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Course: physiology

Elucidate the pathway of taste

**Answer**

THE TASTE PATHWAY. 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 taste buds present on the anterior 2/3rd of the tongue are innervated by the facial nerve, posterior 1/3rd by the glossopharyngeal and epiglottis by vagus. These afferent fibers relay in the nucleus of tractus solitarius (NTS). Fibers from the NTS synapse in the thalamus, which pass to the somatosensory cortex

Taste (gustatory) pathway

Anterior two-thirds: facial nerve (CN VII) → chorda tympani → geniculate and otic ganglia → anterior solitary tract nucleus

Posterior third: superior laryngeal and glossopharyngeal (CN IX) nerves → inferior glossopharyngeal and inferior vagal ganglia → anterior solitary tract nucleus

From anterior solitary tract nucleus → central tegmental tract → thalamus → gustatory cortex