



MED437  
KING SAUD UNIVERSITY



# Autonomic Nervous System

Fourth Lecture

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Revised by

- Text in **BLUE** was found only in the boys' slides
- Text in **PINK** was found only in the girls' slides
- **Text in RED is considered important**
- Text in **GREY** is considered extra notes

هذا العمل لا يعني عن المصدر الأساسي للمذاكرة

Please check our [Editing File](#) BEFORE studying this lecture

# Objectives

- **Define** the Autonomic Nervous System.
- **Describe the structure** of Autonomic Nervous System
- **Trace** the Preganglionic and Postganglionic **neurons** in both Sympathetic and Parasympathetic Nervous System.
- Enumerate in brief the **main effects** of Sympathetic and Parasympathetic System.

# Autonomic Nervous System

Nerve cells located in both Central & Peripheral nervous system that are:  
Concerned with the innervation and control of **involuntary** structures such as;  
**visceral organ, smooth & cardiac muscles** and **glands**.

## Function

- maintain **homeostasis** with the Endocrine system  
of the internal environment

## Located:

- **central** and **peripheral** nervous systems.

## Regulated (controlled) by

- **Hypothalamus.**

\*Visceral organs:  
Referring to the viscera, the internal organs of the body, specifically those within the chest (as the heart or lungs) or abdomen (as the liver, pancreas or intestines).

\*The hypothalamus: is located below the thalamus and is part of the limbic system. It forms the ventral part of the diencephalon.

# Efferent pathway

Somatic Nervous System  
"One Neuron"

Autonomic Nervous System  
"2 Neurons".

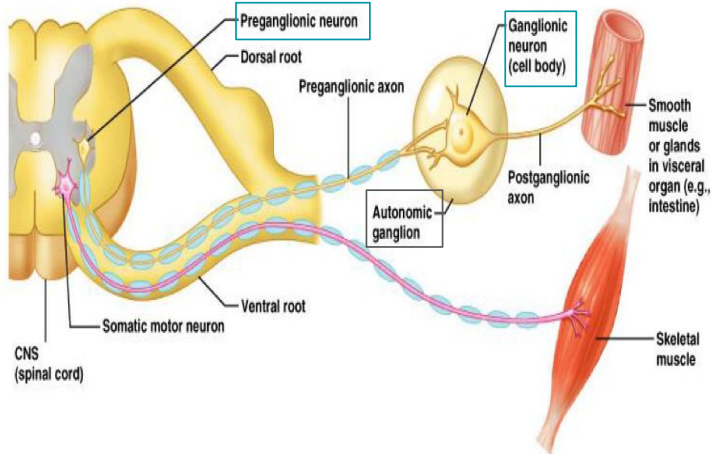
Preganglionic

Postganglionic  
Ganglionic neuron

Cell bodies in brain  
and spinal cord

Their axons synapse  
with the postganglionic  
neurons

Cell bodies in the  
autonomic ganglia



Based on anatomical, physiological and pharmacological characteristics.  
**The AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM is divided into :**

## Sympathetic

Activated during exercise, excitement and emergency.

[ Fight, Flight or Fright ]

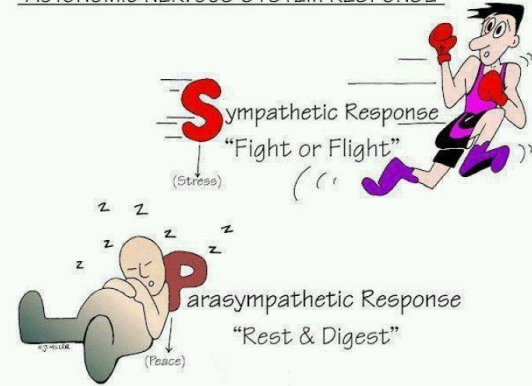
## Parasympathetic

Concerned with conserving energy.

[ rest or digest ]

The two parts supply all structures in the body [under autonomic control]  
 In normal situations; two systems are in balance

"AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM RESPONSE"



14-7 This man is making good use of the sympathetic part of his system.

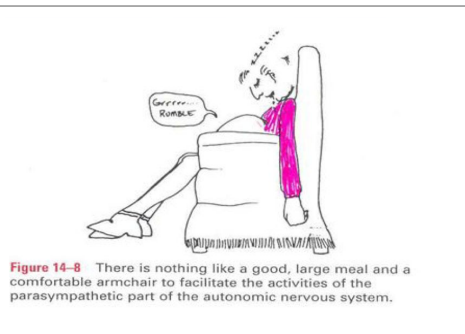
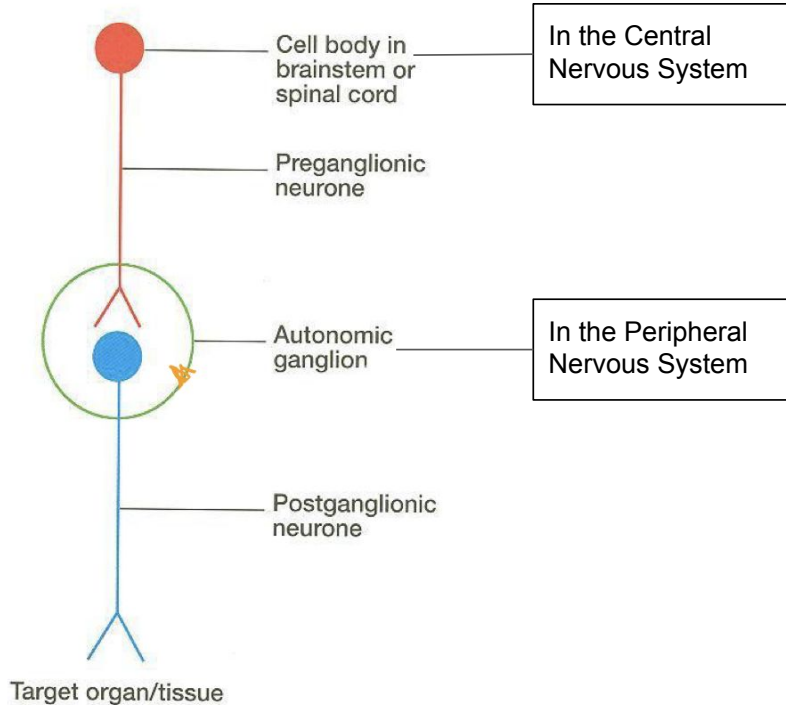


Figure 14-8 There is nothing like a good, large meal and a comfortable armchair to facilitate the activities of the parasympathetic part of the autonomic nervous system.

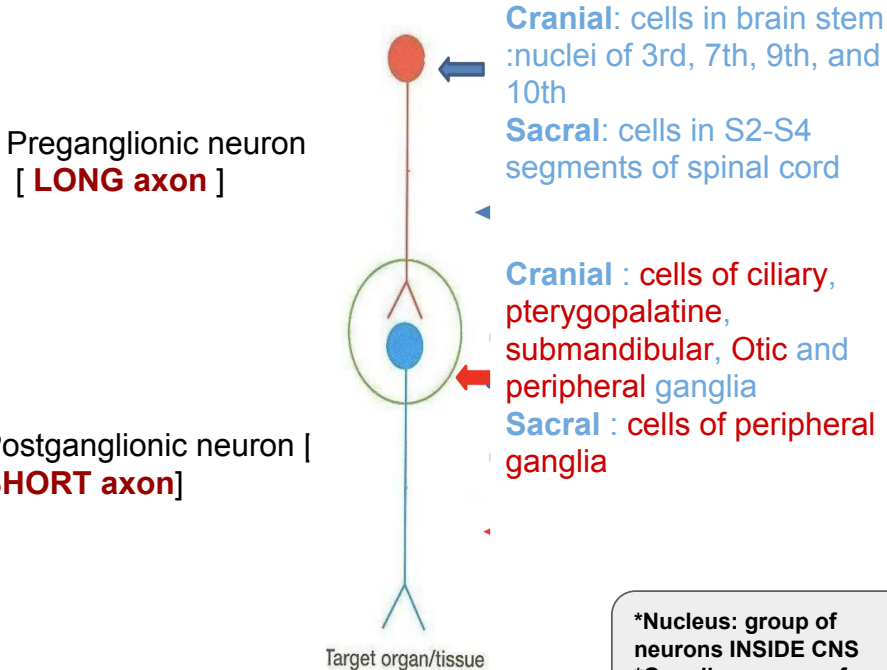
Both divisions operate in conjunction (بالتزامن) with one another [ have antagonistic control over the viscera ] to maintain a stable internal environment.

\*\*Sympathetic and Parasympathetic have counter (antagonistic) control, E.g. In the salivary gland,  
 Sympathetic: reduce secretion of saliva.  
 Parasympathetic: increase secretion of saliva.

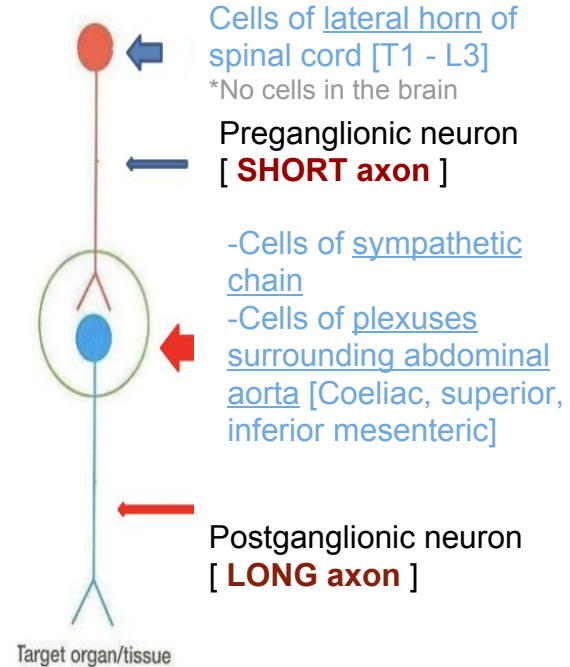
# STRUCTURE OF AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM



# Parasympathetic



# Sympathetic



\*Nucleus: group of neurons **INSIDE** CNS  
\*Ganglion: group of neurons **OUTSIDE** CNS

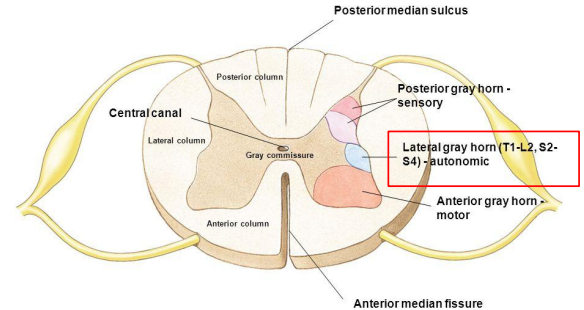
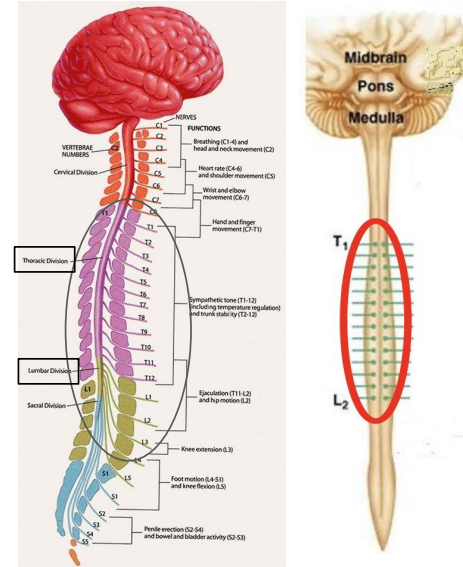
# Sympathetic Division:

A) Preganglionic Neurons: Located in the **lateral grey horn** of **T1-L2 (or L3)** segments of spinal cord (**T**horaco**l**umbar outflow)

-outflow: the passage of impulses outwardly from the central nervous system-

\* in the sympathetic division, there are preganglionic neurons only in the spinal cord.

**\*There are no preganglionic neurons in the brain.**





# B) Postganglionic Ganglia:

Located near the central nervous system as:

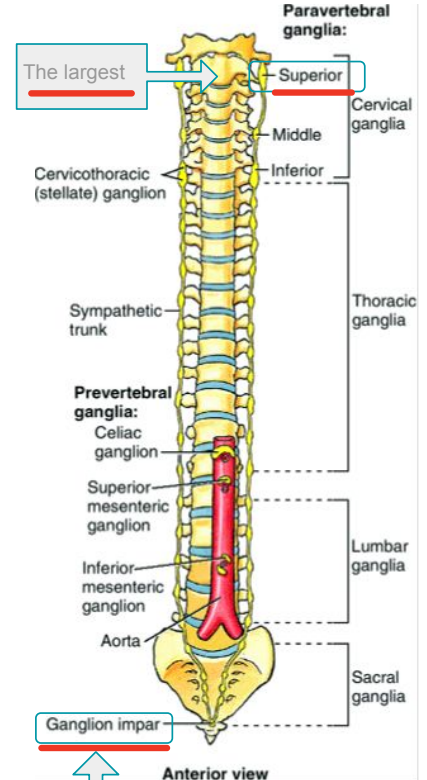
Prevertebral	Paravertebral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In front of the vertebrae.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next to the vertebrae.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Celiac &amp; mesenteric (superior and Inferior) ganglia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sympathetic chain ganglia.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the abdominal aorta.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two interconnected parallel sympathetic chains, one on each side of vertebral column.</li> </ul>

Number of ganglia in the sympathetic chain (one on each side):

**3** in the Cervical part of chain

**11-12** in the Thoracic part

**4** in Lumbar and **4** in Sacral parts



## C) Fibers:

Preganglionic fibers	Postganglionic fibers
Run in the <b>ventral roots</b> of the spinal nerve	<b>From the sympathetic chain ganglia</b> enter again into the spinal nerve .
Travel through the corresponding <b>spinal nerve</b> , and then join the sympathetic chain via the <b>white rami communicans (WRC)</b> *Myelinated	enter into the spinal nerve through <b>Grey Rami Communicantes (GRC)</b> *unmyelinated
<b>Within the sympathetic chain, these fibers may:</b>	supply structures in head & thorax + blood vessels & sweat glands .
<b>1-</b> <u>Ascend</u> , <u>descend</u> or <u>remain</u> at the same level to synapse with neurons (postganglionic) of <b>paravertebral ganglia</b> located in sympathetic chain.	<u>From the cells of coeliac &amp; mesenteric ganglia</u> (prevertebral) <u>supply abdominal &amp; pelvic viscera.</u>
<b>2-</b> Leave the sympathetic chain (without synapse) to reach <b>coeliac &amp; mesenteric ganglia</b> (around branches of abdominal aorta) to synapse with their neurons (postganglionic).	* nerve -> when 2 roots join each other



To Summarize:

# Sympathetic Fibers Movement

## Preganglionic Fiber

Run in **ventral root** of spinal cord

Travel through spinal nerve

Join the sympathetic chain via **WRC**

- 1/**Ascend**
- 2/**Remain at the same level** to synapse with neurons of paravertebral ganglia
- 3/**Descend**
- 4/**Leave the sympathetic chain** without synapse to make synapses with the neurons of coeliac & mesenteric ganglia

## Postganglionic Fiber

From coeliac & mesenteric ganglia

Supply:  
1/Abdomen viscera  
2/pelvic viscera

From sympathetic chain ganglia

Enter **GRC**

Supply structure of:  
1/sweat glands  
2/blood vessels  
3/thorax  
4/head

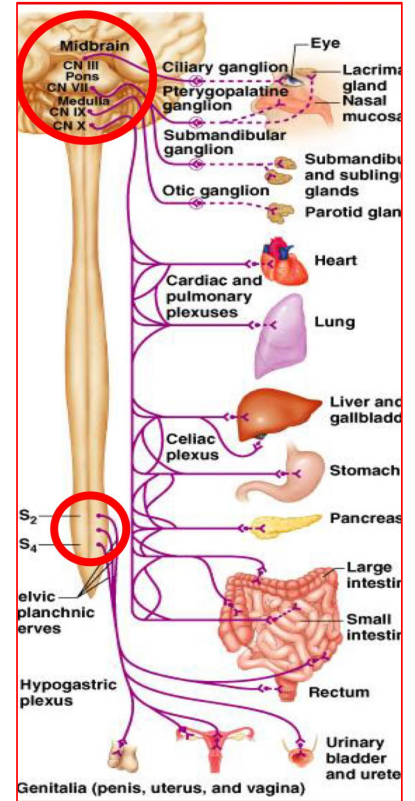
# Parasympathetic division:

## Preganglionic neurons:

Located in:

1. Nuclei of the 3rd, 7th, 9th & 10th cranial nerves, in the brain stem (**Cranial outflow**)
2. The lateral gray horn of S<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>4</sub> segments of spinal cord (**Sacral outflow**) “pelvic splanchnic nerves”

\*Craniosacral outflow : part arise from brain & another from spinal cord.



# Parasympathetic Division

Note: preganglionic fiber in parasympathetic is longer than the postganglionic fiber. Both secrete the same neurotransmitter which is the Ach but in different receptors.

## Sacral outflow



from sacral outflow are carried by **pelvic splanchnic nerves** to peripheral ganglia in pelvis where they synapse

From the **lateral gray horn** of **S<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>4</sub>** segments of spinal cord

### Postganglionic fibers:

- innervate organs of the pelvis and **lower abdomen**

## Cranial outflow



-Are carried by 3rd, 7th, 9th & 10th cranial nerves and terminate (synapse) in

- **ciliary** ganglion (3rd).
- **pteryopalatine, submandibular** ganglion (7th).
- **otic** ganglion (9th).
- **peripheral ganglia** (10th).

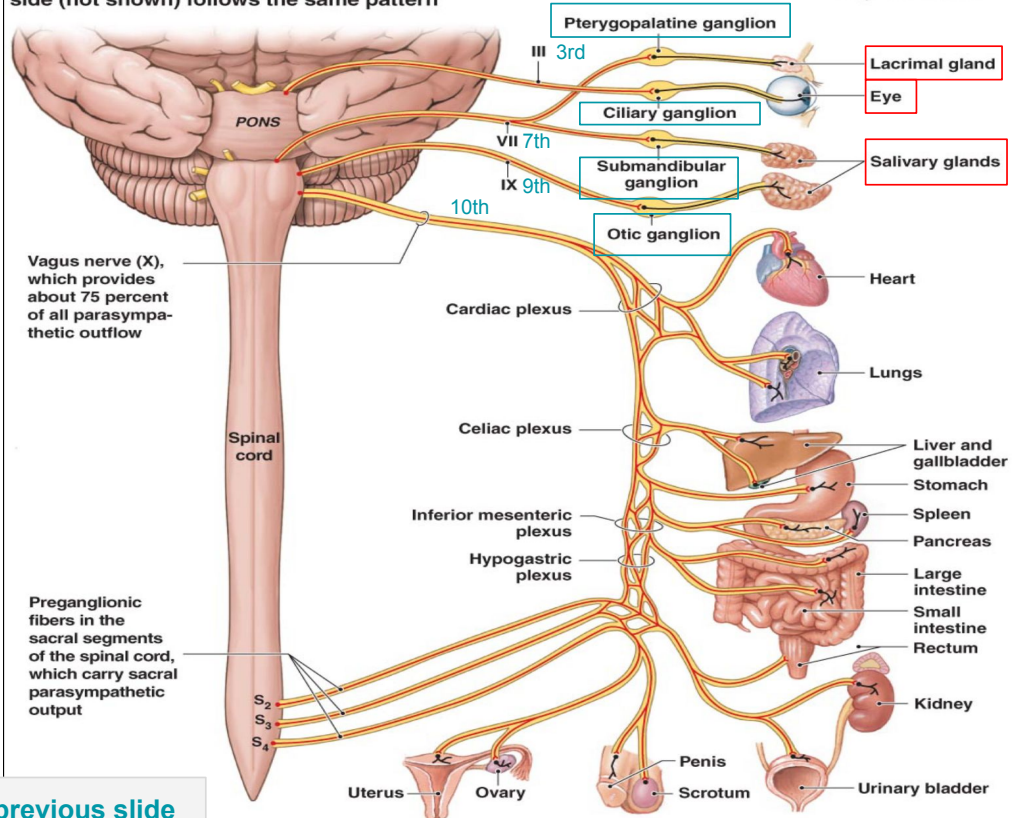
**Neurons**  
- Located in the **3rd, 7th, 9th & 10th** cranial nerves in the brain stem

### Postganglionic fibers :

-innervate organs of the head, neck, thorax, and abdomen

The innervation of the parasympathetic division on one side of the body; the innervation on the opposite side (not shown) follows the same pattern

**KEY**  
— Preganglionic neurons  
— Ganglionic neurons



**\*\*Memorize each nerve and its ganglion, and the part of the body it supplies. (only the ones in the boxes)**

For a better understanding of the previous slide

\*Don't memorize the functions! just know that the Sympathetic and Parasympathetic have a counter effect.

And the Sweat Gland & Erector pili muscles are only under the sympathetic effect.

## Autonomic nervous system

Structure	Sympathetic effect	Parasympathetic effect
Iris of eye	Dilates pupil	Constricts pupil
Ciliary muscle of eye	Relaxes	Contracts
Salivary glands	Reduces secretion	Increases secretion
Lacrimal gland	Reduces secretion	Increases secretion
Heart	Increases rate and force of contraction	Decreases rate and force of contraction
Bronchi	Dilates	Constricts
Gastrointestinal tract	Decreases motility	Increases motility
Sweat glands	Increases secretion	
Erector pili muscles	Contracts	



# Questions

1. Which of these maintain homeostasis of the internal environment?

A-Endocrine system

B-Autonomic nervous system

C-Both

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2. Postganglionic neurons synapses with?

A-Preganglionic neuron

B- Target organs

3. Both autonomic and somatic nervous systems made of one neuron

A) T

B) F

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4. The cell bodies of preganglionic neurons are located in

A-Spinal cord

B-Brain

C-A and B

D- Peripheral nervous system

# Answers

5. Both sympathetic and parasympathetic work ..... , and have ..... control over the viscera.

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6. In parasympathetic, the preganglionic fibers are ..... and the postganglionic fibers are .....

A-Long, short

B-Short, long

1.C

2.B

3.B ( autonomic has two)

4.C

5. Together, antagonistic

6.A

# Team Members

## Lamia Abdullah AlKuwaiz (Team Leader)

Abeer Alabduljabbar  
Afnan Abdulaziz Almustafa.  
Albandari Alshaye.  
AlFahdah Abdullah Alsaleem.  
Layan Hassan Alwatban.  
Majd Khalid Albarrak.  
Norah Alharbi.  
Rinad Musaed Alghoraiby.  
Rawan Mohammad Alharbi  
Wafa Alotaibi.  
Wejdan Fahad Albadrani

## Faisal Fahad ALsaif ( Team Leader)

Abdulrahman Sulaiman ALDawood  
Fahad aldhowaihy  
Abdullah AlMeaither  
Abdulelah Abdulhadi Aldossari  
Saleh abdullah almoaiqel  
Abdulaziz Mohammed Alabdulkareem  
Abdulmajeed Khaled Alwardi  
Abdulaziz Ibrahim Aldrgam  
Akram alfandi  
saud Abdulaziz alghufaily  
Mohammed Alquwayfili  
ali alammari  
Sultan alfuhaid  
Zeyad Alkhenizan  
Fahad alshughaiithry  
saad aloqile  
Abduljabbar Alyamni

Mohammed Alomar  
Abdulelah alserгани  
Abdulelah alqarni  
Fahad alshugaithry  
Mohammed Alomar  
Yazeed Aldossari