Chapter 7

The nervous system and associated disorders

Janet G. Migliozzi

Senior Lecturer, Department of Nursing, Health and Wellbeing, School of Health and Social Work, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, UK

Glossary of terms

Acetylcholine A neurotransmitter found widely in the central and peripheral nervous system.

Blood–brain Barrier An impermeable network of brain capillaries which acts as a filter between the brain tissue and blood-borne substances. It provides the brain with some protection from harmful toxins and metabolites.

Cerebrovascular accident Occurs as a direct result of impaired blood flow to the brain. Also known as stroke.

Choroid plexus The tissue in the ventricles of the brain which produces cerebrospinal fluid.

Dementia The loss of mental ability.

Demyelination The loss of the myelin sheath from around the axon of the nerve cell.

Dopamine A neurotransmitter found in the central nervous system.

Foramen magnum A large hole in the occipital bone through which the vertebral column and spinal cord pass.

Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) A tool designed for detecting and monitoring changes in a patient's neurological status.

Intracranial pressure The recordable pressure within the skull.

Norepinephrine (noradrenaline) A neurotransmitter in the central and peripheral nervous system.

Parasympathetic nervous system (PNS) Part of the nervous system which utilises acetylcholine to moderate internal responses. Associated with a state of relaxation.

Peripheral nervous system Cranial and spinal nerves which connect the brain and spinal cord to other parts of the body.

Fundamentals of Applied Pathophysiology: An Essential Guide for Nursing and Healthcare Students, Fourth Edition. Edited by Ian Peate.
© 2021 John Wiley & Sons Ltd. Published 2021 by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
Student companion website: www.wiley.com/go/fundamentalsofappliedpathophysiology/student4e
Instructor companion website: www.wiley.com/go/fundamentalsofappliedpathophysiology/instructor4e

Schwann cell A cell that forms myelin around the axon of a nerve cell.
Substantia nigra The part of the midbrain that connects to the basal ganglia.
Sympathetic nervous system Part of the nervous system which initiates response to stress through the release of norepinephrine. This assists in the 'Fight or flight' response.
Ventricle A cavity filled with cerebrospinal fluid.

c07.indd 2 05/10/2021 6.38.19 AM