

Chapter 2

The **Thalamus** is a sub-cortical, gray matter, oval or egg-shaped structure on either side of the Third ventricle.

It is located at the top of the brainstem and superior to the hypothalamus.

It is responsible for consciousness, sleep, wakefulness, motor control and all senses except olfactory.

The frontal horns of the lateral ventricles are anterior to the thalami.

The Sylvian fissure, with pulsations from the MCA, runs along the lateral margin of the Thalami.

The internal capsule separates the thalamus from the lentiform nucleus.

The thalami consist of two bodies and tissue that connect the bodies, the Massa Intermedia, also known as the interthalamic adhesion.

The **Massa Intermedia** lies within the third ventricle and is seen as a highly echogenic dot within the ventricle when the Third ventricle is dilated.

It is absent in twenty percent of humans.

Sonographically the Thalami are hypoechoic, large rounded structures posterior to the lateral ventricles.

