CN V

Also known as the trigeminal nerve. CN V is the largest cranial nerve and has both motor and sensory functions.



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Trigeminal Nerve
Three Gems
It is a complex nerve that has several nuclei located at various brainstem levels. There are 3 major branches: the ophthalmic nerve (V1, purely sensory), the maxillary nerve (V2, purely sensory) and the mandibular nerve (V3, sensory and motor).

Sensory
Sensors
The main sensory, spinal and mesencephalic nuclei of the trigeminal handle all trigeminal sensory functions including reflexes, cerebellar pathways and pathways to the thalamus.

Facial Sensation
Facial Gem Sensors
CN V provides pain, temperature, touch and position sense for the face.

Motor Function (Via Mandibular Nerve)
Motor
The trigeminal nerve motor branches, which are contained within the mandibular nerve, innervate the muscles of mastication among others.

Mastication Muscles
Chewing Motor
The trigeminal nerve innervates the 4 muscles of mastication: masseter, temporalis, medial pterygoid, lateral pterygoid. These muscles allow for chewing and biting.

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