





EXTRAPYRAMIDAL PYRAMIDAL SYSTEM SYSTEM Cortical (much wider) and Origin Cortical only extracortical Tract Mononeuronal Multineuronal Pathway Direct activation pathway Indirect activation pathway Crossing About 90% About 50 % Alpha and gamma neurons in Cranial nerve nuclei and Termination the spinal cord only (not at the alpha neurons in the spinal cranial nuclei) cord Medullary pyramids, and in Outside the medullary Location lateral column of spinal cord pyramids, and in lateral and ventral columns of spinal cord mainly Time of Only after the first year of During and after the first year function of life life Initiates gross and associated Initiates fine skilled movements, decreases the Function voluntary movements and muscle tone and controls increases the muscle tone autonomic functions

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Upper and Lower motor Neuron lesion

- 1. Cause
- 2. Paralysis
- 3. Muscle tone
- 4. Tendon reflexes
- 5. Superficial reflexes.
- 6. Muscle wasting

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	Gamma rigidity	Alpha rigidity
Cause	Increased gamma discharge	Increased alpha discharge
Muscles affected	Antigravity muscles	All muscles
Resistance to movement	Uni-directional	Bi-directional
Type of rigidity	Clasp-knife	Lead-pipe or cogwheel
Effect of velocity	Increases with velocity	Not velocity-dependent
Tendon jerks	Exaggerated and clonus may also be present	Not necessarily exaggerated
Common diseases	Upper motor neuron lesion and decerebrate rigidity	Parkinsonism

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