



Resources: http://php.med.unsw.edu.au/embryology/ Larsen's Human Embryology The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology



The 5 Sense Organs

Embryonic origins of the sensory system

The Auditory System

The Olfactory System

The Visual System

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The 5 Sense Organs



5 senses:

- Hearing
- Seeing
- Smelling
- Tasting
- Feeling

The 5 Sense Organs

Today's lecture

3 senses:

- Hearing
- Seeing
- Smelling



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Trilaminar embryo

Ectoderm (Neural crest) brain, spinal cord, **eyes**, **external and inner ear**, *peripheral nervous system* epidermis of skin and associated structures, *melanocytes, cranial connective tissues (dermis) and middle ear ossicles*

> Mesoderm musculo-skeletal system limbs connective tissue of skin and organs urogenital system, heart, blood cells

<u>Endoderm</u> epithelial linings of gastrointestinal and respiratory tracts lining of the auditory tube



- 1. Surface ectoderm
- Sensory placodes: thickened ectoderm
- Otic placodes, Optic placodes, Nasal placodes
- Common developmental pathway: placode -> pit -> vesicle
- epidermis of external ear,
- lens and cornea of the eye
- 2. Neurectoderm of diencephalon:
- retina of the eye



Sli.do

Neural crest populating frontonasal process and 1st and 2nd pharyngeal arches Middle ear ossicles, external ear, nasal labyrinth



Endodermal lining of the first pharyngeal pouch Epithelium lining the auditory tube



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Function: hearing and balance

Three main regions:

- 1. Outer ear
 - External ear
 - External auditory meatus
 - Tympanic membrane
- 2. Middle ear
 - Malleus, incus, stapes
 - Auditory tube
- 3. Inner ear
 - Semicircular canals
 - Cochlea
 - Saccule and utricle





- External ear develops from 6 auricular hillocks around 1st pharyngeal cleft
- Ectoderm and neural crest-derived mesenchyme
- External acoustic meatus: ectoderm of first cleft
- Tympanic membrane: ectoderm/endoderm of 1st cleft/pouch



A. Lateral view of the head of an embryo showing the six auricular hillocks surrounding the dorsal end of the first pharyngeal cleft

B to D. Fusion and progressive development of the hillocks into the adult auricle

Middle ear

- Neural crest derived mesenchyme of 1st and 2nd branchial arches:
- Proximal region of Meckels' and Reichert's Cartilages
- Middle ear ossicles: malleus, incus and stapes
- Auditory tube develops from 1st pharyngeal pouch

Inner ear

- Inner ear develops from otic placode (ectoderm)
- Placodes invaginate to form otic pit and then pinch off from surface to form otic vesicle/otocyst
- Otocyst generates endolymphatic duct and sac, semicircular canals and cochlea

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Anatomy

- Function: perception of smell and pheromones, breathing: filter and humidify
- External: nose, naris, philtrum
- Nasal cavity: nasal labyrinth, nasal septum: olfactory neuroepithelium
- Brain: Olfactory bulb
- Olfactory sensory neurons:
- Dendrites contain smell receptors
- Axons project through cribriform plate to olfactory bulb

Development

W5

W7

Development

- <u>Ectoderm:</u> Nasal placodes Nasal pits Nasal cavities Olfactory neuroepithelium
- <u>Neural crest:</u> Frontonasal process Nasal processes Nasal septum and labyrinths

Olfactory neuroepithelium

- -1 Mature olfactory sensory neurons
- -2 Sustentacular cells (supporting cells)
- -3 Bowman glands (lubrication)
- -4 Basal stem cells (stem cells)
- -5 Olfactory ensheathing cells (glial cells)

Olfactory neuroepithelium

- Olfactory sensory neuron:
- Odour detection
- Bipolar:
- Apical: Ciliated dendrites with odour receptors
- Basal: Axons that project to main olfactory bulb
- Limited life span
- Replaced by basal stem cell population

Olfactory neuroepithelium

Basal stem cells

Horizontal basal cells = true stem cells (mostly dormant) Globose basal cells Immediate neuronal precursors Mature olfactory sensory neurons

Olfactory neuroepithelium

Olfactory ensheathing cells Glial cells Ensheath olfactory sensory neuron axons Guide axons from lamina propria of OE to brain Provide substrate for growth Required for regeneration after lesion

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The visual system

Anatomy

Function: vision Photoreceptor cells in retina: rods and cones

The visual system

Derived of neurectoderm and surface ectoderm:

Neurectoderm: optic vesicles develop from diencephalon (week3/4) Surface ectoderm: formation of optic/lens placode (where optic vesicle contact surface ectoderm)

Optic/lens placode will form lens pit, lens vesicle, and eventually the lens, and cornea of the eye

Optic vesicle will envelop optic pit to form optic cup Optic cup will form retina, pigment epithelium and optic stalk/nerve

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