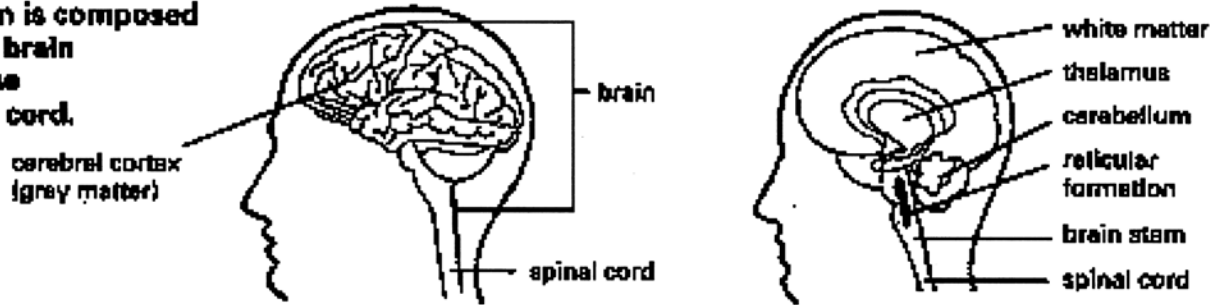
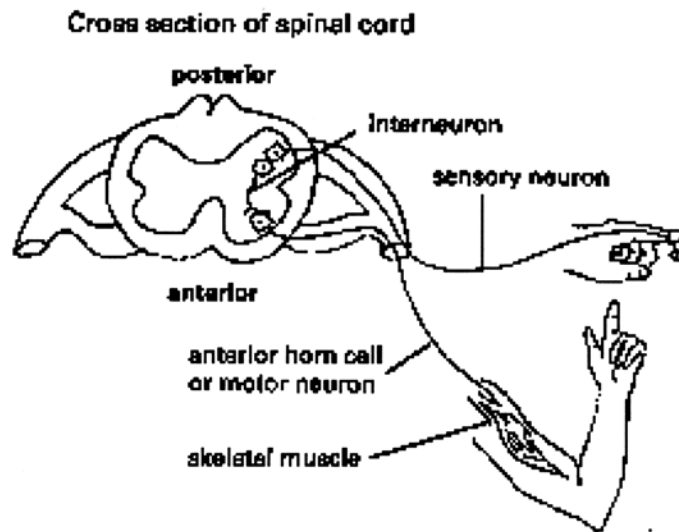


DIAGRAMS AND DEFINITIONS FOR POST-POLIO SYNDROME 101

The central nervous system is composed of the brain and the spinal cord.



The polio virus infected the anterior horn cells, thus affecting the skeletal muscles causing partial or complete paralysis.



A motor unit is composed of a nerve cell and all the muscle fibers it innervates. The neuromuscular junction is the junction between the nerve cell and the muscle fiber.

Figure A

During infection

Two of the five nerve cells have been infected by the polio virus. The middle one has temporarily stopped functioning.



Figure B

A few weeks later

The middle nerve cell has recovered. Two nerve cells have died leaving the muscle fibers denervated or orphaned.



Figure C

Months, even years later

The surviving nerve cells "sprouted" to innervate the orphaned muscle fibers.

