

LEVEL: PONS—NUCLEI OF NERVES VI AND VII

This section is at the most inferior portion of the pons and consists primarily of the middle cerebellar peduncle. The corticospinal tracts have just emerged from the pons and are forming the medullary pyramids. The walls of the fourth ventricle are formed superiorly by the superior cerebellar peduncle, and inferiorly by the superior vestibular nucleus.

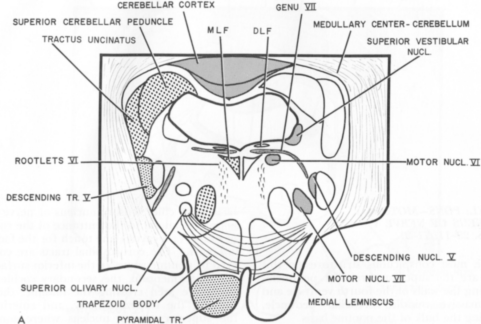
Cranial Nerves

Motor. The motor nuclei of nerves VI and VII are present at this level. On the right, the rootlet fibers of nerve VII are seen leaving the medial surface of nerve VII, swinging around the nucleus of nerve VII, and passing laterally out into the tegmentum. On the left

side is seen the genu and horizontal course of the nerve on the floor of the fourth ventricle and its position in the lateral margin of the tegmentum as it approaches the anterior surface of the brain stem.

Sensory. On the left side the rootlet of nerve V is seen on the pontine surface, while on the right side, the rootlets of nerve V are in the lateral margin of the tegmentum. The superior vestibular nucleus is conspicuous on the wall of the fourth ventricle.

Tracts. At this most inferior level of the pons the tract position is still similar to that in the medulla. At this level, the ventral spinocerebellar tract is entering the cerebellum curving around the superior cerebellar peduncle. The tractus uncinatus connects the deep cerebellar nuclei with the reticular formation.



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