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18/MHS07/051

PHARMACOLOGY

Elucidate the pathway involved in Taste

Three nerves carry taste signals to the brain stem: the chorda tympani nerve (from the front of the tongue), the glossopharyngeal nerve (from the back of the tongue) and the vagus nerve (from the throat area and palate).

The chorda tympani of (facial nerve) carries the taste sensory input from the tongue’s anterior two-thirds. Then, the rest of the taste sensations from the throat, palate and posterior tongue are transmitted by the branches of glossopharyngeal nerve and vagus nerve. From these cranial nerves, taste sensory input travels through the nerve fibre synapses to the solitary tract, the ventral posteromedial thalamic nuclei, and the thalamus. In these three locations, there are clustered neurons which respond to the same taste (sweet, sour, salty or bitter).