

ANATOMY

Spinal cord nuclei			
Renshaw cells	Inhibit alpha motor neurons through a negative feedback (alpha → ↑Renshaw → - ↓alpha)	Target for tetanus toxins → prevent release of glycine from Renshaw cells → tetanic contraction	
SGR (Substantia Gelatinosa of Rolandi)	Second order neuron for STT Projects to thalamic VPM nucleus Pain can be modulated by its opioid receptors.		
Marginal nucleus	Receives input from Lissauer's tract and relay pain and temperature. Pain can't be modulated at this level.		
Nucleus proprius	Second order neuron for STT projects to spinal and supraspinal relay centers		
Intermediolateral nucleus	Extends from T1-L2 Give presynaptic sympathetic fibers		
Clark's nucleus	Extends from T1-L4 Relay proprioception from muscle spindles to cerebellar cortex via dorsal spino-cerebellar tract.		
Onuf's nucleus	Present in anterior horn of sacral region Innervates voluntary external urethral sphincter	Preserved in MND Affected in Shy-Drager disease	
Spinal cord Tracts			
S E N S O R Y	Posterior column	Proprioception (position), pressure, vibration and fine touch	
	Lateral Spinothalamic	Pain and temperature	
	Anterior Spinothalamic	Crude touch	
	Dorsal & Ventral Spinocerebellar	Proprioception from ipsilateral caudal part of body and leg.	
	Cuneocerebellar	Proprioception from ipsilateral arm	
	Spinoreticular	Responsible for arousal and alertness response to pain	
	Spino-olivary	Conveys proprioception to the olivary nucleus then to the cerebellum	
M O T O R	Anterior Corticospinal	Controls the movements of axial muscles	
	Lateral Corticospinal	Controls the fine movements of the limbs	
	Rubrospinal	Controls large muscle and fine movements of upper limb	Facilitates flexor tone Can increase in size and assume functions of tl corticospinal tract in case of pyramidal lesion
	Vestibulospinal	Maintains head and eye coordination, upright posture and balance	Facilitates extensor tone → keep upright positior
	Tectospinal	Mediates reflex postural movements of the head in response to visual and auditory stimuli.	
	Reticulospinal	Coordinate automatic movements of locomotion and posture Mediates withdrawal to painful stimuli	Inhibited by corticospinal tract. Causes Decerebrate rigidity in case of lesion below red nucleus.