

LEVEL: MIDTHALAMIC

This section contains the telencephalon and diencephalon.

Diencephalon. Two conspicuous groupings are seen: the medial complex. The medial nucleus proper, frontal associational and orbital or superior half of the lateral complex.

Telencephalon. The corpus callosum and tail of the caudate nucleus are present. The fornix is seen underneath the corpus callosum and in the mammillary nuclei of the hypothalamus. On the lateral margin of the thalamus, the posterior limb of the internal capsule separates the thalamus from the globus pallidus and putamen. The optic nerve is seen external to the cerebral peduncle.

Diencephalon. Two conspicuous nuclear groupings are seen: the medial and lateral complex. The medial nucleus projects to the frontal associational and orbital cortex. The superior half of the lateral complex consists of the lateral posterior nucleus while the lower half contains the ventral posterior lateral and the ventral posterior lateral nuclei. The ventral posterior lateral nucleus receives cutaneous proprioceptive and visceral sensations from the body, while the ventral posterior medial nucleus receives gustatory cutaneous and proprioceptive information from the head and neck. The subthalamus is conspicuous at this level.

