Organ of hearing and equilibrium

Classification

Types of sensory organs:
I 1. Organ of vision
2. Olfactory organ
II 1. Organ of hearing
2. Organ of equilibrium
3. Organ of taste
III Non-free nerve endings

Hearing and Equilibrium



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The external ear

- Auricle consists of elastic cartilage
- External acoustic meatus air-filled tubular space. The lateral one third wall is a continuation of elastic cartilage of the auricle, the middle two third is formed by bone tissue.

The canal is lined by skin epithelium containing hair follicles, sebaceous glands and ceruminous glands producing earwax.

• **Tympanic membrane** –thin membrane that is covered by skin epithelium from the external acoustic meatus and simple squamos epithelium from the middle ear.



The tympanic membrane



The tympanic membrane



The middle ear

• **Tympanic cavity** -air-filled space that is covered by simple squamous epithelium.

In the middeil wall are found two openings: oval and round windows.

• Auditory ossicles: maleus, incus, stapes.

The bones form the movable chain and transmit the vibrations from the tympanic membrane to the oval window.

• Auditory tube connects the middle ear with nasopharynx. The tube is lined by pseudostratified epithelium

The middle ear







Pharyngotympanic (Auditory) tube



*ADAM.

The inner ear

The inner ear is represented by two compartments where one contained within the other: **bony labyrinth and membranous labyrinth.** The perilymphatic space is filled by perilymph. The space within membranous labyrinth – endolymph.

The bony labyrinth parts: vestibule, three semicircular canals, cochlea.

The membranous labyrinth parts: cochlear labyrinth, vestibular labyrinth (semicircular ducts, the utricle, the saccule)

The bony labyrinth



The membranous labyrinth



Organ of hearing

The sensory cells are found in the spiral organ of Corti that is located in the cochlear duct.

Cochlear duct-spiral canal with triangular lumen.

The compartments of the cochlear duct:

- -scala media
- -scala vestibuli
- -scala tympani



Cochlear duct

Figure 15.27b Anatomy of the cochlea.

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Scala media

Walls:

- The outer wall- spiral ligament with stria vascularis
- The upper medial wallvestibular membrane
- The lower wall –basilar membrane



Organ of Corti

Cells

- 1. Supporting cells
- pillar cells (inner and outer)
- phalangeal cells (Deiters cells: inner and outer)
- limiting cells (Hensen's cells: outer)
- supporting cells (Claudius cells: outer)
- Sensory (hair cells)

Organ of Corti



Histophysiology of the organ of hearing



The receptive zones of the organ of equilibrium

- 1. Maculae of the saccule
- 2. Maculae of the utricle
- 3. Ampullary crests

The receptive zones of the organ of equilibrium



The maculae of the saccule and the utricle

Components:

- 1. Cells: receptive (hair cells), supporting
- 2. Otholitic membrane with crystals of potassium carbonate



Cells of the maculae of the saccule and the utricle

Cells: receptive (hair cells), supporting



Histophysiology of the maculae of the saccule and the utricle

- Maculae of the utricle is a receptor of linear accelerations and gravitation;
- Maculae of the saccule is a receptor of vibration and gravitation



Ampullary crests

Components:

- Cells: receptive (hair cells), supporting
- Gelatinous dome



Histophysiology of the ampullary crests

Ampullary crests are receptors of angular accelerations

