Human Physiology, Motor System

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Basal Ganglia



PHYSIOLOGICAL ANATOMY



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NEURONAL CIRCUIT AND FUNCTIONS



<u>Putamen Circuit</u>

Functions:

- 1. Writing letters of alphabets
- 2. Skilled movements

<u>Caudate Circuit</u>

Functions it control:

- 1) Cognitive control of sequences of movements e.g. a person seeing a lion approach & then responding
- 2) Change the timing & to scale the intensity of movements

Functions of specific neurotransmitter substances in the basal ganglia system



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CLINICAL ABNORMALITIES

-) Athetosis lesion in globus pallidus
- → writhing movements of hands, arm, neck or face
- 2) Hemiballismus- lesion in subthalamus
- \rightarrow flailing movements of an entire limb
- 3) Chorea- lesion in putamen
- → flicking movements in the hands, face or other parts of body

Parkinson's disease

- Etiology
- Characterized by: Rigidity Involuntary tremors Akinesia→difficulty in initiating movements
- Treatment
 - l-dopa
 - I-deprenyl

Transplanted fetal dopamine cells

Huntington's disease

- Hereditary disorder
- Etiology

loss of cell bodies of GABA secreting and acetylcholine secreting neurons

- Flicking movements in individual muscles and then progress to entire body
- dementia

Cerebellum



PHYSIOLOGICAL ANATOMY

- 1. Anatomical divisions
- 2. Functional divisions
- 3. Topographical representation in Cerebellum



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NEURONAL CIRCUIT OF CEREBELLUM: Inputs



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Dorsal Spinocerebellar Tracts

- Sensations
 - Mainly from muscle spindle
 - To a lesser extent from Golgi Tendon organs, joint receptors and tactile receptors of the skin
- Remains on the same side
- AAAA Enter into Cerebellum through inferior cerebellar peduncle
- Ends in Vermis and intermediate zone of the same side
- Cerebellum controls following functions in response of these signals
 - Muscle contractions
 - Degree of tension on muscle tendon
 - Position and rate of movements of the parts of the body
 - Forces acting on the surface of the body

Ventral Spinocerebellar Tracts

- \triangleright **Sensations**
 - Less information from peripheral receptors
 - Mostly carry information from lower motor neurons in anterior horn of the Spinal cord which are excited by
 - **Corticospinal tracts** \succ
 - **Rubrospinal tracts**
 - Anterior horn motor drive
- Few fibers cross to opposite side, few remain on the same side to terminate in both sides of the Cerebellum \succ
- \geq Enter through Superior Cerebellar Peduncle

Outputs

- Vermis → fastigial nucleus → brain stem (reticular formation) → fastigioreticular tract (vestibular nuclei)
- From lateral zone → dentate nucleus → VA and VL nuclei of thalamus → cerebral cortex (coordinate sequential motor activities of cerebral cortex)
- From intermediate zone→ interposed nuclei→ red nucleus

reticular formation of midbrain

thalamus (coordinate reciprocal contractions of agonists and antagonists of limbs)



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The Purkinje Cell & The Deep Nuclear Cell – Functional Unit Of Cerebellar Cortex



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How This Functional Unit Works

- 1) Purkinje cells & deep nuclear cells fire continuously under normal resting condition
- 2) Balance between excitation & inhibition at the deep cerebellar nuclei Damping Function
- Other inhibitory cells in cerebellum: Basket cells & Stellate cells (in molecular layers for lateral inhibition)
- Turn on/turn off & turn off/turn on signals from the cerebellum
- 5) Purkinje cells learn to correct motor errors role of climbing fibers

FUNCTIONS OF CEREBELLUM

It performs its functions at three major levels

- 1. Spinocerebellum (Paleocerebellum)
- 2. Cerebrocerebellum (Neocerebellum or Pontocerebellum)
- 3. Vestibulocerebellum (Archicerebellum)

Spinoc-erebellum

- Consists of vermis and intermediate zone
- It coordinates movements of distal portions of limbs and make smooth contractions of agonists and antagonists muscles for purposeful movements

CEREBRO-CEREBELLUM

- Planning of sequential movements
 - Two way communications between Cerebral Cortex with lateral zone of Cerebellum
 - It controls what will be happening during the next sequential movement a fraction of a second later
- Timing Function
- Extra motor functions in auditory and visual phenomena

VESTIBULO-CEREBELLUM

- Function of Flocculonodular lobe and Vermis
- The Vestibulocerebellum originated at the same time that the vestibular apparatus in the inner ear developed
- Control equilibrium of postural movements

CLINICAL ABNORMALITIES OF CEREBELLUM

<u>. Dysmetria</u>

- Ataxia
- Past pointing

2. Failure of progression in repetitive movements

- Dysdiadochokinesia
- Dysartheria
- <u>3. Cerebellar Tremors</u>
 - Intention tremors
 - Kinetic tremors
 - Static tremors
 - Cerebellar nystagmus

4. Exaggerated Reflexes