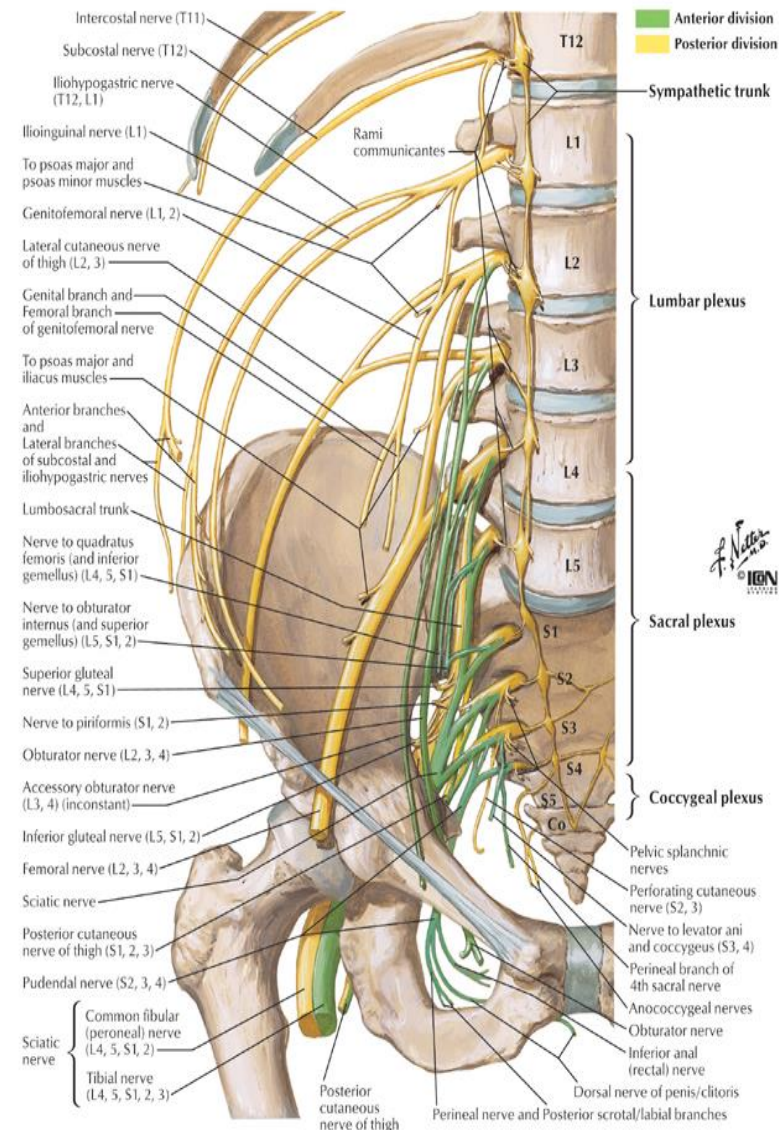


Nerves on the Posterior Abdominal Wall

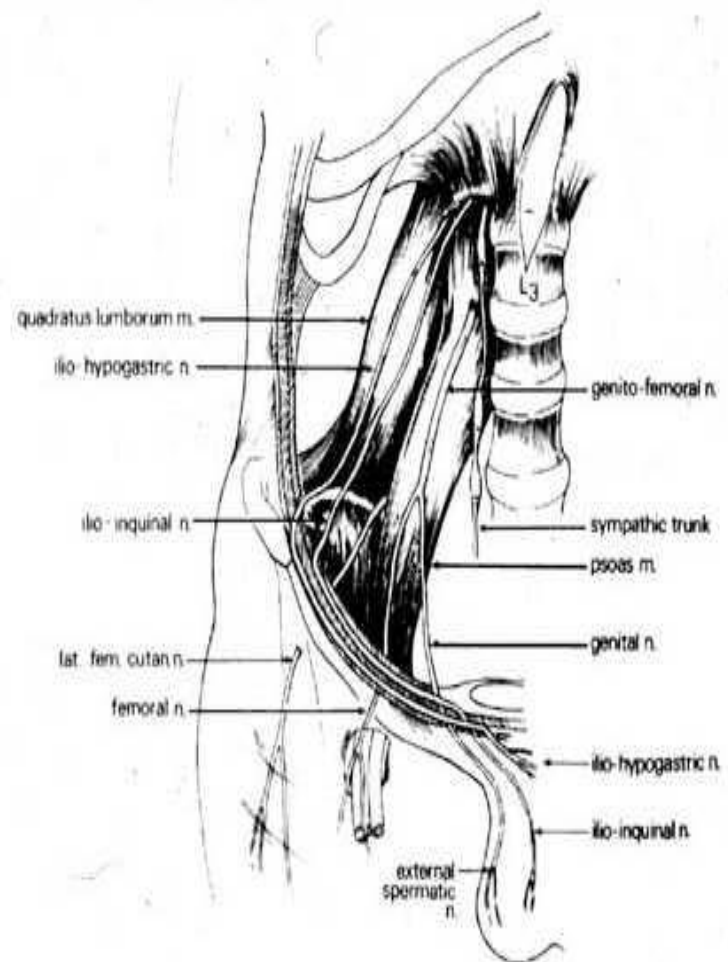
Lumbar Plexus

- The lumbar plexus, which is one of the main nervous pathways supplying the lower limb, is formed in the psoas muscle from the anterior rami of the upper four lumbar nerves.
- The anterior rami receive gray rami communicates from the sympathetic trunk, .
- The upper two only give off white rami communicates to the sympathetic trunk.
- The branches of the plexus emerge from the lateral and medial borders of the muscle and from its anterior surface.
- The iliohypogastric nerve, ilioinguinal nerve, lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh, and femoral nerve emerge from the lateral border of the psoas, in that order from above downward .
- The iliohypogastric and ilioinguinal nerves (L1) enter the lateral and anterior abdominal walls



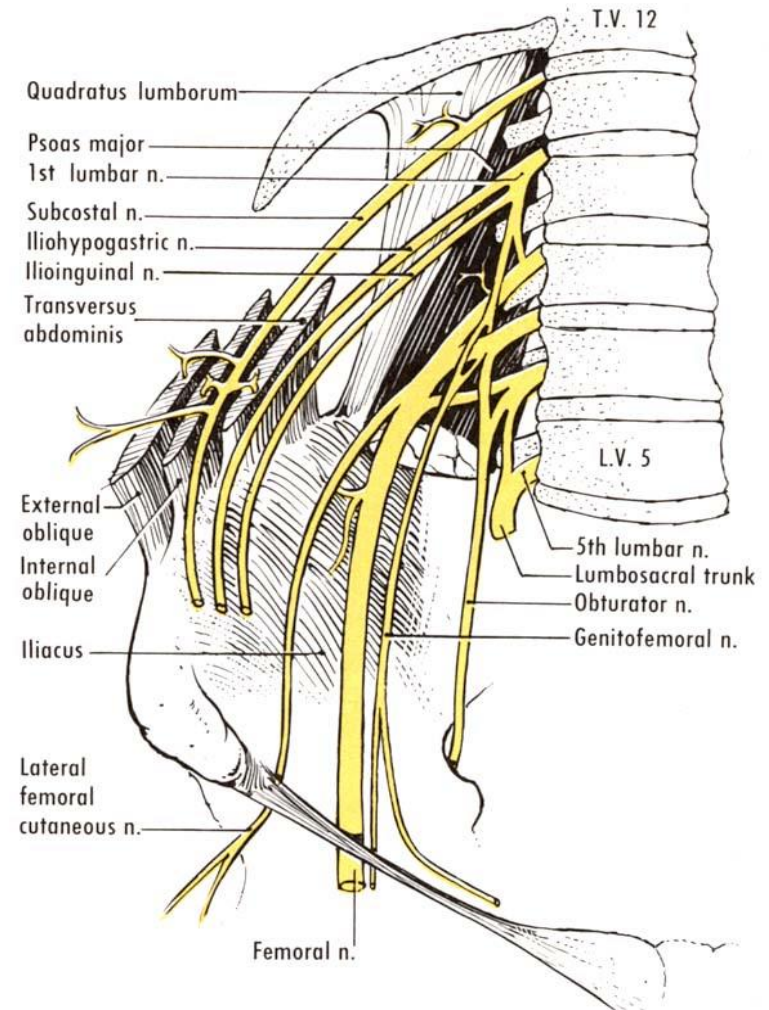
Nerves on the Posterior Abdominal Wall

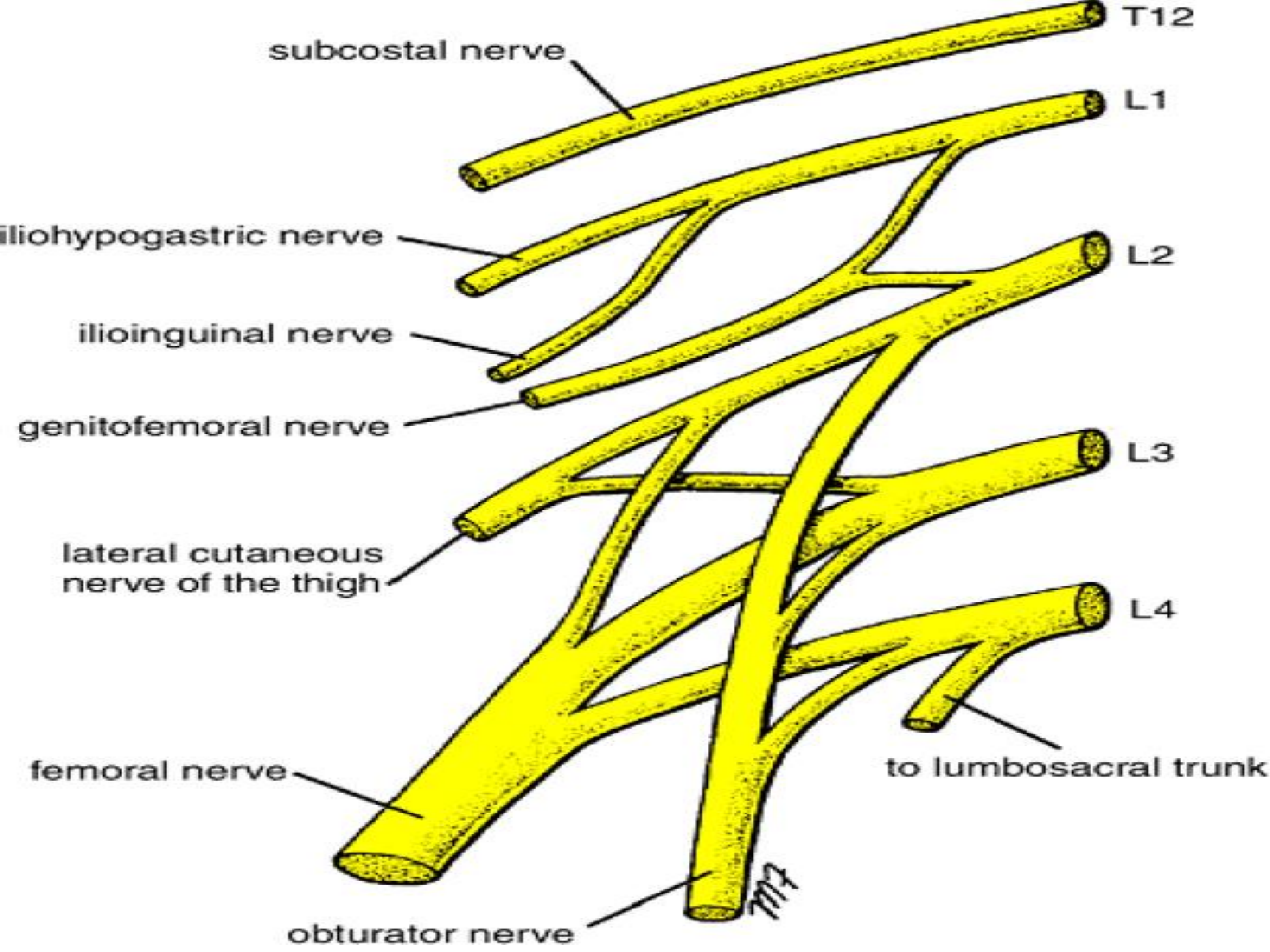
- **The iliohypogastric nerve**
 - supplies the skin of the lower part of the anterior abdominal wall,
- **The ilioinguinal nerve**
 - passes through the inguinal canal to supply the skin of the groin and the scrotum or labium majus.
- **The lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh**
 - Crosses the iliac fossa in front of the iliacus muscle and enters the thigh behind the lateral end of the inguinal ligament .
 - It supplies the skin over the lateral surface of the thigh.



Lumbar plexus.....cont

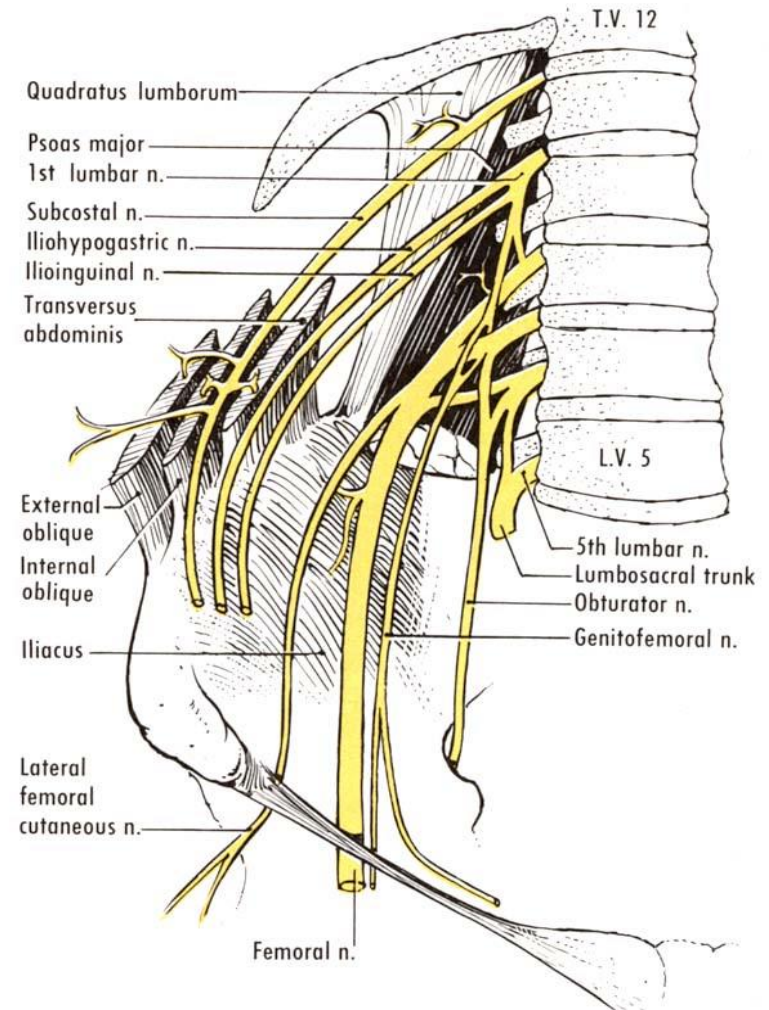
- **The femoral nerve (L2, 3, and 4)**
 - It is the largest branch of the lumbar plexus.
 - It runs downward and laterally between the psoas and the iliacus muscles and enters the thigh behind the inguinal ligament and lateral to the femoral vessels and the femoral sheath.
 - In the abdomen it supplies the iliacus muscle.





Lumbar plexus.....cont

- **The Obturator nerve and the fourth lumbar root of the lumbosacral trunk**
 - Emerge from the medial border of the psoas at the brim of the pelvis.
 - The Obturator nerve (L2, 3, and 4) crosses the pelvic brim in front of the sacroiliac joint and behind the common iliac vessels.
 - It leaves the pelvis by passing through the Obturator foramen into the thigh.
 - The fourth lumbar root of the lumbosacral trunk takes part in the formation of the sacral plexus . It descends anterior to the ala of the sacrum and joins the first sacral nerve.



Lumbar plexus.....cont

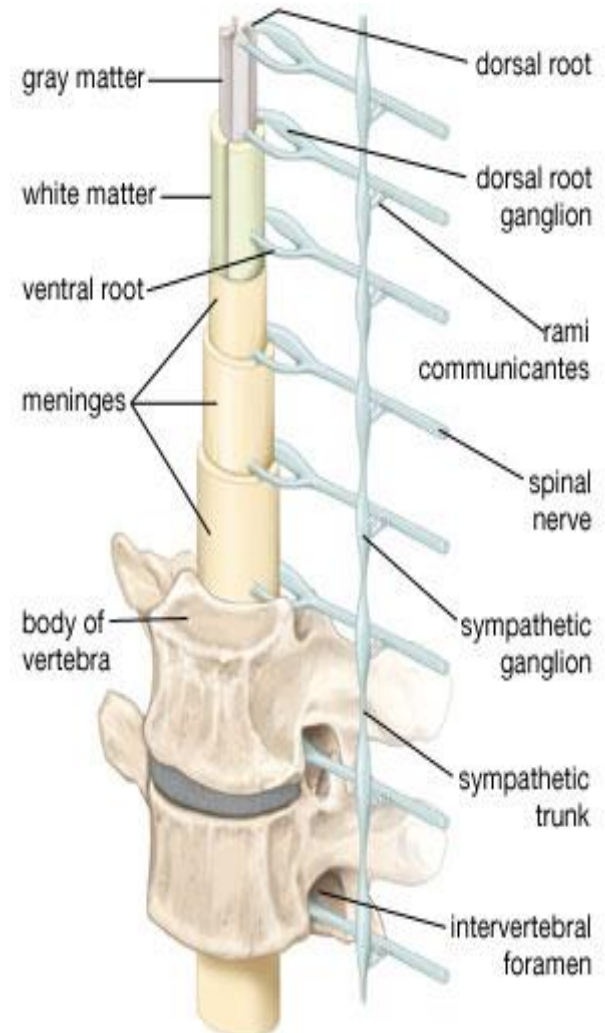
- **The genitofemoral nerve** (L1 and 2)
 - Emerges on the anterior surface of the psoas.
 - It runs downward in front of the muscle and divides into :
 - 1- A genital branch, which enters the spermatic cord and supplies the Cremasteric muscle
 - 2- A femoral branch, which supplies a small area of the skin of the thigh.

Cremasteric reflex

- It is the nervous pathway , in which stimulation of the skin of the thigh in the male results in reflex contraction of the cremaster muscle and the drawing upward of the testis within the scrotum.
- Cremasteric reflex may be absent with: testicular torsion, upper and lower motor neuron disorders, as well as a spine injury of L1-L2. It can also occur if the ilioinguinal nerve is accidentally cut during a hernia repair

Sympathetic Trunk (Abdominal Part)

- The abdominal part of the sympathetic trunk is continuous above with the thoracic and below with the pelvic parts of the sympathetic trunk.
- It runs downward along the medial border of the psoas muscle on the bodies of the lumbar vertebrae .
- It enters the abdomen from behind the medial arcuate ligament and gains entrance to the pelvis below by passing behind the common iliac vessels.
- The right sympathetic trunk lies behind the right border of the inferior vena cava; the left sympathetic trunk lies close to the left border of the aorta.
- The sympathetic trunk possesses four or five segmentally arranged ganglia, the first and second often being fused together.



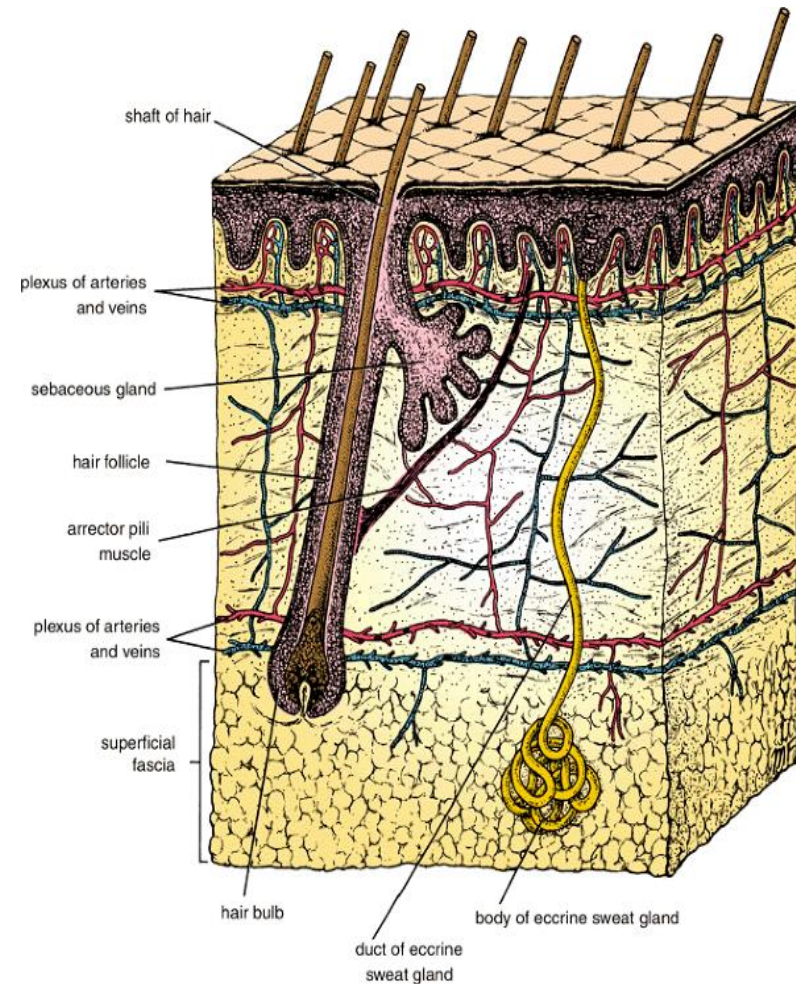
Sympathetic trunk....Abdominal part

- **Branches**
- **White rami**
 - communicantes join the first two ganglia to the first two lumbar spinal nerves.
 - A white ramus contains Preganglionic nerve fibers and afferent sensory nerve fibers.
- **Gray rami**
 - communicantes join each ganglion to a corresponding lumbar spinal nerve.
 - A gray ramus contains postganglionic nerve fibers distributed to blood vessels, sweat gland and skin

Sympathetic.....Abdominal part

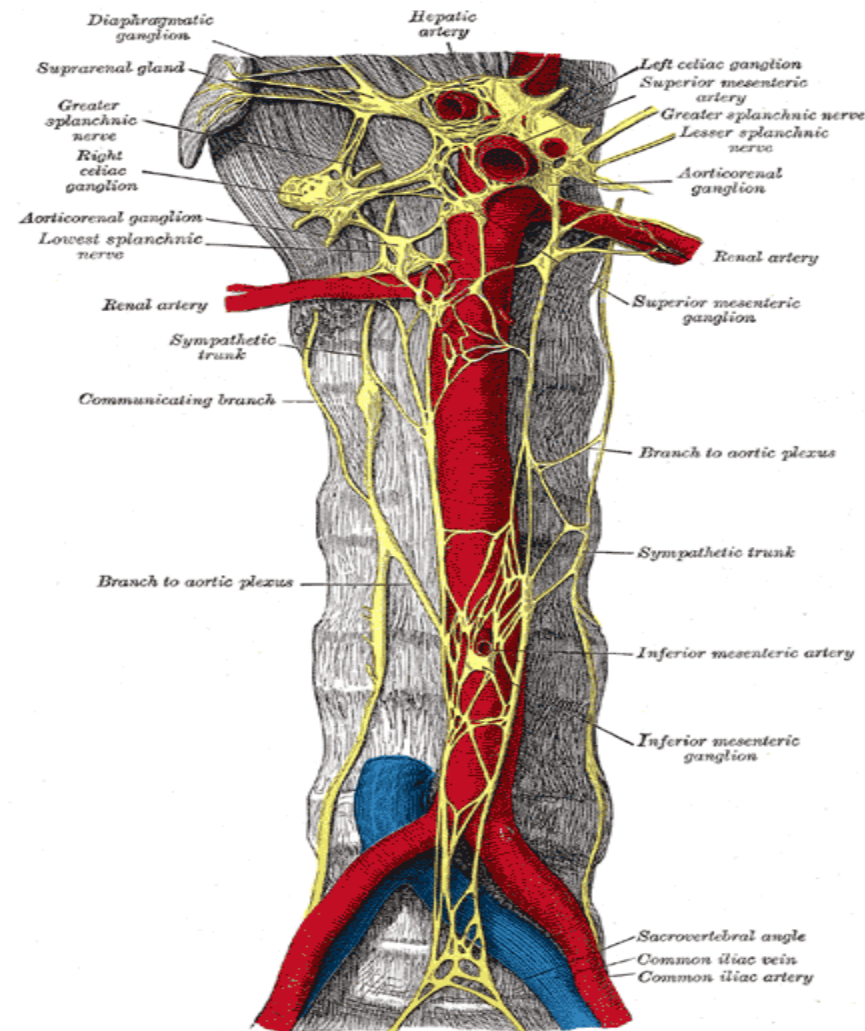
Post ganglionic fibers.....cont

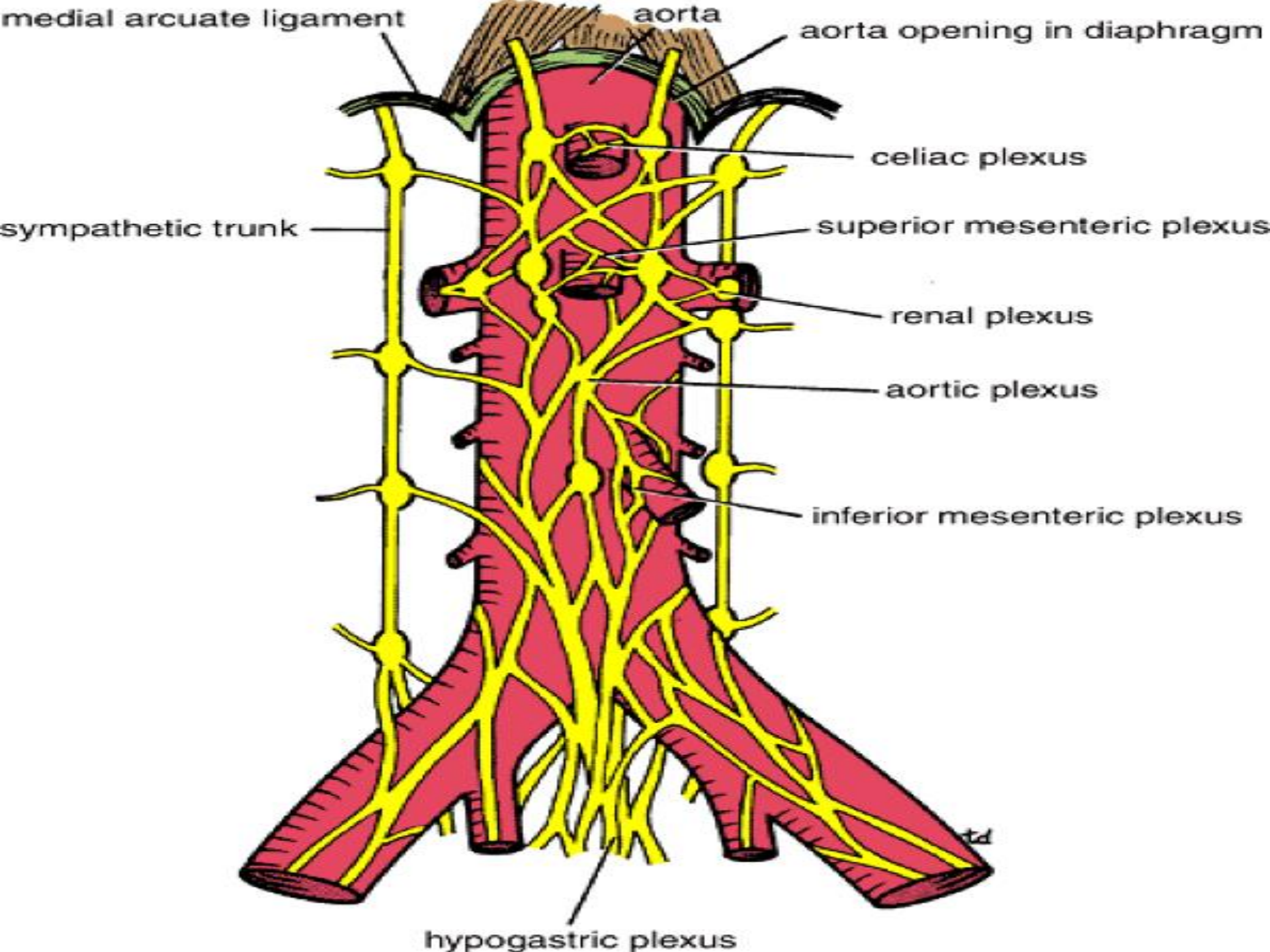
- Distributed through the branches of the spinal nerves to the blood vessels, sweat glands, and arrector pili muscles of the skin.
- Fibers pass medially to the sympathetic plexuses on the abdominal aorta and its branches. (These plexuses also receive fibers from splanchnic nerves and the vagus.)
- Fibers pass downward and medially in front of the common iliac vessels into the pelvis, where, together with branches from sympathetic nerves in front of the aorta, they form a large bundle of fibers called the superior hypogastric plexus.



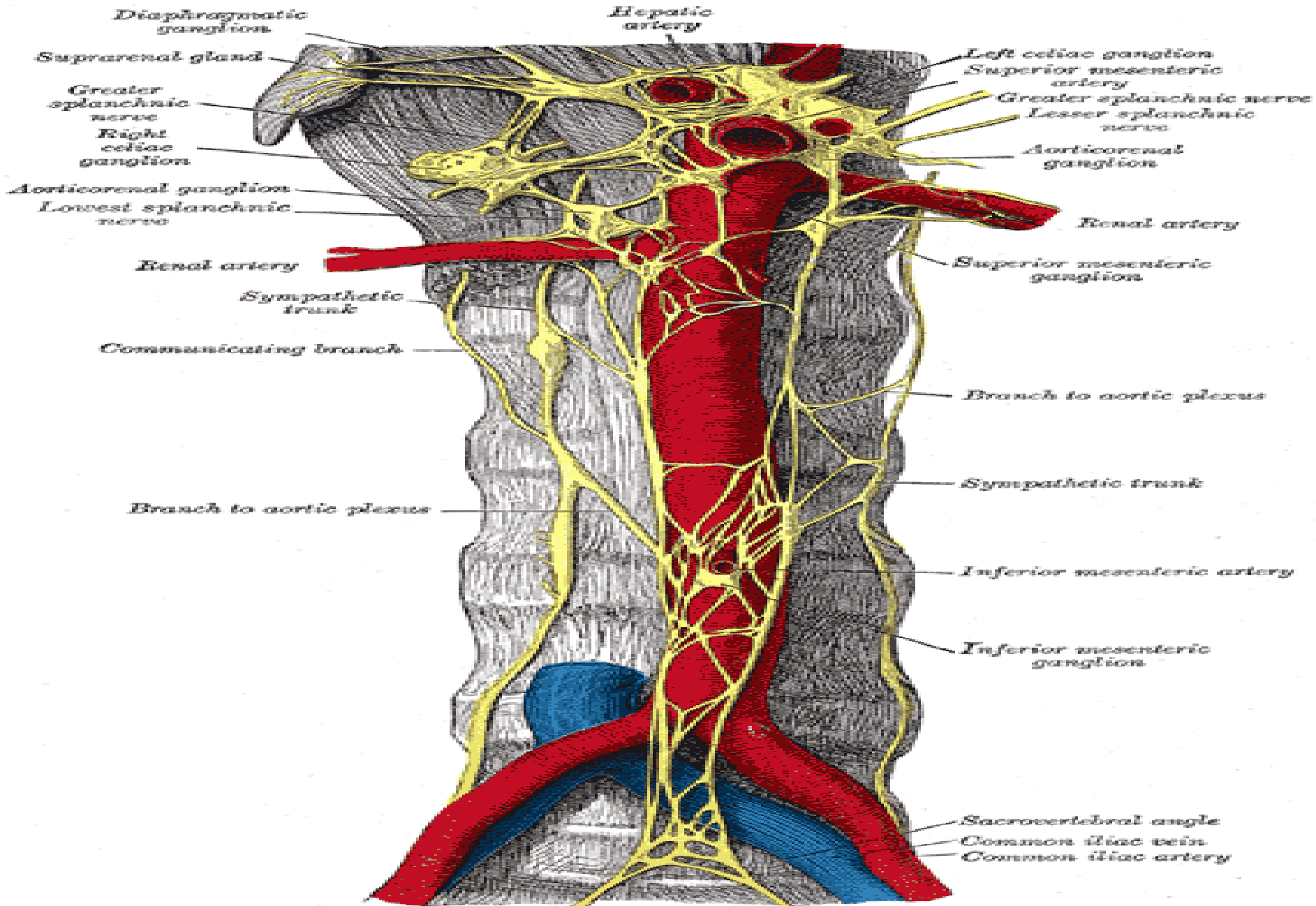
Aortic Plexuses

- Preganglionic and postganglionic sympathetic fibers
- Preganglionic parasympathetic fibers, and visceral afferent fibers form a plexus of Nerves, the aortic plexus, around the abdominal part of the aorta .
- Regional concentrations of this plexus around the origins of the celiac, renal arteries
- Superior mesenteric → celiac plexus
- Inferior mesenteric plexus → Renal plexus
- **1- The celiac plexus** consists mainly of two celiac ganglia connected together by a large network of fibers that surrounds the origin of the celiac artery.
- The ganglia receive the greater and lesser splanchnic nerves (Preganglionic sympathetic fibers).
- Postganglionic branches accompany the branches of the celiac artery and follow them to their distribution.
- Parasympathetic vagal fibers also accompany the branches of the artery.
- **2- The renal plexuses** are smaller than the celiac plexus. They are distributed along the branches of the corresponding arteries. The inferior mesenteric plexus is similar but receives parasympathetic fibers from the sacral parasympathetic.





Sympathetic chain

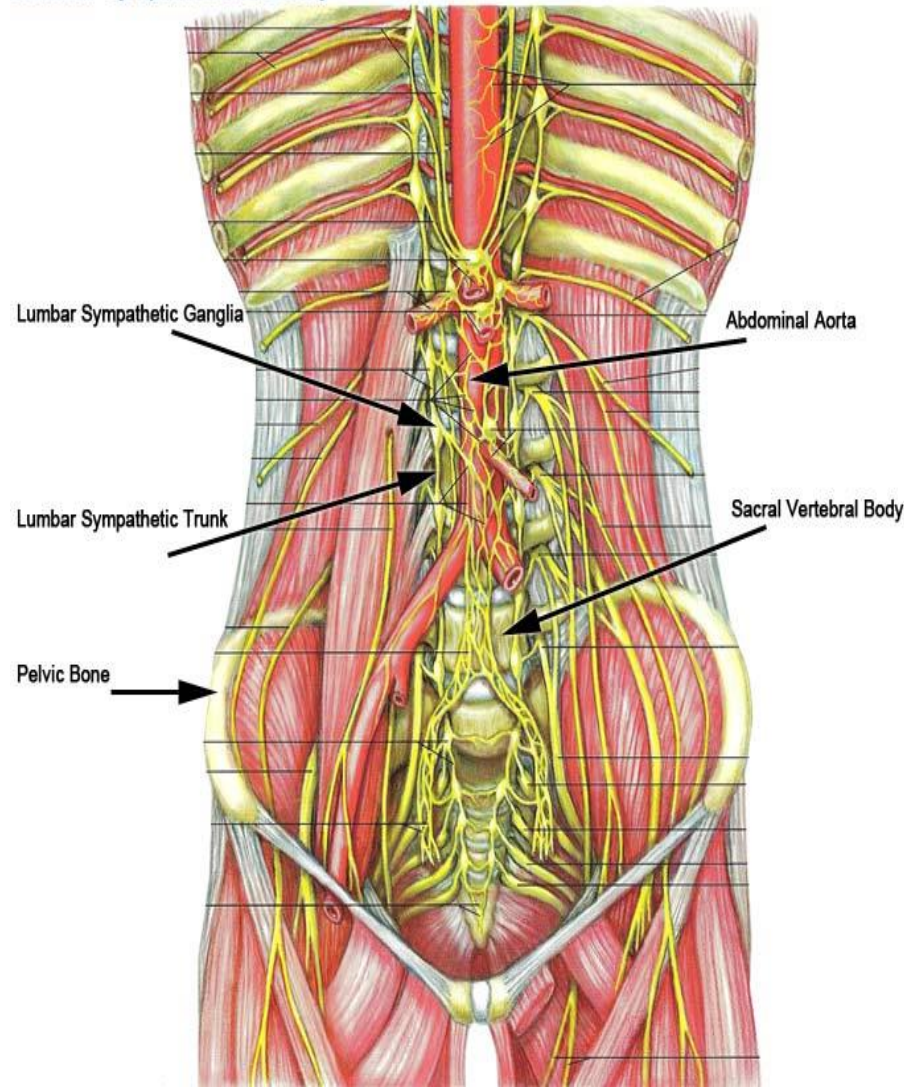


Sympathetic chain

Sympathetic chain

- 2 chains extend from level of atlas till coccyx
- Number of ganglia (in pairs)
 - C = 3
 - Th. = 10 -12 (11)
 - L = 4
 - S = 4
 - Coccygeal = 1(ganglion impar)

Lumbar Sympathetic Anatomy

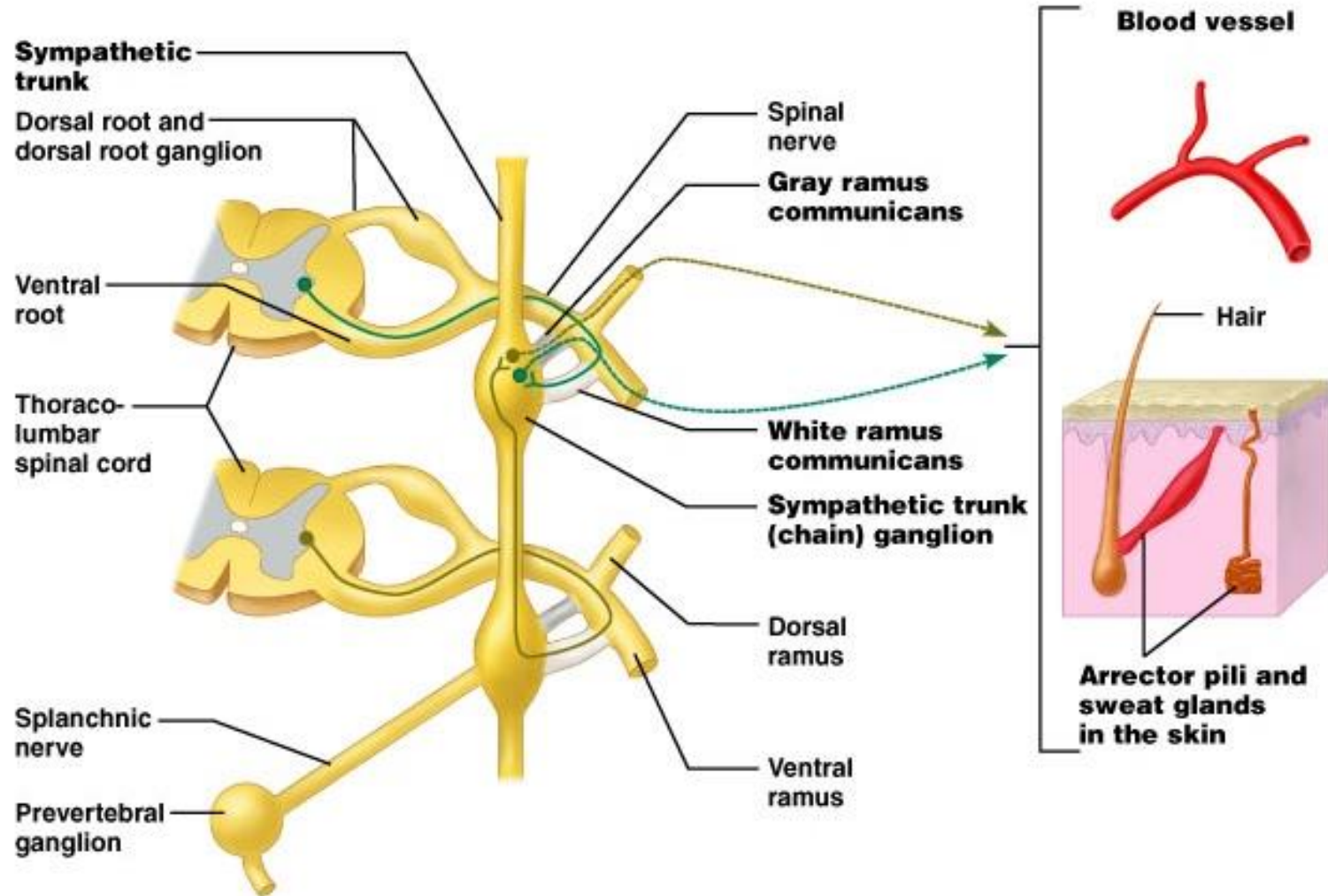


Sympathetic chain....cont

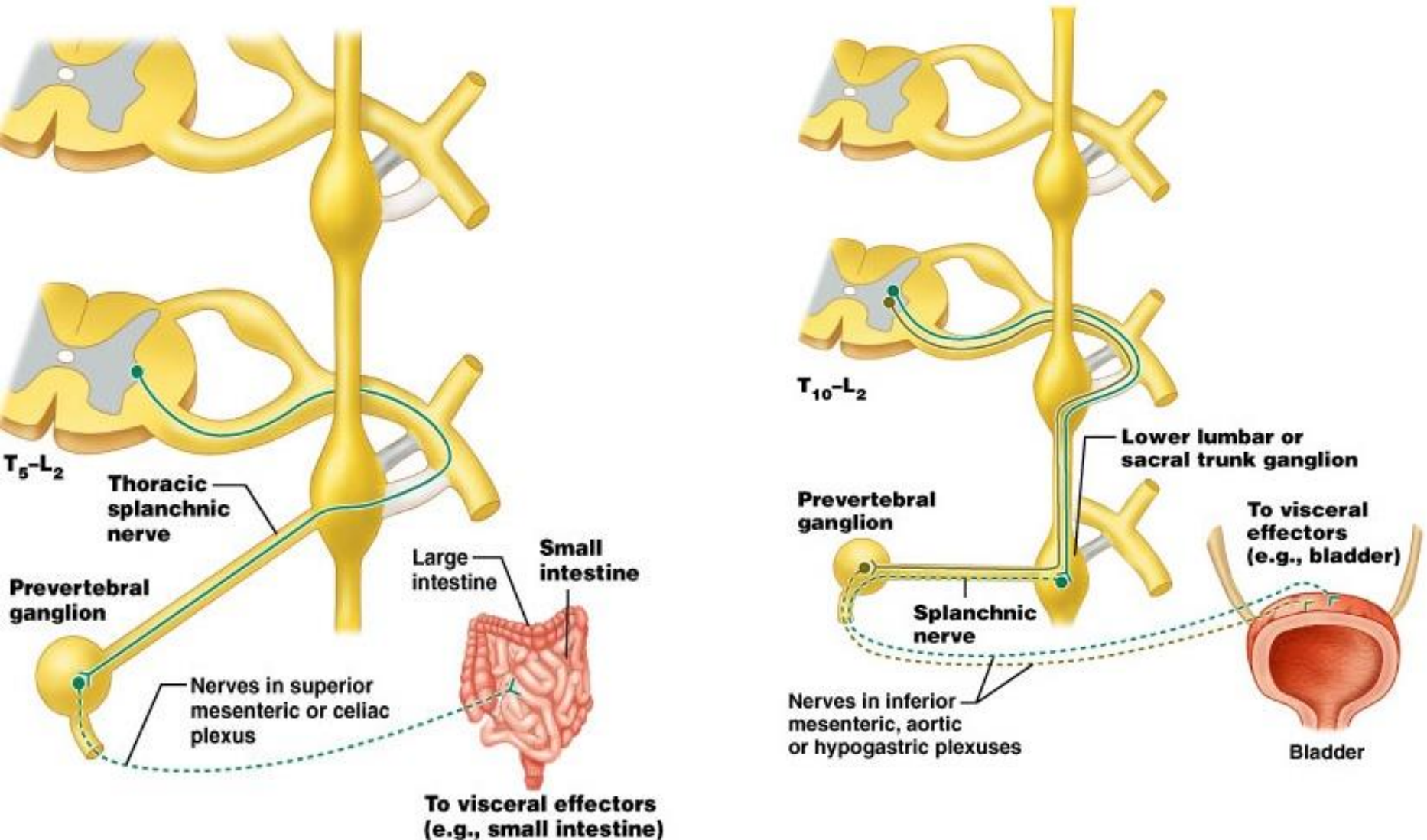
Preganglionic fibers:

- **Origin:** sympathetic nucleus present in lat. Horn cell of thoracic and upper 2 lumbar region of spinal cord = 14
- Leave the spinal cord through the ant. Root and then leave the spinal nerve as white rami to join the symp.chain (14 white rami)
- **Preganglionic fibers when it enters the sympathetic chain may :**
 - 1- Synapse with cells in the ganglia it enters (e.g. middle.Th. Segm)
 - 2- Pass up to synapse in higher ganglia (upper Th. Segm → 3 cerv. Segm)
 - 3- Pass down to synapse in lower ganglia (lower Th & upper 2 lumbar go to lumbar & sacral ganglia)
 - 4- May not synapse in sympathetic chain & continue as preganglionic fibers to form (splanchnic nerves)

Synapse in chain ganglia at same level or different level



Pass through ganglia and synapse in prevertebral ganglion



Sympathetic chain....cont

- Nerves which leave the sympathetic chain:

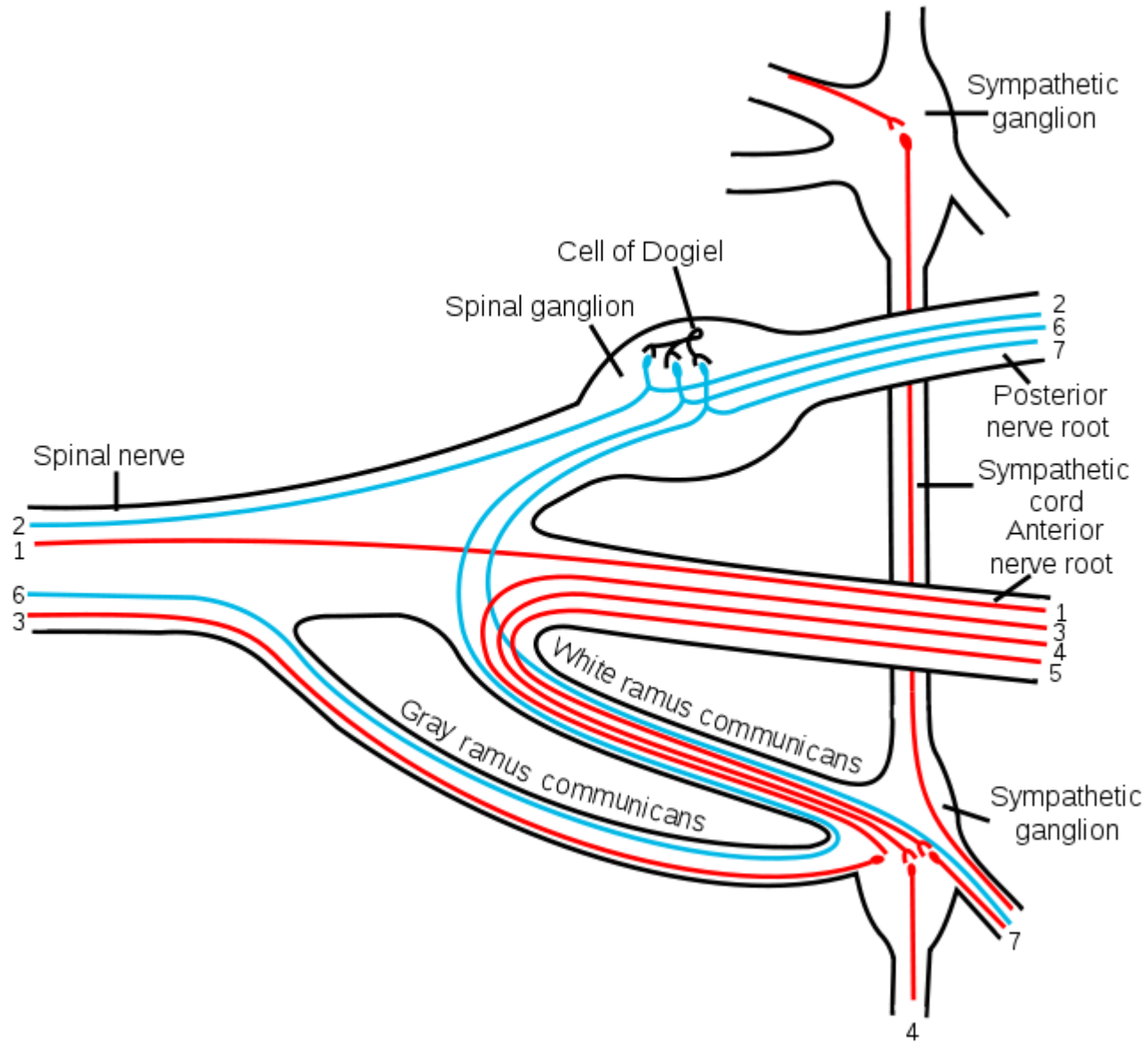
A- gray rami (31 post ganglionic fibers join spinal nerves to reach sweat glands, errectore papillae & blood vessels

- S.C.S.G → lower 4 cranial nerves + upper 4 cervical
- M.C.S.G → 5th , 6th cervical nerves
- I.C.S.G → 7th , 8th cervical nerves
- Thoracic , lumber, sacral ganglia to corresponding nerves

B- visceral nerves

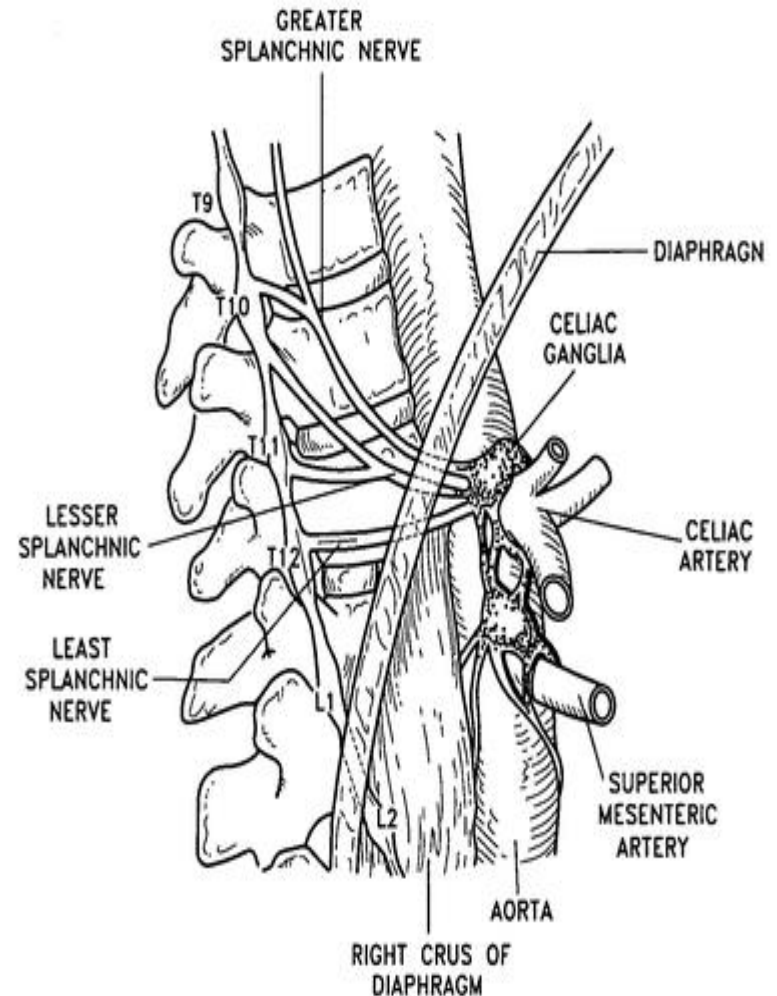
- 1- Int, & Ext. carotid nerves from S.C.S.G to corresponding arteries
- 2- pharyngeal branch : from S.C.S.G to pharyngeal plexus
- 3- pulmonary nerves : 2nd , 3rd& 4th thoracic ganglia
- 4- cardiac nerves : 2nd , 3rd& 4th thoracic ganglia + 3 cervical ganglia
- 5- splanchnic nerves : greater, lesser and lowest splanchnic nerves

Sympathetic chain



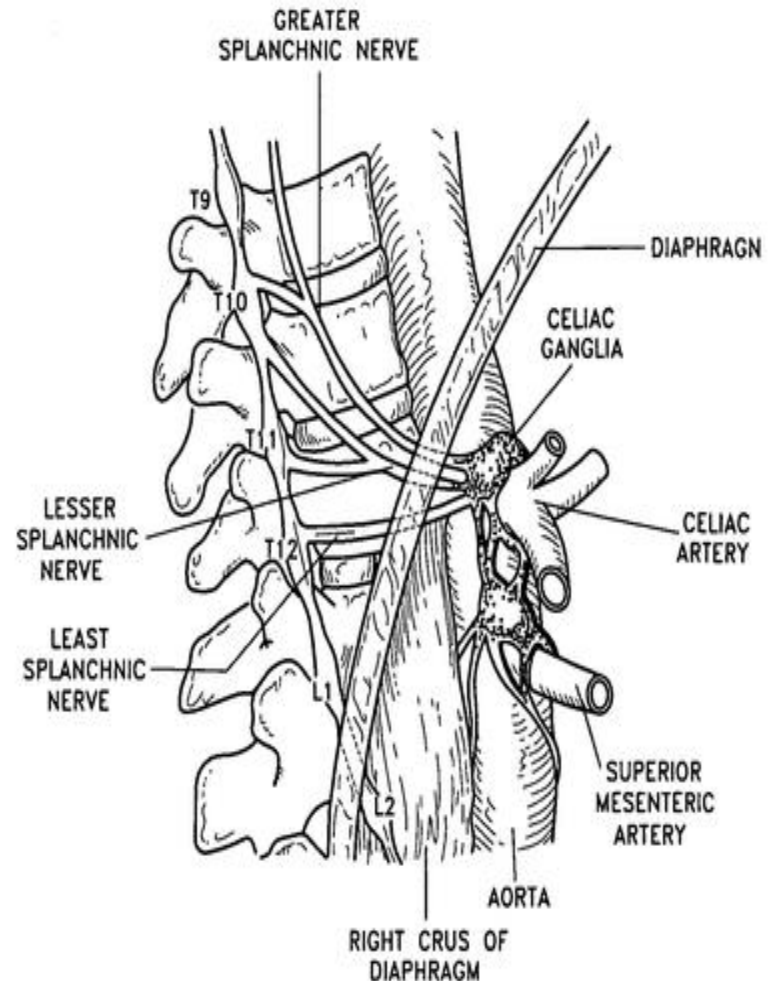
Greater splanchnic nerves:

- Arise from ganglia (5-9th) or 10th
- Pierce the cruss of the diaphragm
- End in the coeliac ganglia
- Post. ganglia fibers follow the branches of coeliac artery to reach the smooth muscle , gland of stomach



Lesser splanchnic nerves:

- Arise from the 9th & 10th Th.ganglia
- Pierces the cruss of diaphragm
- End in the sup. Mesenteric ganglia
- Post. Ganglia fibers supply the smooth muscles, glands of small intestine, ascending and transverse parts of colon



Lowest splanchnic nerves:

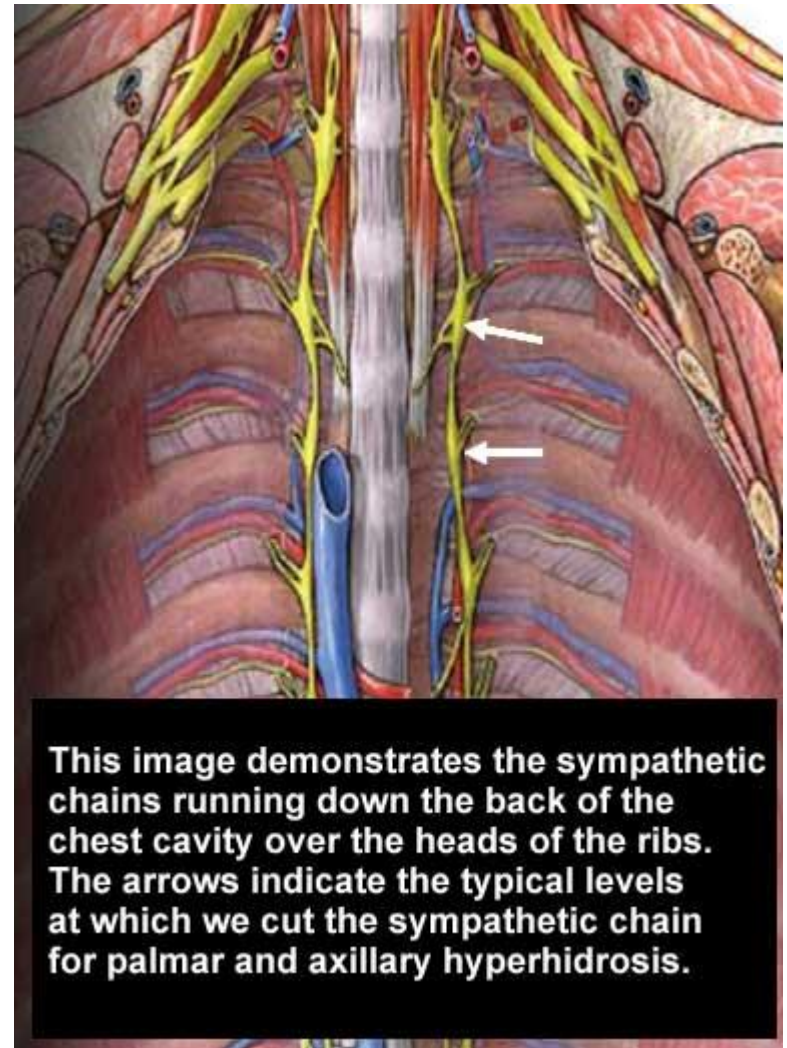
- May be absent, if present arises from the last one or two th.ganglia
- Pierces the diaphragm to end in renal plexus

Lumber splanchnic branch

- Arise from L1& L2 ganglia
- Ends in inferior mesenteric ganglia
- Post. Ganglionic fibers go to sigmoid and pelvic colon, other post. Ganglionic fibers form the descending hypogastric plexus to supply bladder, rectum and genitalia
- **Branches from sacral part of the chain go to pelvic viscera**

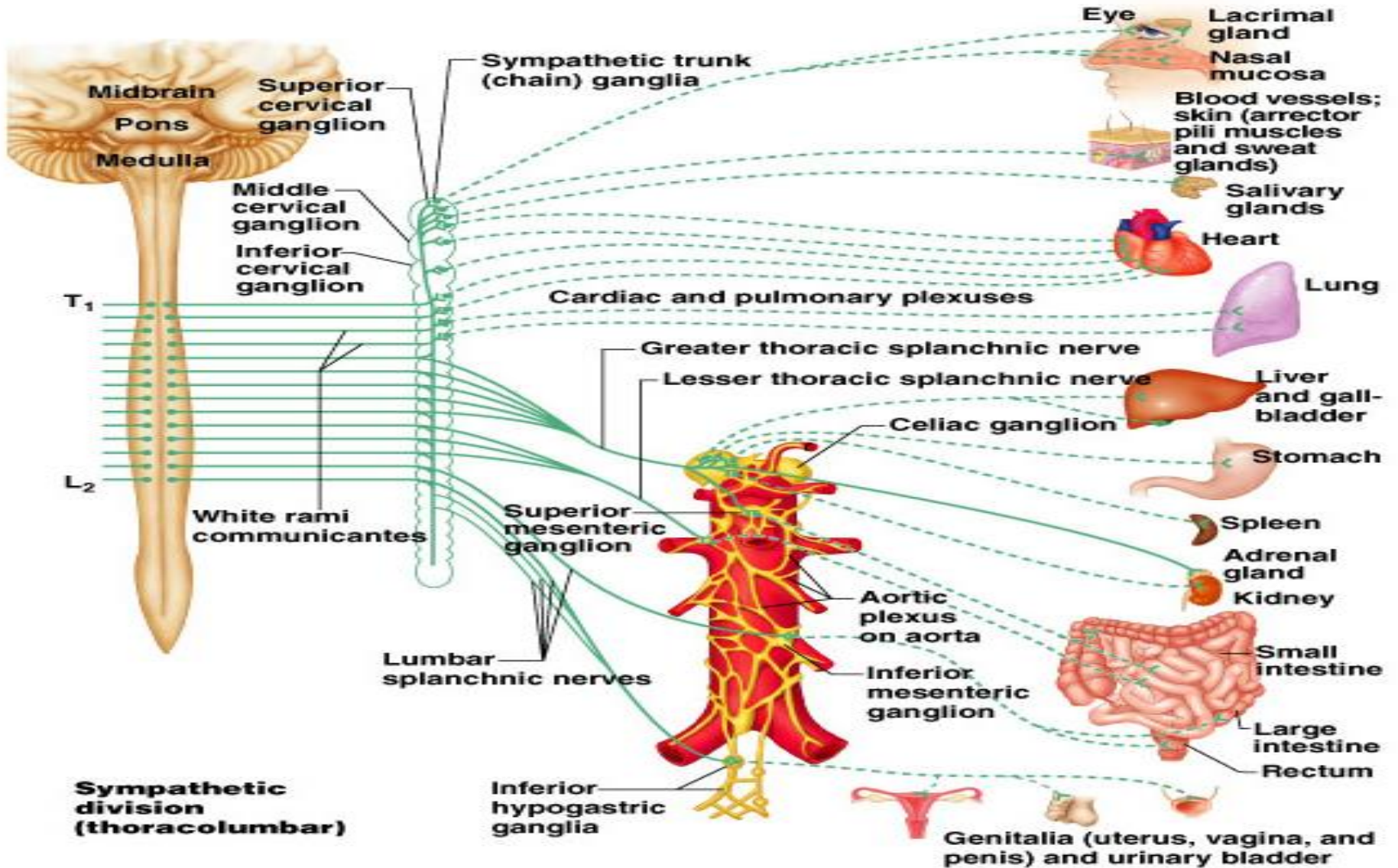
Thoracic sympathetic chain:

- **Site:** enters the thorax in front of neck of 1st rib and leaves it by passing behind the medial arcuate ligament
- In the upper part it lies on the necks of the ribs while in the lower part it lies on the side of the bodies of vertebrae
- **Ganglia:** (10 -12), 1st sometimes fuses with the I.C.S.G → stellate ganglia
- **Branches:**
 - A- Gray & white rami communicants
 - B- 2nd, 3rd & 4th ganglia (cardiac & pulmonary)
 - C- The upper five ganglia give aortic oesophageal branches
 - D- Greater, lesser and lowest splanchnic nerves

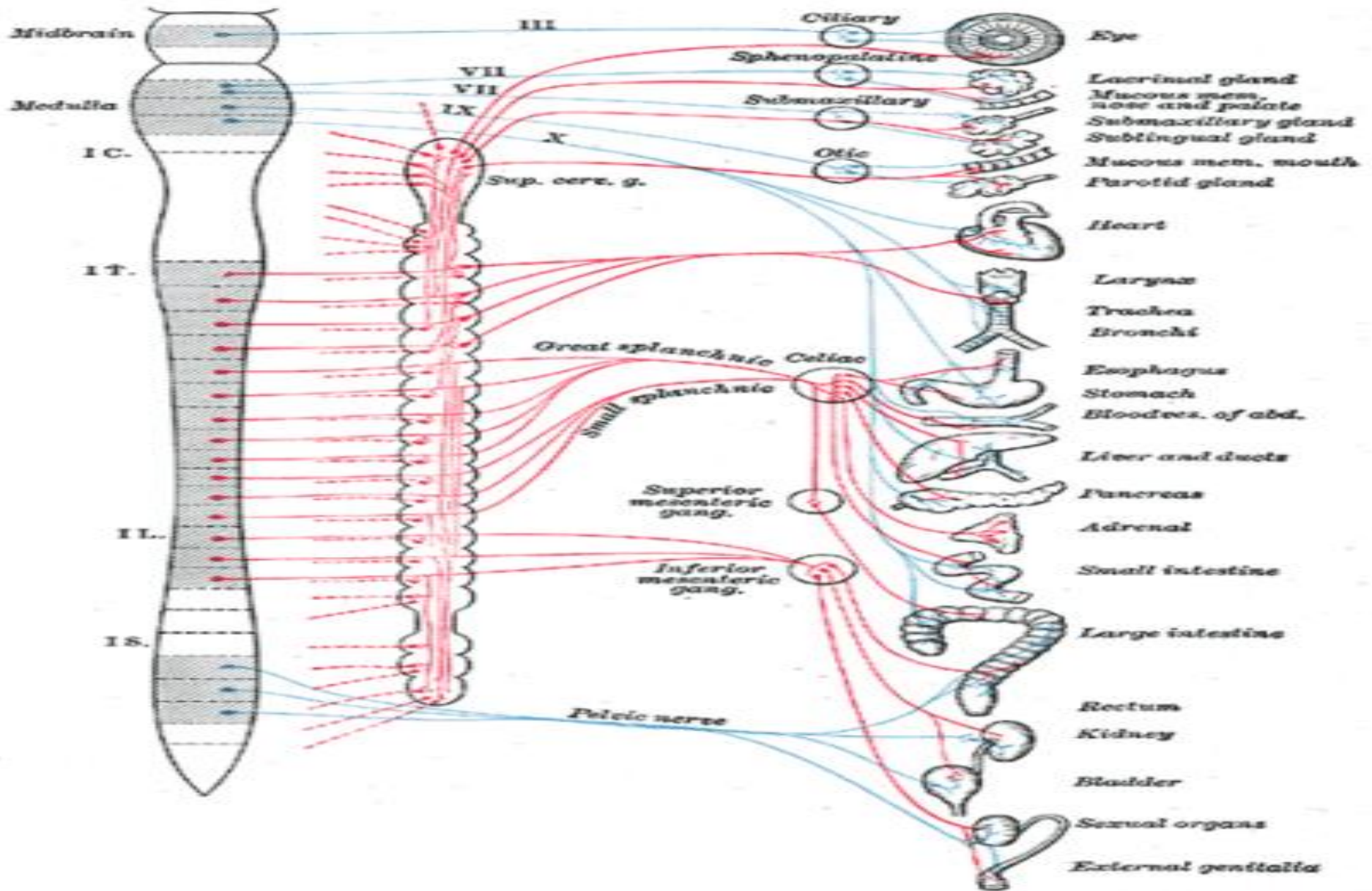


This image demonstrates the sympathetic chains running down the back of the chest cavity over the heads of the ribs. The arrows indicate the typical levels at which we cut the sympathetic chain for palmar and axillary hyperhidrosis.

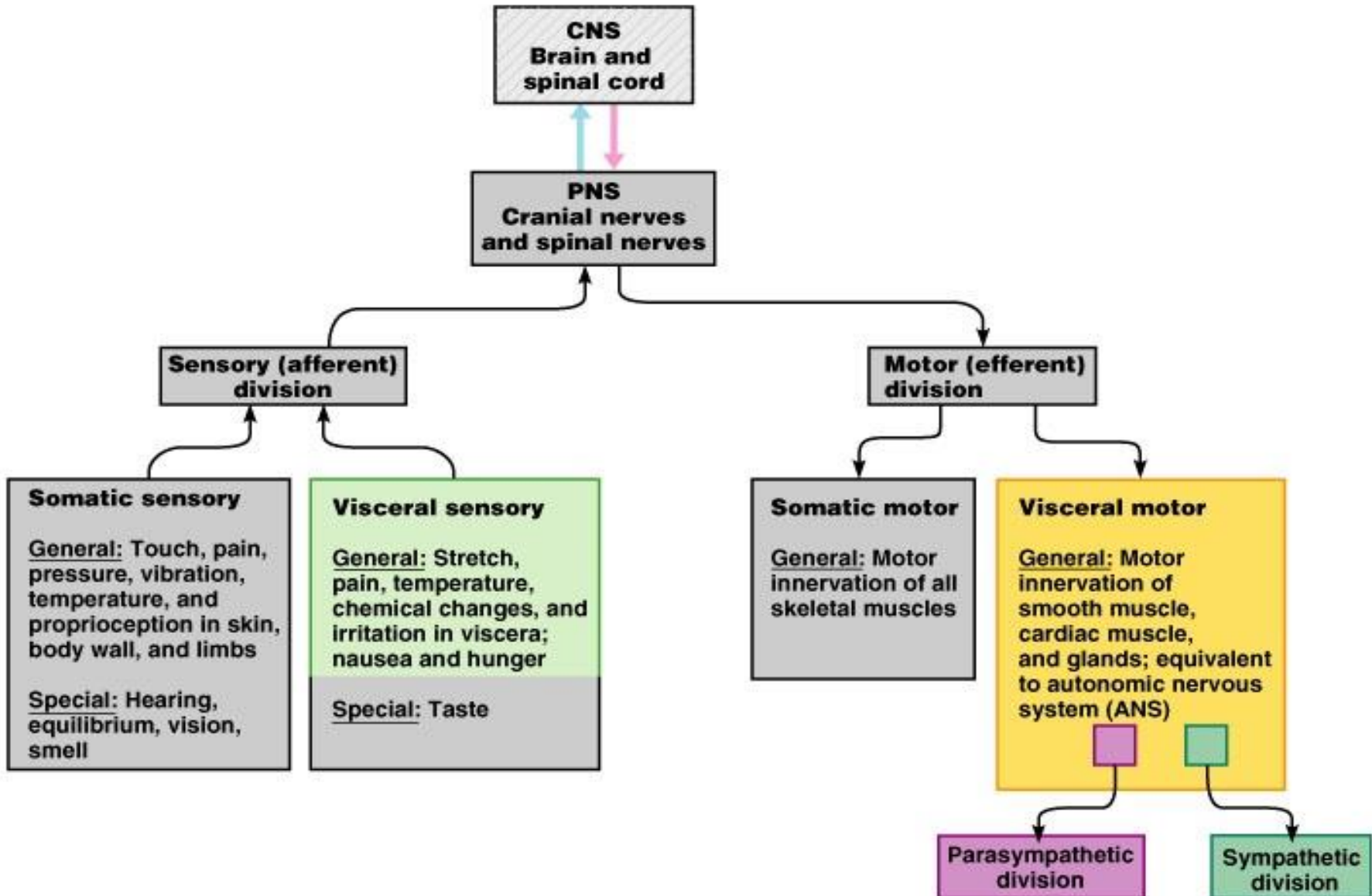
Sympathetic chain



Splanchnic nerve

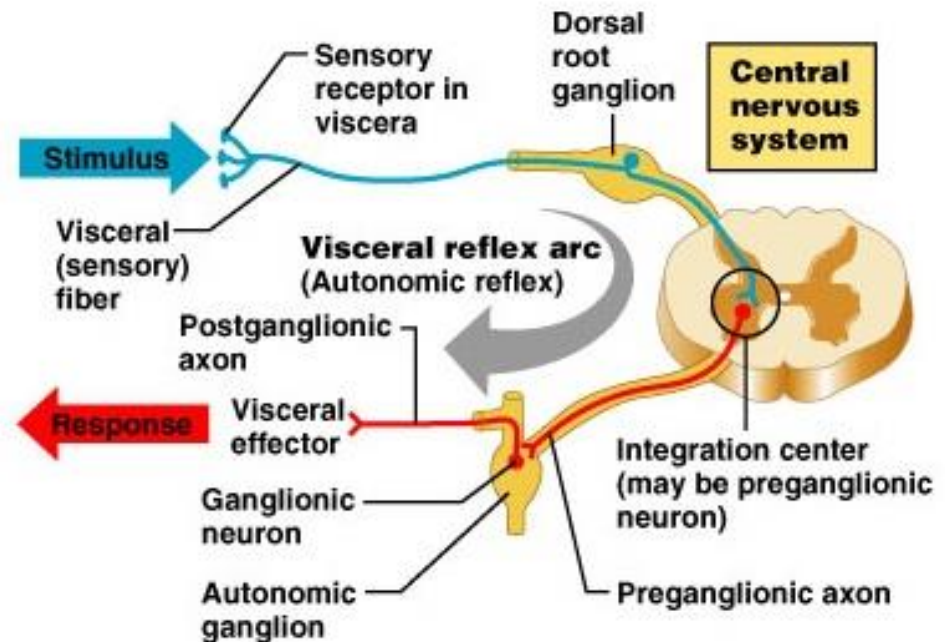


Visceral sensory system



Visceral sensory and autonomic neurons participate in *visceral reflex arcs*

- Many are spinal reflexes such as defecation and micturition reflexes
- Some only involve peripheral neurons: spinal cord not involved (not shown)*



Anatomy and histology

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