

# Medulla oblongata

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The elongated spinal cord (*medulla oblongata*) is a continuation of the spinal cord in the rostral direction and, as its most caudal part, already belongs to the brain. The dividing line between the spinal cord and the brain is the *decussatio pyramidum*. The boundary between the medulla oblongata and the pons of Varola is the *sulcus bulbopontinus*, a groove running horizontally at the rostral end of the medulla oblongata. Ventrally, the elongated spinal cord is arched into two parallel, longitudinal mounds - *pyramides medullae oblongatae*, which contain the white matter of the pyramidal pathway, i.e. *tractus corticospinalis*. The *median anterior fissure* runs between them.

Laterally, there are paired elevations, called olives, on the elongated spinal cord. Dorsal to the olive lie the *pedunculi cerebellares inferiores*. The pedunculi cerebellares are generally thick bundles of white matter through which the pathways run, connecting the stem (in this case the medulla oblongata) to the cerebellum. The pedunculi diverge into a V-shape, and between them is spread the *velum medullare inferius*, which is a thin plate, an outgrowth of the ependyma. The free end of the vela is followed by the *tela choroidea ventriculi quartii*, a fibrous plate containing the choroid plexus, which forms the cerebrospinal fluid, here to IV. cerebral ventricles.

Tela choroidea ventriculi IV. it is not whole, it contains several holes. They are *apertura median ventriculi quarti* (foramen Magendi) and paired *aperturales laterales ventriculi quartii* (foramina Luschkae). These openings form a communication between the ventricular system and the subarachnoid space of the brain and allow the circulation of cerebrospinal fluid.

Transverse section of the medulla oblongata: 1 – ncl. gracilis; 2 - incl. cuneatus; 3 - incl. cuneatus accessorius; 4 – tractus spinocerebellaris ant. et post.; 5 and 6 – tractus et ncl. corticospinalis n. V; 7 – spinothalamic tract; 8 – formation reticularis; 9 and 10 – tractus et nucl. solitary; 11 – fibrae arcuatae internae; 12 – lemniscus medialis; 13 – decussatio lemnisci medialis; 14 – canalis centralis; 15 – corticospinal fibers; 16 – decussatio pyramidum

The dorsal surface of the elongated spinal cord is also arched into two bumps - *tuberculum gracile et tuberculum cuneatum*. They contain the nuclei of the same name, which are the end station of the spinal *fasciculus gracilis* and *cuneatus*, which lead the main sensitive pathways of the brain. The pathways connect here and continue further into the higher levels of the brain. Through the middle of the oblongata runs the *canalis centralis*, which opens cranially into the IV. cerebral ventricles. The following cranial nerves depart from the medulla oblongata – IX, X, XI and XII.

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### Reference

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Kategorie:Vložené články Kategorie:Anatomie Kategorie:Neurologie

1. CIHÁK, Radomír. *Anatomy III*. 2nd, revised and supplemented edition. Prague: Grada Publishing, spol. Ltd., 2004. 673 pp. ISBN 80-247-1132-X.

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