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Facial Nerve Nucleus

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Facial Nerve Nucleus*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C12898.

A collection of cell bodies of cranial nerve VII found in the brainstem. There are three nuclei with distinct functions: the facial motor nucleus, which sends muscular efferent nerves to the muscles of facial expression and the stapedius; the superior salivary nucleus, which sends visceral parasympathetic efferent nerves mostly to the lacrimal and salivary glands; and the geniculate ganglion, which receives mostly afferent nerves for taste sensation.