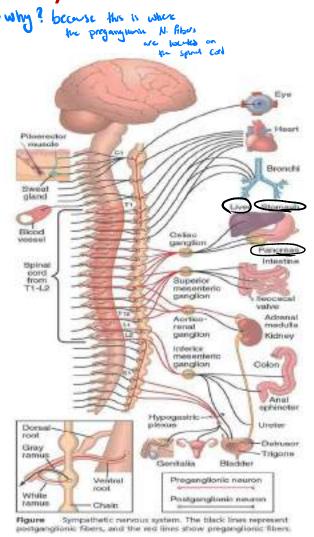
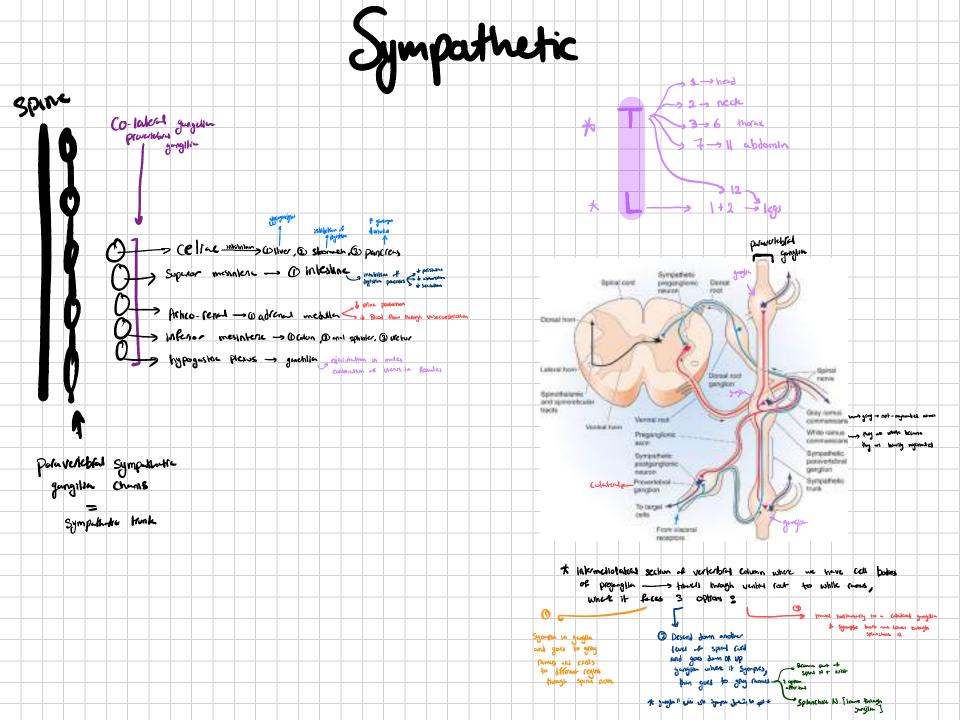


Physiological anatomy of Sympathetic nervous system (Thoracolumbar division)

 Preganglionic neurons originate in spinal cord segments between cord segments T1 and L2

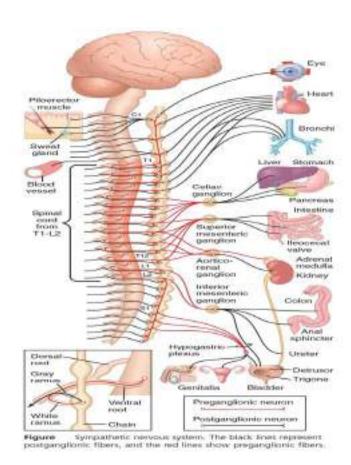
- Preganglionic fibers leaves the spinal cord and make synapses in the sympathetic ganglia
- Sympathetic ganglia
- Two paravertebral sympathetic chains of ganglia (also called the sympathetic trunk), that are interconnected with the spinal nerves on the side of the vertebral
- Prevertebral ganglia or collateral ganglia (the celiac, superior mesenteric, aorticorenal, inferior mesenteric, and hypogastric ganglia
- Postganglionic fibers leaves ganglia and terminate and synapse with visceral organs





PHYSIOLOGICAL ANATOMY OF THE SYMPATHETIC SYSTEM

- ☐ The peripheral portion of the Sympathetic System include:
 - Two paravertebral sympathetic chains of ganglia (also called the sympathetic trunk), that are interconnected with the spinal nerves on the side of the vertebral column.
 - Prevertebral ganglia or collateral ganglia (the celiac, superior mesenteric, aortico-renal, inferior mesenteric, and hypogastric).
 - Nerves extending from the ganglia to the different internal organs.
- The sympathetic nerve fibers originate in the spinal cord along with spinal nerves between cord segments T1 and L2 and pass first into the sympathetic chain and then to the tissues and organs that are stimulated by the sympathetic nerves



Physiological Anatomy Sympathetic nervous system

- Unlike a single neuron in the skeletal motor pathway, the sympathetic pathway is composed of two neurons, a preganglionic neuron and a postganglionic neuron.
- The cell body of each preganglionic neuron lies in the intermediolateral horn of the spinal cord; its fiber passes through a ventral root of the cord into the corresponding spinal nerve.
- The preganglionic sympathetic fibers leave the spinal nerve and pass through a white ramus into one of the ganglia of the sympathetic chain. Then fibers can take one of the following three courses:
- Synapse with postganglionic sympathetic neurons in the ganglion that they enter.
- Pass upward or downward in the chain and synapse in one of the other ganglia of the chain.
- Pass for variable distances through the chain and then through one of the sympathetic nerves radiating outward from the chain, finally synapsing in a peripheral sympathetic ganglion (collateral ganglia) about halfway between the CNS and the innervated organs.

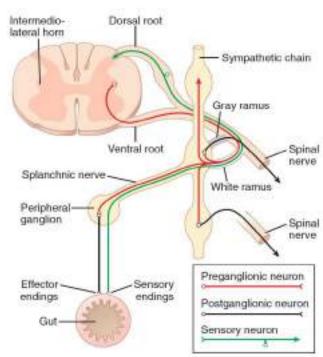
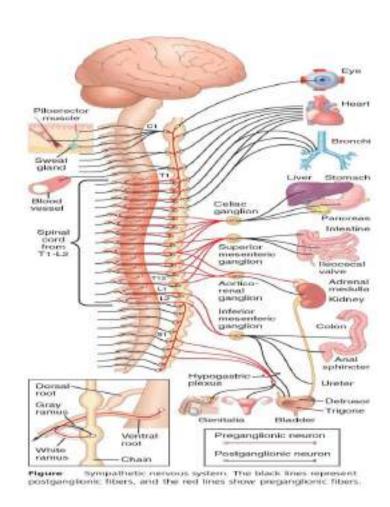


Figure Nerve connections among the spinal cord, spinal nerves, sympathetic chain, and peripheral sympathetic nerves.

Physiological Anatomy Sympathetic nervous system

- The postganglionic sympathetic neuron originates either in one of the sympathetic chain ganglia or in one of the peripheral sympathetic ganglia. From either of these two sources, the postganglionic fibers then travel to their destinations in the various organs.
- Some of the postganglionic fibers pass back from the sympathetic chain into the spinal nerves through gray rami at all levels of the cord. These sympathetic fibers are all very small type C fibers, and they extend to all parts of the body by way of the skeletal nerves.
- The sympathetic pathways that originate in the different segments of the spinal cord are not necessarily distributed to the same dermatomes as somatic nerves.



Sympathetic nervous system anatomy



- Instead, the sympathetic fibers from:
 - 1. Cord segment T1 generally pass up the sympathetic chain to terminate in the head.
 - 2. Cord segment T2 terminates in the neck.
 - 3. Cord segments T3, T4, T5, and T6 terminate into the 1. thorax.
 - Cord segments T7, T8, T9, T10, and T11 terminate into the abdomer.
 - 2. Cord segments T12, L1, and L2 terminate into the legs.
- It should be noted that the sympathetic distribution shows great degree of overlaps between humans.

