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Superior Olivary Nucleus

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Synonyms

[Superior olivary complex](#)

Definition

Brainstem nucleus which lies in the tegmental portion of the pons and is associated with the

auditory system. The superior olivary nucleus can be divided into a medial and a lateral group. As both receive bilateral input from the dorsal and ventral cochlear nuclei, they represent the first level at which inputs from both ears converge. Due to this bilateral input, these nuclei are believed to play an important role in horizontal sound localization. The superior olivary nuclei give rise to the lateral lemniscus, a white matter auditory pathway that terminates in the inferior colliculi.

Cross-References

► [Auditory System](#)