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PROPERTY	NEURAL REFLEX	ENDOCRINE REFLEX
Specificity	Each neuron terminates on a single targe cell or on a limited number of adjacent t get cells.	
Nature of the signal	Electrical signal passes through neuron, t chemical neurotransmitters pass the sign from cell to cell. In a few cases, signals pass cell-to-cell through gap junctions.	
Speed	Very rapid.	Distribution of the signal and onset of action are much slower than in neural responses.
Duration of action	Usually very short. Responses of longer du are mediated by neuromodulators.	ration Duration of action is usually much longer than in neural responses.
Coding for stimulus inte	ensity Each signal is identical in strength. Stim intensity is correlated with increased fre- quency of signaling.	

TABLE 6-5 Comparison of Neural, Neuroendocrine, and Endocrine Reflexes				
	NEURAL	NEUROENDOCRINE	ENDOCRINE	
Sensor or receptor	Special and somatic sensory receptors	Special and somatic sensory re- ceptors	Endocrine cell	
Afferent pathway	Afferent sensory neuron	Afferent sensory neuron	None	
Integrating center	Brain or spinal cord	Brain or spinal cord	Endocrine cell	
Efferent pathway	Efferent neuron (electrical signal and neurotransmitter)	Efferent neuron (electrical signal and neurohormone)	Hormone	
Effector(s)	Muscles and glands, some adipose tissue	Most cells of the body	Most cells of the body	
Response	Contraction and secretion primarily; may have some metabolic effects.	Change in enzymatic reactions, membrane transport, or cell proteins	Change in enzymatic reactions or membrane transport or cell pro- teins	