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Peripheral nervous system

Medical Definition of Peripheral nervous system

Peripheral nervous system: The portion of the nervous system that is outside the brain and spinal cord. Abbreviated PNS ⓘ . The nerves in the PNS connect the central nervous system ⓘ (CNS) to sensory organs, such as the eye and ear, and to other organs of the body, muscles, blood vessels, and glands. The peripheral nerves include the 12 cranial nerves ⓘ , the spinal nerves and roots, and the autonomic nerves. The autonomic nerves are concerned with automatic functions of the body, specifically with the regulation of the heart muscle ⓘ , the tiny muscles that line the walls of blood vessels, and glands.



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