

Prosencephalon

In the anatomy of the brain of vertebrates, the **forebrain** or prosencephalon is the rostral-most (forward-most) portion of the brain. The forebrain, the midbrain (**mesencephalon**), and hindbrain (**rhombencephalon**) are the three primary portions of the brain during early development of the central nervous system. It controls body temperature, reproductive functions, eating, sleeping, and any display of emotions.

At the five-vesicle stage, the forebrain separates into the diencephalon (thalamus, hypothalamus, subthalamus, epithalamus, and pretectum) and the telencephalon which develops into the cerebrum. The cerebrum consists of the cerebral cortex, underlying white matter, and the basal ganglia.

By 5 weeks in utero, it is visible as a single portion toward the front of the fetus. At 8 weeks in utero, the forebrain splits into the left and right cerebral hemispheres.

When the embryonic forebrain fails to divide the brain into two lobes, it results in a condition known as holoprosencephaly.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:58**

