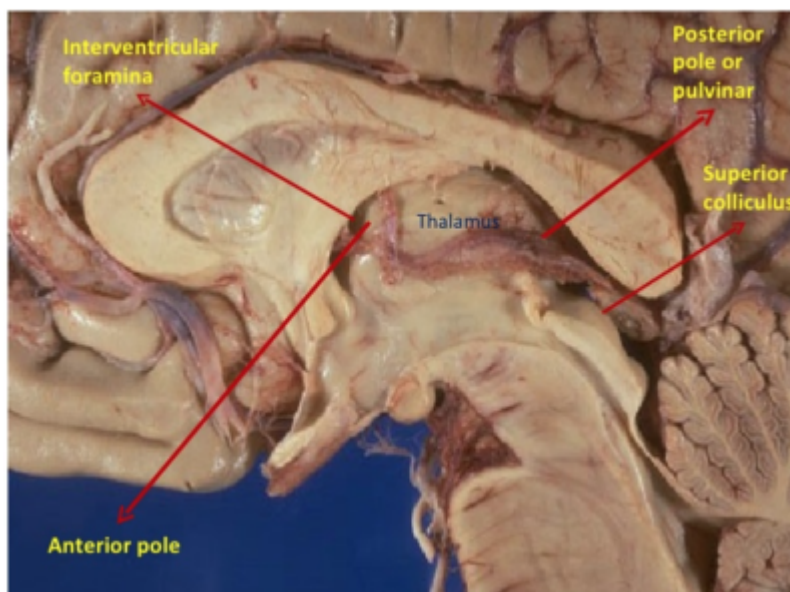


Thalamus

The thalamus (from Greek θάλαμος, “chamber”) is a midline symmetrical structure of two halves, within the vertebrate brain, situated between the cerebral [cortex](#) and the [midbrain](#).



The thalamus has a unique configuration within the [basal ganglia](#). Its tetrahedric shape has 3 free surfaces and only the ventrolateral border is in contact with vital and critical functional structures, e.g. the [subthalamic nucleus](#) and the [internal capsule](#).

[Thalamocortical radiation](#)s have been referred to as one of the two constituents of the thalamus, the other being micro [neurons](#).

see [Anterior thalamic nucleus](#).

Functions

Some of its functions are the relaying of sensory and motor signals to the cerebral cortex, and the regulation of consciousness, sleep, and alertness. The thalamus surrounds the [third ventricle](#). It is the main product of the embryonic [diencephalon](#).

Pathology

see [Thalamic lesion](#).

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