NAME: AKUNA PEREMOBOERE

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THE SOMATOSENSORY PATHWAYS

The somatosensory tracts, also known as the somatosensory pathways, process information about somatic sensations such as pain, temperature touch, position, and vibration.

Somatosensory pathways start by specialized receptors in the periphery receiving informston and transmitting this through a series of neurons and synaptic relays in the central nervous system. The two main sensory pathways are the dorsal column pathway which conveys information regarding fine touch, vibration, propioception, and two-point discrimination and spinothalamic or anterolateral pathways which conveys information on crude touch, pain and temperature.