Taste

 Taste bud is specialised receptors in the oral cavity but mainly on the tongue, some on the palate



Copyright @ The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Permission required for reproduction or display.

Taste Receptors



Types of papillae (projection)

- Filiform
- Fungiform
- Circumvallate
- No taste buds on the mid dorsum of the tongue



Anatomy

- Taste bud : gustatory cells with microvilli (gustatory hair)
- They are receptors cells with cilia projected through taste pore in between there are supporting cells



Taste bud:

- When stimulated produce nerve impulse to specific brain area through:
- Anterior 2/3 of the tongue »»»»» VII
- Posterior 1/3 of the tongue »»»»» IX
- Receptors on the palate, pharynx, epiglottis »»»» X

Taste pathway

- First order neurone:
 - Taste fibres from the three cranials nerves form tractus solitarius »»»» end in the nucleus of tractus solitarius (medulla)
- Second order neurone:
 - From TS cross the midline to ascend in the medial lemniscus to the thalamus

• Third order neuron:

 from thalamus project the cerebral cortex through thalamic radiation

Taste sensation

- Molecules dissolve in the saliva
 »»»» attached to receptors on cillia
 of gustatory cells »»»» receptors
 potential »»»» action potential
- Combination between molecules and receptors are week (since taste can be easily abolished by washing mouth with water)

- Sweet receptors respond to »»»»» sugar, saccharine, some amino acids
- Sour receptors respond to »»»» H ion
- Salty receptors respond to »»»»» salts

- Distribution of taste buds on tongue not uniform
 - sweet tongue tip
 - sour tongue margins
 - bitter back of tongue
 - salt widely distributed

Pathophysiology

Ageusia (complete loss of taste)

Dysgeusia (disturbed taste)

Hypogeusia

• Hypergeusia

Adrenal insufficiency