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Crash Course Anatomy & Physiology #15: Parasympathetic Nervous System

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. The _____ nervous system is often described as the calming side of the autonomic system.
2. The _____ division of the autonomic system deals with the crisis of the moment.
3. In the parasympathetic system, postganglionic neurons release _____ at their synapses with effector organs.
4. In the sympathetic system, effectors get a dose of _____ instead of acetylcholine.
5. The sympathetic nerves originate from the _____ area of the spinal cord.
6. The parasympathetic nerves are _____, meaning they originate from the brain and sacral region.
7. There are _____ cranial nerves in the human body.
8. The largest of the cranial nerves is the _____ nerve, which branches into three main strands.
9. The _____ nerve operates the muscles that make most facial expressions possible.
10. The _____ nerve carries both sensory and motor information between the brain and many visceral organs, including the heart and stomach.
11. The balance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic divisions is the essence of _____.
12. The rate of action potentials traveling through each division is known as sympathetic and parasympathetic _____.
13. Most of the time, our _____ tone is dominant, keeping the sympathetic system in check.
14. Too much stress and anxiety can lead to _____ dysfunction due to reduced parasympathetic activity.
15. The parasympathetic system is necessary for non-emergency functions like digestion, reproduction, and _____ waste.

Crash Course Anatomy & Physiology #15: Parasympathetic Nervous System KEY

1. The **parasympathetic** nervous system is often described as the calming side of the autonomic system.
2. The **sympathetic** division of the autonomic system deals with the crisis of the moment.
3. In the parasympathetic system, postganglionic neurons release **acetylcholine** at their synapses with effector organs.
4. In the sympathetic system, effectors get a dose of **norepinephrine** instead of acetylcholine.
5. The sympathetic nerves originate from the **thoracolumbar** area of the spinal cord.
6. The parasympathetic nerves are **craniosacral**, meaning they originate from the brain and sacral region.
7. There are **12** cranial nerves in the human body.
8. The largest of the cranial nerves is the **trigeminal** nerve, which branches into three main strands.
9. The **facial** nerve operates the muscles that make most facial expressions possible.
10. The **vagus** nerve carries both sensory and motor information between the brain and many visceral organs, including the heart and stomach.
11. The balance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic divisions is the essence of **homeostasis**.
12. The rate of action potentials traveling through each division is known as sympathetic and parasympathetic **tone**.
13. Most of the time, our **parasympathetic** tone is dominant, keeping the sympathetic system in check.
14. Too much stress and anxiety can lead to **sexual** dysfunction due to reduced parasympathetic activity.
15. The parasympathetic system is necessary for non-emergency functions like digestion, reproduction, and **excreting** waste.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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