li>▪ brachialis</li> <li>▪ coracobrachialis</li> </ul>	lateral forearm
<input type="checkbox"/> ulnar nerve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ flexor carpi ulnaris</li> <li>▪ flexor digitorum profundus (medial ½)</li> <li>▪ most hand muscles</li> </ul>	ring finger and pinky

(BRACHIAL PLEXUS CONTINUED) STRUCTURE	MOTOR FUNCTION	SENSORY FUNCTION
<input type="checkbox"/> radial nerve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ posterior arm muscles (<u>LIST 3</u>)</li> <li>▪ posterior forearm muscles (<u>LIST 8</u>)</li> </ul>	most of the dorsal surface of the hand

INTERCOSTAL NERVES <b>do not form a plexus</b>	MOTOR FUNCTION	SENSORY FUNCTION
<input type="checkbox"/> INTERCOSTAL NERVES: branch from thoracic spinal nerves  <b>described: p. 492, fig. 16.7</b>	intercostal muscles	anterior and lateral chest wall

STRUCTURE	MOTOR FUNCTION	SENSORY FUNCTION
<input type="checkbox"/> LUMBAR PLEXUS <b>16.10, table 16.4</b> <span style="float: right; color: green;">described: p. 498 fig.</span>		
<input type="checkbox"/> femoral nerve	anterior thigh muscles ( <u>LIST 8</u> )	anterior and medial surfaces of thigh and leg; arch of foot
<input type="checkbox"/> obturator nerve	medial thigh muscles ( <u>LIST 5</u> )	proximal medial thigh

STRUCTURE	MOTOR FUNCTION	SENSORY FUNCTION
<input type="checkbox"/> SACRAL PLEXUS		described: p. 501 fig. 16.11, table 16.5
<input type="checkbox"/> superior gluteal nerve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ tensor fasciae latae</li> <li>▪ gluteus medius</li> <li>▪ gluteus minimus</li> </ul>	NONE
<input type="checkbox"/> inferior gluteal nerve	gluteus maximus	NONE
<input type="checkbox"/> sciatic nerve (branches to tibial nerve and common fibular nerve)		
<input type="checkbox"/> tibial nerve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ posterior thigh muscles (<u>LIST 4</u>)</li> <li>▪ posterior leg muscles (<u>LIST 5</u>)</li> <li>▪ plantar surface of foot</li> </ul>	plantar surface of the foot and heel
<input type="checkbox"/> common fibular nerve (branches to deep fibular nerve and superficial fibular nerve)	biceps femoris (short head)	
<input type="checkbox"/> deep fibular nerve	anterior leg muscles ( <u>LIST 3</u> )	space between first and second toes
<input type="checkbox"/> superficial fibular nerve	lateral leg muscles ( <u>LIST 2</u> )	distal anterior leg dorsal surface of foot
<input type="checkbox"/> pudendal nerve	muscles of perineum, external anal sphincter, external urethral sphincter	external genitalia

SENSORY ORGANS: EYE AND EAR

**TABLE 4. EXTRINSIC EYE MUSCLES AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES OF THE EYE**

STRUCTURE		TEXTBOOK REFERENCE
<b>EXTRINSIC EYE MUSCLES</b>		
<b>Muscle</b>	<b>Innervation</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> inferior oblique muscle	<b>CNIII (oculomotor nerve)</b>	<b>described: pp. 326-329 fig. 11.4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> inferior rectus muscle		
<input type="checkbox"/> superior rectus muscle		
<input type="checkbox"/> medial rectus muscle		
<input type="checkbox"/> lateral rectus muscle	<b>CNVI (abducens nerve)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> superior oblique muscle	<b>CNIV (trochlear nerve)</b>	
<b>ACCESSORY STRUCTURES</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> palpebra (eyelid), superior and inferior		<b>described: pp. 568,570 fig. 19.9b</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> orbital fat pad		
<input type="checkbox"/> lacrimal gland		<b>described: p. 570 fig. 19.9a, 19.10</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> nasolacrimal duct		
<input type="checkbox"/> lacrimal caruncle		

**TABLE 5. EYE**

STRUCTURE	TEXTBOOK REFERENCE & NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> optic nerve (CN II)	fig. 19.11, 19.17
<input type="checkbox"/> conjunctiva	described: pp. 569-570 fig. 19.19b
<b>LAYERS OF THE EYE WALL (superficial to deep)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> fibrous tunic (outermost layer)	described: pp. 570-572 fig. 19.11
<input type="checkbox"/> sclera	
<input type="checkbox"/> cornea	
<input type="checkbox"/> vascular tunic (middle layer)	described: p. 572 fig. 19.11
<input type="checkbox"/> choroid	
<input type="checkbox"/> ciliary body with ciliary muscles	
<input type="checkbox"/> iris	
<input type="checkbox"/> pupil	
<input type="checkbox"/> neural tunic (innermost layer)	described: pp. 572, 575 fig. 19.11, 19.13
<input type="checkbox"/> retina	
<input type="checkbox"/> optic disc ("blind spot")	
<input type="checkbox"/> macula lutea	
<input type="checkbox"/> fovea centralis	
<input type="checkbox"/> ora serrata	

**TABLE 6. CAVITIES OF THE EYE**

STRUCTURE	TEXTBOOK REFERENCE & NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> anterior cavity	described: p. 576 fig. 19.16, 19.11
<input type="checkbox"/> anterior chamber	
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior chamber	
<input type="checkbox"/> aqueous humor	
<input type="checkbox"/> lens	described: pp. 575 fig. 19.16, 19.11
<input type="checkbox"/> posterior cavity (vitreous chamber)	described: pp. 576-578 fig. 19.11, 19.16
<input type="checkbox"/> vitreous humor	



★ COW EYE DISSECTION INSTRUCTIONS

- WEAR GLOVES FOR THIS ACTIVITY
- **Wash hands before and after dissection**

1. Obtain dissection pan, dissecting tools and a fresh cow eye. Observe the following external anatomical structures before beginning your dissection.

- cornea
- extrinsic eye muscles**
- optic nerve
- orbital fat pad**
- sclera
- iris
- pupil

2. Using scissors and forceps, remove the **orbital fat pad** and **extrinsic eye muscles**, leaving the **optic nerve** intact.

3. Using a scalpel, scissors and forceps, cut the eye open by making a coronal incision through the tough, white, **sclera**, which completely encircles the eye. You should end up with two halves of the eye, a back half that contains the **optic nerve** connected to the posterior surface of the eye, and a front half that contains the **cornea** on the anterior surface.

You may notice a clear, thin liquid leaking out of the eye. This is the aqueous humor.

If you notice a clear, jelly-like fluid leaking out of the vitreous chamber, this is the vitreous humor. The function of the vitreous humor is to hold the retina against the wall of the eye.

In the cow eye, a lot of the choroid contains black pigment, which may become mixed with the vitreous humor when the eye is cut open.

Look for the yellowish or pinkish thin, delicate membrane lining the inner surface of the eye and attached to the posterior of the eye at the optic nerve. This is the retina, which contains the neurons responsible for detecting light and sending vision information to the brain.

4. Find the optic nerve and locate the spot on the inside of the eye where the optic nerve attaches to the eye (the location where the retina attaches to the back of the eye on the inside). This spot within the eye is called the optic disc or blind spot. This spot has no neurons that can detect light (photoreceptors), and is where the axons from the retina leave the eye and travel to the brain through the **optic nerve (CNII)**.

5. Move the retina aside and observe the inner wall of the posterior half of the eye. Notice the colorful, iridescent tapetum lucidum. This structure is not present in human eyes, but is present in animals that are able to see well in dim light. It reflects light around within the eye, so that dim light can still activate numerous photoreceptors. It is the reflection of the light from the tapetum lucidum that causes a cat's eyes (as well as other animal species) to shine or glow when light shines on them at night.

6. Note the anterior portion of the eye. Notice the semi-transparent lens, which is suspended in place by a ring of black-colored tissue called the ciliary body. The cavity anterior to the lens is the anterior chamber of the eye. In a living organism, it is filled with a clear, thin fluid called aqueous humor.

7. Remove the lens from the eye. You can see through it. Place it on a piece of paper containing some text and note the change in appearance of the text. What did you see?

8. Identify the following structures on the interior of the dissected cow eye:

- anterior chamber
- choroid
- ciliary body
- lens
- optic disc
- posterior chamber
- retina
- tapetum lucidum
- vitreous humor

**9. WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED THE DISSECTION, CLEAN UP THE AREA. DISPOSE OF THE COW EYE AS DIRECTED. CLEAN, DRY AND PUT AWAY YOUR INSTRUMENTS AND DISSECTION TRAY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE FOR THE DAY.**

**TABLE 6. EAR:** The ear is composed of three regions: the external ear, located mostly on the outside of the head, and the middle and inner ear, which are housed within the **petrous portion of the temporal bone**.

STRUCTURE	TEXTBOOK REFERENCE & NOTES
<b>EXTERNAL EAR</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> auricle (pinna)	described: p. 581 fig. 19.19, 19.20
<input type="checkbox"/> external acoustic meatus ( <u>or</u> canal)	
<input type="checkbox"/> tympanic membrane (eardrum; the partition between external and middle ear)	
<b>MIDDLE EAR</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> auditory ossicles (lateral to medial)	described: pp. 582-583 fig. 19.19, 19.20
<input type="checkbox"/> malleus	
<input type="checkbox"/> incus	
<input type="checkbox"/> stapes	
<input type="checkbox"/> auditory (eustachian) tube	
<input type="checkbox"/> round window (covers the scala tympani)	described: pp. 582-583, 595 fig. 19.19, 19.20
<input type="checkbox"/> oval window (covers the scala vestibuli)	
<b>INNER EAR</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> vestibule (senses acceleration and deceleration of head)	described: pp. 583-585 fig. 19.21, 19.22
<input type="checkbox"/> utricle	
<input type="checkbox"/> saccule	
<input type="checkbox"/> semicircular canals (sense angular movement of head)	described: pp. 585, 588-589 fig. 19.21, 19.24
<input type="checkbox"/> semicircular ducts	
<input type="checkbox"/> ampulla (pl. <i>ampullae</i> )	
<input type="checkbox"/> cochlea (hearing)	described: p. 589 fig. 19.26a & b, 19.21
<input type="checkbox"/> scala vestibuli ( <u>or</u> <i>vestibular duct</i> )	
<input type="checkbox"/> scala media ( <u>or</u> <i>cochlear duct</i> )	
<input type="checkbox"/> scala tympani ( <u>or</u> <i>tympanic duct</i> )	
<input type="checkbox"/> vestibulocochlear nerve (CNVIII)	fig. 19.19, 19.24, 19.26
<input type="checkbox"/> vestibular branch	
<input type="checkbox"/> cochlear branch and nerve	

**TABLE 7. STRUCTURE OF THE COCHLEA AND SPIRAL ORGAN** (histology slide and model)

STRUCTURE	TEXTBOOK REFERENCE & SKETCH
<input type="checkbox"/> cochlear branch of CNVIII	described: pp. 589-591 fig. 19.19, 19.21, 19.26 b & c
<input type="checkbox"/> scala vestibuli	
<input type="checkbox"/> scala media / cochlear duct	
<input type="checkbox"/> scala tympani	
<input type="checkbox"/> spiral organ (organ of corti)	
<input type="checkbox"/> basilar membrane and hair cells	
<input type="checkbox"/> vestibular membrane	
<input type="checkbox"/> tectorial membrane	