



# Anatomy of Targets for Deep Brain Stimulation

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## Abstract

The purpose of Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is to modulate the activity of specific anatomical areas in the brain and thereby manage the symptoms of neurological and/or psychiatric disorders. Essential to this surgical management is an understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the target regions. The basal ganglia and the thalamus are the main target areas for DBS. These structures are connected to higher (cortical) and lower (brainstem) areas through both partially parallel and partly integrated projections. These projections are primarily responsible not only for motor control, but also for other functions such as motor learning, associative functions, and emotions. According to the classical basal ganglia model, information flows through the basal ganglia back to the

cortex through two pathways, while new models show that parallel circuits subserve the classical functions of the basal ganglia engaging associative and limbic territories. The current targets of DBS for movement disorders are the dorsolateral part of the subthalamic nucleus, the posterior ventrolateral part of the internal globus pallidus, and the ventrolateral nuclei of the thalamus. For psychiatric disorders, relevant targets are the ventral striatum, including the nucleus accumbens, the ventral part of the internal capsule, the ventromedial part of the subthalamic nucleus, the anterior part of the internal globus pallidus, and the medial nuclei of the thalamus. The anterior nucleus of the thalamus is part of the Papez circuit and has been targeted in patients with treatment-resistant epilepsy. The anatomical details of these targets are discussed in this chapter.

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## Introduction

DBS aims to modulate the activity of localized anatomical areas, thereby reducing symptoms of specific neurological and/or psychiatric disorders. DBS has evolved to be an important therapeutic application in patients with specific disorders, including Parkinson's disease (PD) (Deuschl et al. 2006), essential tremor (Benabid

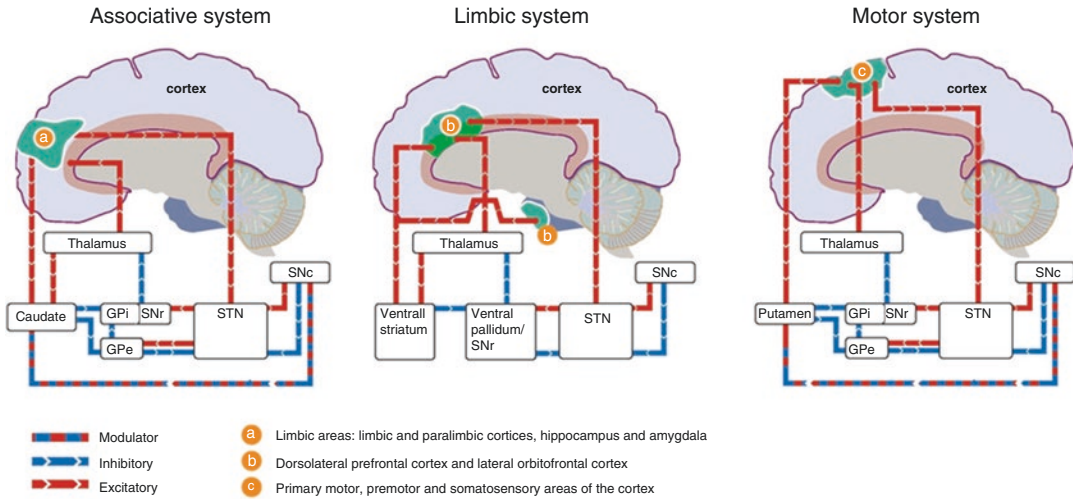
et al. 1993; Hubble et al. 1996), dystonia (Krauss et al. 1999), epilepsy (Fisher et al. 2010), as well as obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) (Nuttin et al. 1999; Denys et al. 2010). Furthermore, the effects of DBS in managing the clinical symptoms of severe depression, Gilles de la Tourette syndrome (GTS) and various other psychiatric disorders have been explored (Bewernick et al. 2010; Lozano et al. 2012; Ackermans et al. 2011). Although three decades have passed since the introduction of DBS, neurophysiological correlates underlying the therapeutic effects of DBS remain to be clarified (Gradinaru et al. 2009). Knowing how DBS results in therapeutic effects in neurological or psychiatric disorder will be critical to our understanding of not only how DBS works, but also how to make it work better and how to apply it effectively to other neurological disorders. The essence of any mechanistic research, even ones that inherently seeks to unravel the mechanisms behind the therapy or pathophysiology, is one of anatomy. DBS needs to target the regions that have efficient access to anatomic networks involved in disease symptoms. Even though anatomical models relevant to core aspects of psychopathology continue to develop, it is conceivable that anatomic relationships of the basal ganglia, thalamus, and other cortical and subcortical structures are vital for gaining insight into the application of DBS in managing the neurological and psychiatric symptoms. An accurate implantation of the electrodes in DBS operations is therefore essential to obtain the desired effects. In fact, with a clear insight on the anatomy, a large part of therapeutic effects and side effects of DBS can be explained. This chapter aims to elaborate on the anatomy of the most commonly used DBS targets that have been thought to underlie the therapeutic effects of DBS. The focus will be mainly on the basal ganglia and the thalamus anatomy in the context of neurological and to psychiatric disorders. The cortico-basal ganglia-thalamocortical circuits and the individual areas are discussed below.

## The Cortico-Basal Ganglia-Thalamocortical Circuits

The basal ganglia consist of the pallidal complex, the striatum, the substantia nigra, and the subthalamic nucleus (STN) (Alexander and Crutcher 1990). The motor loop computes the processes between the motor cortex and basal ganglia by “direct,” “indirect,” and “hyperdirect” pathways to determine overall thalamic activity. The cortical projections reach the basal ganglia via two major input structures. First is the striatum, which consists of the putamen and caudate nuclei in the dorsal striatum, and the nucleus accumbens (NAc) in the ventral striatum. The second input pathway enters the basal ganglia through the STN.

The striatum has been known as input structure for some time (Albin et al. 1989), but the STN as input structure is a more recent concept (Nambu et al. 2002). This cortico-subthalamic projection is known as the hyperdirect pathway and is glutamatergic, hence excitatory (Fig. 2.1). The cortico-striatal efferents enter the caudate, putamen, and accumbens nuclei to be processed further within the basal ganglia circuit. Cortico-striatal projections arise from the entire ipsilateral and contralateral cortical areas. These pathways are excitatory in nature and use glutamate as neurotransmitter at their synaptic terminals with the spines of striatal neurons, and are topographically organized (Gerfen 1984; Donoghue and Herkenham 1986). Cortico-striatal projections are classified into (1) pyramidal tract neurons, which project through the cortico-pyramidal tract and innervate the striatum ipsilaterally: these pathways mainly innervate the striatal neurons, giving rise to the indirect pathway, and (2) the intra-telencephalic neurons, which provide bilateral input to the striatal neurons in the direct pathway (Lei et al. 2004).

The thalamo-striatal projection is the second major source of innervation to the striatum, which had been largely neglected in the past years. These projections mainly arise from the midline and intralaminar thalamic nuclei (Berendse and Groenewegen 1990) as well as from the ventral thalamic motor nuclei



**Fig. 2.1** The cortico-basal ganglia-thalamocortical projections can be subdivided into three major functional pathways, namely the motor, associative, and limbic pathways. The connections of the motor pathway are described above. As for associative pathway, the cortico-striatal projections mainly innervate the caudate nucleus. The other connections of this pathway are very similar to those of the motor pathway. The cortical efferents from limbic

areas enter the basal ganglia via the STN and the ventral striatum. The output projects through the ventral pallidum to the medial part of the thalamus (Alexander et al. 1990) and from there back to the related cortical areas. *STN* subthalamic nucleus, *GPe* globus pallidus externa, *GPI* globus pallidus interna, *SNc* substantia nigra pars compacta, *SNr* substantia nigra pars reticulata. (Figure reproduced with permission from Temel et al. 2005)

(McFarland and Haber 2001). Thalamo-striatal efferents follow a similar path as the cortico-striatal pathway.

These projections descend on the dorsal striatum to the pallidal complex and feed two major striatal pathways. Via the direct pathway, these projections reach the output structures of the basal ganglia: the internal globus pallidus (GPI) and the substantia nigra pars reticulata (SNr). The direct pathway arises from medium spiny neurons (MSNs) that project monosynaptically to the GPI and SNr. These MSNs preferentially express dopamine D1 receptors. The indirect pathway arises from MSNs that express dopamine D2 receptors. Via the indirect pathway, the striatal projections first reach the external globus pallidus (GPe), then the STN, and via the STN, the signals pass on to the output nuclei (GPI and SNr). The indirect pathway involves direct projections from the GPe to the GPI as well. Apart from cortico-striatal and thalamo-striatal projections, the amygdaloid complex also provides glutamatergic input to the striatum (Ragsdale and Graybiel 1988). The GPI and SNr project mainly

to the ventrolateral nuclei of the thalamus which, in turn, project back to the cerebral cortex (mainly the frontal lobe). The thalamic projections to the cortex are again excitatory. The efferent GPI and SNr pathways interact with different target structures through axon collaterals (Parent and Hazrati 1995; Parent et al. 2000). All projections within the basal ganglia are inhibitory and use GABA as neurotransmitter, except the STN neurons, which expresses glutamate as a neurotransmitter and is therefore the only excitatory nucleus. From the output nuclei, the projections reach the ventrolateral nuclei of the thalamus, and via the thalamus to the cortex; for more in-depth review, see Lanciego et al. (2012).

The monoaminergic neurotransmitter systems play an important role in modulating the functions of basal ganglia. A normal functioning of the basal ganglia system is highly dependent on intact dopamine release to the input nuclei. The nigro-striatal dopaminergic efferents arise mainly from the A9 group of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta (SNc) neurons and to lesser extent from A8 neurons, which are

situated in retrorubral field (Dahlstrom and Fuxe 1964). The SNc projects to the motor and associative parts of the striatum as well as the STN. The mesostriatal and mesolimbic dopaminergic projections arise from the A10 group of dopaminergic cells in the ventral tegmental area (VTA) and project to the ventral striatum (e.g., the NAc) and the ventromedial part of the STN. Perturbed dopamine release is associated with several basal ganglia disorders such as the Parkinsonism, dystonia, chorea, and tics. In addition to dopaminergic projections, the serotonergic cells in the brainstem's raphe nuclei also project to the dorsal and ventral striatum (Anden et al. 1966). However, the exact function of these projections remains unknown, as experimental data are controversial.

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## Anatomical Structures

### The Striatum

The striatum is a heterogeneous structure with a diverse range of neuronal phenotypes and neurotransmitters. Several histochemical and immunohistochemical stains have revealed the presence of two major compartments named striosomes and matrix. The striosomes and matrix are differentiated into discrete territories and are well characterized to differ in their expression of neurochemical markers. For instance, histochemical staining using antibody against acetylcholinesterase enzyme (AChE) (Graybiel and Ragsdale 1978) has revealed the presence of scattered areas showing weak AChE labeling (striosomes) within a more intensely stained background (matrix). Immunocytochemical staining of number of other markers such as substance P, GABA, and neurotensin has also shown a preferential expression of these markers within these two compartments (Pert et al. 1976; Graybiel et al. 1981; Gerfen 1984; Desban et al. 1995). The local axon collaterals and dendritic arborization of MSNs are restricted within the striatal compartment in which they are positioned in either striosome or matrix. For instance, dendrites from striosomal MSNs do not enter the neighboring matrix and

vice versa (Penny et al. 1988; Fujiyama et al. 2011). On top of exerting differences in afferent and efferent connectivity, the striosome and matrix compartments have also been suggested to play distinct roles in a range of neurological diseases. MSNs located in the matrix compartment project to the GPe, GPi, and SNr, while striosomal MSNs primarily innervate the SNc. However, these same cells form axon collaterals that reach the GPe, GPi, and SNr (Gerfen 1984; Bolam et al. 1988; Kawaguchi et al. 1989; Gimenez-Amaya and Graybiel 1990; Fujiyama et al. 2011). With regard to the input pathways, glutamatergic projections arising from the cerebral cortex and thalamus as well as dopaminergic fibers originating from the SNc mainly innervate the matrix compartment, while cortical limbic areas and amygdala preferentially project to the striosomes (Graybiel 1984; Donoghue and Herkenham 1986; Ragsdale and Graybiel 1988; Gerfen 1992; Sadikot et al. 1992a, b; Kincaid and Wilson 1996). The exact functional outcomes of striosome-matrix organization remain to be determined (Lanciego et al. 2012).

### Striatal Neurons

The striatum contains two different types of neurons: projection or striatofugal neurons (90%) and interneurons (10%). Since projection neurons have a small-to-medium cell body (20  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter), they are also called medium-sized spiny neurons. These neurons are multipolar and their dendritic processes are covered by postsynaptic specializations called dendritic spines. All striatal MSNs are inhibitory neurons and express GABA as neurotransmitter. MSNs are divided further based on their projection pattern, including GPe innervating neurons and those that innervate the GPi and SNr. Striatal MSNs projecting to the GPe express the dopamine D2 receptor (D2R), forming the inhibitory indirect pathway (striato-GPe-STN-GPi/SNr) and thus inhibit the target neurons. In contrast, striatal MSNs, which directly innervate the GPi and SNr, express dopamine subtype 1 receptors (D1R), giving rise to the excitatory direct pathway (striato-pallidal) that stimulates target neurons. Another key difference between the direct and the indirect pathways is



that source neurons in the direct pathway express the neuropeptide substance P, while the indirect pathway neurons contain the neuropeptides enkephalin and dynorphin (Wichmann et al. 2002). The striatum also contains several different types of interneurons, unlike MSNs all of which show smooth dendrites. These interneurons are classified into four groups according to their neurochemical phenotype and morphological features (Kawaguchi et al. 1995). These cell groups are as follows: (1) cholinergic neurons, which express acetylcholine as neurotransmitter and are the largest in size and most abundant among the other groups; according to their electrophysiological fingerprint, these neurons exhibit tonic firing pattern; (2) GABAergic and also contain parvalbumin with fast-spiking activity in electrophysiological recording; (3) GABAergic interneurons containing calretinin; and (4) another type of GABAergic interneurons, known as nitricergic interneurons which express nitric oxide as the neurotransmitter. These interneurons together with MSNs form a complex intra-striatal circuit. For instance, both tonic and fast-spiking GABAergic interneurons are under dopaminergic control, and in turn, modulate the activity of MSNs' neurons; meanwhile, calretinin-expressing and nitricergic interneurons innervate tonic and fast-spiking GABAergic interneurons (for review, see Lanciego et al. 2012).

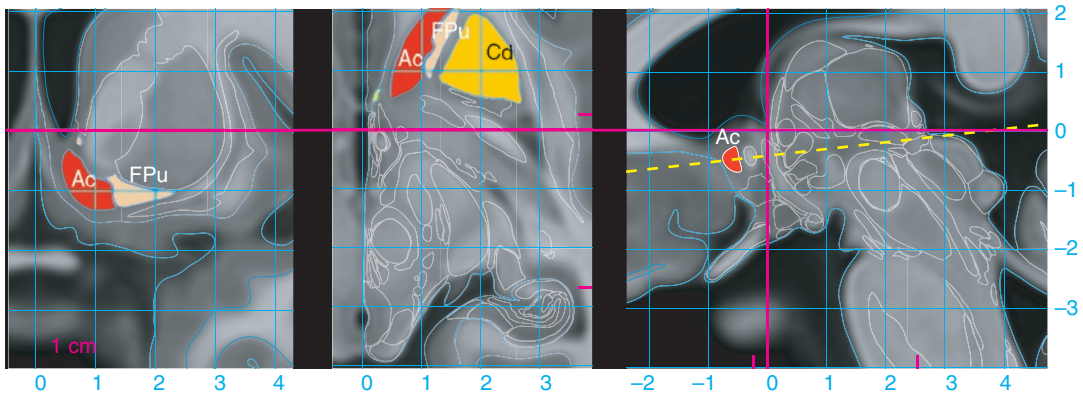
### The Ventral Striatum

The ventral striatum consists of the nucleus accumbens, the ventromedial part of the caudate nucleus and the spined cell part of the olfactory tubercles (Nauta 1979; Parent and Hazrati 1995; Nakano 2000). The most important part of the ventral striatum is the nucleus accumbens (NAc) (Basar et al. 2010). The NAc is located anterior to the posterior border of the anterior commissure (AC) and lies parallel to the midline. It lies ventral and medial of the caudate nucleus and extends dorsolaterally into the putamen (Fig. 2.2). The NAc is more visible in coronal than in sagittal, and more in sagittal than transverse MR images. In T2-weighted MR images, the NAc shows more intense signaling compared with the caudate nucleus and putamen, which leads to easier dis-

inction of the boundaries of the NAc with the caudate and putamen. Unlike the rest of the striatum, the NAc can be divided into a core and a shell, each of which has unique features. The shell surrounds the core medially, ventrally, and laterally. The core and shell are well known to differ in their expression of neurochemical markers and electrophysiological fingerprints. Moreover, they exert differences in afferent and efferent connectivity and have also been suggested to have different involvement in a range of neurological diseases. More than 95% of NAc cells are GABAergic MSN projection neurons.

The NAc is also known as ventral striatum, which has been introduced by Heimer and Wilson (1975) to distinguish it from the dorsal striatum. The NAc is characterized by the strong input from the limbic areas such as the amygdala, hippocampus, and prefrontal areas. For this reason, NAc has been used as a DBS target for psychiatric disorders. The NAc receives direct glutamatergic afferents from the subiculum (which is the most inferior component of the hippocampal formation, lying between the entorhinal cortex and the CA1 subfield of the hippocampus proper), the hippocampus, amygdala, thalamus and prelimbic prefrontal cortex, as well as indirect inputs from the ventral tegmental area (VTA) and substantia nigra via the mesolimbic dopaminergic projections. The main output projections from the NAc arise from the MSNs and terminate in various areas of the mesencephalon and basal ganglia such as the pallidal complex, the stria terminalis, the preoptic region, the nucleus parataenialis, the mediodorsal thalamic nucleus, the lateral habenular nucleus, the substantia nigra-ventral tegmental area, the lateral hypothalamus, cingulum, thalamus, globus pallidus and the subpallidal region, the amygdala and septum (for review, see Salgado and Kaplitt 2015).

In addition to the NAc, the ventral striatum includes the striatal elements of the olfactory system and the ventral, medial, and caudal parts of the caudate and putamen nuclei (Heimer and Wilson 1975; Fudge and Haber 2002). Caudal to the NAc is the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST). The anatomical boundaries between these two are not always evident. There are indications



**Fig. 2.2** Localization of the nucleus accumbens in MNI space. Arrows indicate the anterior and posterior commissures. *Ac* nucleus accumbens, *FPu* funiculus putaminis, *Cd* caudate nucleus

that the BNST plays an important role in the pathophysiology of OCD and that stimulation of this structure can alleviate the symptoms (Luyten et al. 2016). The BNST has a close relationship with the NAc shell. There are differences in the connectivity of the “core” and “shell.” How these two parts in the context of DBS should be seen is not entirely clear. Figure 2.2 shows the localization of the NAc in MNI space.

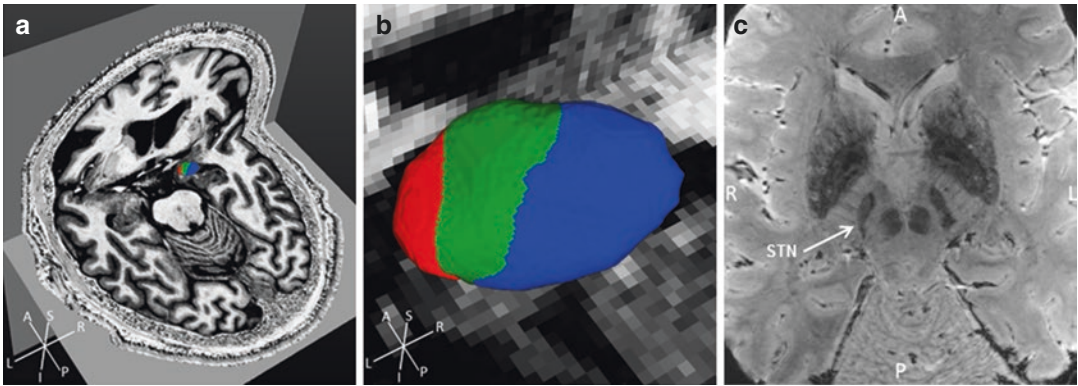
### The Subthalamic Nucleus

The STN, also known as the Corpus Luysi, is a relatively small nucleus with densely packed neurons located in the transition of the diencephalon and the mesencephalon, immediately ventral to the zona incerta and rostral to the substantia nigra (Hameleers et al. 2006). The STN is the main surgical target for electrode implantation for DBS in PD and has gained more attention over the last years, as it also seems to be a potential target for patients with OCD.

The classical model of afferent and efferent STN connections consisted of only GABAergic input from the GPe (second relay station of the indirect pathway) and STN efferents targeting basal ganglia output nuclei. This classical model has been challenged by new evidences showing that the STN also receives glutamatergic projections from the cerebral cortex, known as the hyperdirect pathway, which in turn provides a

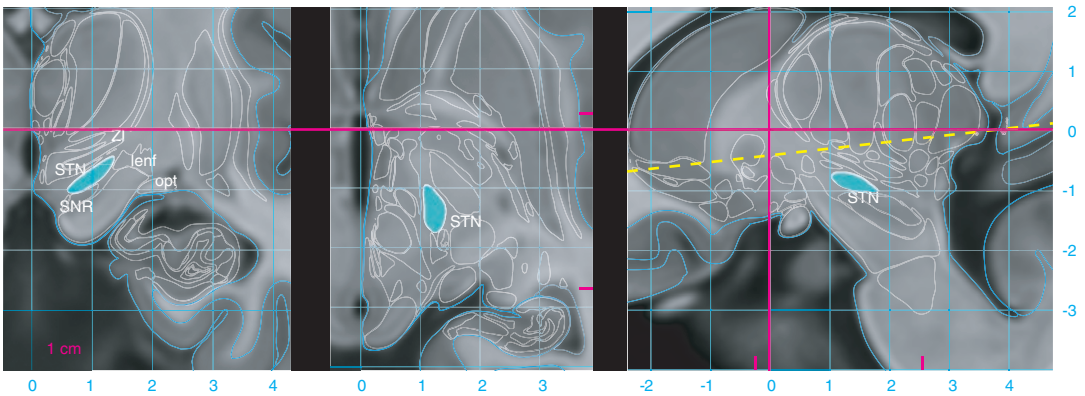
pathway for motor-related cortical areas to access the output nuclei directly, bypassing the input nuclei. These inputs include efferents from the primary motor cortex, the supplementary motor area, premotor cortices, the frontal eye field area and supplementary eye field area, and these inputs are somatotopically organized at the level of the STN (Nambu et al. 1996, 2002). The hyperdirect pathway is characterized by faster transmission than those passed through the basal ganglia via the direct and indirect pathways, and therefore exerts powerful excitation on the output nuclei. Moreover, the STN receives thalamic projections that are topographically organized (Sadikot et al. 1992a). These thalamo-subthalamic projections are bilateral, although with an ipsilateral predominance (Castle et al. 2005). The STN efferents to the basal ganglia nuclei are characterized by highly branched neuronal processes, sending axons that innervate the GPi, GPe, and SNr (Van Der Kooy and Hattori 1980).

Although targeting the STN with DBS effectively relieves severe motor symptoms, it may also produce neuropsychiatric side effects such as apathy, compulsive behavior, hypersexuality, cognitive dysfunction, clinical depression, and suicidal thoughts (Temel et al. 2005). These side effects have been attributed to the unwanted stimulation of supposed nonmotor subregions of the STN. The STN can be divided into three functional subregions based on analogy with the different circuits including a dorsolateral motor



**Fig. 2.3** (a) Anatomical orientation of the STN. (b) The STN can be divided into three functional subregions based on analogy with the different circuits including a dorsolateral motor area (blue), an associative medial section

(green), and a ventromedially located limbic tip (red). (c) T2 weighted 7 T MR image showing the STN. A anterior, P posterior, STN subthalamic nucleus. (Figure reproduced with permission from Temel et al. 2016)



**Fig. 2.4** Localization of the subthalamic nucleus in MNI space in synopsis with the Atlas of the Human Brain. In clinical practice, the stimulation electrode in the STN is often implanted in the dorsolateral part. The STN is shown in coronal (left), axial (middle), and sagittal plane (right). The

magenta lines provide the horizontal and vertical zero lines of the MNI space. The MNI space is horizontally tilted with respect to the intercommissural plane (yellow dashed line). STN subthalamic nucleus, SNr substantia nigra pars reticulata, ZI zona incerta, lenf fasciculus lenticularis, opt optic tract

area, an associative medial section, and a ventromedially located limbic tip (Lambert et al. 2012) (Fig. 2.3). Although documented, these functional subdivisions are not yet understood well enough to be specifically targeted for individual patients. However, in clinical practice, the DBS electrode in the STN is usually implanted in the dorsolateral part to modulate only the motor circuit in PD individuals (Fig. 2.4) (Kocabicak and Temel 2013). Stimulation of the ventromedial part affects the limbic circuit and has been performed in individuals with OCD (Mallet et al.

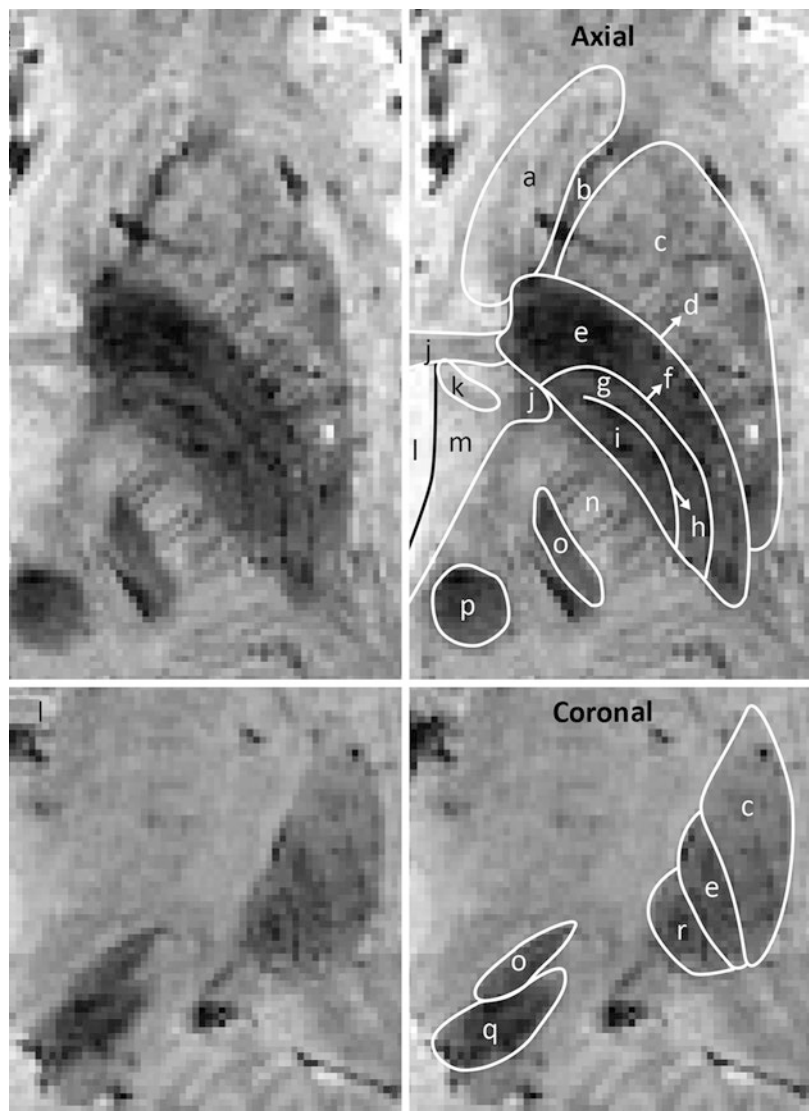
2008). The STN is surrounded by important areas and projections. The superior longitudinal fasciculus or medial forebrain bundle is located mediodorsally to the STN, which is an important monoaminergic projection that is responsible for mood. Stimulation of this area can have an effect on mood-related parameters (Schlaepfer et al. 2013). Mood changes can also be caused by stimulation of the SNr, which is located caudally to the STN (Bejjani et al. 1999). On the other hand, SNr stimulation is used to treat gait disturbances in Parkinson's disease (Weiss et al. 2013). The

anteromedial side of the STN faces the hypothalamic nuclei. Stimulation of these areas can lead to autonomic side effects. The most important side effects are caused by the cerebral peduncle, which is located laterally to the STN. If electrical current spreads to this area of the pyramid tract, the patient might experience tingling, twitching, and dysarthria (Fig. 2.5).

Recent developments in MRI techniques, such as 7-tesla (T) imaging, have significantly

improved the ability to visualize the tripartite division of the STN in humans. It is conceivable that this technology might be implemented in clinical setting to guide stereotactic implantation of electrical stimulators in PD and OCD patients, so that specific subparts of the nucleus can be targeted more reliably. These technical developments highlight a need for clear anatomical delineation of the STN's supposed subdivisions to identify surgical targets, which will improve the clinical practice.

**Fig. 2.5** Orientation of anatomical structures in the vicinity of the subthalamic nucleus (STN). (a) caudate nucleus, (b) anterior segment of the internal capsule, (c) putamen, (d) lamina pallidus lateralis, (e) globus pallidus externa, (f) lamina pallidus medialis, (g) lateral segment of the globus pallidus interna, (h) lamina pallidus incomplete, (i) medial segment of the globus pallidus interna, (j) anterior commissure, (k) fornix, (l) third ventricle, (m) hypothalamus, (n) posterior segment of the internal capsule, (o) subthalamic nucleus, (p) red nucleus, (q) substantia nigra, (r) globus pallidus interna. (Figure reproduced with permission from Plantinga et al. 2014)





## The Globus Pallidus

### The External Globus Pallidus

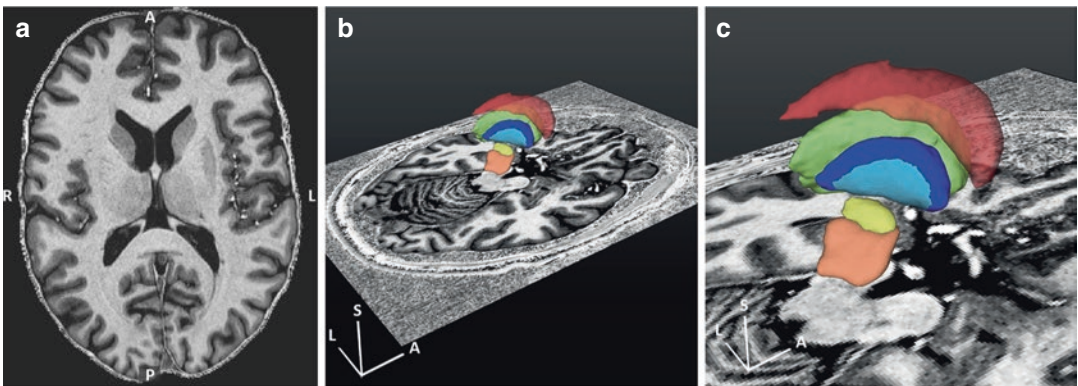
The GPe (also known as the lateral division of the globus pallidus) is part of the pallidal complex together with GPi and the ventral pallidum (Fig. 2.6). The GPe is surrounded laterally by the putamen. The GPe and GPi exert a number of similarities in several cyto- and chemo-architectural features, as both nuclei are made of sparsely distributed GABAergic neurons with large cell bodies. Another characteristic of GPi and GPe neurons is an enriched expression of the calcium-binding protein parvalbumin. GPe neurons receive two main afferent systems: a GABAergic projection from D2R-containing striatal MSNs, which is an inhibitory input forming the first synaptic relay station of the indirect pathway. In addition, GPe neurons receive striatal projections containing adenosine type 2A receptors (Rosin et al. 1998). Through a reciprocal connection between the GPe and STN, GPe neurons receive strong glutamatergic excitatory projections. This reciprocal connectivity between the two structures suggests a greater role for the GPe in basal ganglia function beyond being a simple relay station between the striatum and the STN (Shink et al. 1996). Moreover, it has long been known that GPe and GPi are also reciprocally interconnected. Another source of glutamatergic inputs to the GPe is projections from the

caudal intralaminar nuclei, although considered to be minor (Kawaguchi et al. 1990).

### The Internal Globus Pallidus

The GPi also known as the medial division of the globus pallidus located medial to the GPe and lateral to the hind leg of the internal capsule (Fig. 2.7). The lamina pallidi medialis defines the border between the GPi and GPe. The lamina pallidi lateralis is another thin lamina that separates the GPe from the putamen. Sometimes a lamina can also be found in the GPi itself, which is called the lamina pallidi incompleta. These laminae can be recognized as silent zones in electrophysiological microelectrode recordings during DBS surgeries. The side effects of the DBS in the GPi are often related to the medially located internal capsule and may consist of tingling and dysarthria. Notably, the optic tract runs at the caudal part of the GPi and unwanted stimulation of this tract can cause visual side effects.

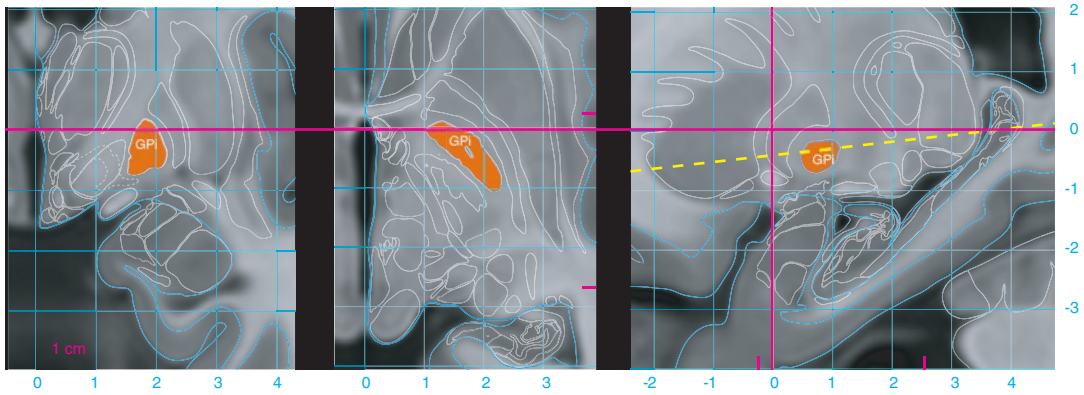
The GPi and the SNr are often grouped together not only because they functionally serve as basal ganglia output nuclei, but also because they exhibit a number of similarities in cyto-architectural and chemo-architectural characteristics, and to a lesser extent in types of their afferent and efferent projections. The pallidal cells consist of inhibitory GABAergic projection neurons with long axons and high rate of discharge that fire tonically to inhibit their targets. The GPi shows a



**Fig. 2.6** (a) An axial view of the basal ganglia; (b) representation of the basal ganglia without surrounding structures; (c) magnified “b”. Three-dimensional orientation of the caudate nucleus (red), putamen (green),

globus pallidus externa (dark blue), globus pallidus interna (light blue), subthalamic nucleus (yellow) and substantia nigra (pink). (Figure reproduced with permission from Temel et al. 2016)





**Fig. 2.7** Localization of the globus pallidus interna in MNI space. Upper arrow in axial plane and left arrow in sagittal plane indicate the anterior commissure. The pos-

terior commissure is indicated by the other arrow. *GPI* globus pallidus interna

lesser cell density compared to the striatum. Besides, it hosts a considerable amount of crossing myelinated striatofugal fibers, which provide the GPI with a distinct appearance in T2 weighted MR images when compared with the striatum. The main inputs to the GPI consist of direct and indirect projections of the dorsal striatum and the STN. The direct pathway containing the D1R-expressing striatal MSNs is a major source of inhibition to the GPI. As part of the indirect pathway, the STN provides an excitatory glutamatergic projection to the GPI. In addition, collateralized glutamatergic subthalamo-pallidal and subthalamo-nigral projections provide excitatory input to the GPI. Both excitatory and inhibitory projections converge onto GPI (and SNr) neurons, which, in turn, innervate thalamic and brainstem regions.

The three major output projections from the GPI are: (1) the ansa lenticularis (ansa lentiformis in older texts), which originate from neurons located in lateral GPI regions and runs ventromedially and rostrally along the internal capsule, eventually entering the so-called field H of Forel (also known as the prerubral field), (2) the lenticular fasciculus (Forel's field H2), which is located between the STN and the zona incerta, and contains axons from more medially located GPI neurons, and passes through the internal capsule. The ansa lenticularis and lenticular fasciculus merge

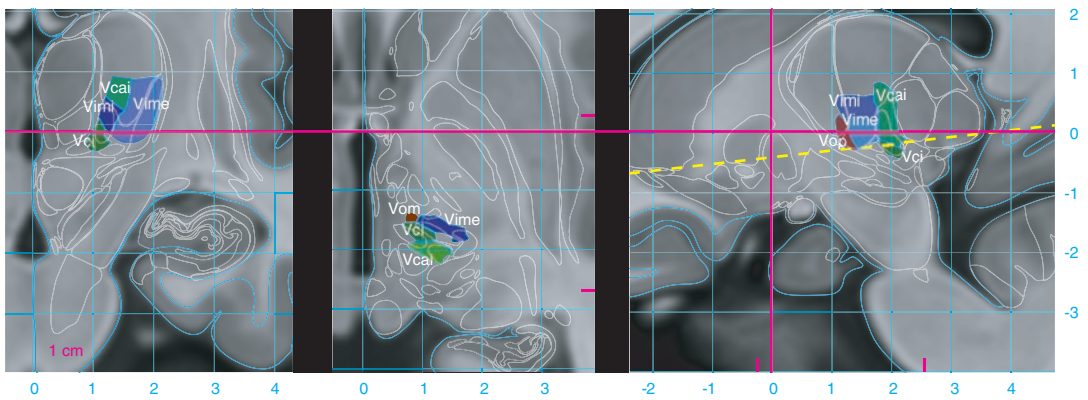
together at the level of field H of Forel and enter the thalamic fasciculus (H1 of Forel) and finally end in ventral and intralaminar thalamic nuclei, forming the pallidothalamic projection. (3) The third bundle is the pallidotegmental projections, which, innervates the brainstem regions, such as the superior colliculus and the pedunculopontine tegmental nucleus (PPN) (Haber et al. 2011). The pallido-thalamic projections innervate the densicellular and parvicellular regions of the ventral anterior motor thalamus (VAdc and VApc, respectively). The GPI, one of the two output structures of the basal ganglia, has been used as a target for functional neurosurgery. Lars Leksell was probably one of the first who performed lesions of the GPI (pallidotomy) in patients with PD, and this treatment was further developed by Laitinen (Laitinen et al. 1992). The part that was lesioned was the sensorimotor part, which is located in dorsolateral territory of the GPI. In 1994, DBS of the GPI was shown to be a clinically relevant approach in patients with PD (Siegfried and Lippitz 1994). Today, the sensorimotor part of the GPI is primarily a target for patients with primary or secondary dystonia (Vidailhet et al. 2013) (Fig. 2.7). In selected cases, patients with PD can also be treated with this approach. The anterior part of the GPI has been used as a DBS target for some years in patients with Tourette syndrome (Smeets et al. 2016).

## The Thalamus

The thalamus is more or less localized in the center of the brain under the lateral ventricles (Ohye 1990). It consists of two parts that are connected to each other via interthalamic adhesion (also known as the massa intermedia or middle commissure). The thalamus is responsible for providing motor, sensory, limbic, and associative information to and from the cortex (Kandel 2000). The thalamus receives and processes sensory and motor input signals and has reciprocal connections with the cerebral cortex. It transmits the sensory information to the cortex and is involved in motor function, arousal, and mood functions. Classically, the thalamus is subdivided into nuclei based on the cyto-architecture and

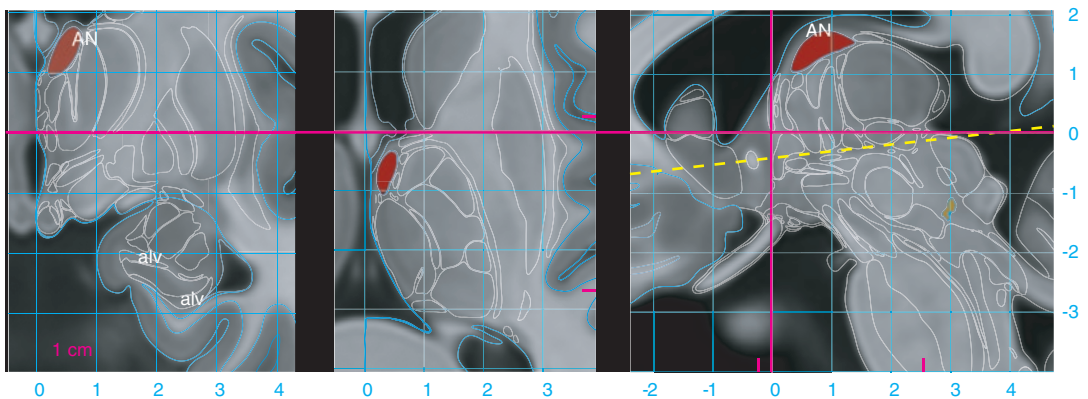
myelo-architecture as well as the anatomical localization. The main core groups are anterior, medial, midline, intralaminar, lateral, posterior, dorsal, and ventral nuclei (Ohye 1990). Despite being heterogeneous, these nuclei form a well-organized assembly. The thalamic neurons mainly use glutamate as a neurotransmitter.

With regard to DBS, two core groups of thalamic nuclei are important. The first group includes the ventrolateral nuclei, of which the nucleus ventralis intermedius (VIM) is the most relevant (Fig. 2.8). VIM has been targeted in functional neurosurgery for tremor management. The other relevant nucleus is the anterior nucleus (AN) of the thalamus, which has been targeted during stereotactic surgeries for treatment-resistant epilepsy (Fig. 2.9). The VIM gets its



**Fig. 2.8** Localization of the ventrointermedius nucleus of the thalamus in MNI space. Arrows indicate the anterior and posterior commissures. *vimi* ventrointermedius

nucleus internus, *vime* ventrointermedius nucleus externus, *vci* ventrocaudalis internus, *vcai* ventrocaudalis anterior internus



**Fig. 2.9** Localization of the anterior nucleus of the thalamus in MNI space. Arrows indicate the anterior and posterior commissures. *AN* anterior nucleus

input mainly from the output nuclei of the basal nuclei and sends projections to the motor areas in the cortex. Furthermore, it receives important input from the cerebellum (Moers-Hornikx et al. 2009). The AN is part of the Papez circuit, an important circuit within the limbic system and involved in the control of emotions and memory (Hescham et al. 2013). The AN projects mainly to the temporal limbic structures and the cingulate gyrus. The mammillothalamic tract, which connects the corpora mamillaria to the AN, is an important structure for the anatomical planning of the electrode trajectory.

## Conclusion

Understanding the anatomy and physiology of basal ganglia disorders is a growing field of modern medicine. Neurosurgical management of these disorders is by definition an anatomy-based approach. The main targets for the current neurological and psychiatric indications of DBS are located in the basal ganglia and thalamus. These targets all play a strategic role in the cortico-basal ganglia-thalamocortical motor, associative, and limbic circuits. The anterior nucleus of the thalamus is slightly outside of this system and used for DBS in epilepsy. A better understanding of the essence and extent of network alterations in local and remote neural elements following the application of electrical current will clarify the main components driving the therapeutic benefit, and the facilitating mechanisms that work at cross-purposes in patients.

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