



## Pressure

### Pressure-cooker

Pressure is sensed through the anterior spinothalamic tract because it contains C fibers, which are slow pain fibers, which are considered polymodal due to their response to mechanical stimuli.

## Decussates at Anterior White Commissure

### Anteater riding White Comet

The spinothalamic tract is unique because it ascends up the spinal cord contralaterally to where stimulation occurs. 1st order peripheral nerves come from the site of stimulation and terminate at the dorsal horn. From here, a *second* order neuron decussates through the anterior white commissure, and ascends to the thalamus on the contralateral side of the original site of nerve entry.

## Lesion

### Contralateral Anesthesia

#### Opposite Side Affected by A-nest

Lesion or injury to the spinothalamic tract gives unique manifestations. Injury to one side of the spinal cord (such as hemisection) yields contralateral anesthesia. This occurs because a nerve inserts into a side of the spinal cord, but decussates at the anterior white commissure before ascending contralaterally. Example: injury to the right spinothalamic tract at T10 would lead to left-sided anesthesia and deficits in temperature, crude touch, and pressure sensations below T10.