



The pain matrix involves a complex network of brain structures and pathways containing both serial and parallel connections.

- The **sensory-discriminative** aspect of pain, e.g., the bodily location and intensity of the stimulus, which draws on primary (S1) and secondary (SII) sensory cortices.
- The **affective-motivational** component, i.e., the evaluation of subjective discomfort and response preparation in the context of painful or aversive stimuli, subserved by ACC and anterior insula.