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**ELUCIDATE THE PATHWAYS INVOLVED IN TASTE**

Gustatory pathway: The papillae are innervated by the nervus glossopharyngeus and the nervus vagus. These nerves proceed to the nucleus tractus solitarii of the brain stem. The information is switched over to the second neuron and transferred ipsilaterally to the third neuron in the nucleus parabrachialis of the formation recticularis.

This neuron projects into the contralateral nucleus ventralis posterior of the thalamus. The thalamus transfers the information to different areas of the brain. There, we become conscious of taste and of links to other perceptions i.e. the sense of smell.

Three nerves carry taste signals to the brain stem: the chorda tympani nerve (from the front of the tongue), the glossopharyngeal 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). In addition, the trigeminal nerve carries signals from the touch/temperature/pain system. Taste signals combine in the brain stem areas involved in arousal (i.e. from sleep) then with smell signals in the brain to produce the sensation of flavor.