BELLO ADEBANKE

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NURSING DEPARTMENT

RENAL PHYSIOLOGY

**SOMATOSENSORY PATHWAYS**

A somatosensory pathway will typically have three long neurons: primary, secondary, and tertiary. The first always has its cell body in the dorsal root ganglion of the spinal nerve.

The second has its cell body either in the spinal cord or in the brainstem; this neuron’s ascending axons will cross to the opposite side either in the spinal cord or in the brainstem. The axons of many of these neurons terminate in the thalamus, and others terminate in the reticular activating system or the cerebellum.

In the case of touch and certain types of pain, the third neuron has its cell body in the ventral posterior nucleus of the thalamus and ends in the postcentral gyrus of the parietal lobe.