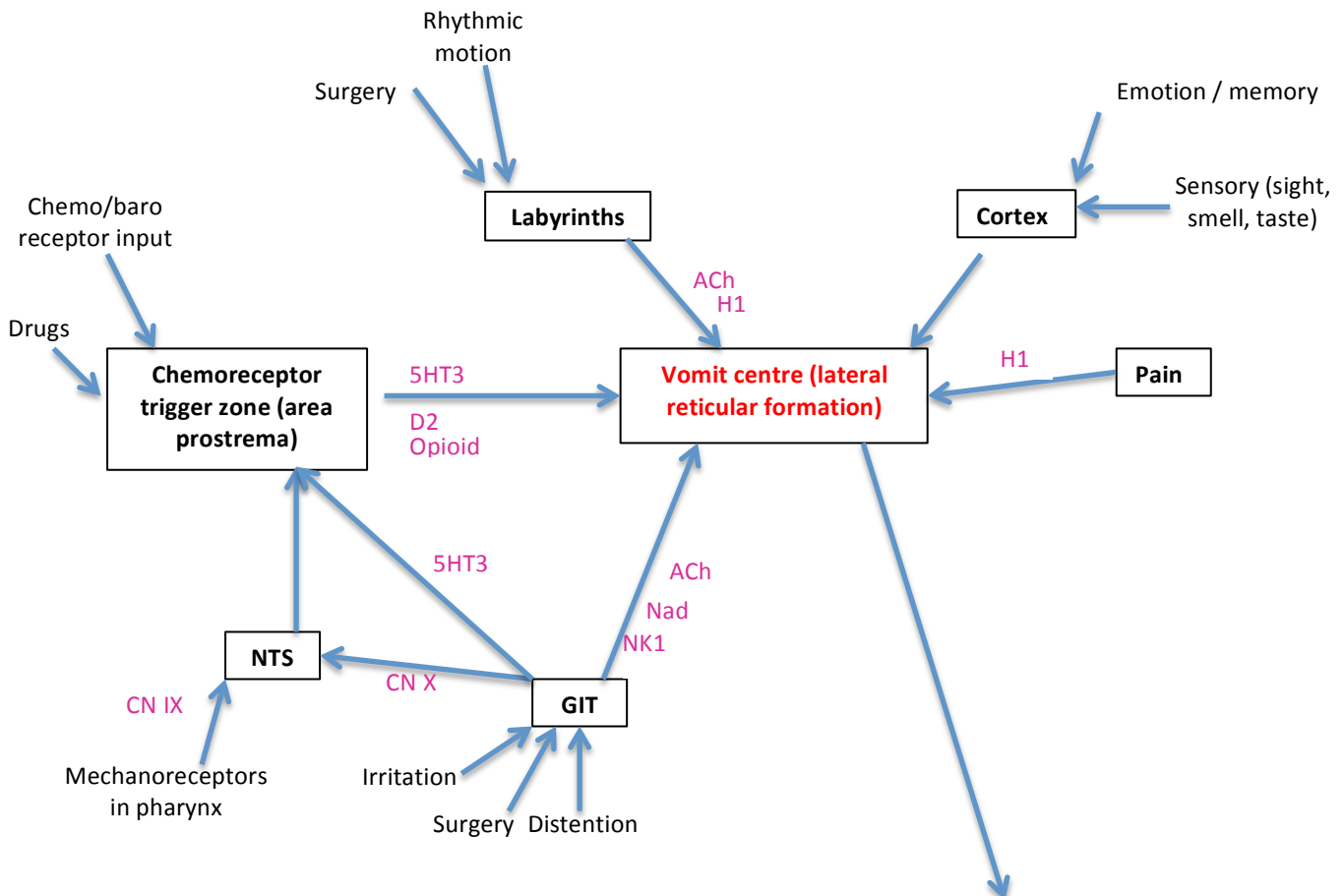


**Q22 Describe the physiology of vomiting (March 2010)**

Vomiting refers to the explosive movement of gastric contents out of the mouth. The reflex is mediated by the vomit centre in the lateral reticular formation of the brainstem, with afferents from the cortex, chemoreceptor trigger zone, GIT, and labyrinths, with efferents mediated by nucleus of the solitary tract (NTS), dorsal motor nucleus of X, the dorsal and ventral respiratory groups and the sympathetic tract.



- Strong intrinsic retrograde contractions in duodenum and stomach
- Partial relaxation of LOS
- Deep inspiration
- Raising of hyoid bone and larynx to open UOS
- Glottic closure
- Lifting of soft palate to close posterior nares
- Strong downward contraction of diaphragm and simultaneous contraction of anterior abdominal wall muscles, with complete relaxation of LOS

↓  
Forceful expulsion of gastric contents