

CN V

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



PLAY PICMONIC

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.