

NEUROGLIAL CELLS

Neuroglia, also called glial cells, are cells of the nervous system. They compose a voluminous support system that is essential to the proper operation of nervous tissue and the nervous system. Unlike neurons, glial cells do not have axons, dendrites, or conduct nerve impulses. Neuroglia are typically smaller than neurons and are about three times more numerous in the nervous system.

FUNCTIONS:

1. Provide support for the brain
2. Assist in nervous system repair and maintenance
3. Assist in development of nervous system
4. Insulate neurons
5. Provide metabolic functions for neurons

TYPES

1. Astrocytes
2. Ependymal cells
3. Microglia
4. Satellite cells
5. Oligodendrocytes
6. Schwann Cells

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SCHWANN CELLS

Schwann Cells are neuroglia that wrap around some neuronal axons to form the myelin sheath in peripheral nervous system structures. Schwann Cells help to improve nerve signal conduction, assist in nerve regeneration, and aid in antigen recognition by T cells. Schwann cells play a vital role in nerve repair. These cells migrate to the site of injury and release growth factors to promote nerve regeneration. Schwann cells then myelinate the newly generated nerve axons.

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