

Term: Medulla Oblongata

Introduction

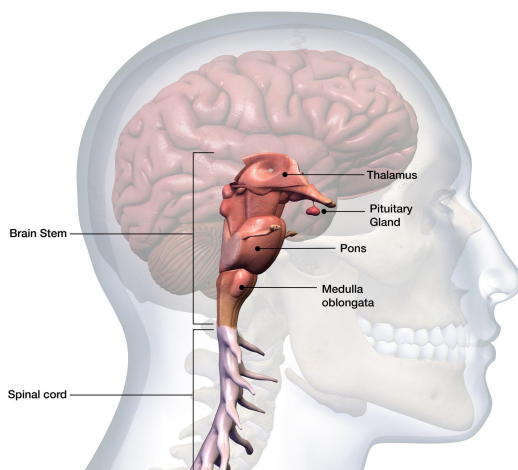
The assignment is to define a term using multiple formats such as sentence, parenthetical and expanded definitions. The definition must be written so that non-technical readers, in this case, my writing group, can understand the term Medulla Oblongata, a small region of the brainstem.

Parenthetical Definition: The Medulla Oblongata is (a brain region responsible for controlling one's automatic processes).

Sentence definition: often known as just (Medulla) is the lowest portion of the brainstem where it is between the brain and the spinal cord and below the pons; the Medulla plays a significant role in controlling one's heartbeat, breathing, automatic processes, and blood pressure.

Expanded definition:

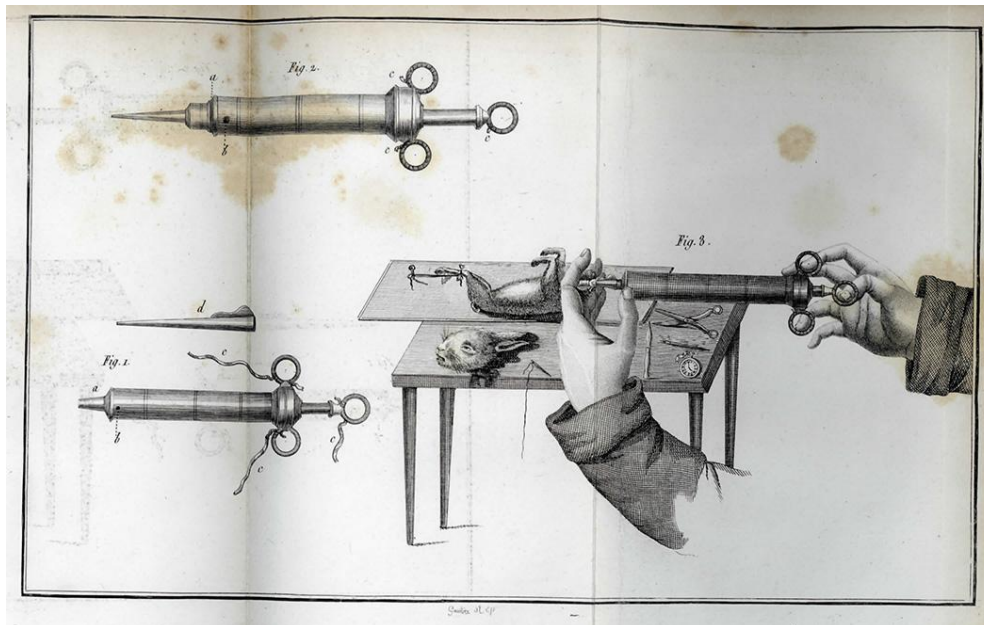
Figure 1



What is the Medulla The Medulla Oblongata resides inside the midbrain, immediately above the spinal cord and is connected to the pons by a nerve (britannica.com, n.d.). The Medulla is involved in controlling vital functions that keep an organism alive (Britannica, n.d.). For instance, it helps regulate metabolism; regulates the rate and force of the heartbeat and the diameter of blood vessels; it adjusts the basic rhythm of breathing via inspiratory and expiratory areas. Finally, the Medulla is responsible for controlling a person's automatic processing such as digestion, vasoconstriction, and reflex responses like vomiting, coughing and sneezing (Bolano, 2020).

Etymology: The word Medulla by itself in Latin terms: marrow," also "pith of plants"
Medulla Oblongata translated in Latin means "Little brain"

History: The Medulla has first discovered in 1806 by French physician Julien Jean-Cesar Levallois. He claimed that the Medulla was an anatomically important region of the brain (Bolano, 2020). The brain region was discovered during his procedure of removing both cortex and cerebellum from rabbits. In this discovery, he found that even though the regions were removed, the rabbits continue to breathe (Bolano, 2020). However, once he removed a specific section of the medulla, however, respiration stopped immediately, so he claimed that the Medulla oblongata is the region that controls respiratory functioning and the region for necessary survival.



Conditions and disorders that can affect the Medulla: Aneurysms, Cancer, Concussion and traumatic brain injuries, Strokes or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), other rare conditions include Moebius syndrome, multiple system atrophy and progressive supranuclear palsy (Cleveland Clinic, n.d.).

Example: A fifteen-year-old kid comes to the hospital for having unprovoked seizures and complains about headaches. The doctor then takes him to the radiology room for a CT Scan to see what is going on and finds out that there's a small tumour in his Medulla and tells the kid's parents that "he has a small tumour in the lower part of his brain known as the Medulla, which its primary function is for controlling his breathing and all his body functioning; he will need intensive chemotherapy as doing surgery can be dangerous because with a slight mistake can be fatal for his life".

References

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