

Nucleus ambiguus

The nucleus ambiguus (literally “ambiguous nucleus”) is a region of histologically disparate cells  located just dorsal (posterior) to the inferior [olivary nucleus](#) in the lateral portion of the upper (rostral) medulla. It receives upper motor neuron innervation directly via the corticobulbar tract.

This nucleus gives rise to the branchial efferent motor fibers of the [vagus nerve](#) (CN X) terminating in the laryngeal, pharyngeal muscles, and musculus uvulae; as well as to the efferent motor fibers of the glossopharyngeal nerve (CN IX) terminating in the stylopharyngeus muscle.

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