



# Histology

Lec : Leen Alashram

Done by: All epithelial tissue lectures



**Molecular Biology and Histology**  
**(111501105)**  
**Second Semester 2023 /2024**

# Body Tissues

## Epithelial Tissue

2

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**(2023)**

مكوناته ①+②+③

①

A tissue is a collection of cells with a usually common embryologic origin that function together to perform a specialized activity. In addition to the cells, a tissue contains a substance that's present between the cells called the extracellular matrix (ECM). → everything except cells

chemical compound ← fibers + ground substance ← وتتكون من

أساس التصنيف

Body tissues can be generally divided into 4 main types according to the type of cells and the amount and content of the ECM they possess.

- The main types of body tissues are:
  - Epithelial tissue (above surface) → lines the cavity → inner layer  
cover surfaces → skin
  - Connective tissue متنوع
  - Muscular tissue [movement] → smooth: internal organ  
skeletal: attached to skeleton  
cardiac → heart
  - Nervous tissue → transverse of nervous impulses → sensory information → to the central nervous system  
motor information → to muscles

Embryology: common embryological origin, 3 layers

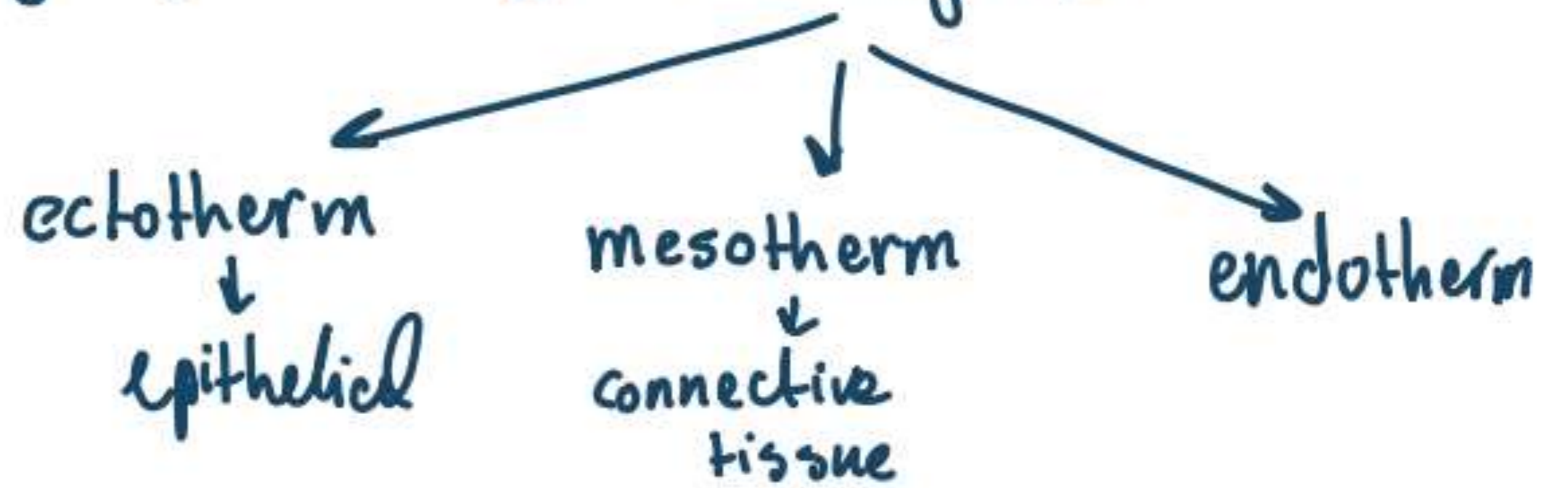
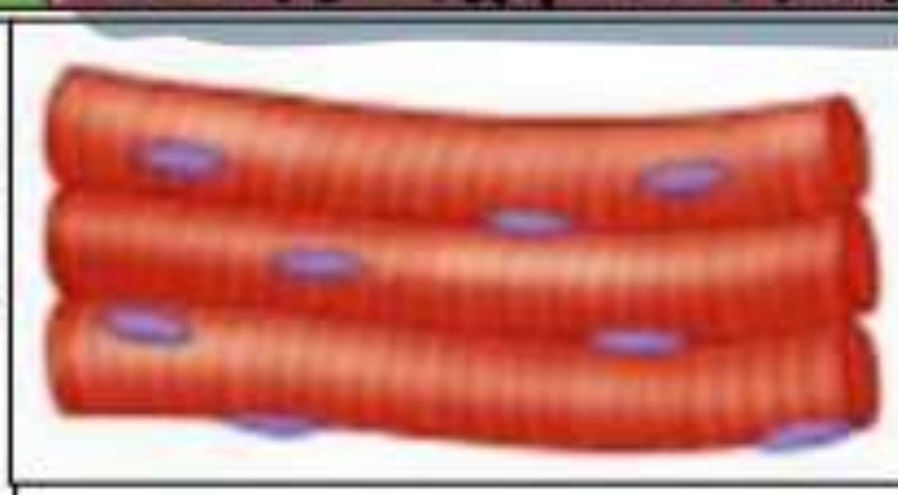
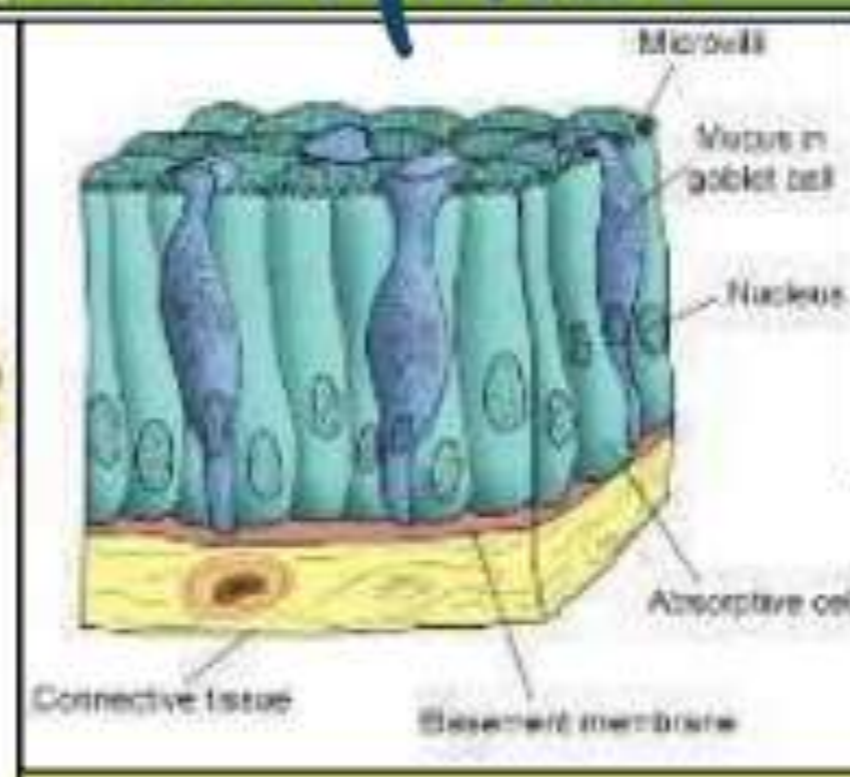
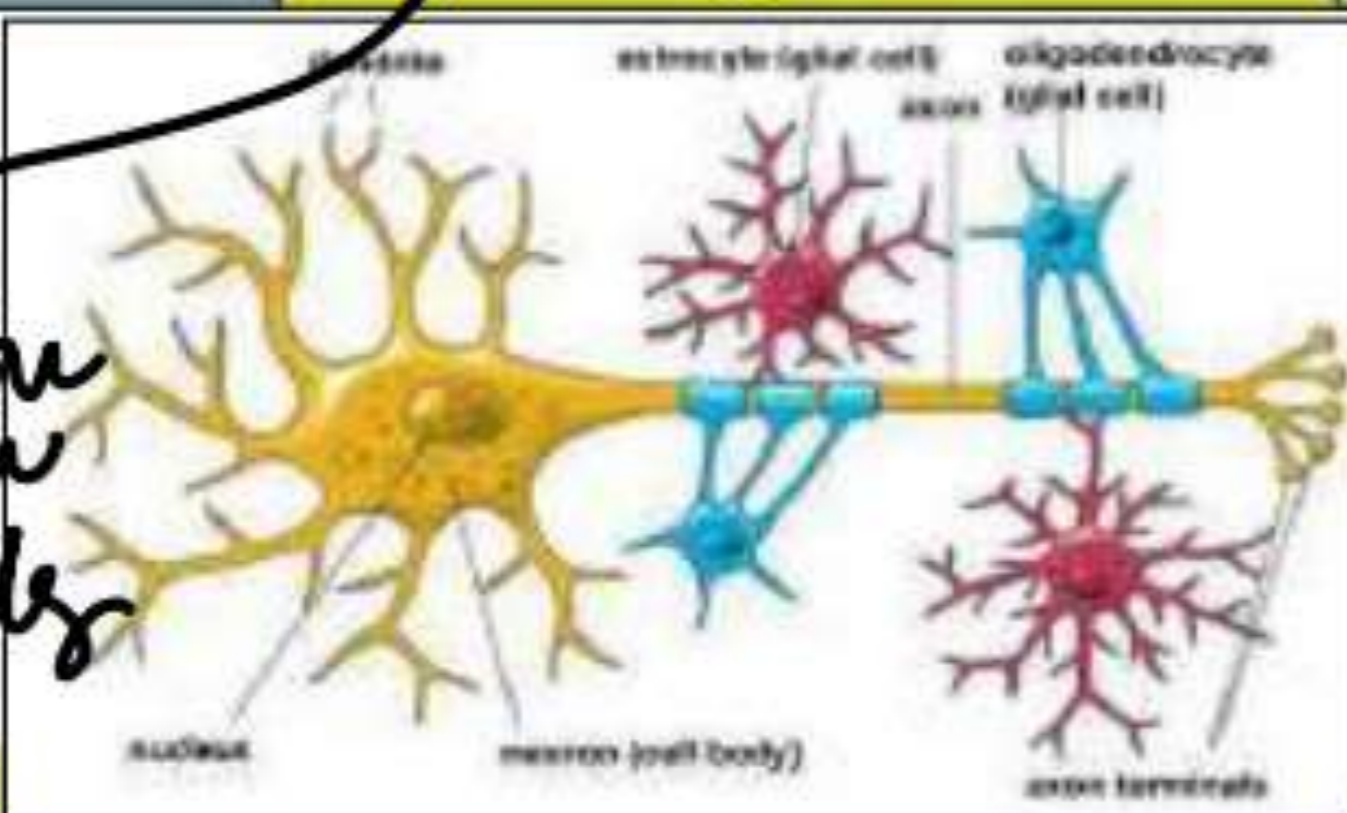


Table 1: Types of tissues and their characteristics

↗ bones, Blood

Tissue	Nervous	Epithelial	Muscular	Connective
Cells	<p>Have intertwining elongated processes</p> <p>متشابكة زوائد خلوية لتتمكن من نقل المعلومات العصبية</p>	<p>Aggregated polyhedral cells</p> <p>لها أشكال مختلفة</p> <p>مضغ</p> <p>closed to each other, different shapes of cells.</p>	<p>Elongated contractile cells</p> <p>actin + myosin</p>	<p>Several types of <u>fixed</u> and <u>wandering</u> cells</p> <p>متنوع</p>
Amount of ECM	<p>Very small almost none</p>	<p>Small</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Abundant</p> <p>أكثر واحد فيه ECM</p>
Main Function	<p>Transmission of nerve impulse</p>	<p>Lining, Secretion, absorption</p>	<p>Movement</p> <p>contraction: shortening</p>	<p>Support, protection</p> <p>connects other tissue together</p>

↖ their is junction btw cells



\* Amount of ECM in nervous tissue is very small [almost none], why?

Not to interfere in the transmission of their nerve impulses

\* Nervous tissue is completely ISOLATED

Brain  
spinal cord → nerves

\* Muscular tissue consists of myofibril [actin + myosin]

\* connective tissue

→ Bones: osteocytes, solid matrix

→ Blood: erythrocytes + leukocytes, fluid matrix

different  
Functions  
based on  
cells type + ECM

# Epithelial Tissue

- The epithelial tissue has the following characteristics:

1. It covers surfaces or lines cavities. As a result, it's in contact with another medium (air or fluid), which means that it's exposed to foreign bodies and chemicals. To endure these adverse conditions, the epithelium has a rapid turn-over (time from birth till the death of the cell).  
→ (barrier)  
↳ High cell division / renewal
2. It's formed of sheets of closely packed cells. As a result, the cells assume a polyhedral shape (columnar, cuboidal, etc...).  
Shape لکڑی



\* connective tissue is UNipolar → bcz cell membrane has the same structure + function

3. The cells are **polar** and are connected with each other and with the **underlying** tissue by various types of complexes. 'slide 9' → النسيج

4. The epithelium rests upon a sheet of **extracellular matrix** called the **Basal Lamina**. [fibers + chemical] without cells  
epithelial tissue أنتج من النسيج

5. Epithelia have a layer of connective tissue under them, for example: lamina propria of the gastrointestinal tract and the dermis of the skin. slide 9

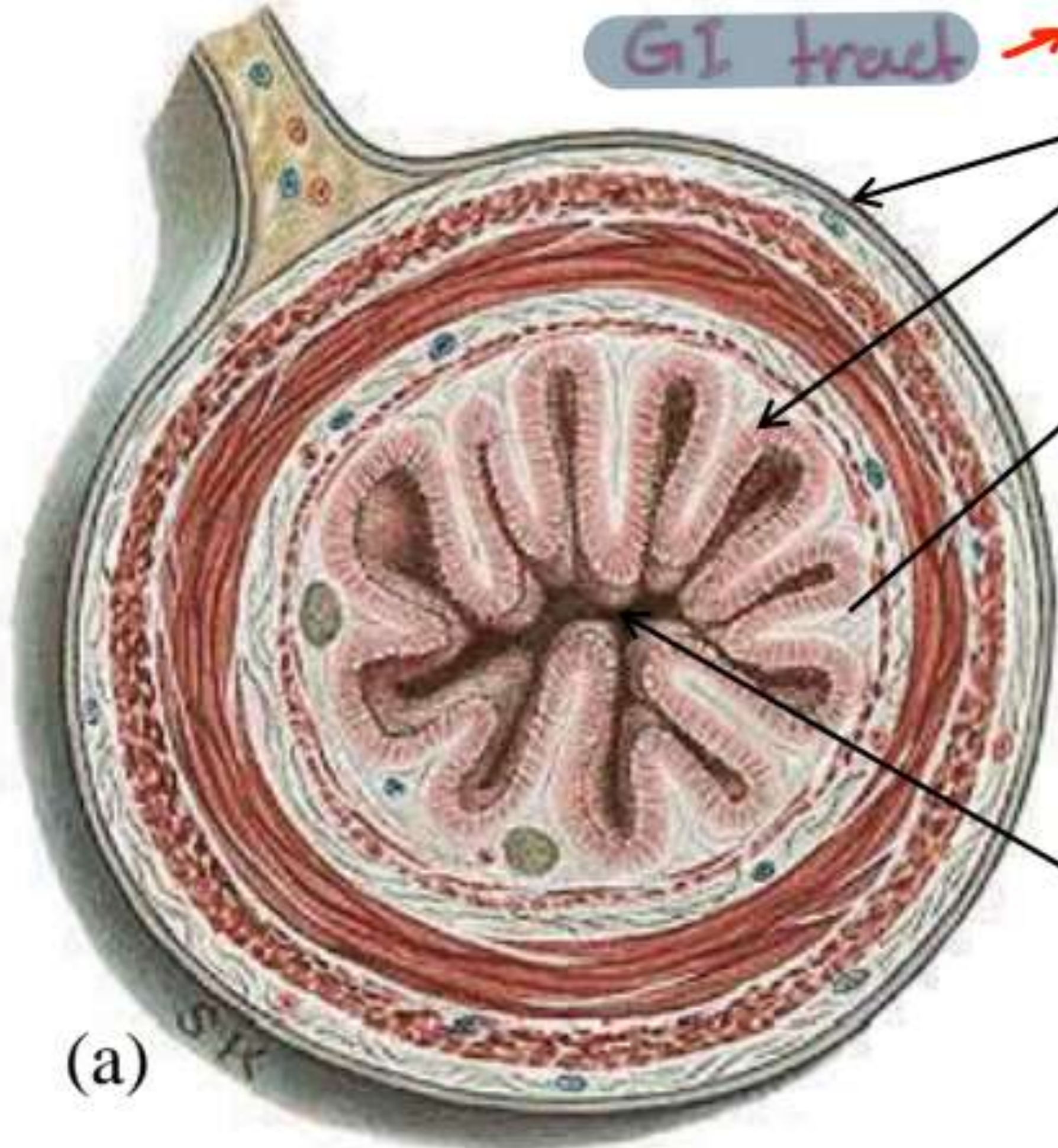
عشان ما تدخل infection من وين بتأخذ المواد الغذائية؟  
Answer: From connective tissue

6. Epithelial tissues are avascular (lack blood vessels). It takes its nourishments by **diffusion** from underlying vascular tissues.

[+have nerve tissue]

GI tract

→ stomach + intestine



Epithelium

Lamina propria (connective tissue)

Abdominal cavity (fluid)

Lumen (air+fluid)

epithelial كس  
fluid قفابل

Fig.1: Characteristics of Epithelial tissues. (a) Cross section of small intestine. (b) Section through the skin.

there's epithelial covering & epithelial lining & under each one there's connective tissue.

External environment

(a)

الجلد  
Epithelium (Epidermis)

Connective tissue (Dermis)

الجلد  
skin



(b)

## Functions of Epithelial Tissue:

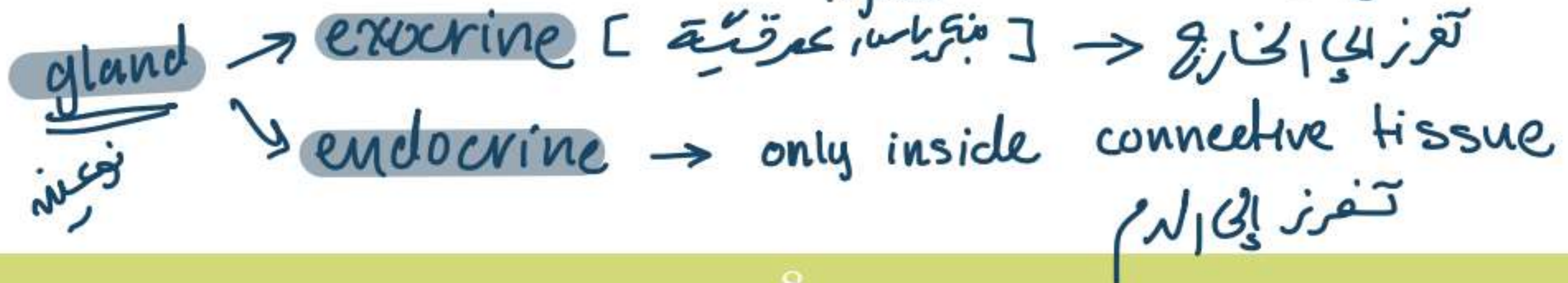
1. Lining, covering and protection.
2. Secretion (epithelium of stomach and glands).
3. Absorption (epithelium of the intestines).

كاسل  
CASL

4. Contraction (myoepithelial cells). **in the glands**

أي أنه أصل الغدة  
هو Epithelial

during embryology, some epithelial enters connective & becomes tissue



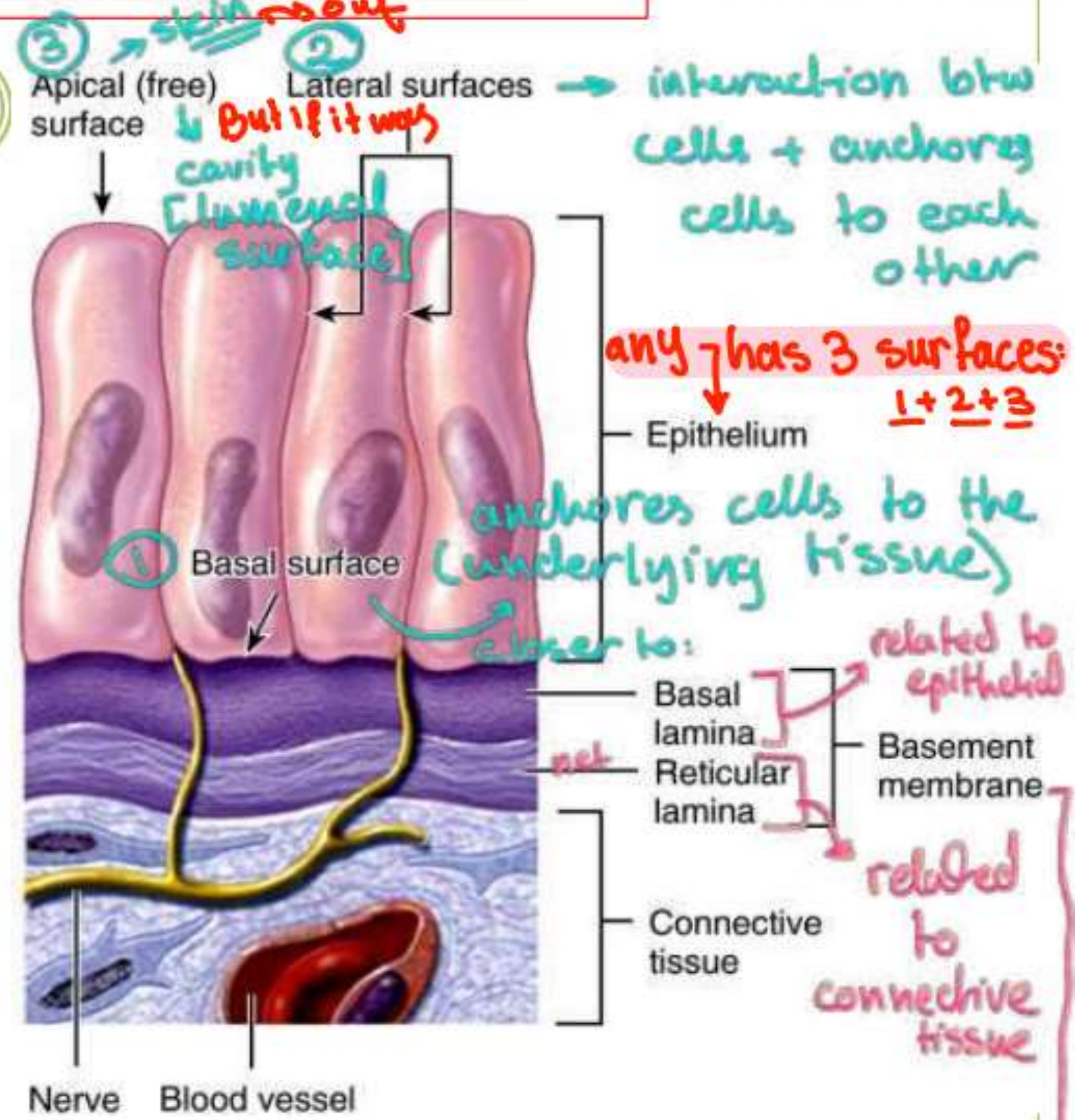
# Basal Lamina and Basement Membrane

3: *is not*  
Basal surface

➤ **Basal lamina** is a sheet of *ECM* located under the epithelium. It's very thin and can only be seen by the electron microscope.

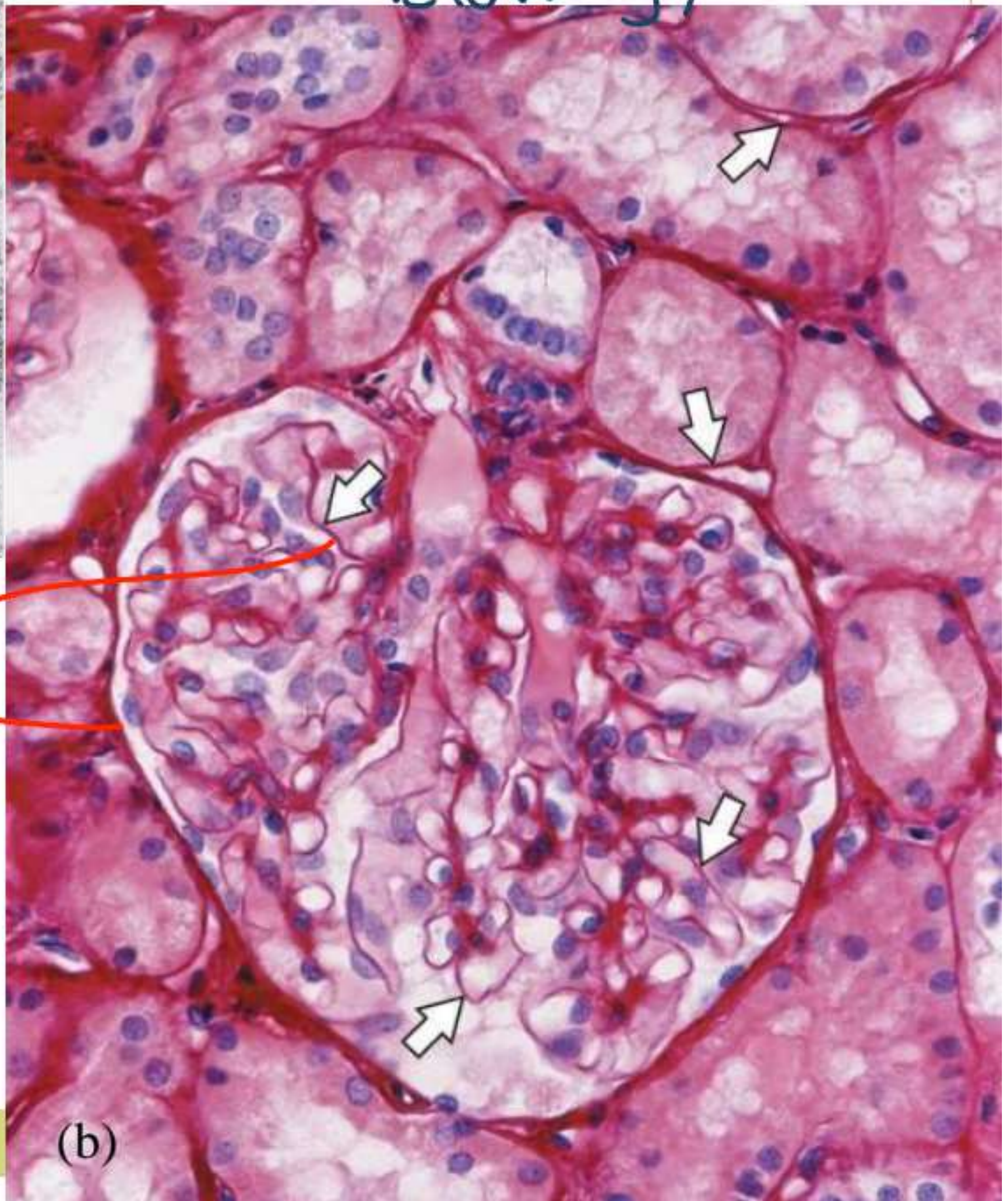
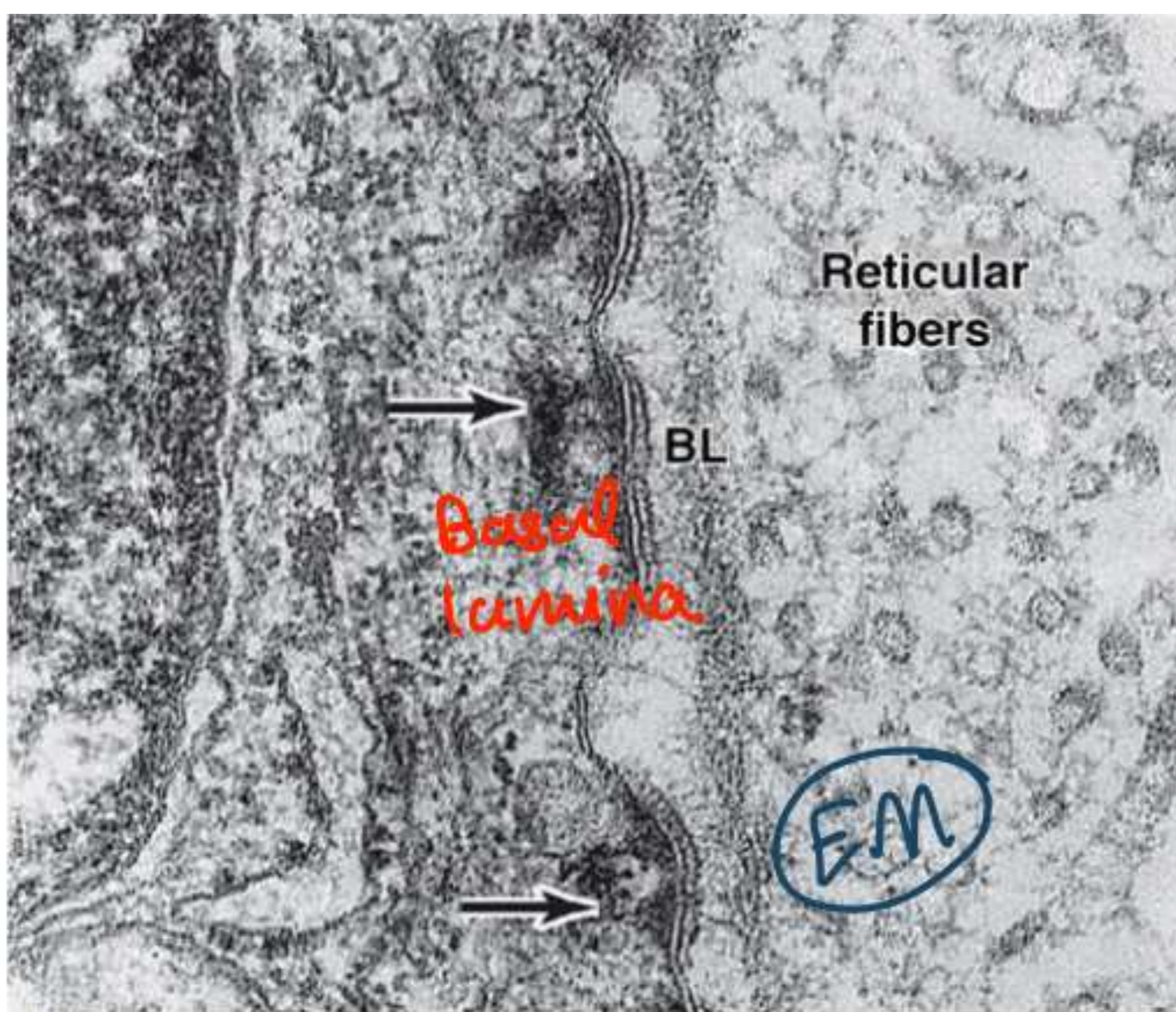
➤ **Basement membrane** is a much thicker structure seen by the light microscope. It's formed of the *basal lamina* and the *reticular lamina*. The reticular lamina is the upper reticular-fiber-rich part of the connective tissue that's usually located under the epithelium.

*shown as one layer*



\* Both Basal lamina + Reticular lamina can be seen under electron Microscop

\* cells close to Basal lamina will be very active cells  
However, the further cells are less active because they are away from Blood supply



(a)

Basement lines  
membrane

Fig.2: (a) EM image showing the basal lamina (BL); note underlying reticular lamina. (b) LM image showing the basement membrane (white arrows)

(b)

## Functions of Basal Lamina:

1. Provide structural support for the epithelium.
2. Help in filtering of substances that pass through (depending on the number and size of holes in it).
3. Affect cell proliferation, differentiation and migration.  
*"increase in number because cell cell division"*  
*cell division لها الفرزة على*, in case of an injury
4. Important for cell repair (as in repair of nerve fiber and neuromuscular junctions).

# Types of Epithelium

- Epithelium can be divided into two general groups:
  - 1) Lining or covering epithelium
  - 2) Glandular epithelium → Main function is secretion
- However, some lining epithelial cells secrete (like those in the stomach) and some glandular cells are present between cells of lining epithelium (like goblet cells of small intestine)

Digestive system  
Respiratory system  
Gland on the surface



# Lining or covering epithelium

According to number of layers

Simple  
(1 layer)

*thin: absorption & secretion*

Stratified  
(≥2 layers)

*thick: for protection*

Pseudostratified  
epithelium

*simple: one layer  
cells: short & long → looks like 2*

According to shape of cell

Squamous

*no cell membrane - flattened nuclei*

Cuboidal

*round nucleus*

Columnar

*ovale shaped*

According to shape of cell in top-most layer

Squamous

*سماوية*

**Keratinized**

Cuboidal

Columnar

*انتقالية*  
Transitional

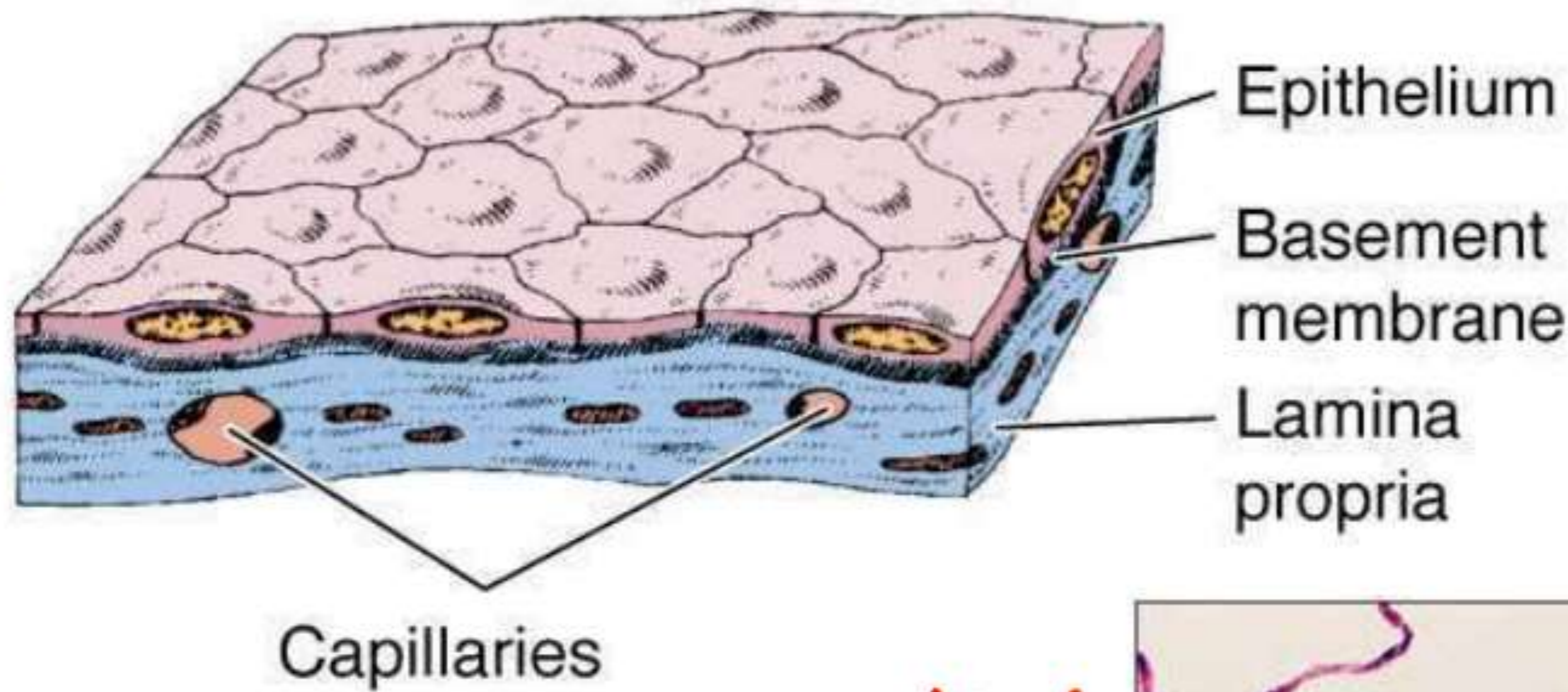
*urinary bladder*

*the most top layer, filled: squamous  
empty: cuboidal*

*however it is stratified*

## Simple Squamous epithelium

- Formed of a single layer of flattened squamous cells.  
for absorption + secretion
- It's found in: 'example'
  - <sup>blood</sup> Capillaries → Endothelium: lining of the blood vessels
  - Lining of body cavities → Mesothelium [secretion of fluid]
  - Lining alveoli → Pneumocytes
- Function: Their thin cytoplasm allows various substances to pass easily across them (endothelium and pneumocytes). Mesothelial cells, also, produce a lubricating fluid.

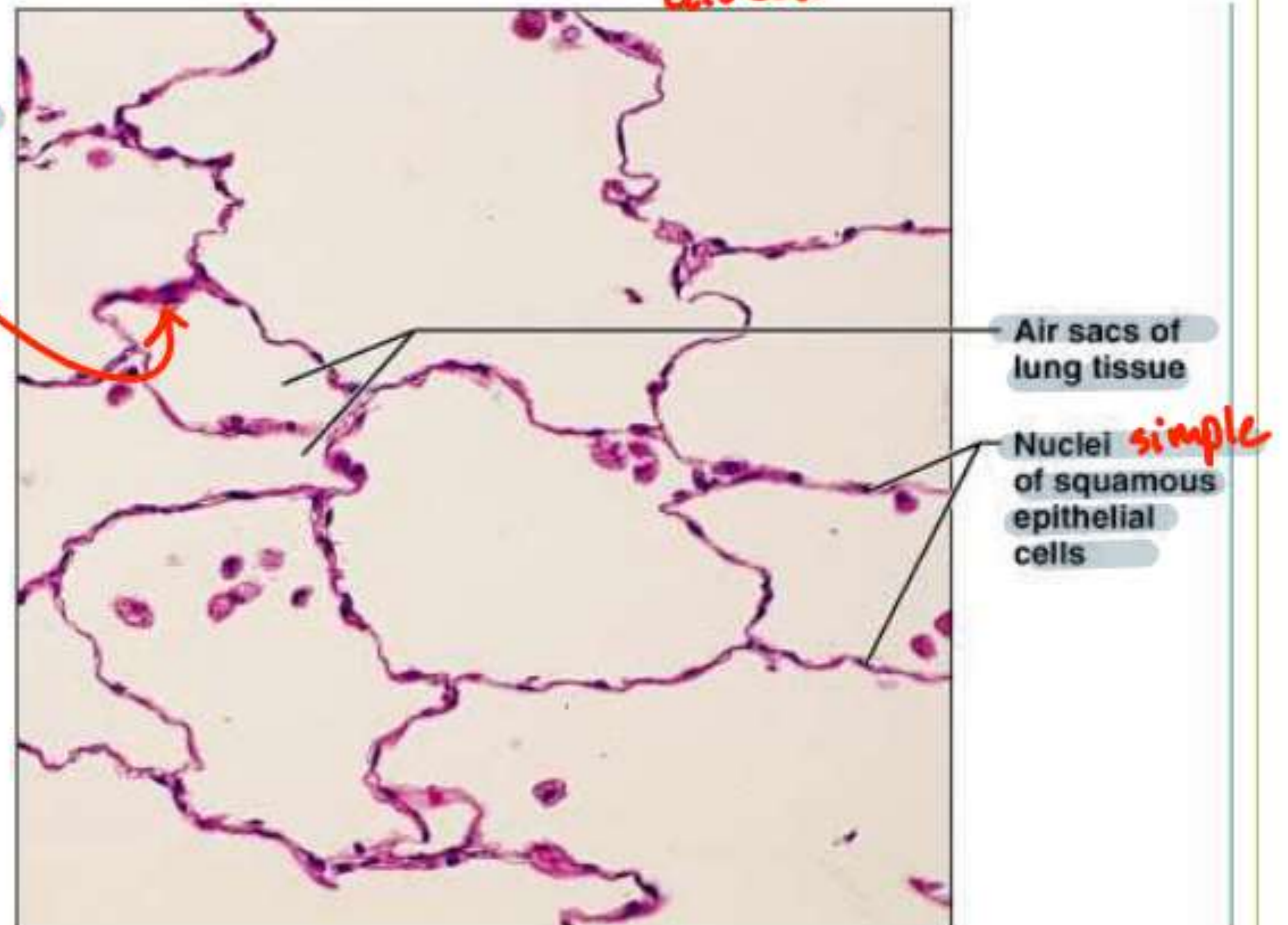


lateral view → squamous  
 from above → bulge  
 nucleus

blood capillaries

alveoli

Fig.3: Simple squamous epithelium. To the right, we can see the thin pneumocytes lining the lung alveoli. Notice their bulging dark nuclei.



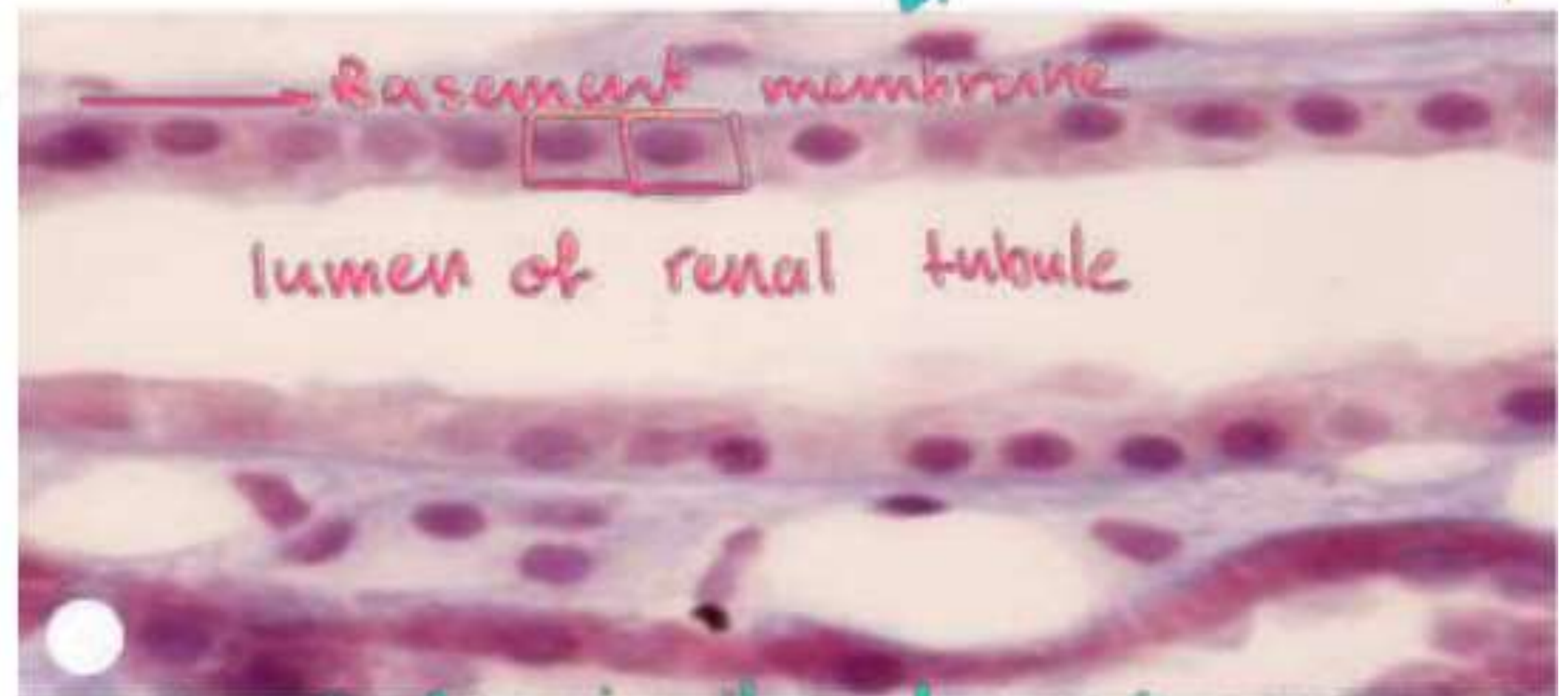
Pneumo- = related to lung, from pneuma = breath. Alveoli (single = alveolus) = little cavity.

# Simple Cuboidal epithelium

- Formed of a single layer of cubical cells.



- It's found in:
  - Renal tubules <sup>كلوي cube</sup> → "hemostasis" تبادل المواد
  - Covering the ovary
  - Glands.



- Function:** Covering of organs. Involved in active transport.

Fig.4: Simple cuboidal epithelium of the renal tubules. Note the round nuclei.

how to recognize it under microscope  
\* from the nuclei, bec no c.m. is seen under microscope

# Simple Columnar epithelium

GI tract: large + small intestine + stomach  
 except last 4 cm [increases absorption]  
 increase secretion

- Formed of a single layer of tall cells that could be ciliated or not.

- It's found in:
  - Ciliated: Uterine tubes.
  - Non-ciliated: most of the GI gastrointestinal tract.

Microvilli  
 + goblet cells  
 تری بالهینه  
 الجردة  
 لا تری بالهینه الجردة

- Function:** Secretion as in the stomach. Absorption as in the small intestine.

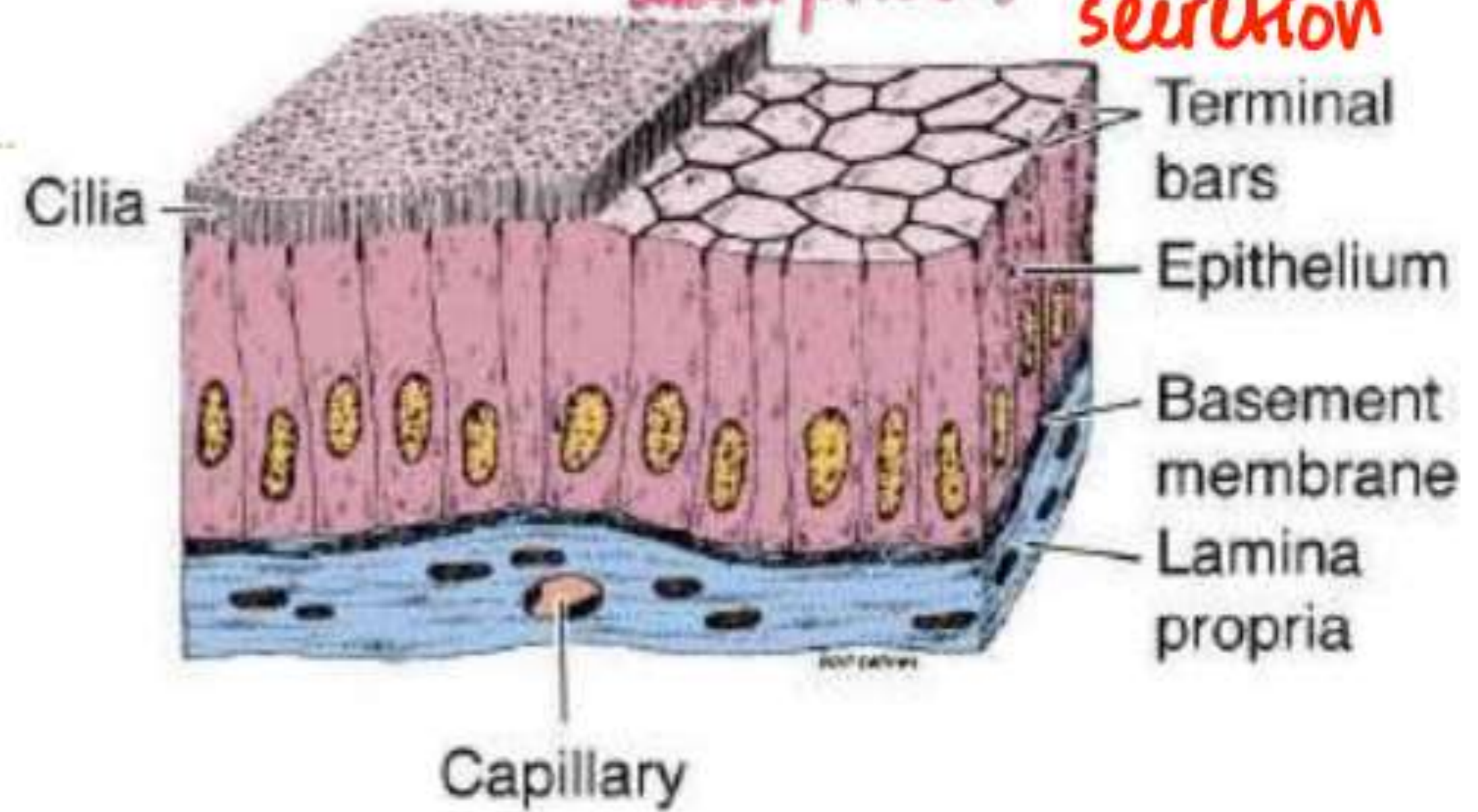
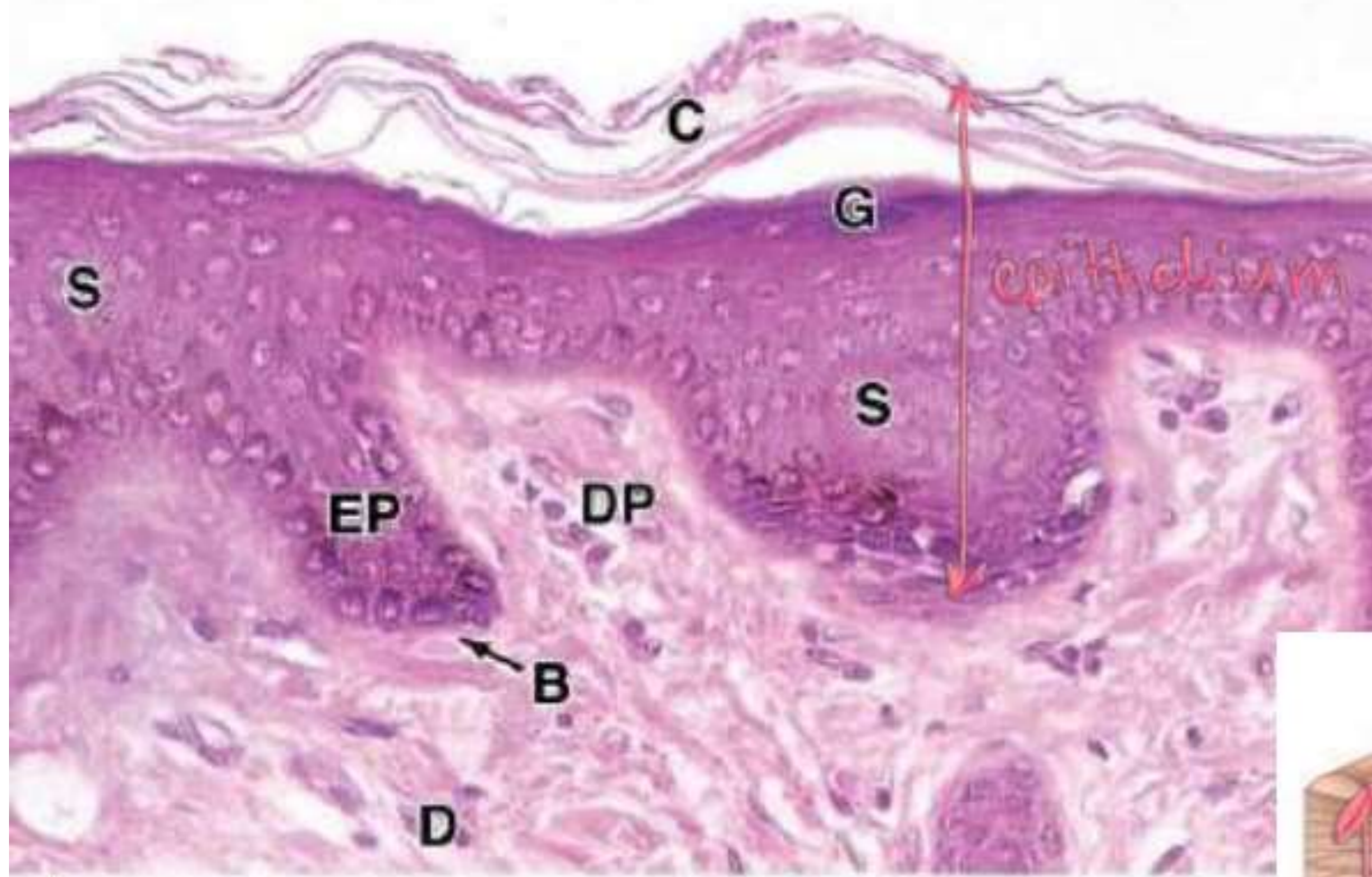


Fig.5: Simple columnar epithelium of the gallbladder. Note the oval nuclei.

# Stratified Squamous epithelium - keratinized



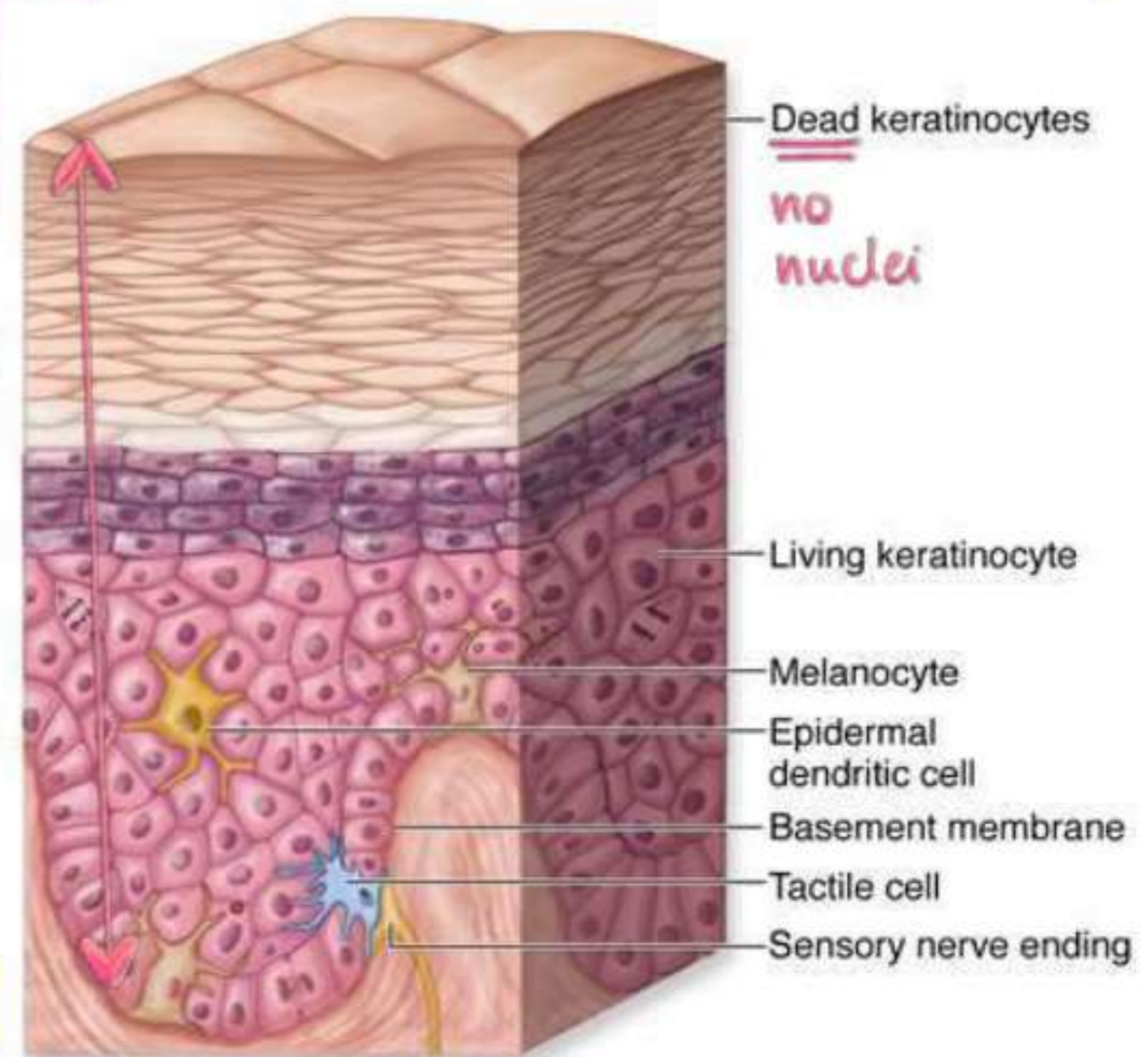
- Formed of multiple layers of cells. The topmost layer is formed of **squamous cells**. The epithelium is covered by keratin (a non-living material).  
*nucleus* *keratin*
- It's found in areas that **require great protection**:
  - Skin → **Epidermis**
- **Function**:
  - 1) Protection
  - 2) Prevent water loss



keratinized

epithelium

Fig.6: Epidermis of skin. Notice the keratin layer.



# Stratified Squamous epithelium – Non-keratinized



- Formed of multiple layers of cells. The topmost layer is formed of squamous cells. The epithelium is not covered by keratin.

- It's found in areas that require protection and water loss is not a big problem:

any water secreted is re-absorbed

(Mouth, esophagus) (الشرج) (anal canal)

- Vagina (female)

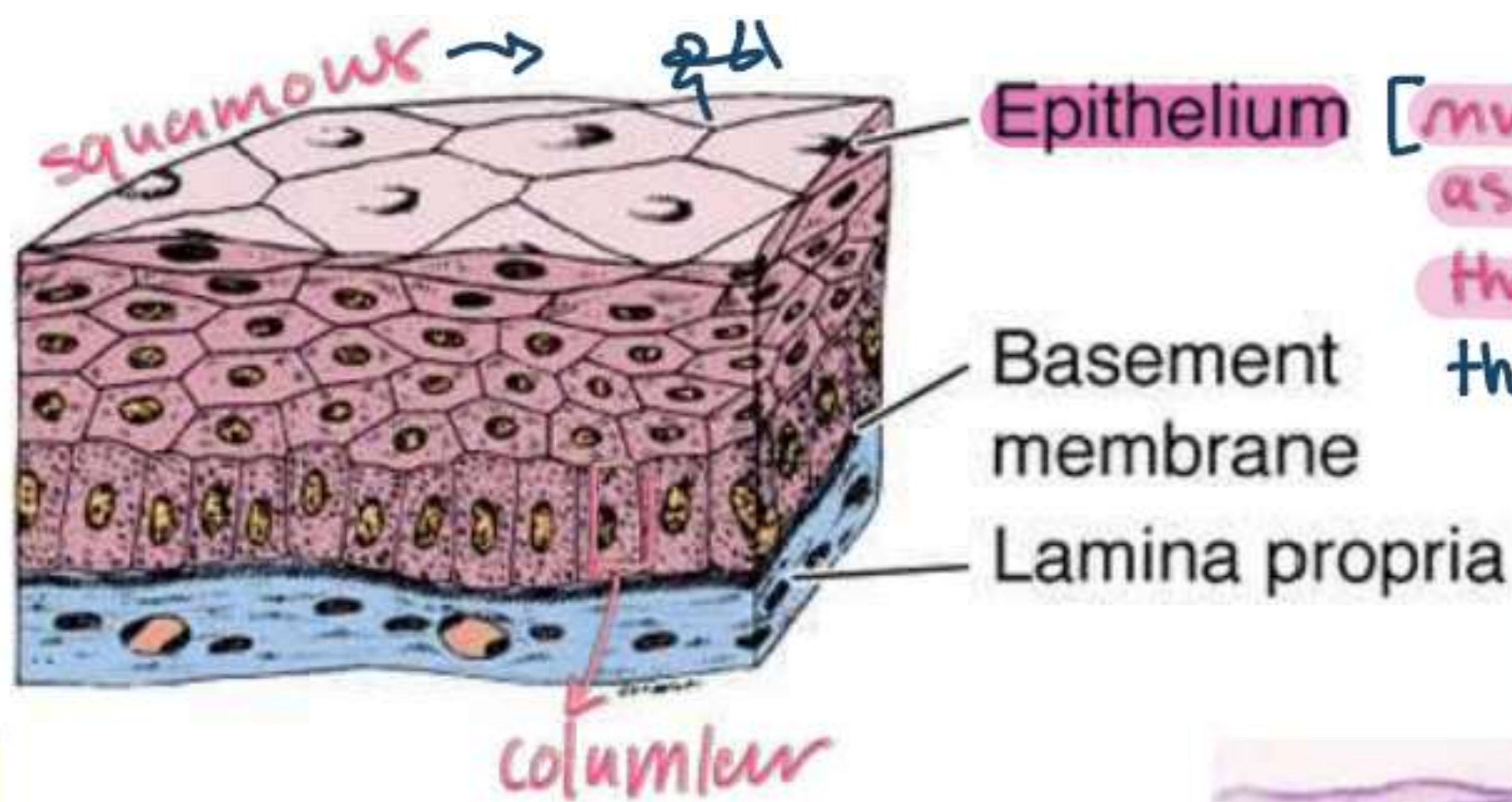
lower half

the more the layer needs protection the more epithelium will be

- Function: protection, secretion.

same as keratinized





Epithelium [multiple layers of cells]  
 as we go up, the shape of  
 the cells change,  
 that's why we only look at  
 the farthest layer from  
 the lamina

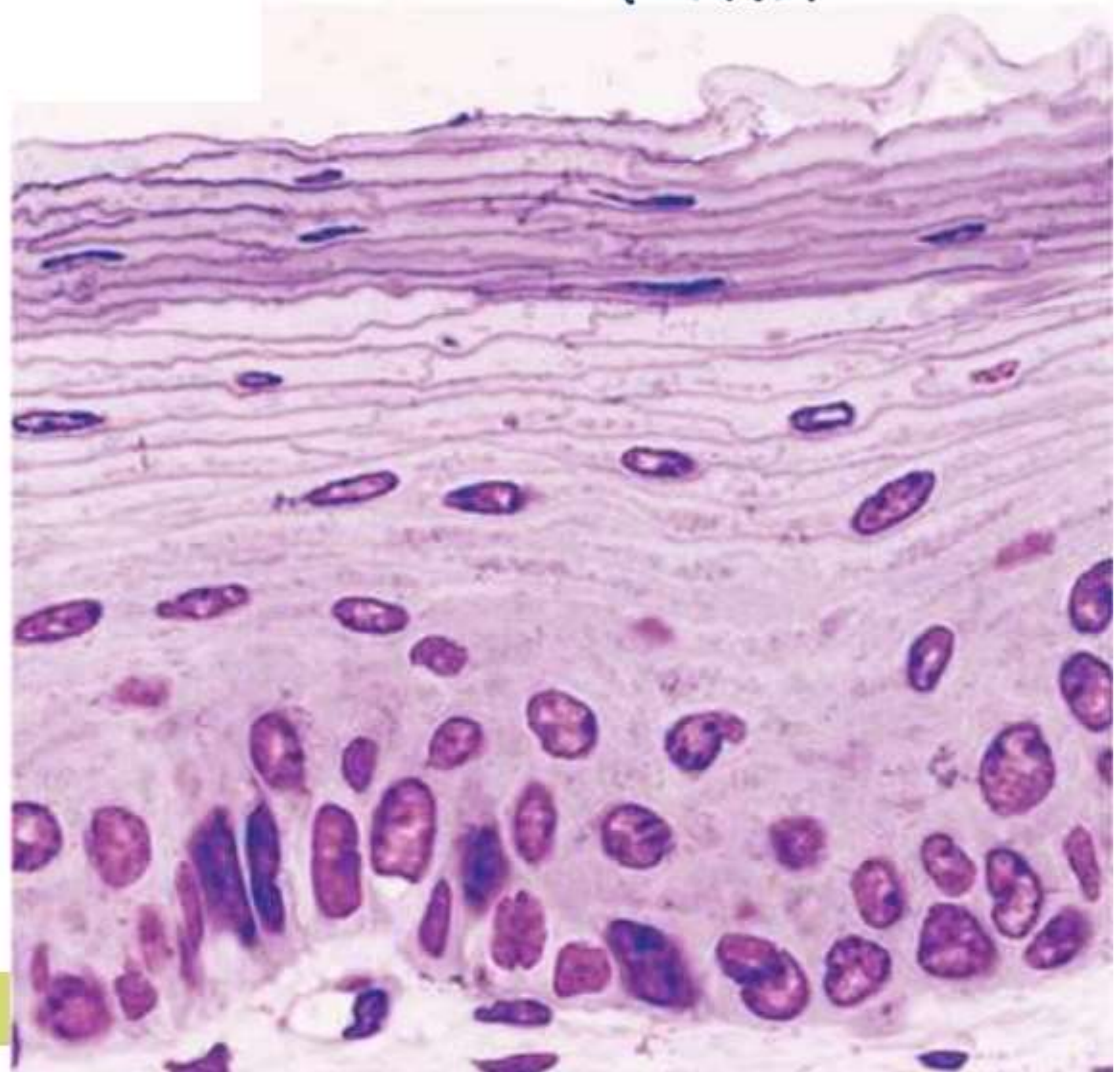


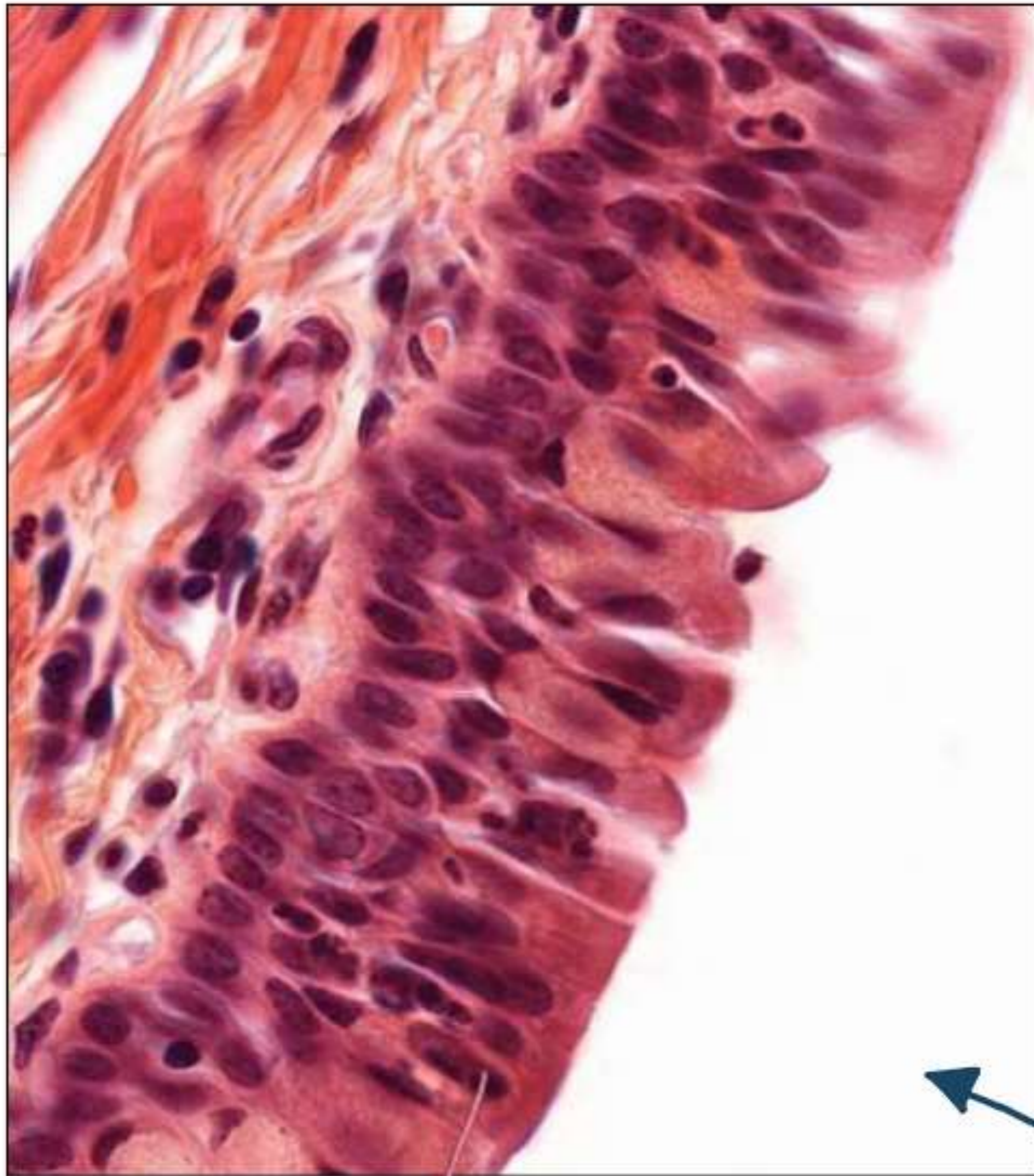
Fig.7: Stratified squamous epithelium. To the right, we can see that this epithelium in the esophagus is non-keratinized (the topmost layer has nuclei).

not common [rare]

## Stratified Cuboidal and Columnar epithelium

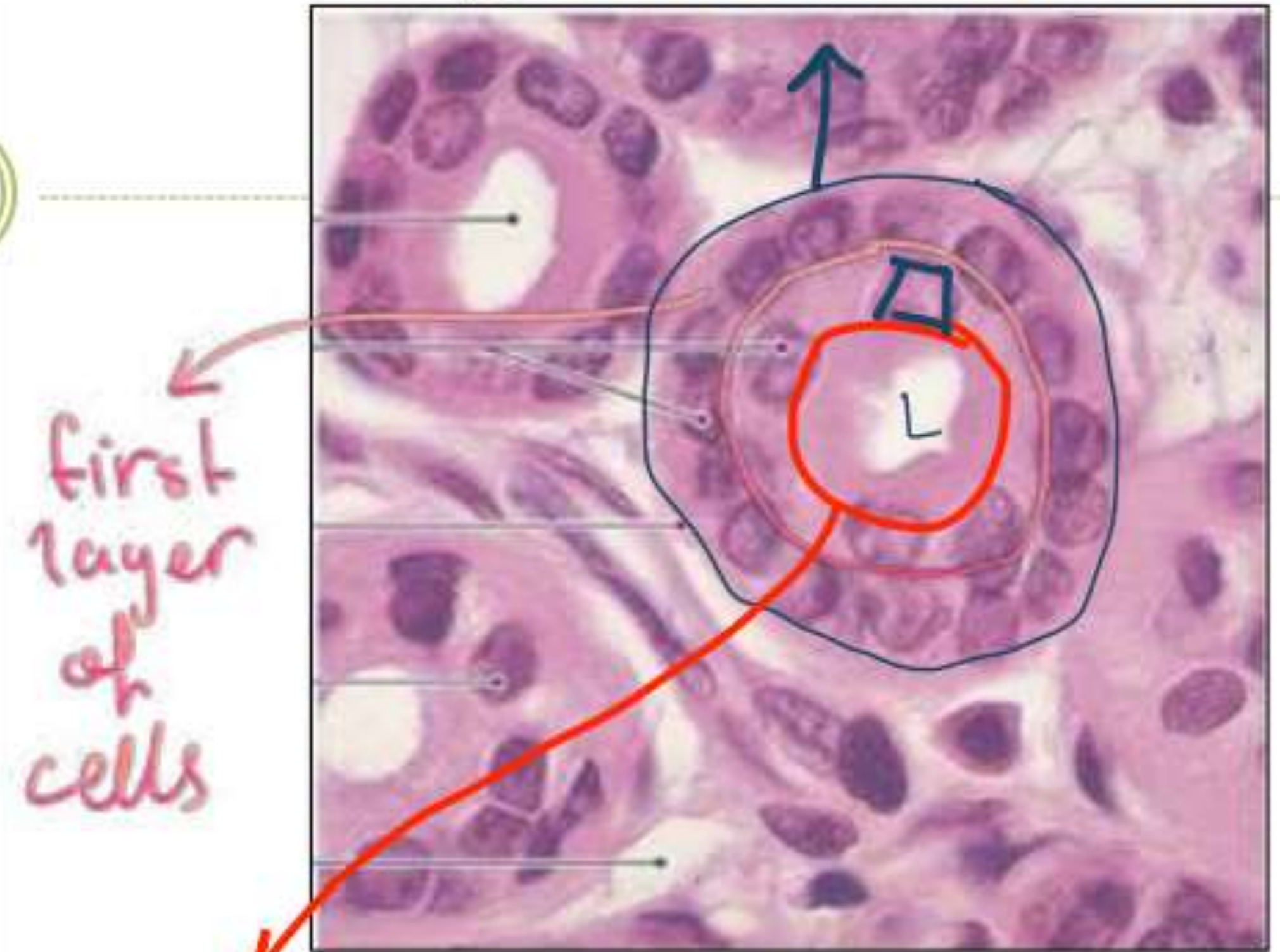
	Stratified Cuboidal	Stratified Columnar
Number of layers	Multiple <i>usually two</i>	Multiple
Top-most layer	Cuboidal	Columnar
Location	Large excretory ducts of salivary and sweat glands	Conjunctiva <i>thin membrane that covers sclera of the eye</i>
Function	Protection and secretion	<u>Protection</u> and secretion





ovale shape

Basement membrane



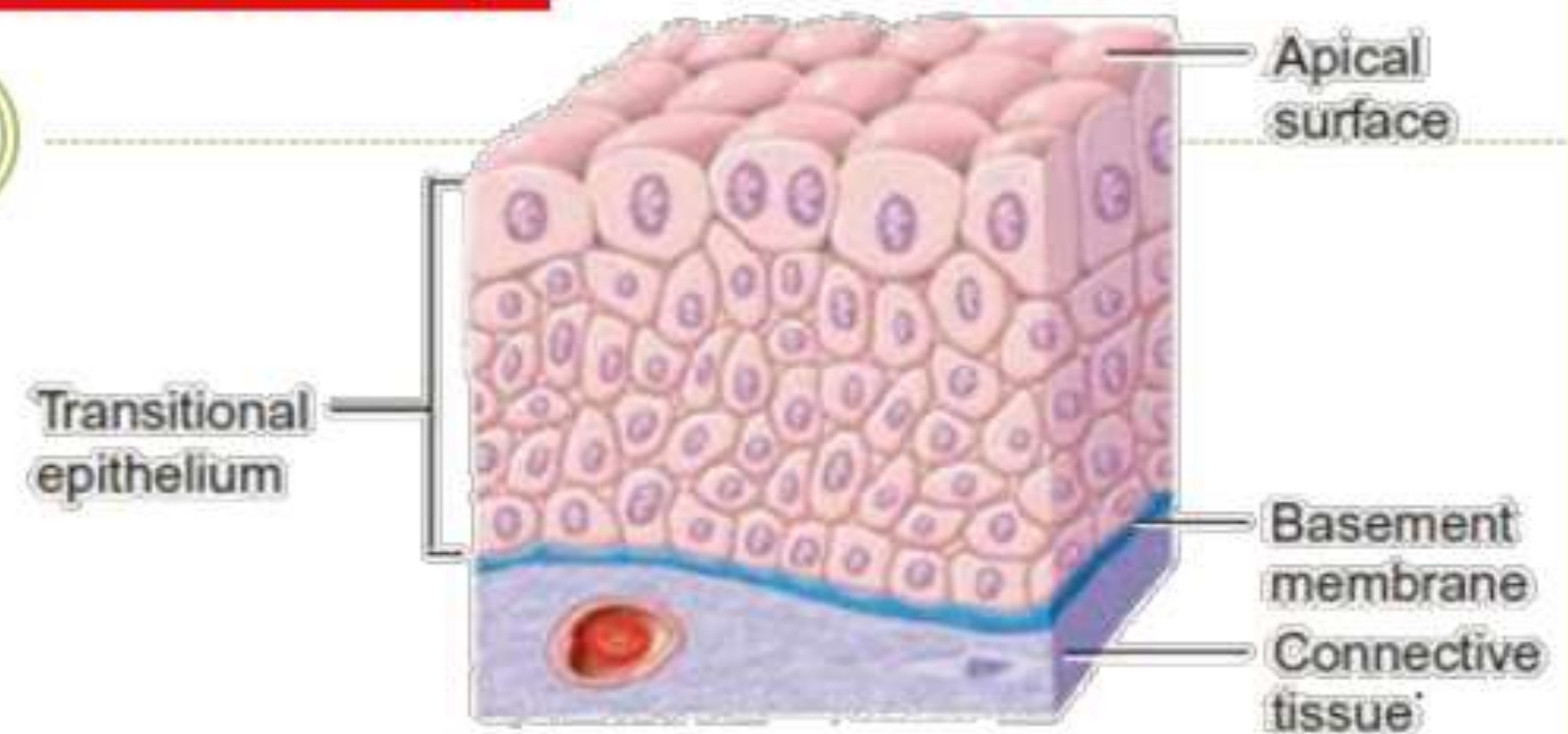
first layer of cells

another layer of cells (top most layer)

Fig.8: Above, stratified cuboidal epithelium in ducts of glands. To the left, stratified columnar epithelium of the conjunctiva

## Transitional epithelium (Urothelium): - stratified

❖ The topmost cells of this stratified epithelium are dome-like (also called *umbrella cells*).



❖ Found in: Urinary bladder, ureters and renal calyces.

→ all organs related to urinary system, and that's why it's called

❖ The umbrella cells are dome-shaped when the bladder is empty. Once it's full, these cells will become flattened (hence the name transitional). the shape of the top most cells change

❖ Functions: Protection against the adverse effects of urine.  
Allow the bladder to change size.

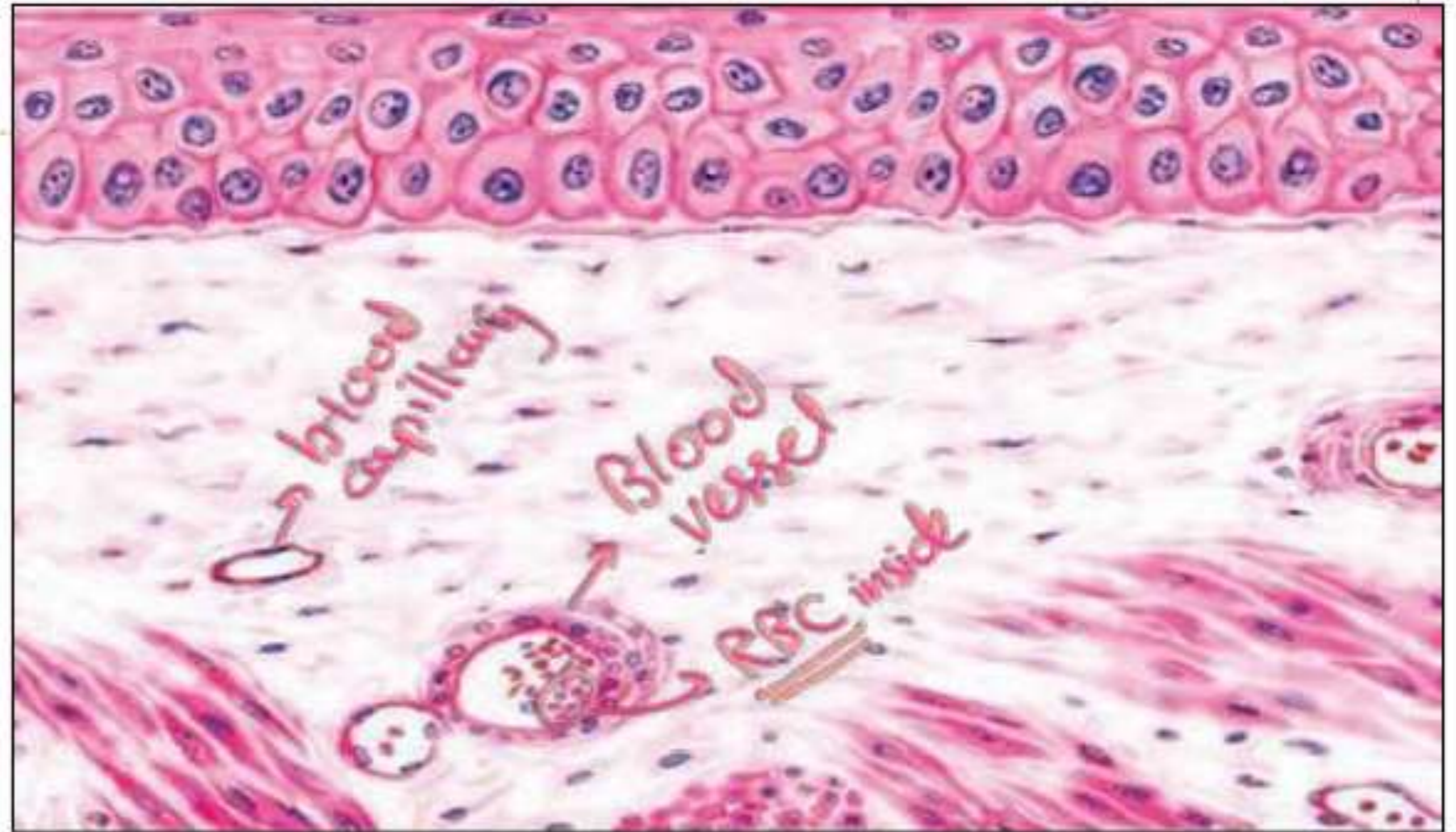
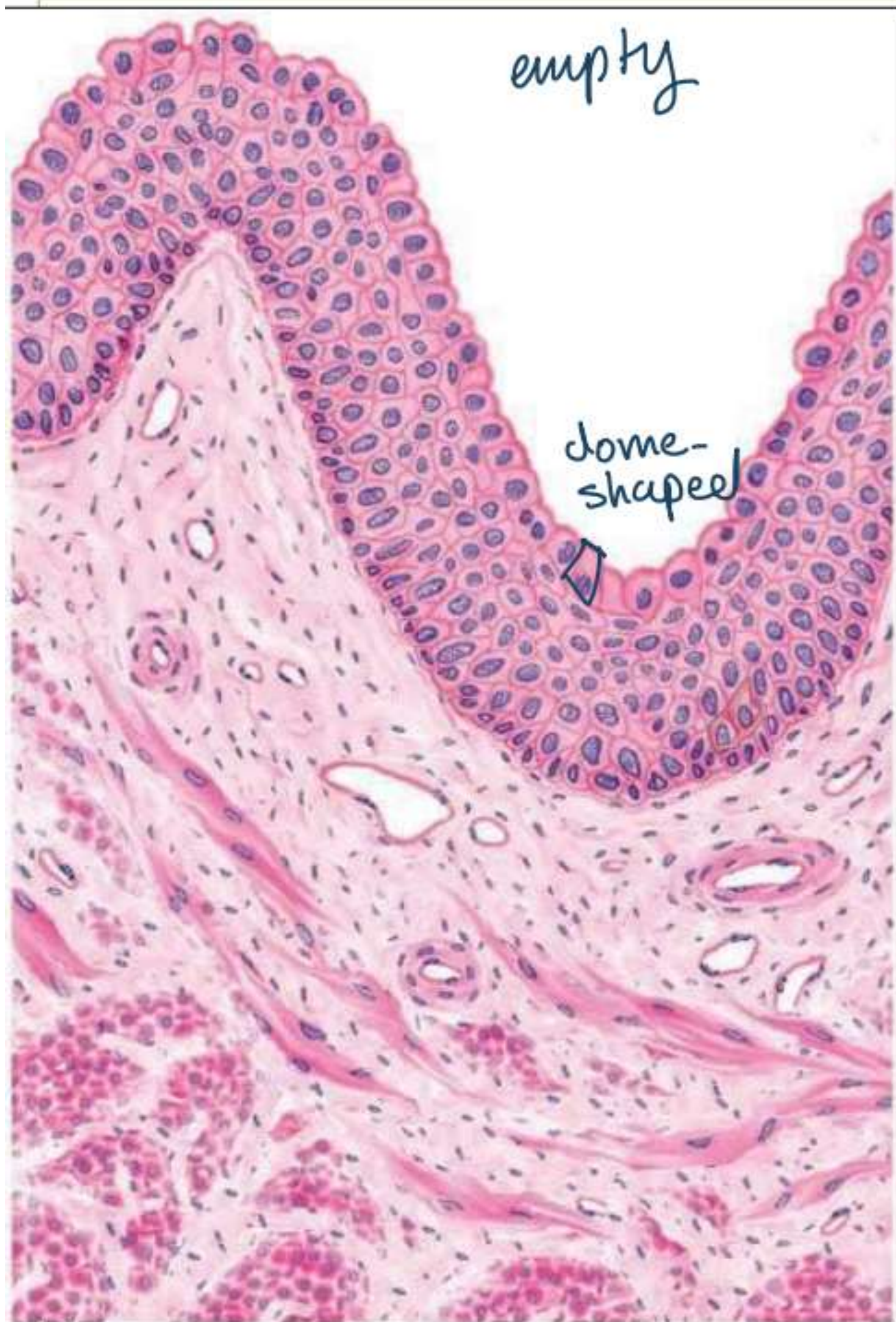


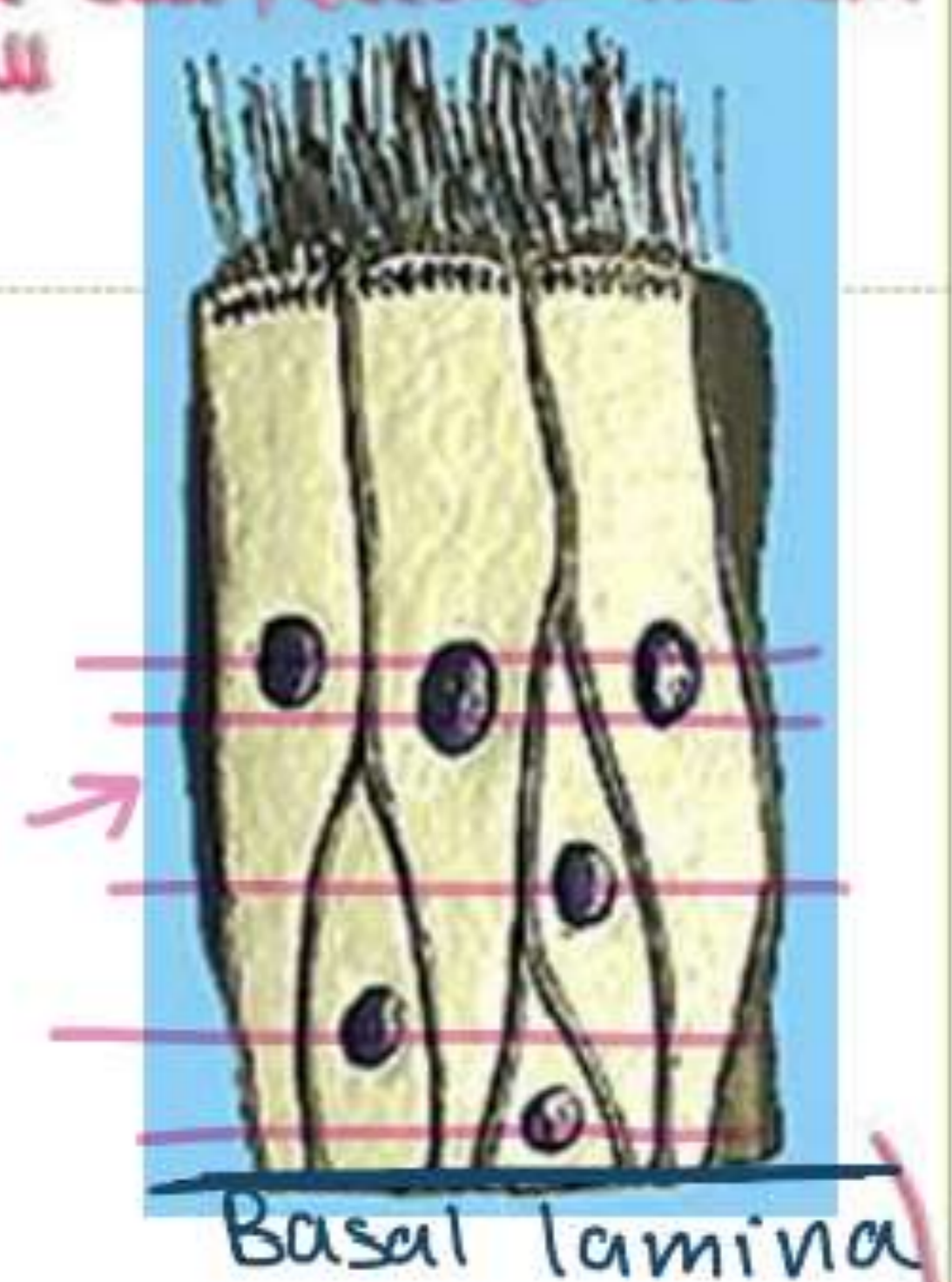
Fig.9: Transitional epithelium of the urinary bladder. To the left, when bladder is empty. Above, when the bladder is full. Note the change in shape of the upper most cells.

## Pseudostratified epithelium:

when we study it under the microscope  
we depend on the different levels at nuclei  
rather than the actual cell, because the CM  
doesn't appear clearly or it doesn't appear at all

➤ In this epithelium, the cells have different heights. All cells rest on the same basal lamina, but not all of them reach the surface. This makes the nuclei occupy different levels giving the epithelium a false stratified appearance.

only the longest will reach



➤ The Respiratory epithelium is a pseudostratified columnar ciliated epithelium found in the trachea, bronchi, and nasal cavity.

القنوات  
الهوائية

\*simple: single layer of cells.

➤ Functions: Protection and secretion. Ciliary movement remove particles from the airway passages.

# Pseudostratified epithelium

1st question: Are nuclei on different levels?

If yes, then it is stratified

2nd question: Are all cells lay on  Basal lamina?

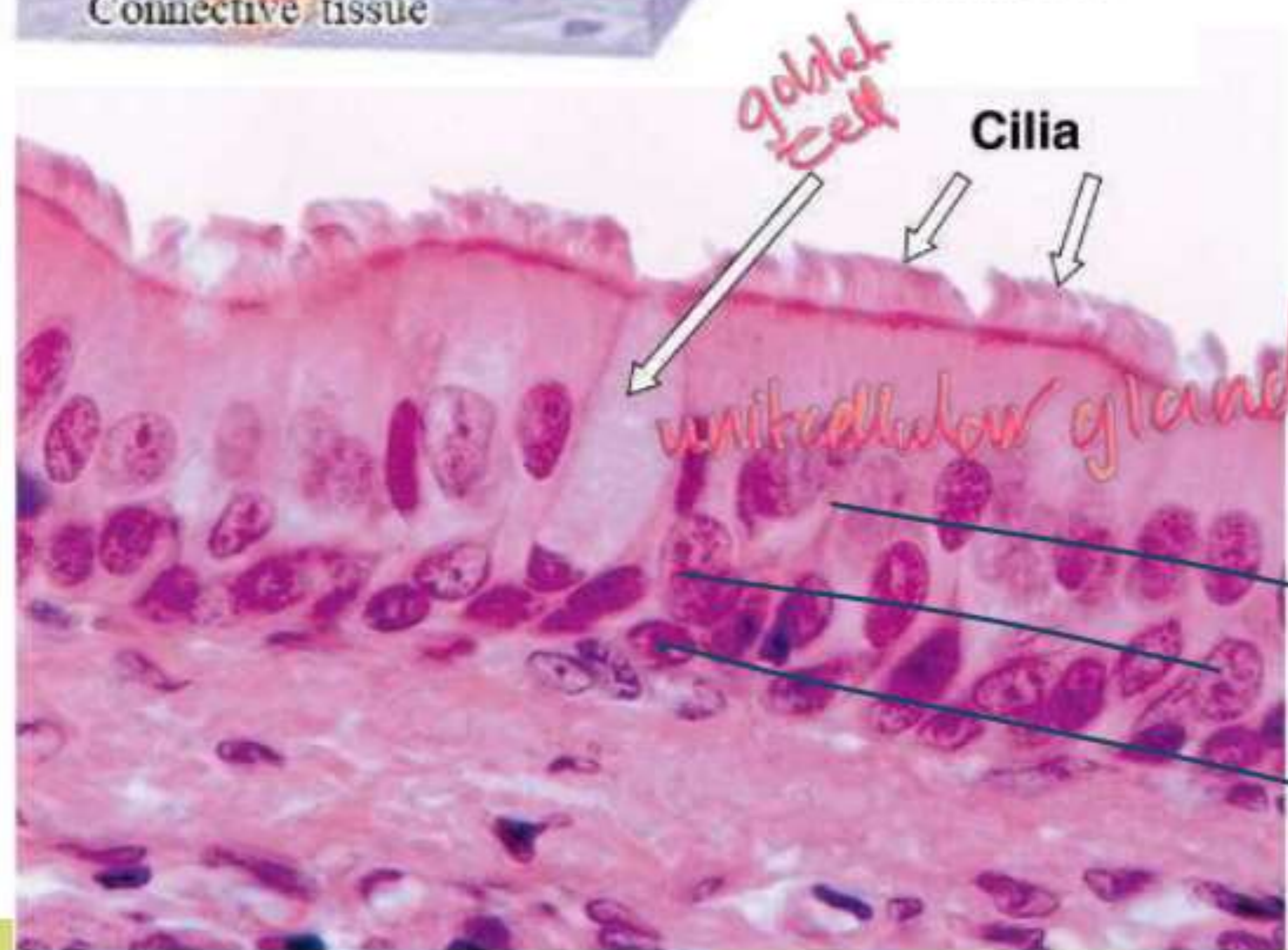
If yes → pseudostratified

If no → according to the most top layer



all cells reach the Basal lamina, most common cells here are the columnar, so it's called Pseudostratified columnar epithelial tissue (ciliated)

Fig.10: **Respiratory epithelium**. Note how the image below gives the impression that it's a **stratified epithelium**. Also note the presence of cilia and mucous secreting goblet cells (long white arrows)



Epithelium  
nuclei on different levels



# Glandular Epithelium

- Is an epithelium specialized in secretion.

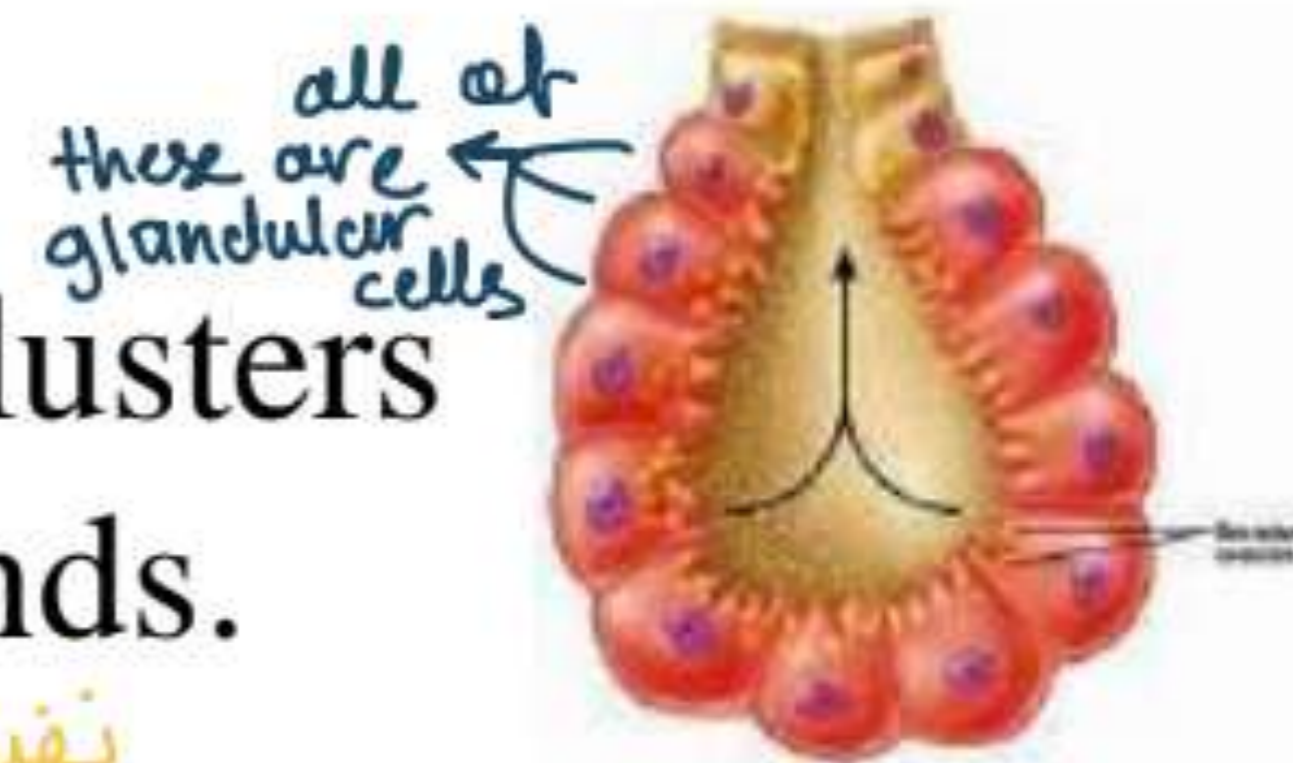
## Classification of glandular epithelium:

### 1) According to number of cells:

- **Unicellular** glands: formed of a single cell, like Goblet cells of the digestive and respiratory tracts. فقط همدون الأمتلة بالإنسان



- **Multicellular** glands: formed of clusters of cells, like: salivary and sweat glands.



3. Goblet cells which produce mucus into the lumen of organs like: small + large intestine

1. lumen of hollow organs: mouth, intestine, stomach  
 ei: salivary glands that secrete saliva to the oral cavity.

2) According to presence of ducts:

■ **Exocrine glands:** possess ducts that transfer the secretion to the outside of the body, like: salivary glands.

2. outer surface of the body: sweat + sebaceous glands that are found on the skin, their secretion will be

■ **Endocrine glands:** they lack ducts. Their secretions are transferred to the target organs, usually, by blood.

produce chemical substances called hormones

Example: Pancreatic Islets, Pituitary gland.

usually carried by blood to reach target organ

+ thyroid gland

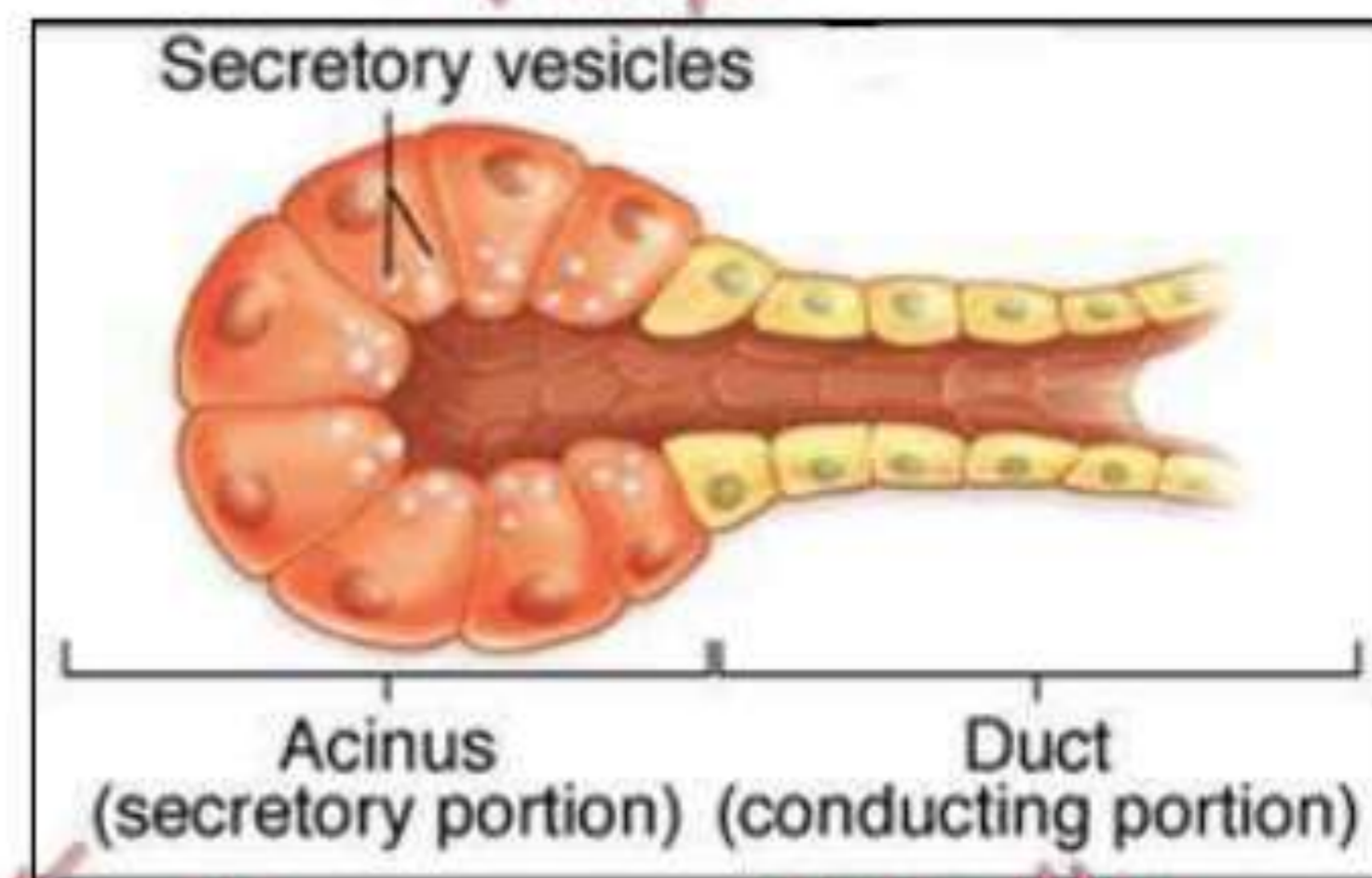
released to the exterior of the body

3) Exocrine glands classified according to morphology of duct and secretory portion:

only

(Shape)

■ Each exocrine gland has a secretory portion that produces the secretion and a duct that carries this secretion.



produces the secretion

carry the secretion, but doesn't secrete it

In order to classify them, we are going to ask ourselves 3 questions, in these three questions we are going to look at the duct and the secretory portion

1. **Duct**, is the duct branched or not?

- If the duct is *unbranched*, the gland is called *Simple*
- If the duct is *branched*, the gland is called *Compound*

2. **Secretory portion**, is it branched or not?

If the secretory portion is *unbranched*, the gland is called *Unbranched* [sometimes it's not written]

If the secretory portion is *branched*, the gland is called *Branched*

3. **Secretory portion**, what is the shape of the secretory portion?

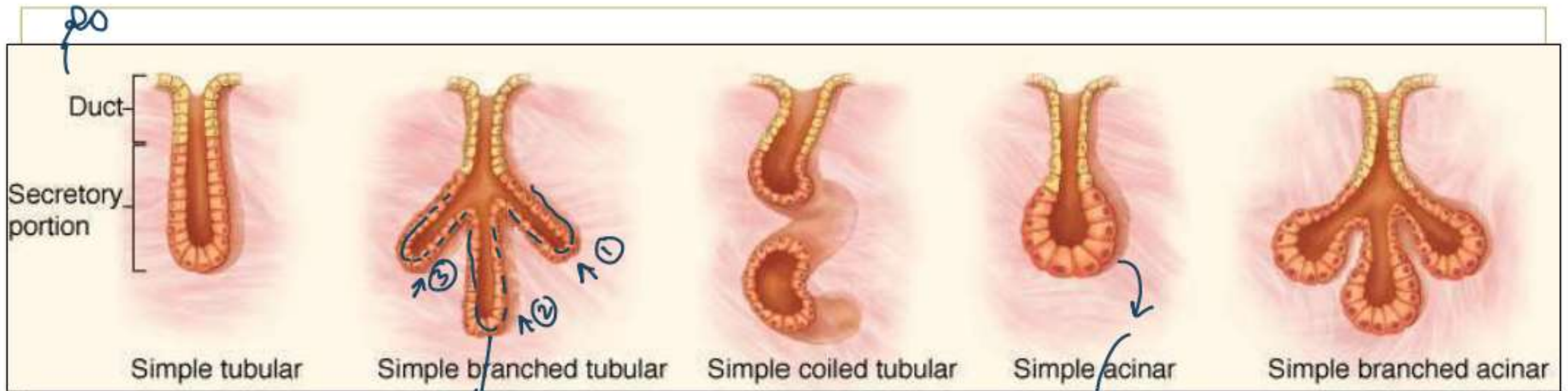
- If the secretory portion is *tube-like* in shape, the gland is called *Tubular*. If the tube is spiral in shape, it's called *Coiled*.
- If the secretory portion is *ball-like* in shape, the gland is called *Acinar*
- If there are *both tubular and acinar* secretory portions, the gland is called *Tubuloacinar*

- على هيئة .

❖ Unbranched secretory portion = 1 secretory portion opens into 1 duct

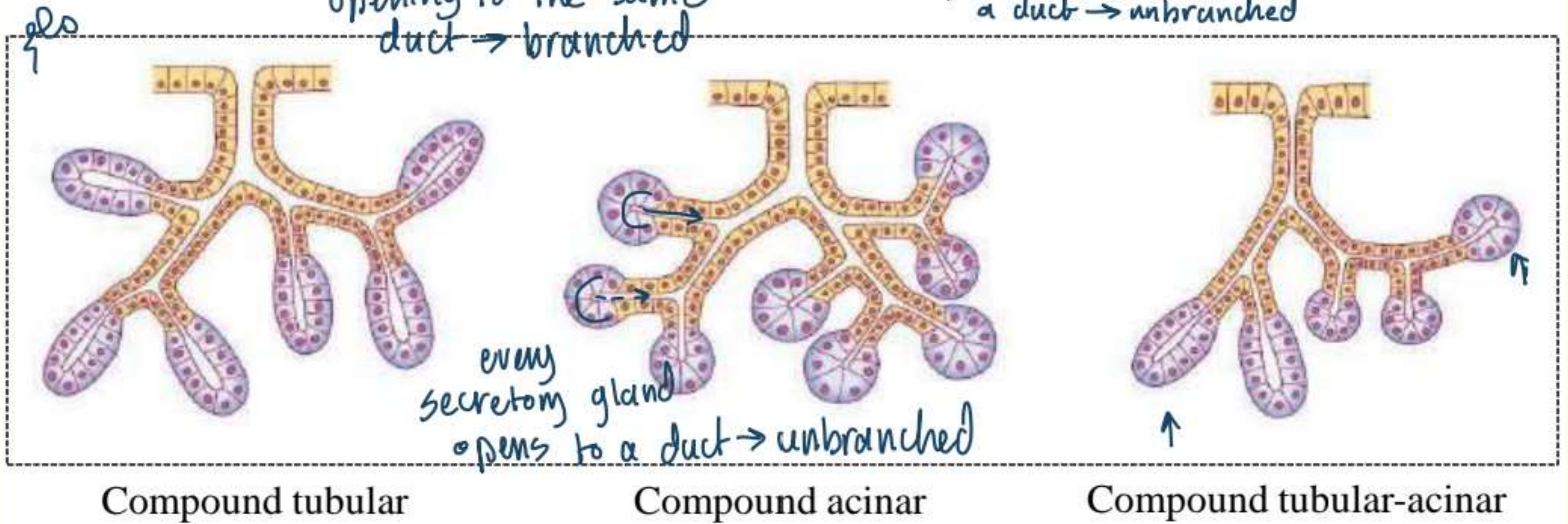
❖ Branched secretory portion = Several secretory portions open into 1 duct

**Note: We can differ the duct from the secretory glands from their**



3 secretory portions opening to the same duct → branched

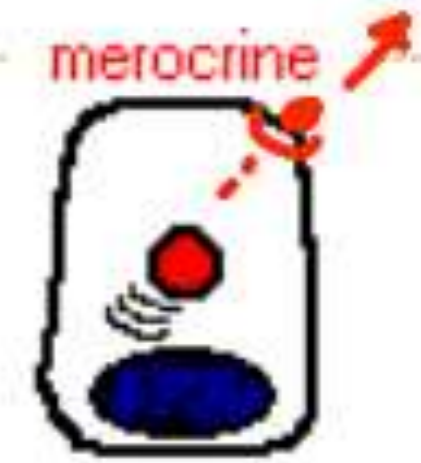
one secretory portion opens into a duct → unbranched



*only*  
4) Exocrine glands classified according to method of secretion:

□ **Merocrine**: only the product is secreted by exocytosis. As in salivary glands.

↳ released to the outside by exocytosis.

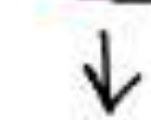


□ **Apocrine**: the product and the apical part of the cell is shed. As in mammary gland.



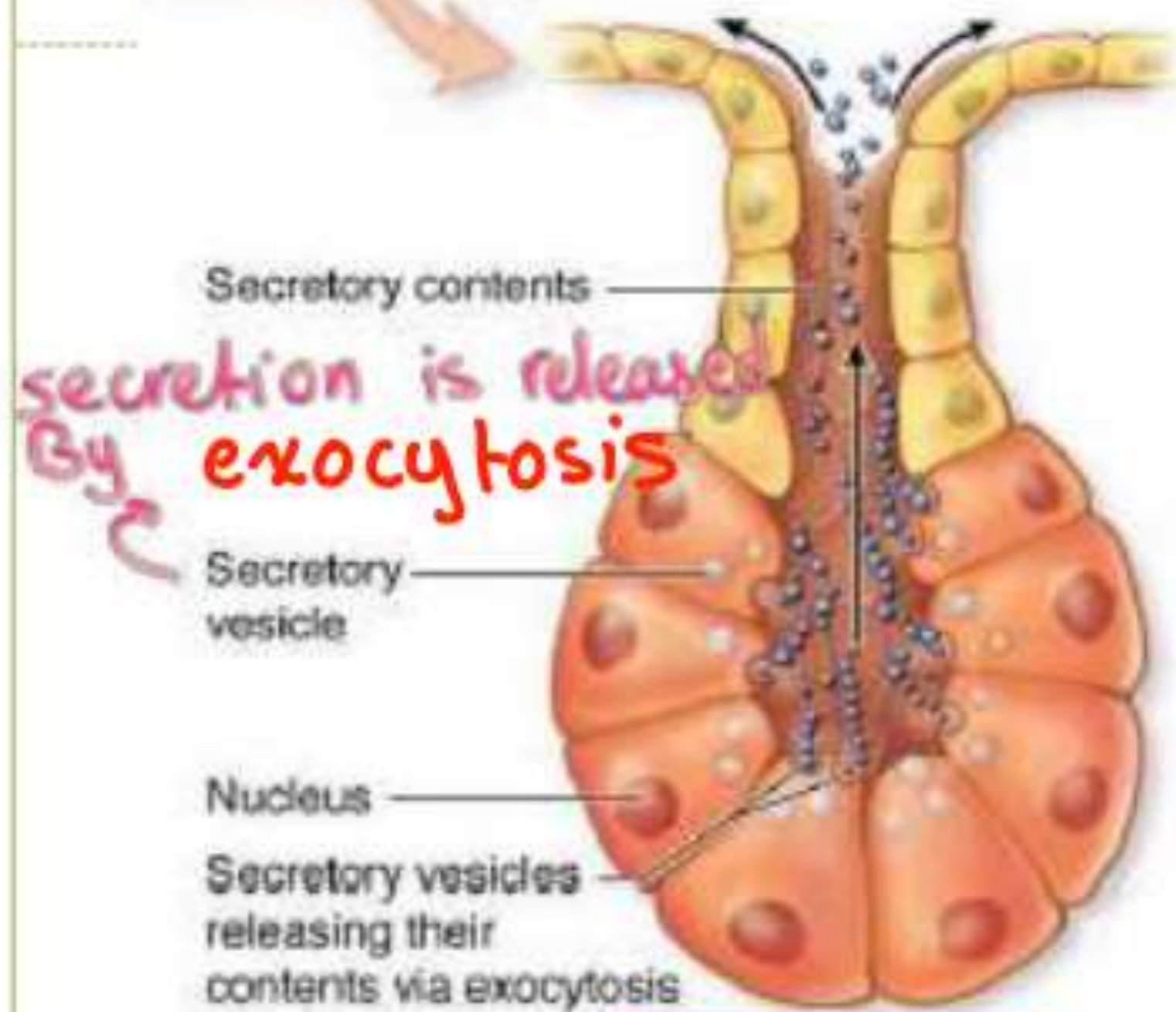
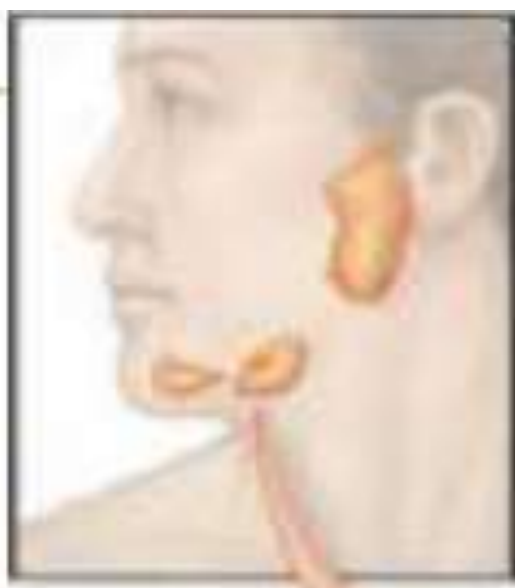
it takes a part of the CM before being released

□ **Holocrine**: the whole cell disintegrates and is shed with the secretion. As in sebaceous glands of the skin.



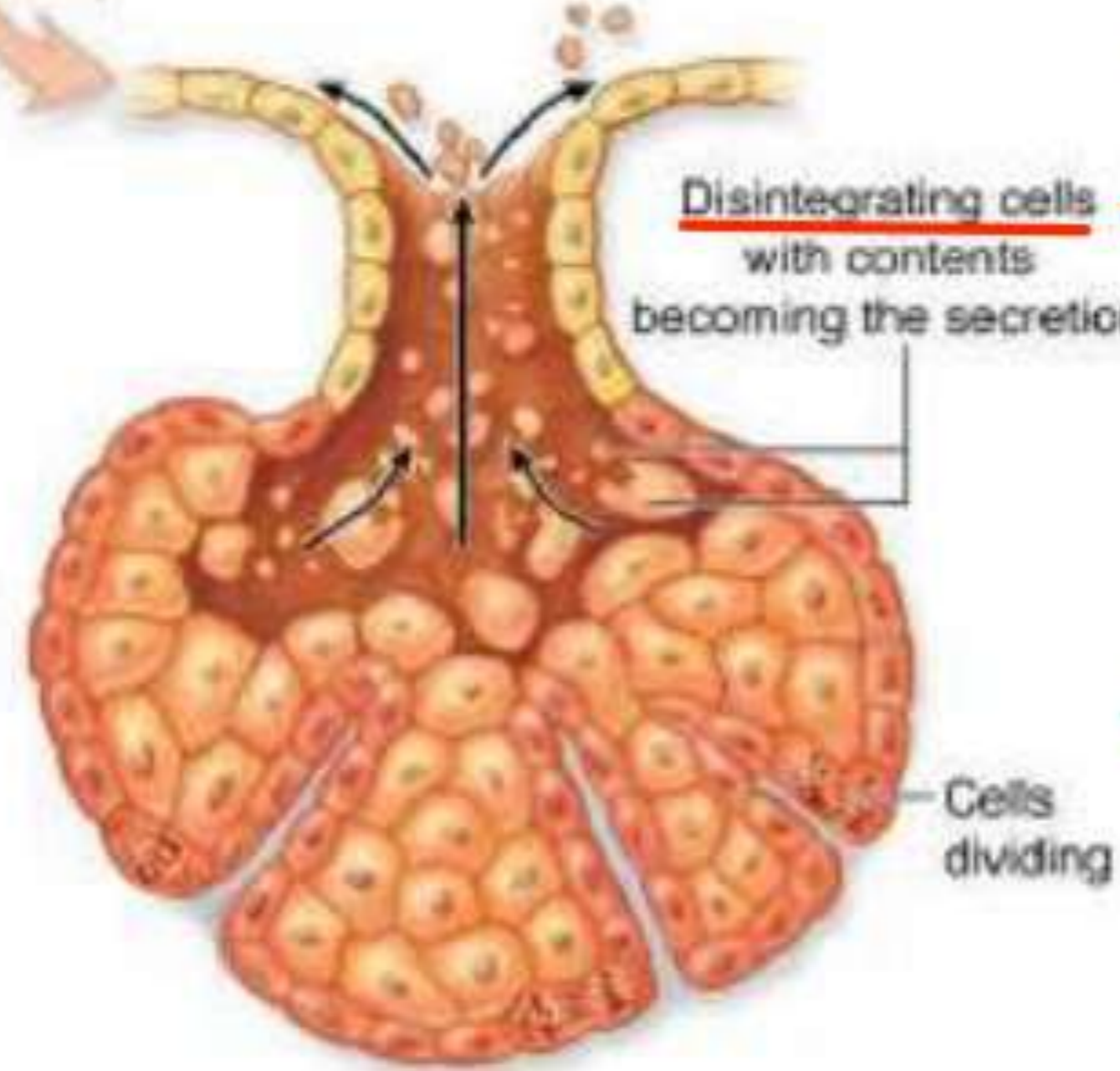
whole cell disintegrates

❖ Merocrine glands are either <sup>①</sup>serous or <sup>②</sup>mucous.



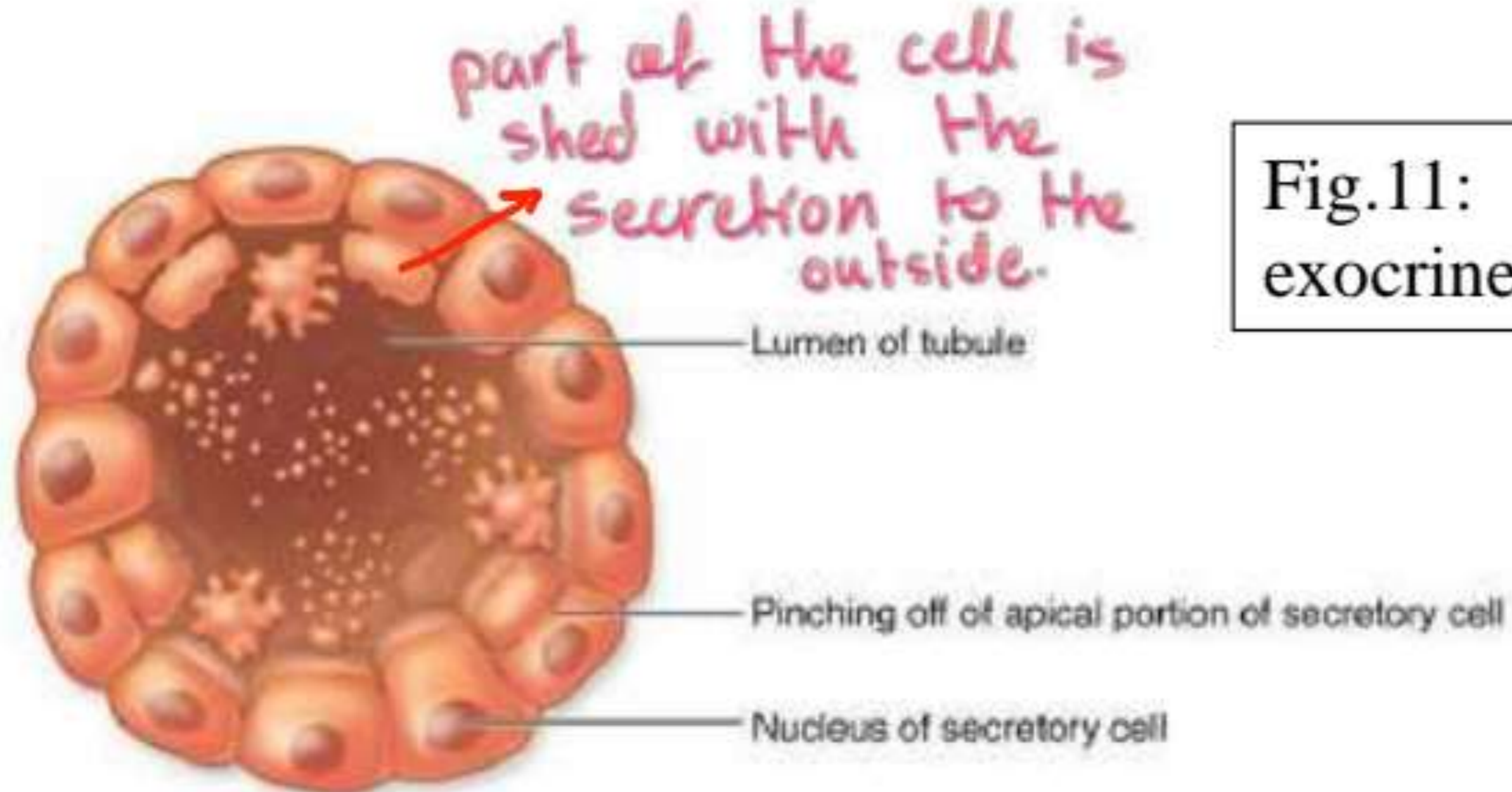
secretion is released by exocytosis

**a Merocrine gland**



all of the cells separates off the gland to the duct

**b Holocrine gland**



**c Apocrine gland**

Fig.11: Methods of secretion of exocrine glands.

→ type of merocrine gland.

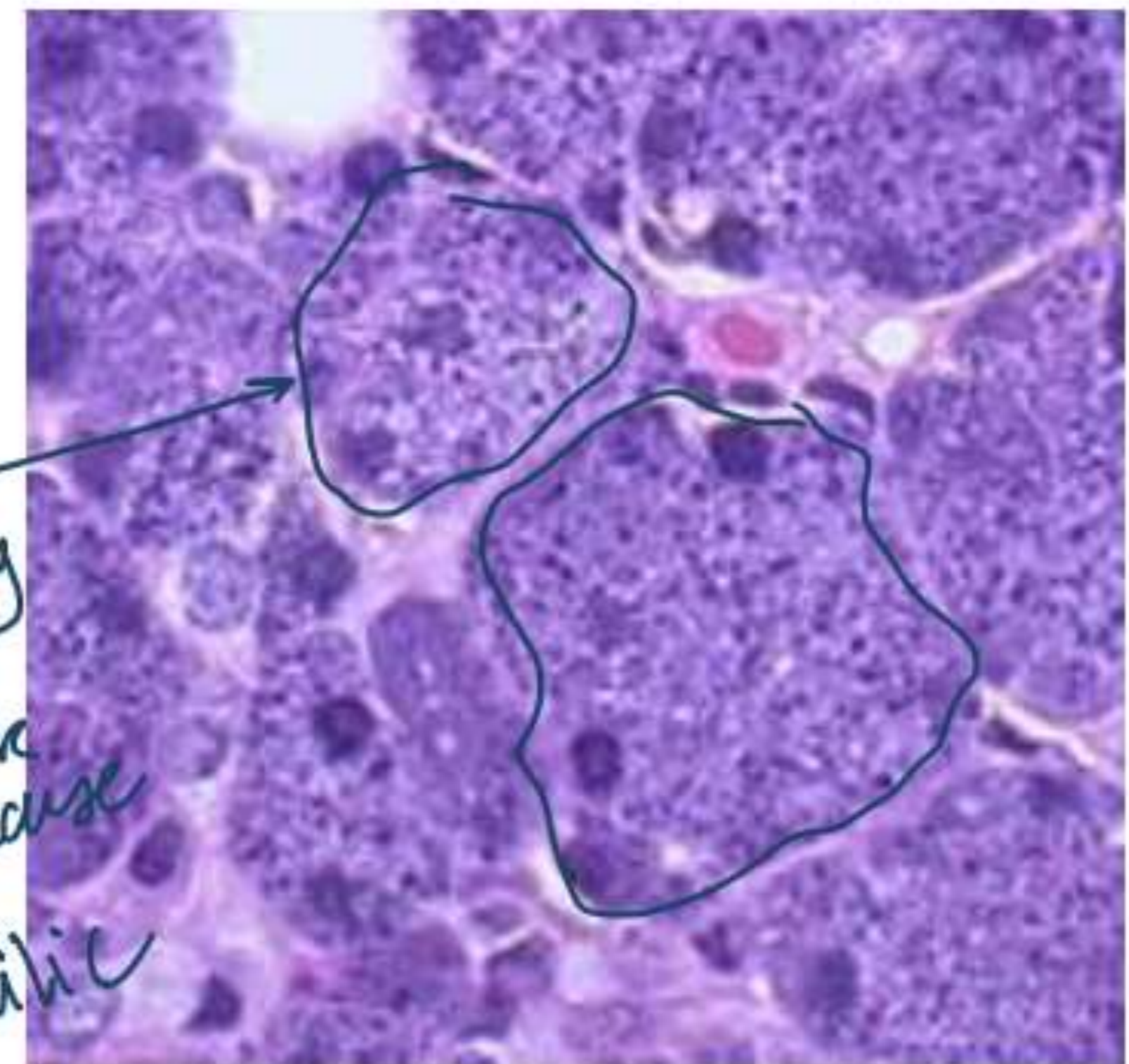
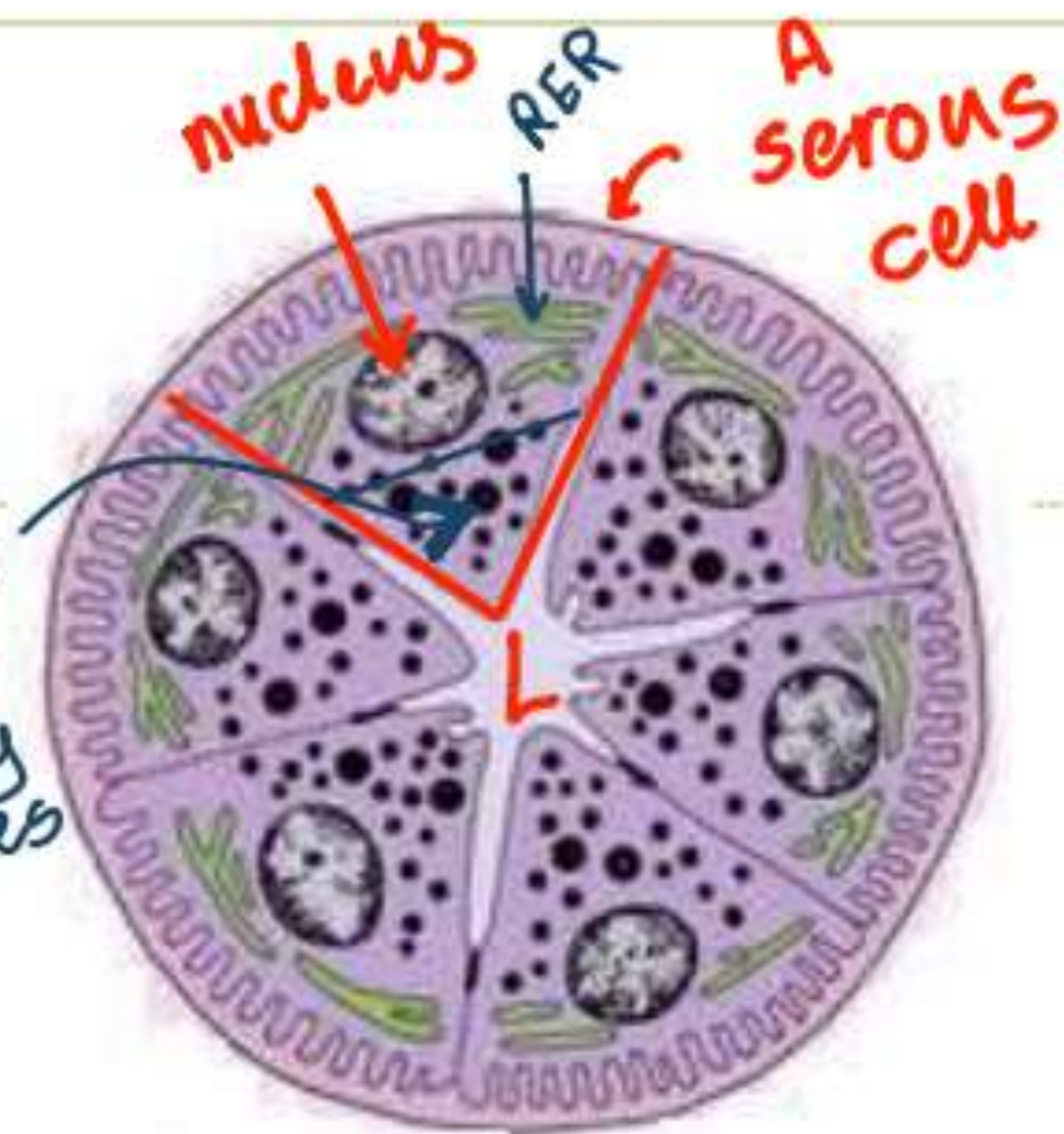
## Serous cells: (Glands)

The cell is

1. Pyramidal in shape.
2. Central, round nucleus.
3. Intense **basophilia** in the basal region due to abundance of rough endoplasmic reticulum (RER) and ribosomes.
4. Apical region less basophilic and more acidophilic due to presence of secretory granules.
5. Example: Parotid salivary gland



Apical region:  
contains  
secretory  
granules

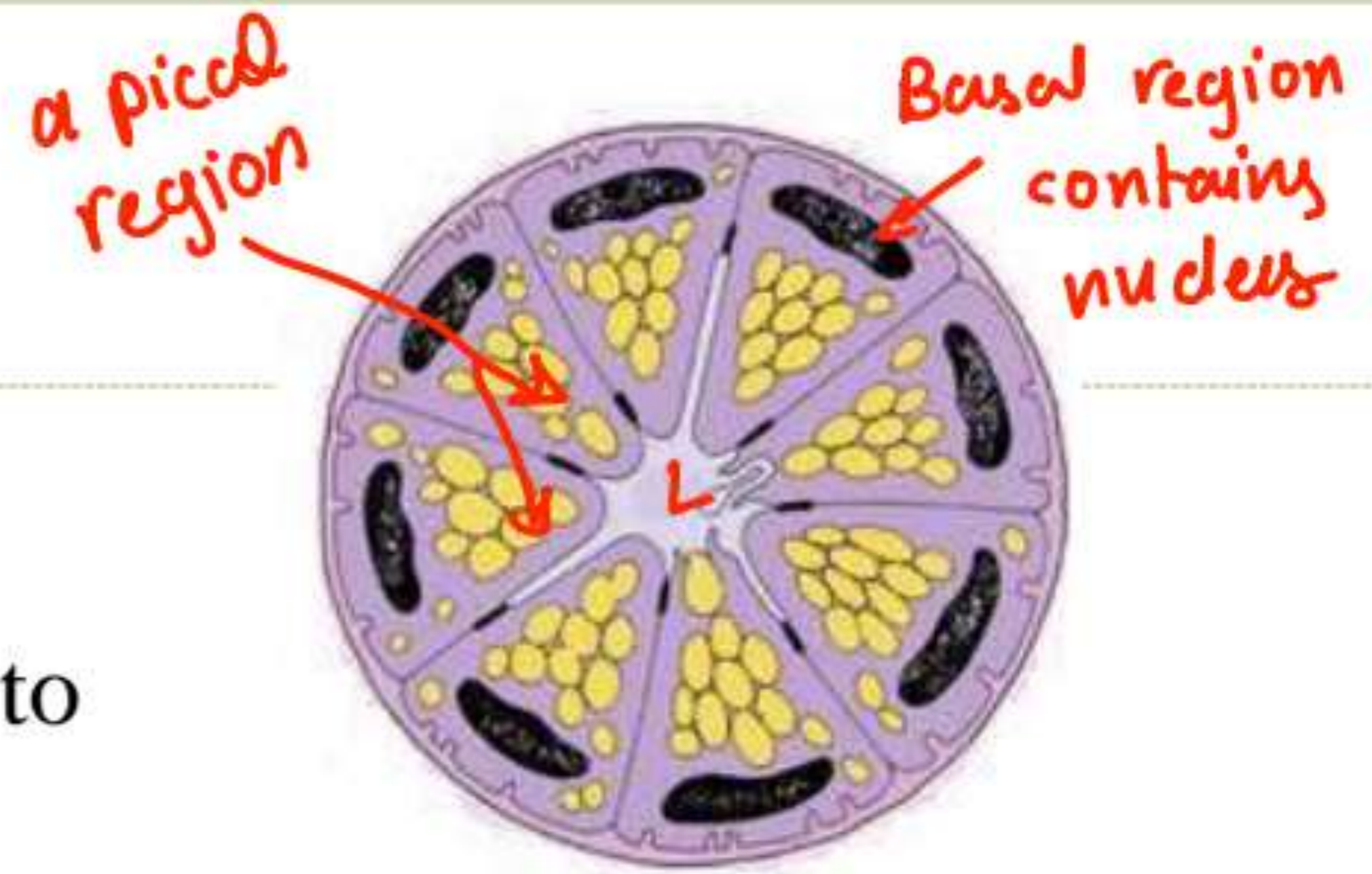


parotid gland

make sure

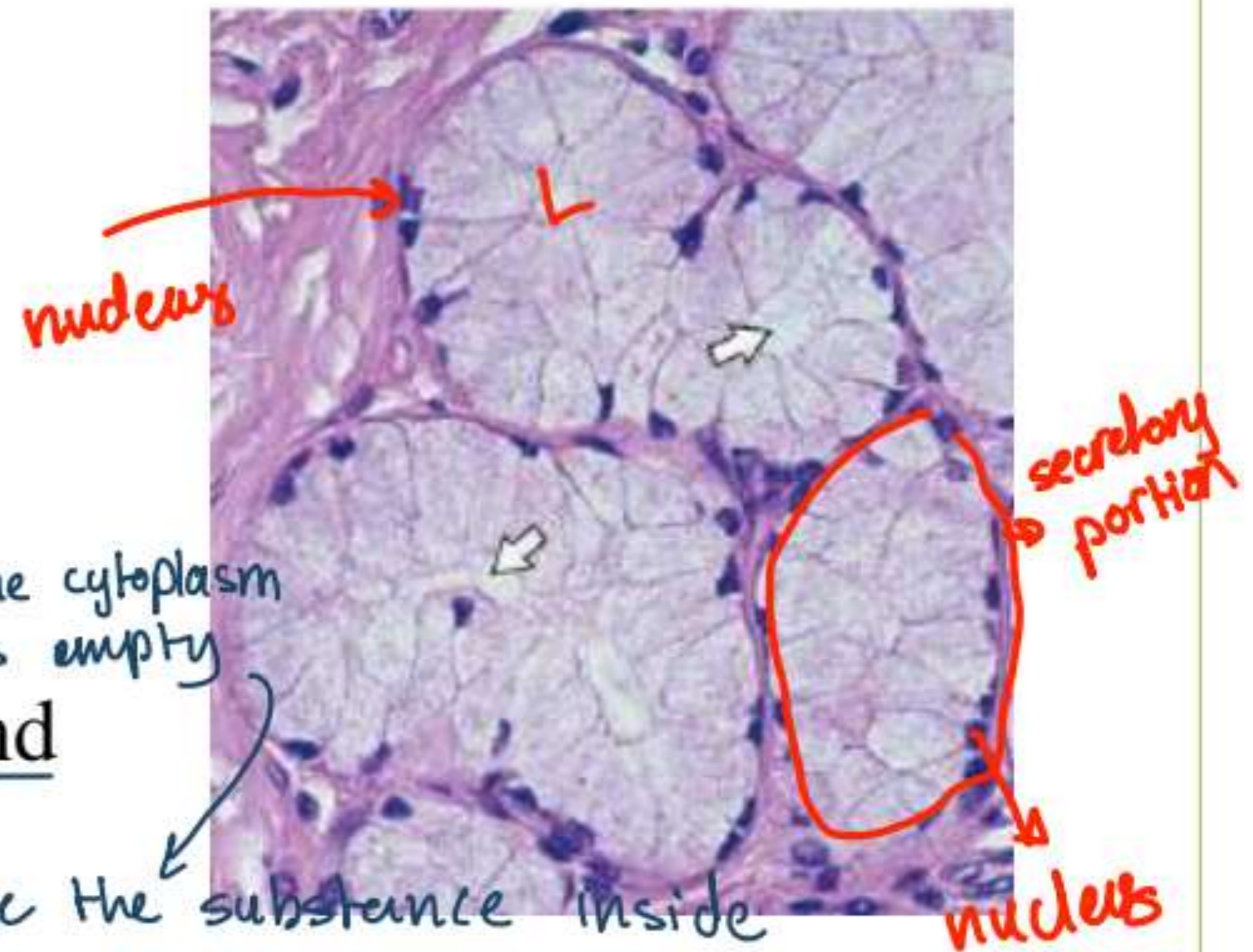


# Mucous cells: (Glands)



1. Nucleus compressed in the basal region.
2. Basophilia in the basal region due to abundance of RER.
3. Apical region filled with several large mucin-containing granules that push the nucleus down.
4. The contents of the granules disappear during routine histological preparation → Cells appear vacant. → the color of the cell, the cytoplasm is white, as if the cell is empty
5. Example: Sublingual salivary gland and Goblet cells.

Both of them secrete mucus



because the substance inside the mucin-containing granules disappear during preparation.



## Myoepithelial cells:

study it from  
down to up

❖ These are epithelial cells associated with glandular epithelium.

❖ They're located between the secretory cells and the basal lamina.

❖ They contain contractile elements in their cytoplasm. When they contract, they compress the secretory portion of the gland pushing the secretion from its lumen to the duct.



Fig.12: Myoepithelial cells. Stain for contractile elements.

↳ lumen of secretory portion

# Epithelial Cell Polarity

- ❖ Polarity of a cell means that various regions of the cell have specialized structural features because they perform different functions.
- ❖ Epithelial cells can be generally divided into 3 regions:
  - 1. Apical (Luminal) region:** Facing the lumen of the organ. → Function: communication btw the cell + the lumen
  - 2. Lateral regions:** adjacent to other cells. → communication btw cells
  - 3. Basal region:** Lying on the basal lamina. → communication btw cell + underlying tissue

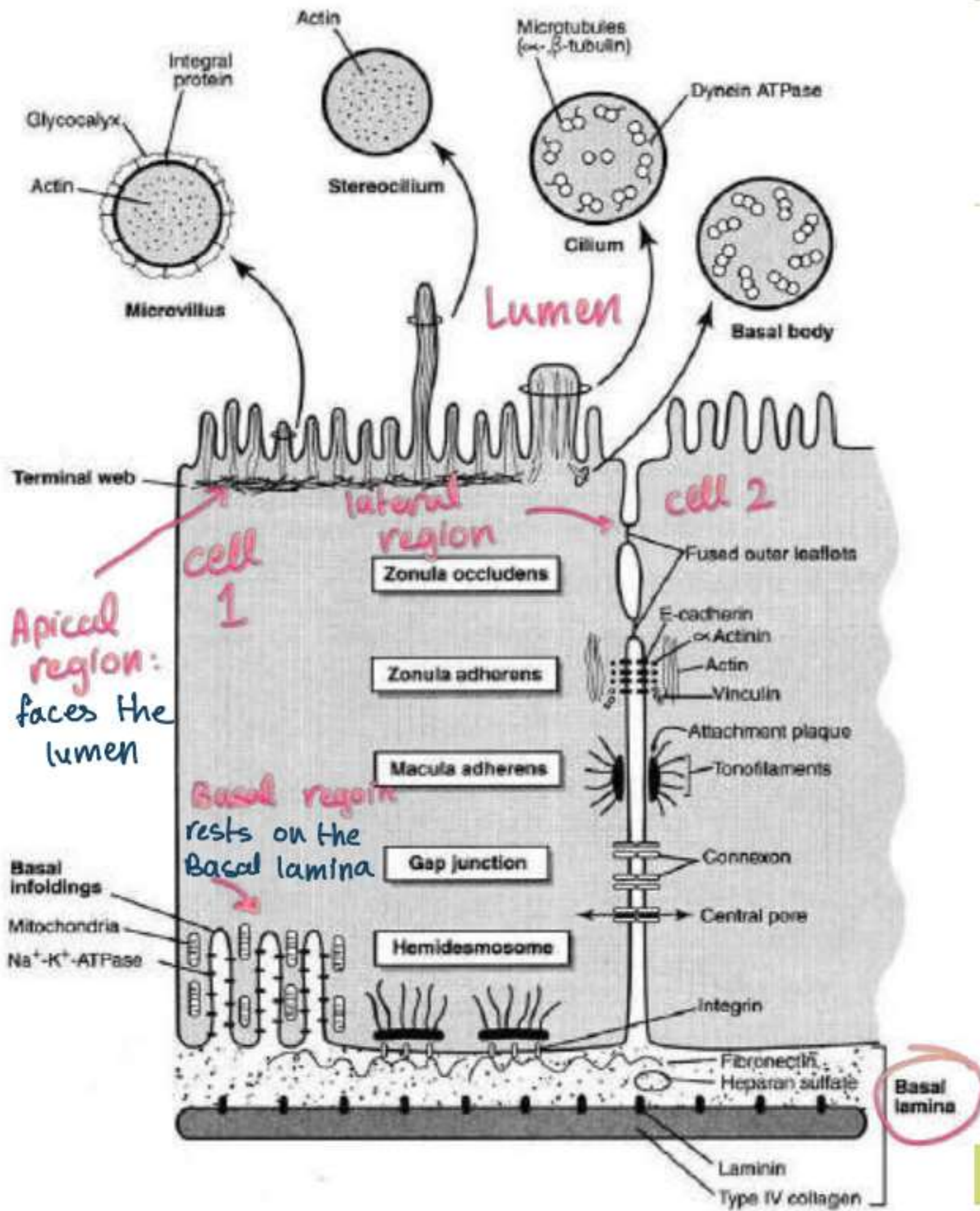


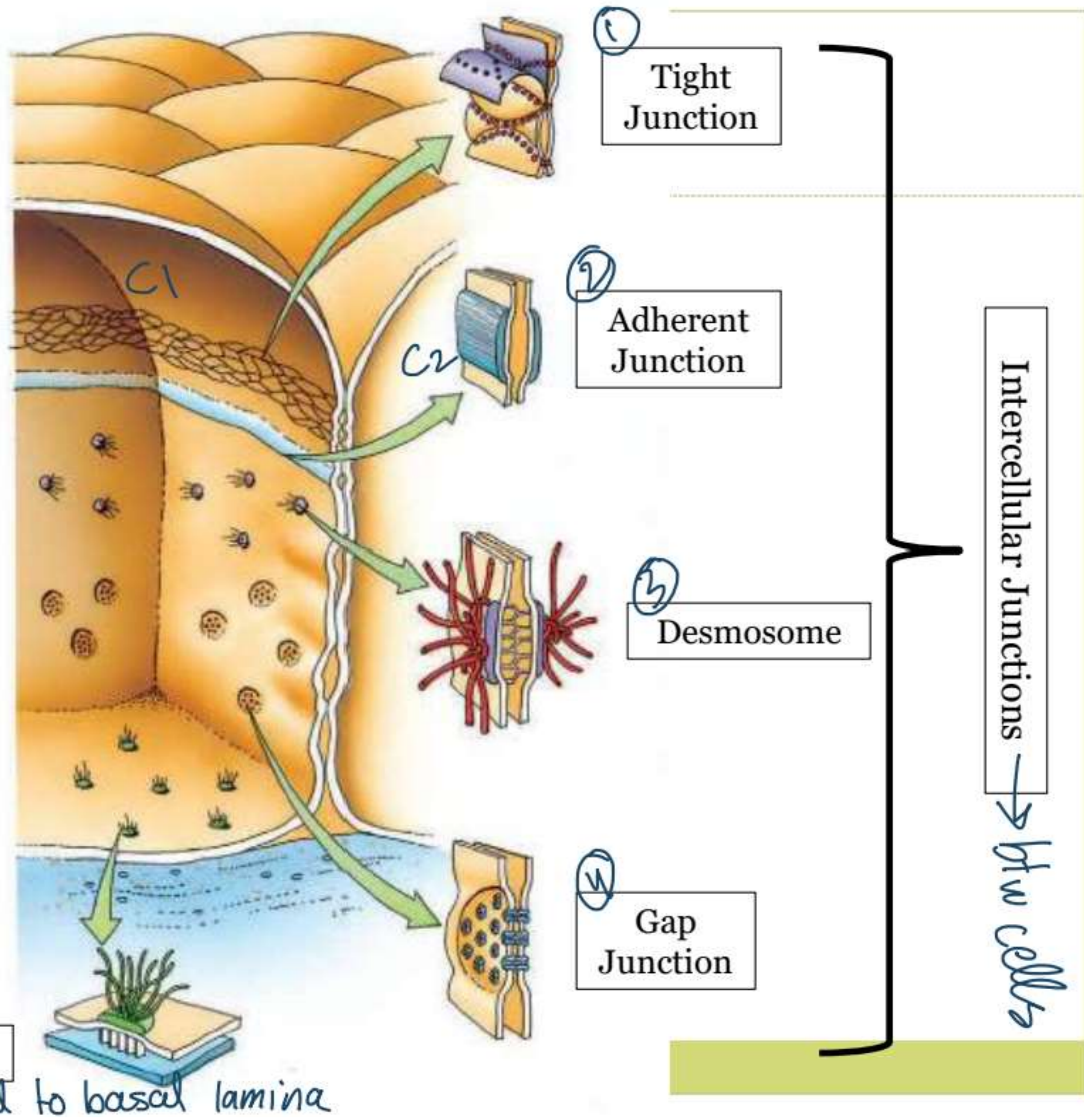
Fig.13: Polarity of epithelial cells. Note the various specialized structures in the different regions of the cell.

# Cellular Junctions

found in the cell membrane

- ❖ Several membrane-associated structures contribute to adhesion and communication <sup>\*</sup>between cells and <sup>\*</sup>between cells and nearby structures.
- ❖ They are present in several types of cells, but are most prominent in epithelial cells.
- ❖ They're usually present in the lateral surface of the cell and their arrangement from the apical to basal parts is specific.

Fig.14: Various types of cellular junctions



## 1) Tight Junctions

- Areas in which there's *fusion of the cell membranes of two adjacent cells* due to the direct interaction between proteins of the cell membrane.
- They consist of several strands of fusion and they completely surround the cell forming a ring around it. That's why these junctions are also called **zonula occludens**.
- They're present in the **apical region of the lateral wall of the cell**.

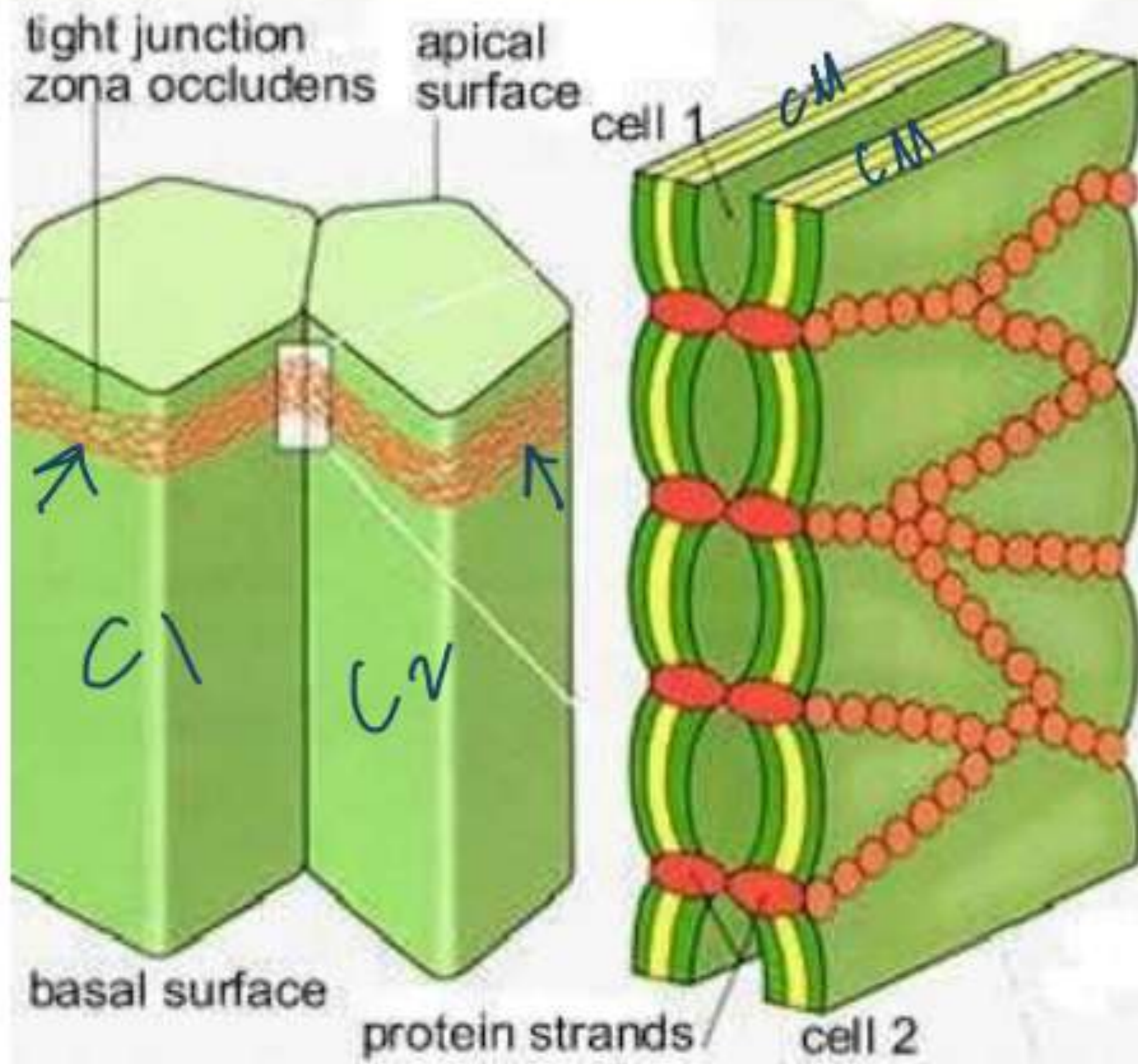
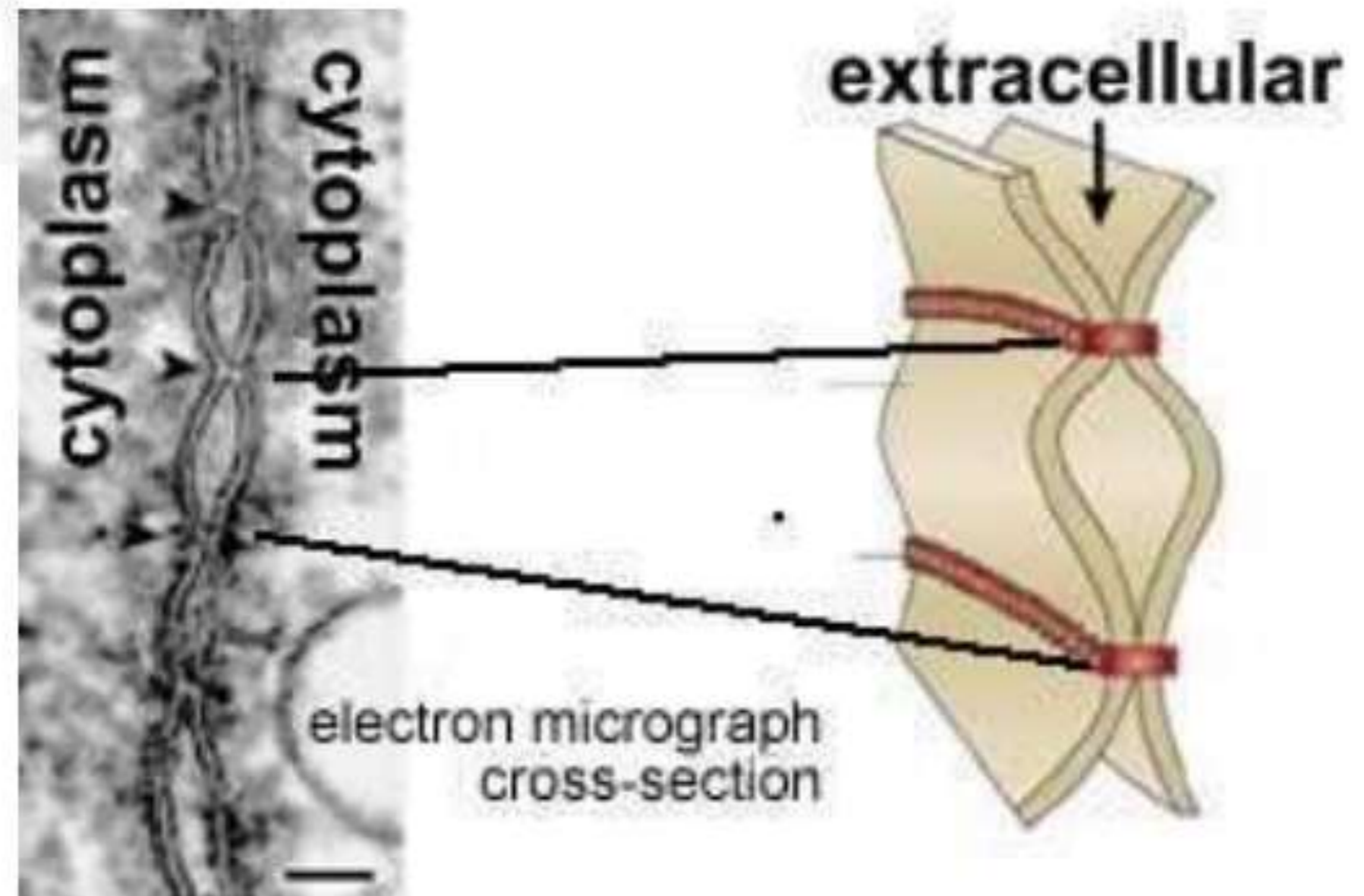


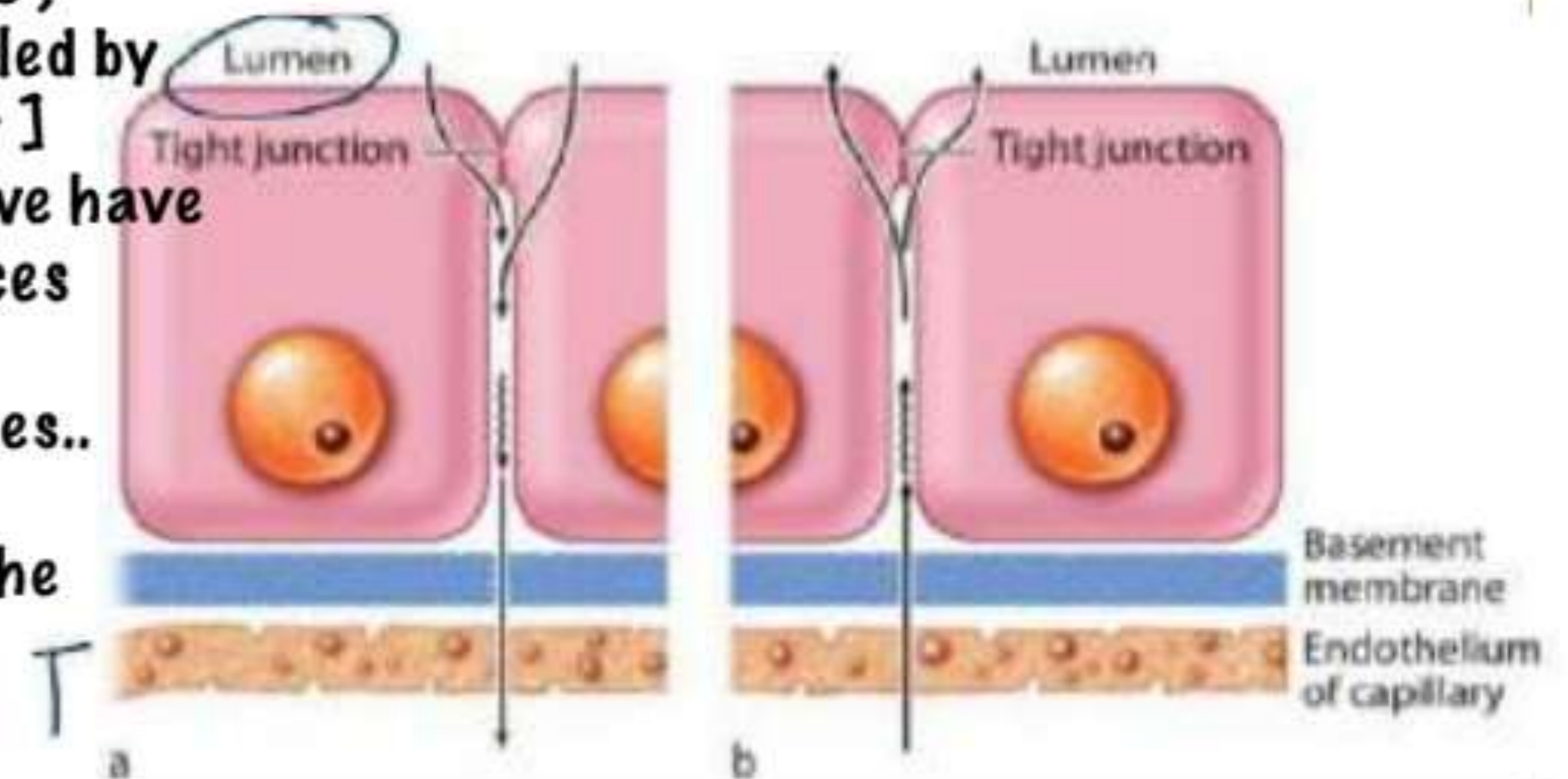
Fig.15: Tight junction. Image on the left shows how these junctions are formed of several strands that completely surround the cell. Fusion of cell membrane at these junctions is clear in the EM image below (arrow heads).



■ Functions of the zonula occludens:

1. Prevention of passage of substances through the intercellular space (this sealing function depends on the number and complexity of the strands).

When a substance wants to move from lumen to the tissue, either it will pass cross the cell and that is highly controlled by receptors and channels and pumps ..etc [ NOT an easy way ] Passing through intracellular space is much easier, but if we have tight junctions, the spaces will be closed off and substances won't be easy through intracellular space This provides protection in case there is harmful substances.. ei: Btw the transitional epithelium there is alot of tight junctions, which prevents the passage of the urine from the lumen to the other layers of the wall of the bladder



2. Prevention of movement of proteins between apical and basal surfaces of the cell, thus each region will maintain its characteristic protein structure.

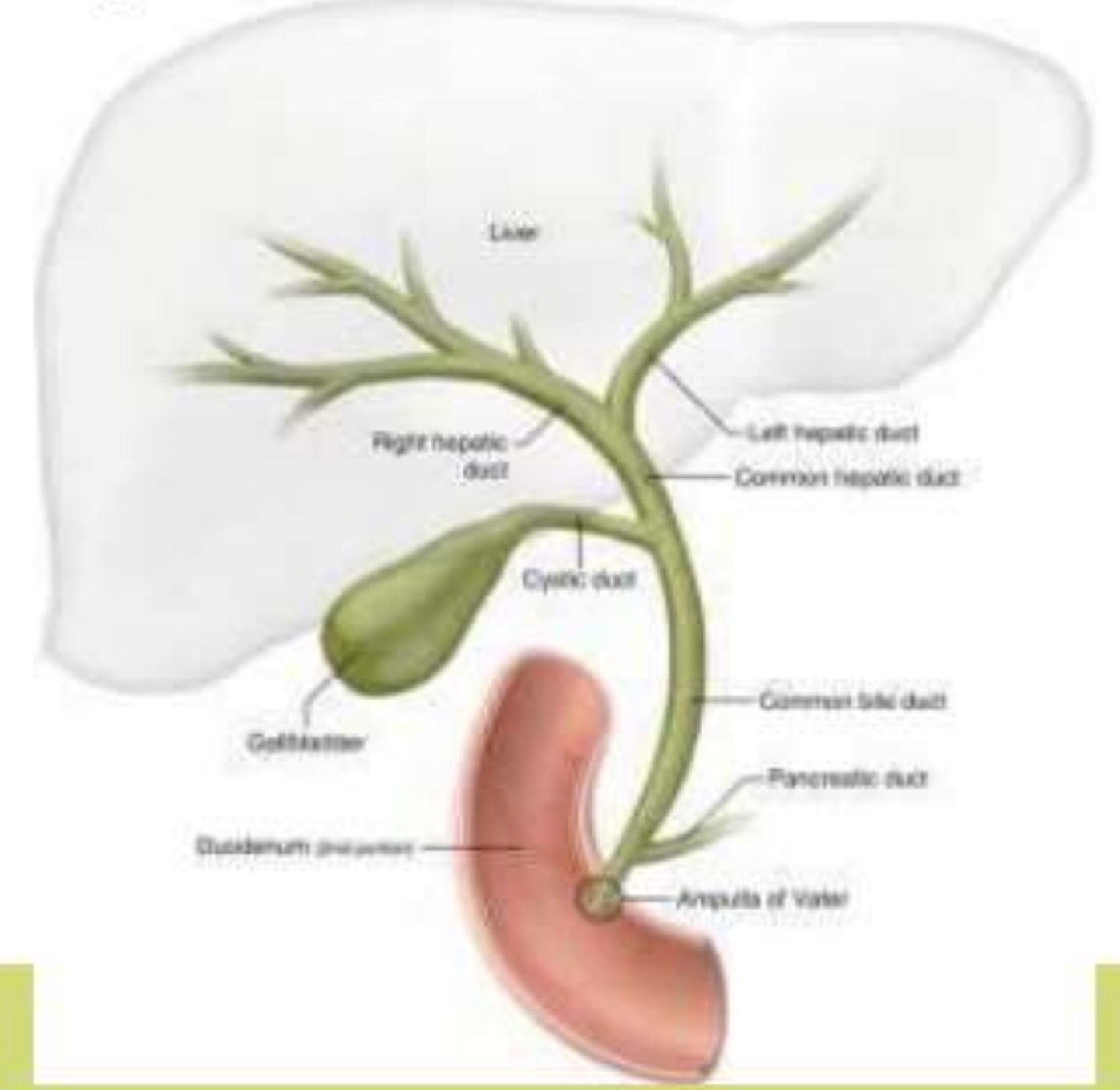
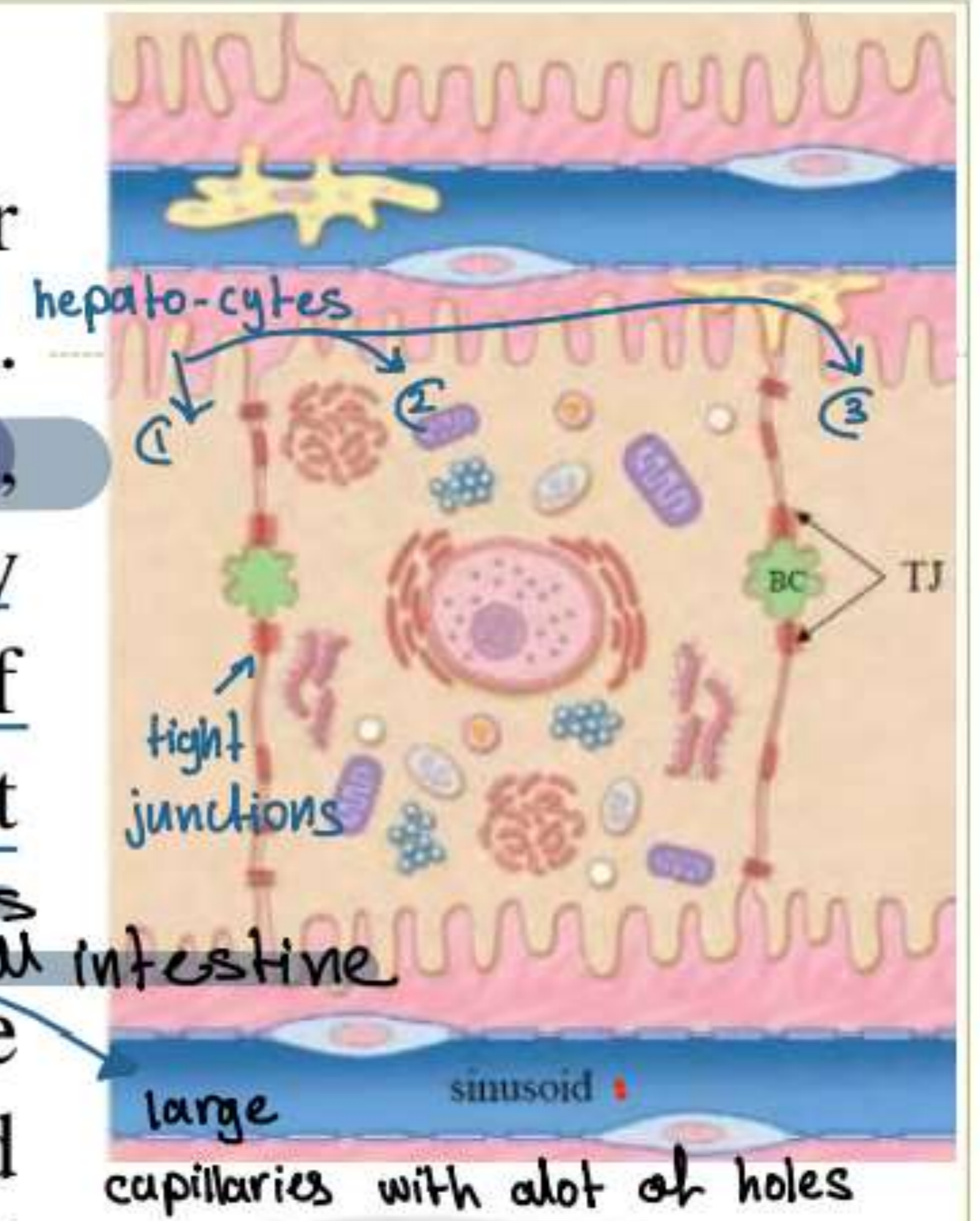
التي تمنع انتقال البروتينات بين السطحين الأمامي والخلفي للأنسجة الظهارية



\*relation between tight junction &

# Obstructive Jaundice

- One of the functions of hepatocytes (liver cells) is the <sup>①</sup> synthesis and secretion of bile. Bile is first <sup>②</sup> excreted into bile canaliculi, small intercellular channels bounded by hepatocytes cell membrane and closed off from the adjacent liver sinusoids by tight junctions. <sup>③</sup> smaller bile ducts, <sup>④</sup> larger bile ducts, <sup>⑤</sup> hepatic ducts <sup>⑥</sup> inside of liver <sup>⑦</sup> small intestine
- If there's an obstruction to the flow of bile for any reason, bile will accumulate, and the increased pressure in the canaliculi will cause rupture <sup>\* break \*</sup> of the tight junctions. In this way, some bile will pass into the sinusoids and lead to jaundice and other complications.
- So, tight junctions here are considered part of the blood-bile barrier.



## 2) Adherent Junctions

- Areas in which there's *adhesion between two adjacent cells* mediated by a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -dependent transmembrane glycoprotein (The intercellular space is not closed off).
- These glycoproteins are attached to a protein plaque inside the cell that's connected to microfilaments.
- Adherent junctions also surround the cell usually below the zonula occludens forming another zone called **zonula adherens**.
- Function of adherent junctions is to provide for a firm adhesion between adjacent cells thus preventing their separation due to physical forces.

function ↗

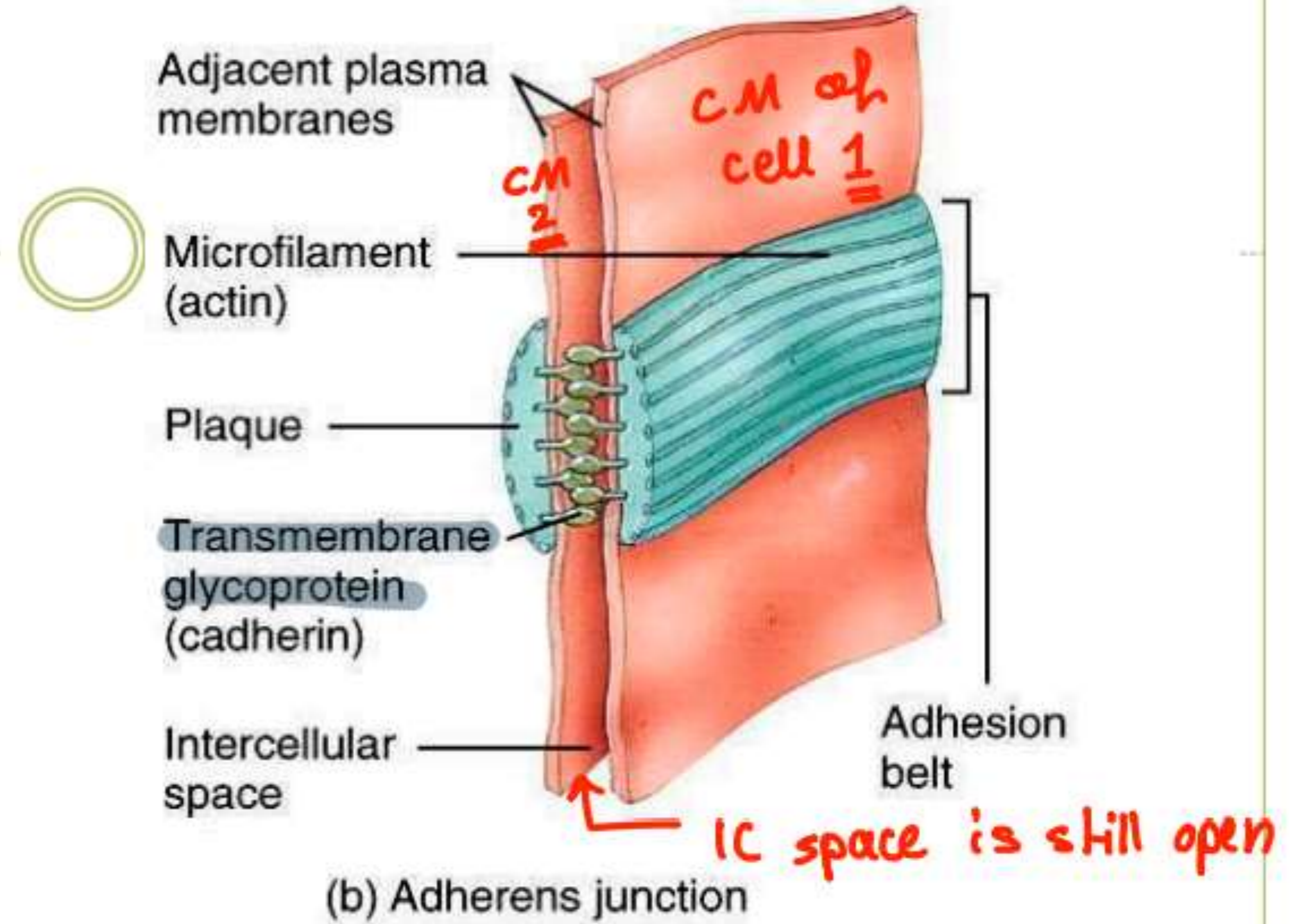
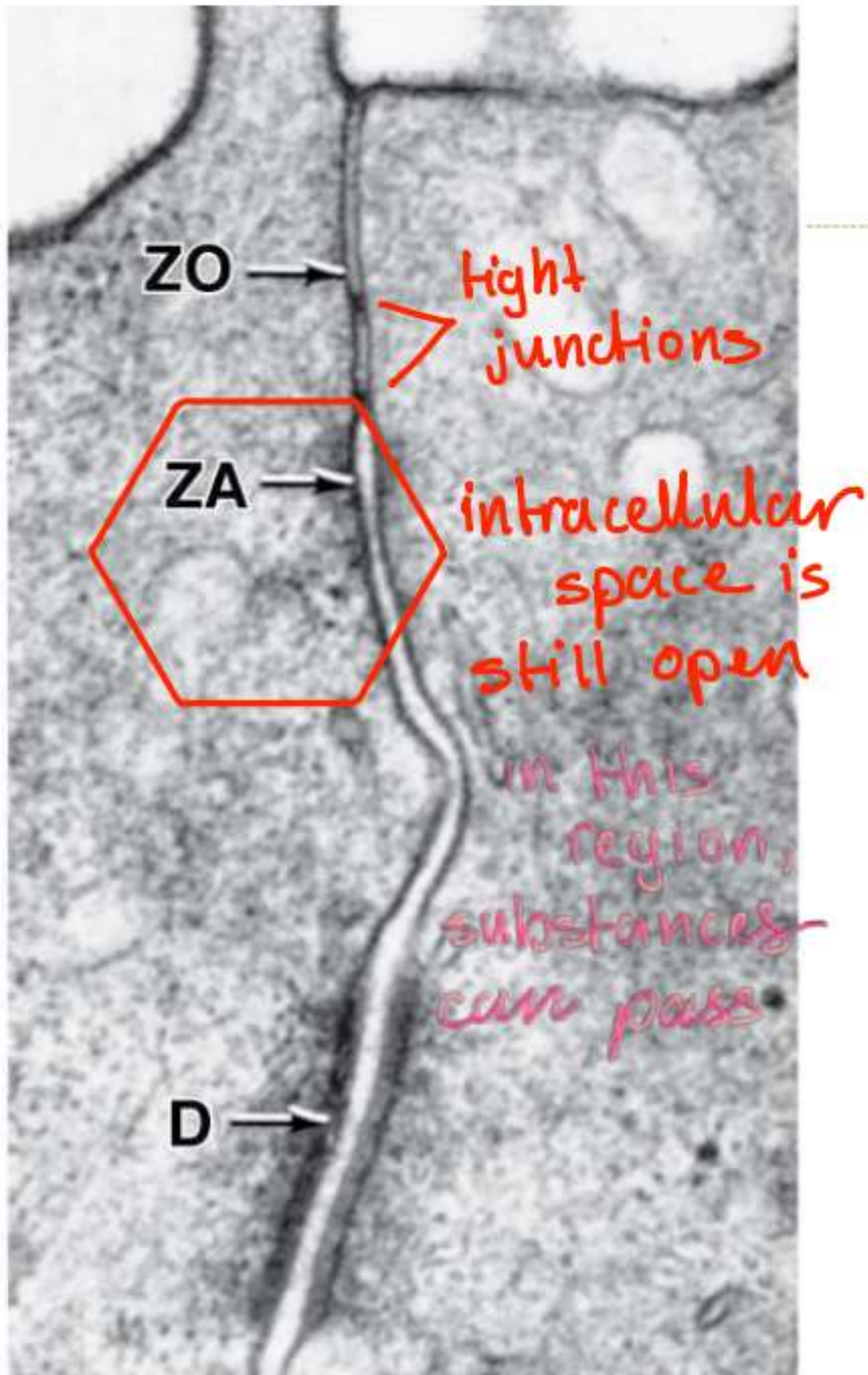


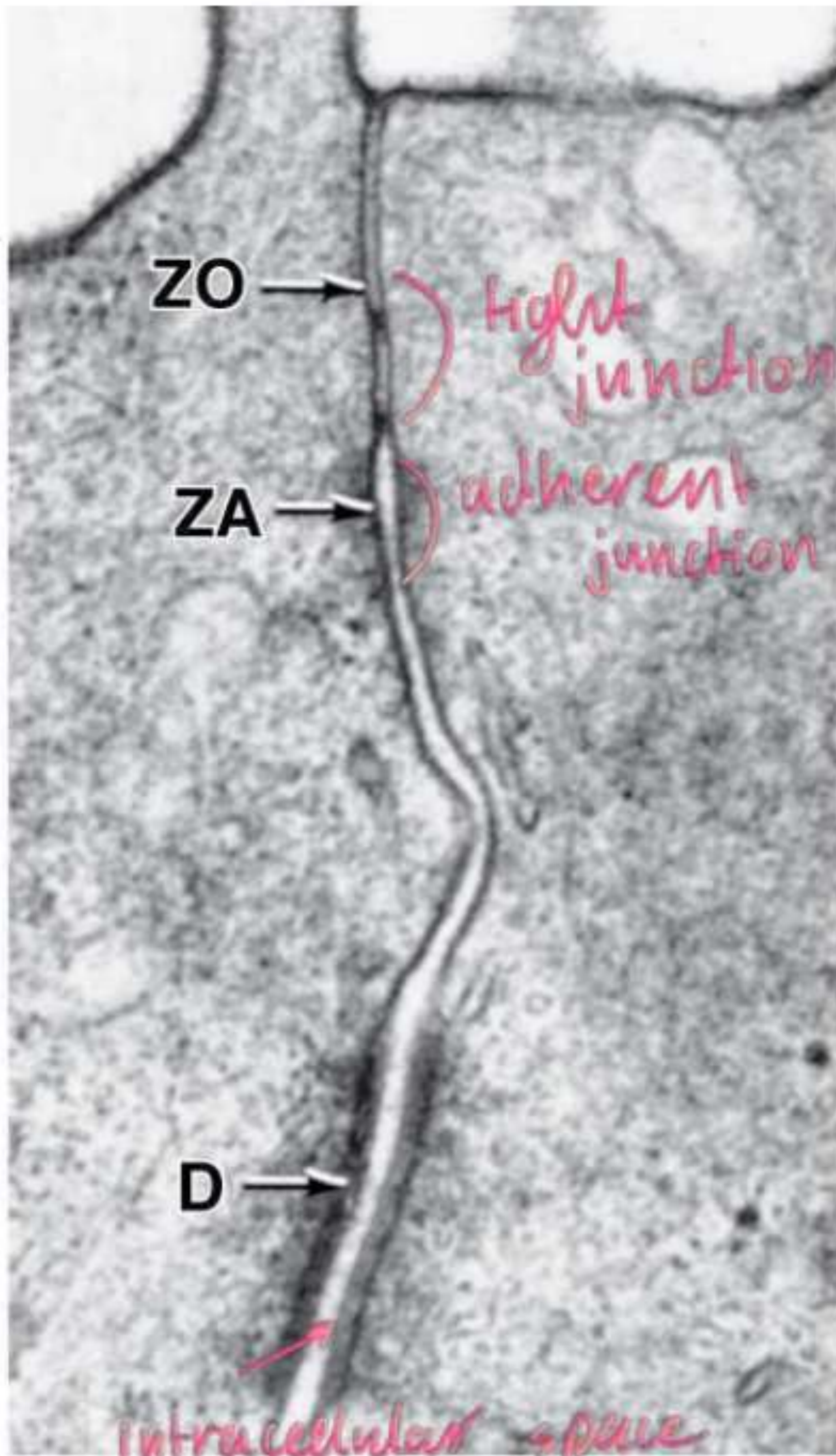
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Fig.16: Adherent junction. Image above shows the components of this junction. The EM image on the left shows that at this junction (ZA), the intercellular space is not closed off.

→ located at the lower part of the lateral wall of the cell

### 3) Desmosomes

- ✓ Here there is also cellular adhesion mediated by transmembrane glycoproteins. The glycoproteins are attached to protein plaques which are in turn attached to intermediate filaments.
- ✓ Because the connection here is with intermediate filaments, the adhesion in desmosomes is stronger than the adhesion provided by the zonula adherens.
- ✓ Desmosomes do not form a ring around the cell, but are present as scattered single spots called **macula adherens**.



*intracellular space isn't closed off at the sight of desmosomes*

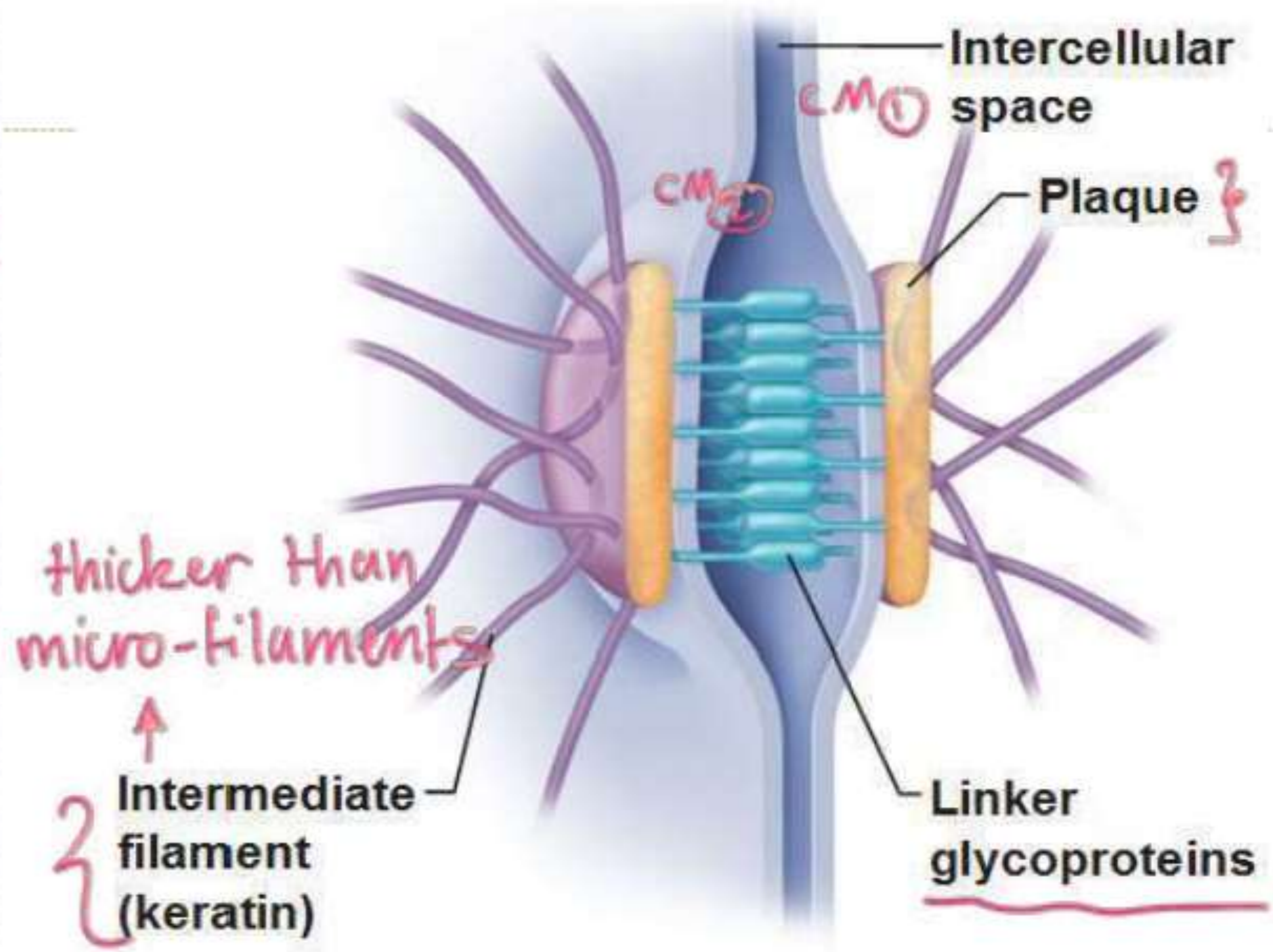


Fig.17: Desmosomes. Image above shows the components of this junction. The EM image to the left shows the position of these junctions.

- ✓ They are usually present in the lower part of the lateral wall of the cell.
- ✓ Function of desmosomes is to provide strong cell-to-cell adhesion.
- ✓ *Pemphigus vulgaris* is a condition involving the skin in which there are antibodies against epidermal desmosomal proteins. These cause disruption of the desmosomes and the loss of cellular adhesion leading to accumulation of fluid and formation of blisters.

## 4) Hemidesmosomes

- These are similar to desmosomes. They're located in the basal surface of the cell and provide *adhesion between the cell and the underlying basal lamina.*

- In hemidesmosomes, the intermediate filaments and the protein plaque are derived from the cell only.  
*only from one side*

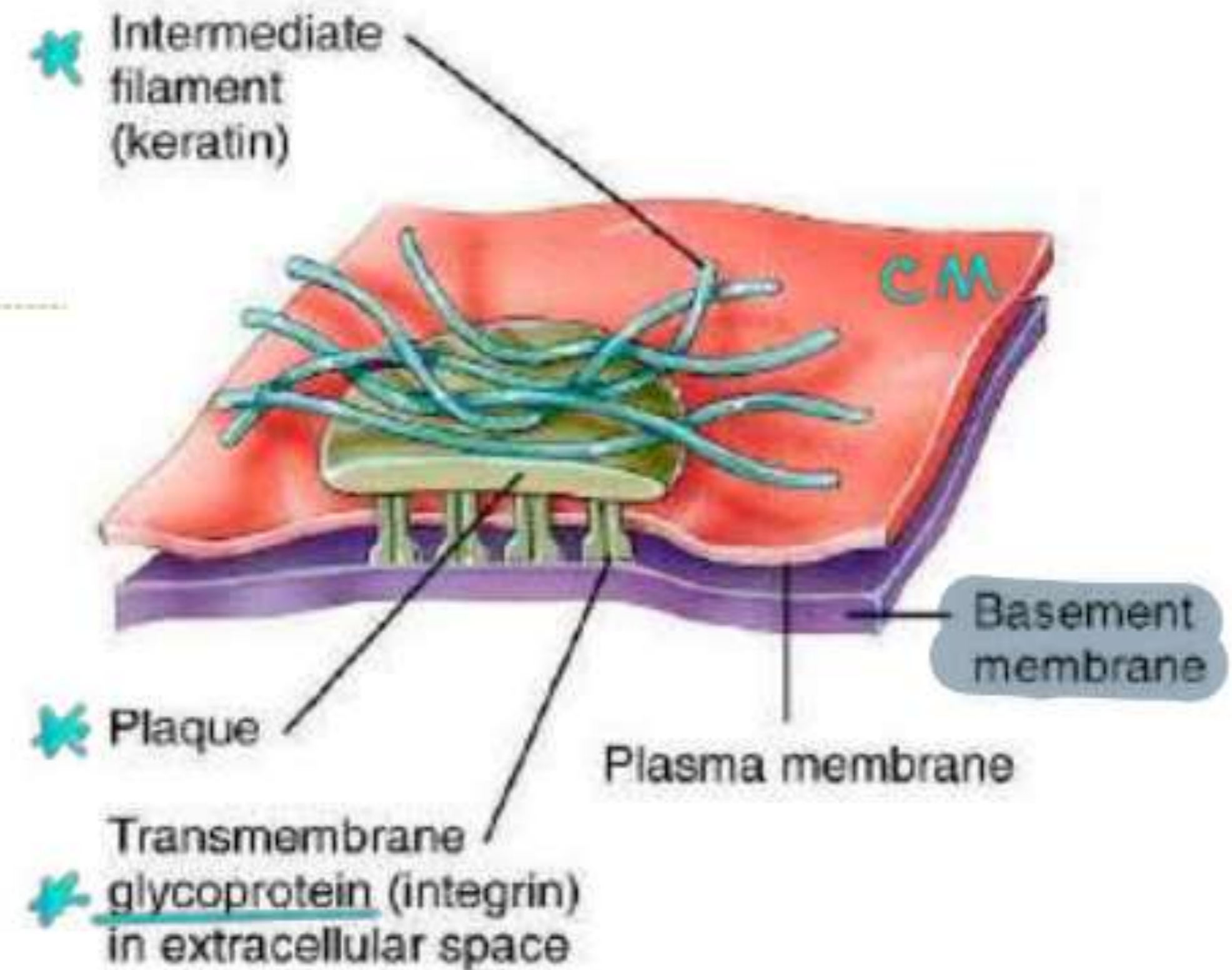


Fig.18: Hemidesmosomes. Note how this junction is present in the cell only.

- However, the desmosomes we have adhesion btw two cells, and each one of them provides one half of the junction.



- *Bullous pemphigoid* is an autoimmune disease in which antibodies are directed against hemidesmosomes of the epidermis. Hemidesmosomes will lose their anchoring abilities leading to separation of epidermis from the dermis causing accumulation of fluid and formation of blisters.



## 5) Gap (Communicating) Junction

❖ At these junctions, the cell membrane of two adjacent cells are **apposed**. Each cell has a **disc shaped** structure that contains *numerous protein complexes with central pores in them*.

❖ Through these pores **small molecules** may pass from the cytoplasm of one cell to the other.

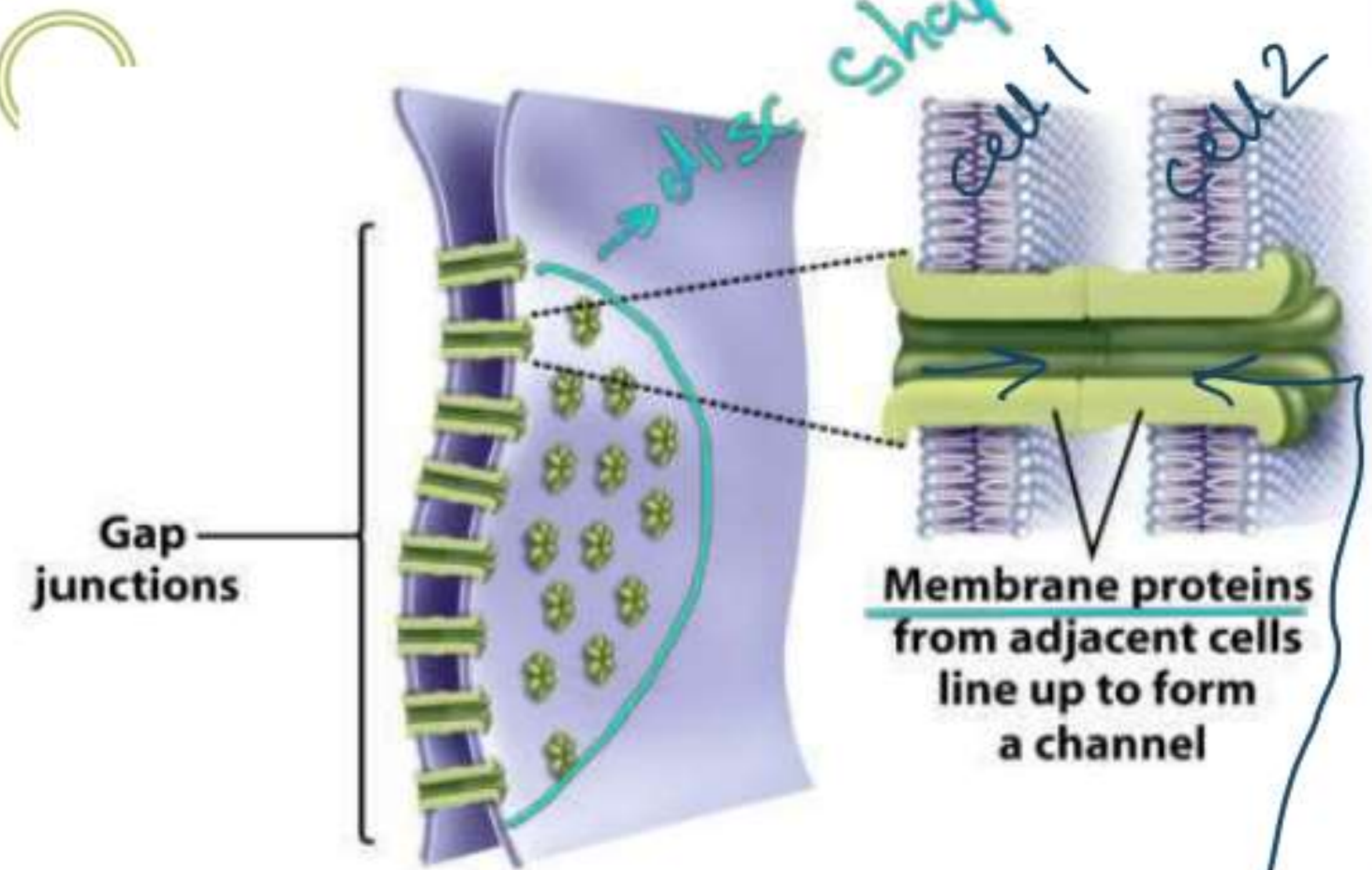



Fig.19: Gap junction

- ❖ It could be located anywhere along the lateral surface of cells.
- ❖ In cardiac and smooth muscles, the presence of such junctions allow the passage of Ca ions rapidly between cells ensuring their simultaneous contraction.
- ❖ In bones, the presence of such junctions between osteocytes ensures the passage of nutrients from one cell to another.

## Specialization of the Basal surface



1. Hemidesmosomes: for anchoring into basal lamina.
2. Basal striation: infolding of the cell membrane to increase the surface area. 
3. Several transporters and pumps.
4. Receptors for various signals.

## Specialization of the Apical surface

→ closest to the lumen of the organ

### 1) Microvilli (single = microvillus)

- Finger-like cytoplasmic projections that are present in absorptive epithelium, most prominently in the small intestine. They increase the surface area.
- They consist of a core of cytoplasm with a network of actin filaments cross-linked with each other and with the surrounding cell membrane and with the terminal web of the cell. They're motile. [Microvilli are motile]
- They could be short or long, temporary or permanent.

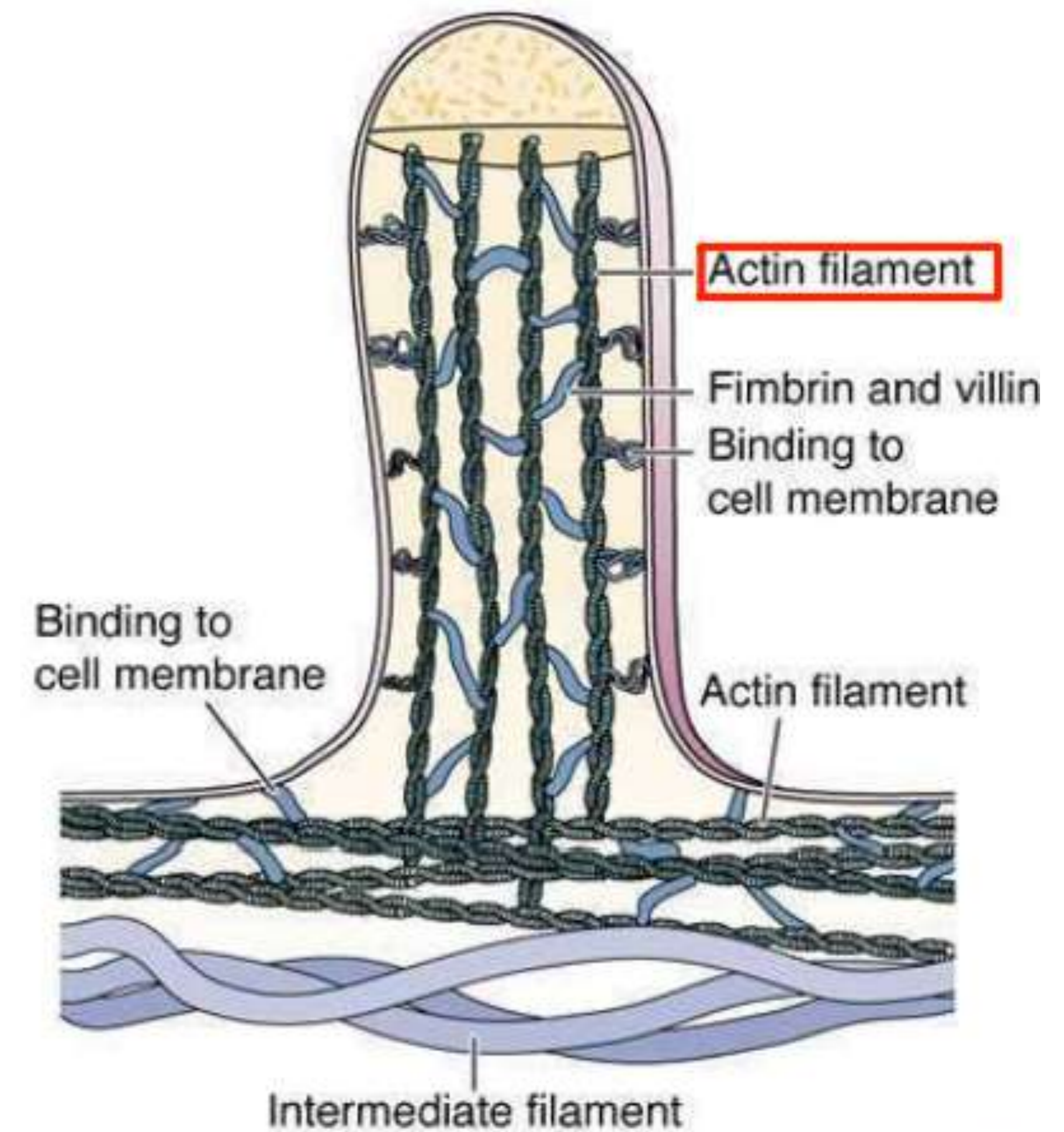
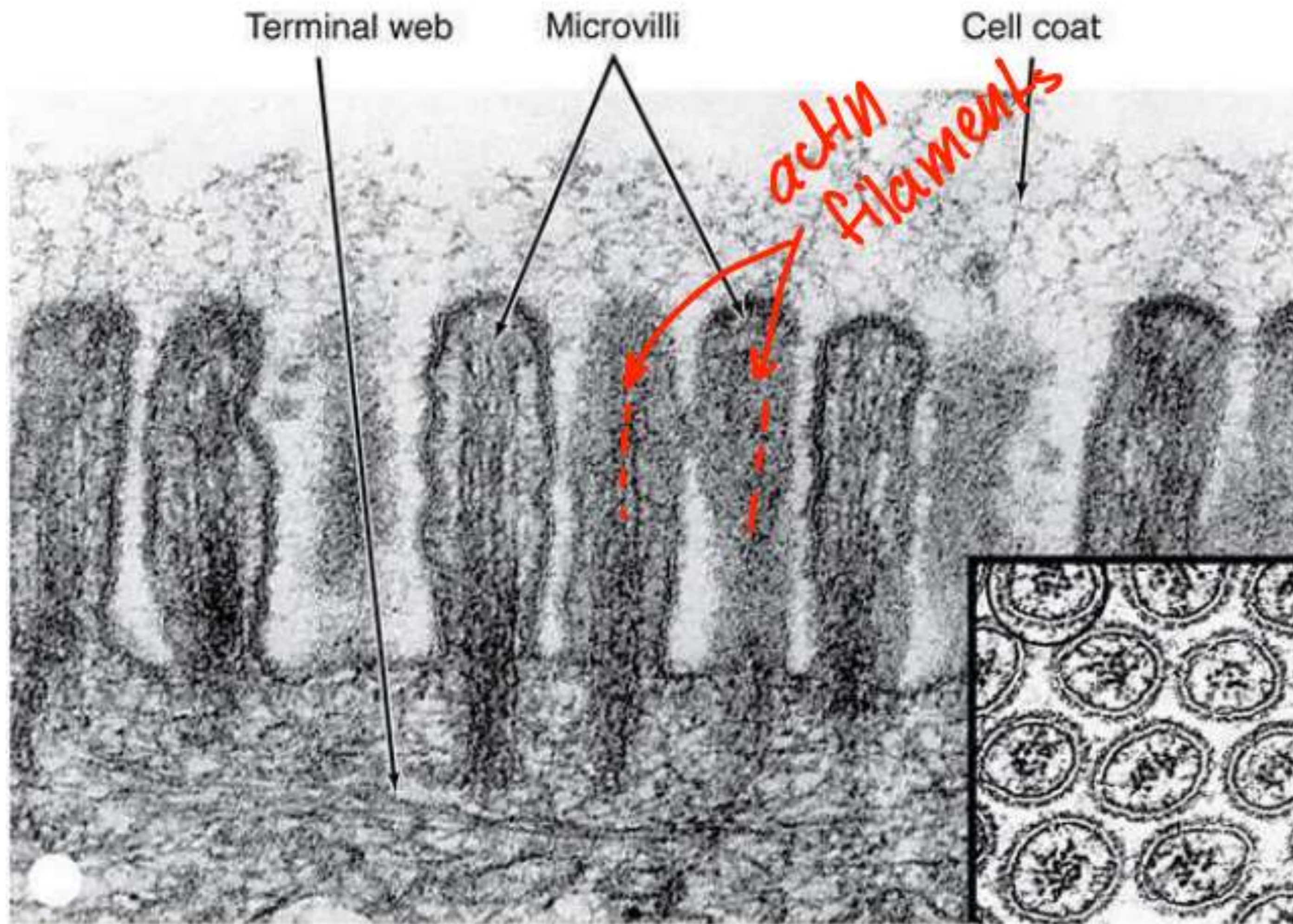
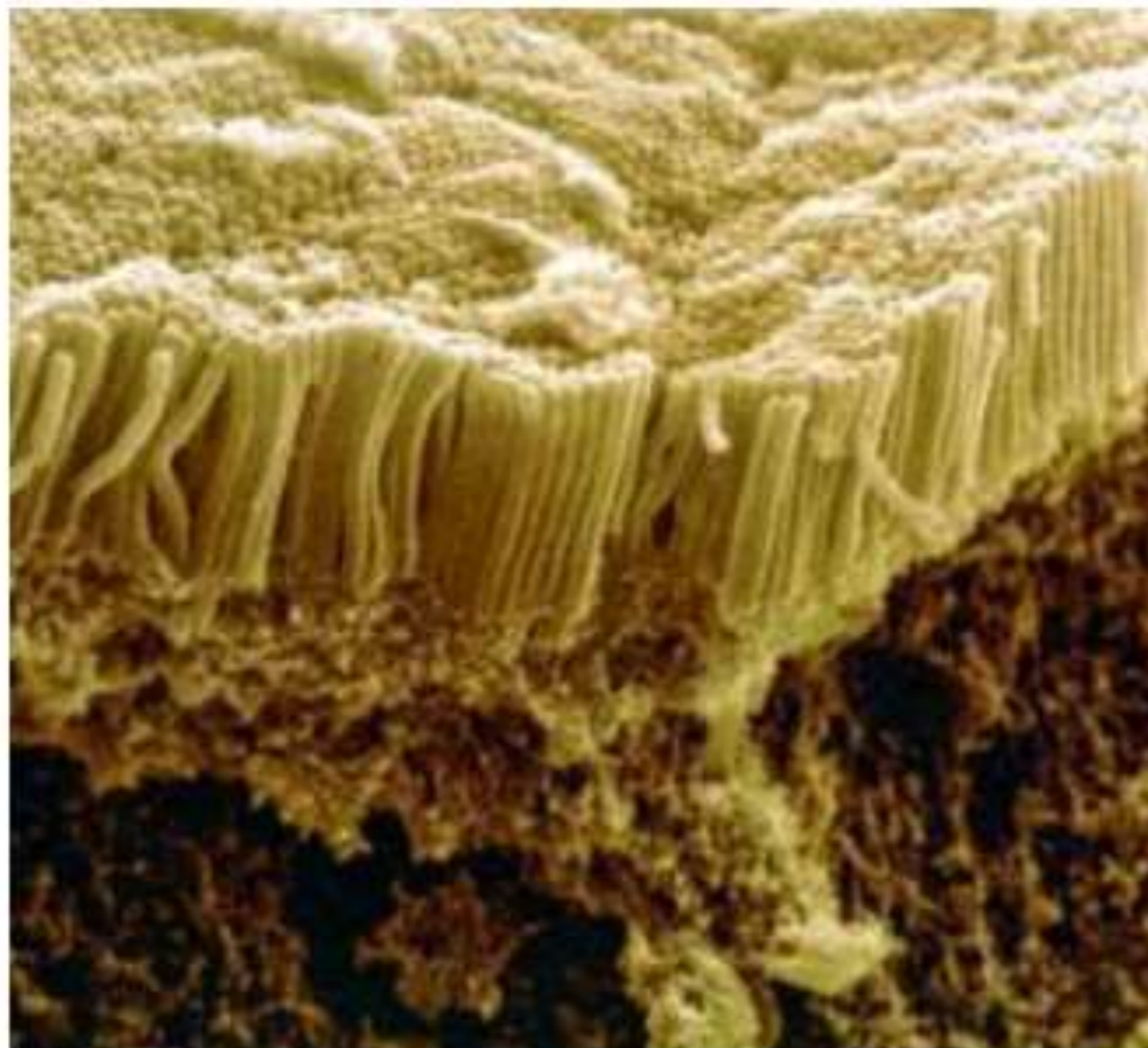


Fig.20: The **EM** image on the left clearly shows the structure of the microvilli.. The image on the right shows how the actin filaments are cross-linked with each other, with the cell membrane and the terminal web.

- Under light microscope, numerous microvilli form a brush border on the surface of the small intestinal epithelium. But, because they're small, their features can only be clearly identified by electron microscope.



micro villi

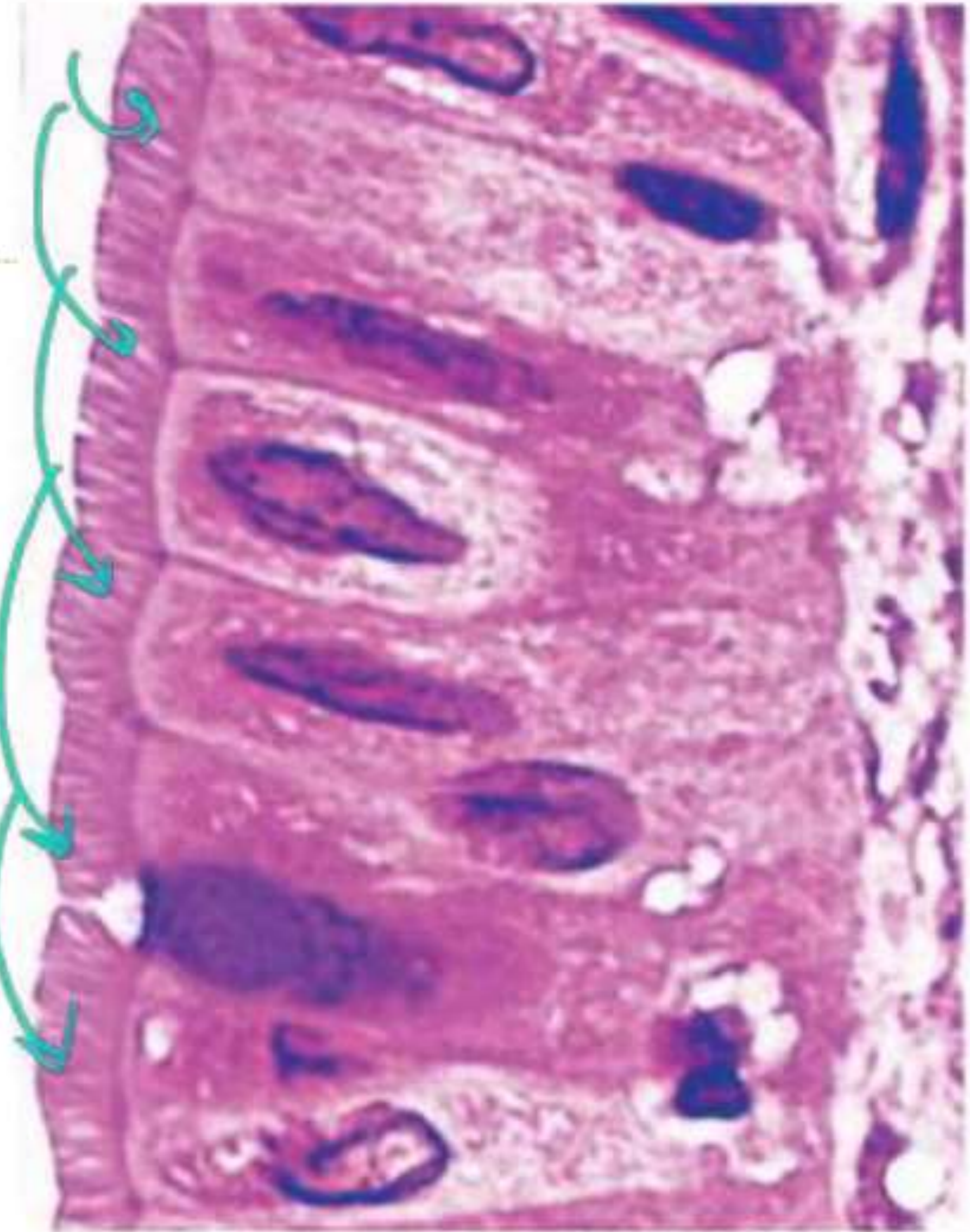


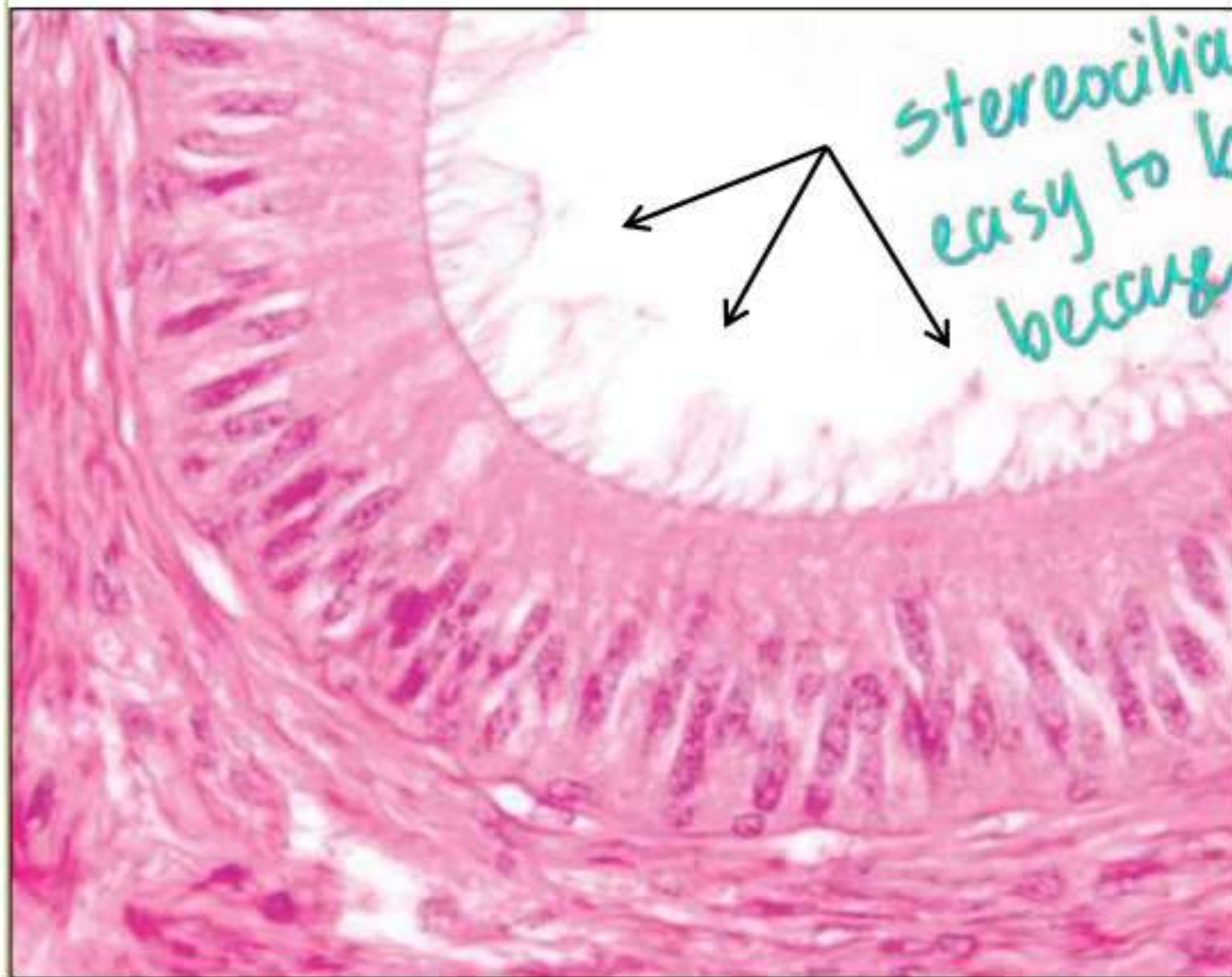
Fig.21: LM image of small intestinal wall. Note the Striated/Brush border formed by microvilli (Black arrow).

لها مسوئله

## 2) Stereocilia



- These are apical specialization in some absorptive cells like those of the epididymis and ductus deferens. They're also present on the hair-cells of the inner ear.
- They are similar in structure to microvilli. However, they're longer, less motile and branched.
- They increase the surface area. Stereocilia of the inner ear act as mechanoreceptors.



stereocilia,  
easy to be seen  
because they are  
longer

stereocilia  
acting as mechanoreceptors

-inner ear hair cells

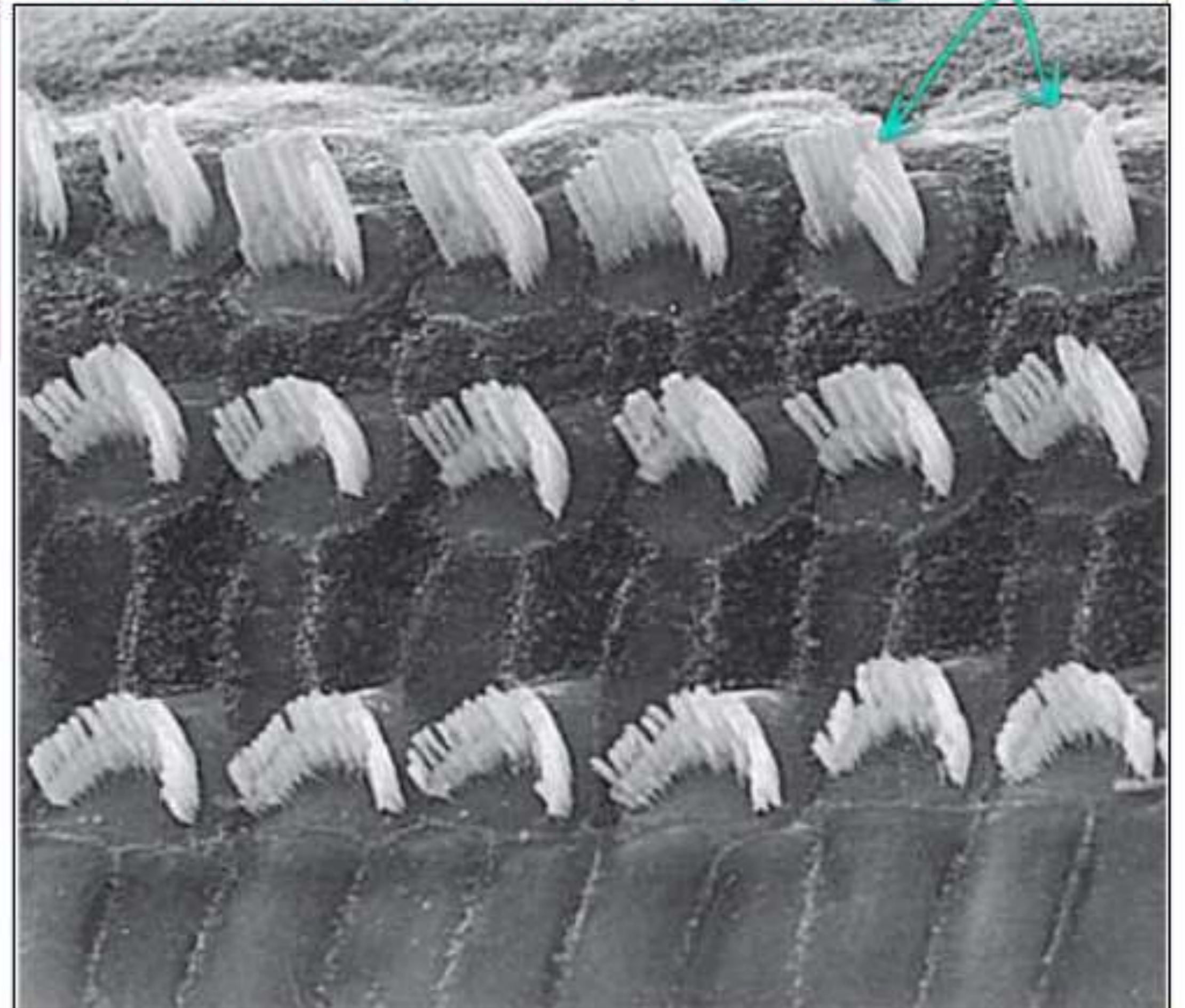


Fig.22: Above, LM image of stereocilia of the epithelium of the epididymis (arrows). The image to the right is a SEM image showing stereocilia of the inner ear.



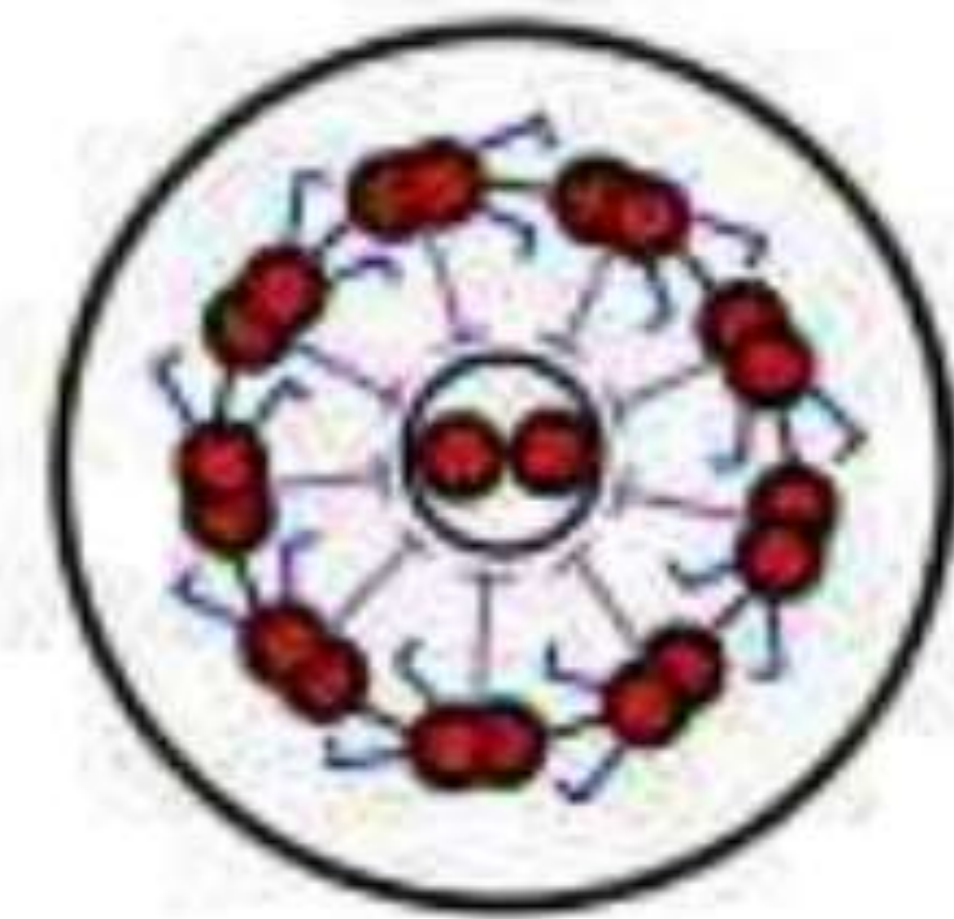
### 3) Cilia (single = cilium)

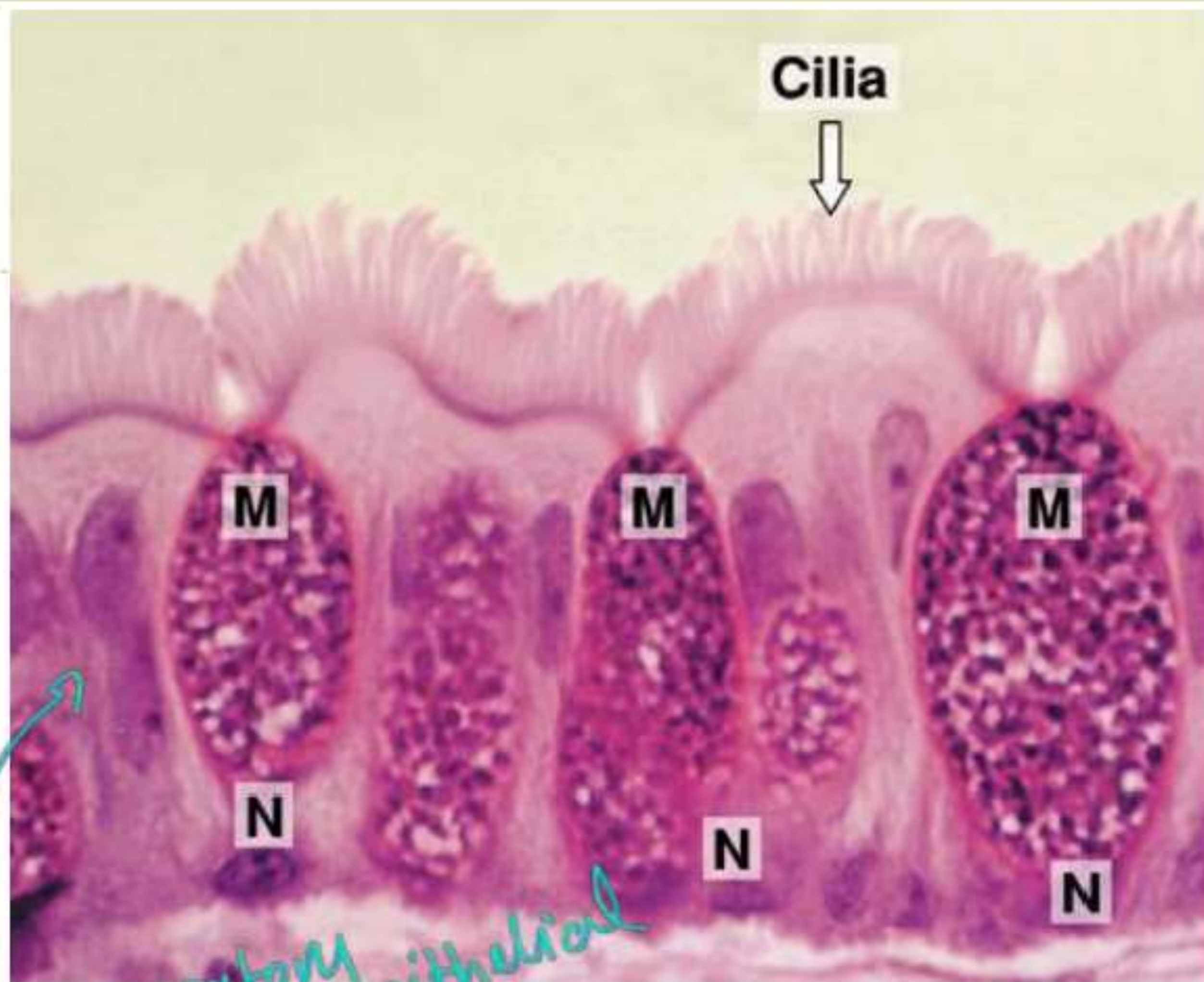
- Elongated, motile structures on the surface of **some epithelial cells**, like those of the **trachea**. There are, usually, many cilia on the surface of a single cell.

- Cilia move in rhythmic fashion **backwards** and **forwards** removing fluid, debris, or various other materials in a **certain direction**.

- It's surrounded by <sup>①</sup> cell membrane and is formed of <sup>②</sup> microtubules arranged in a specific pattern.

*differences btw it + the flagella*  
*sweeping*





Cilia



M

M

M

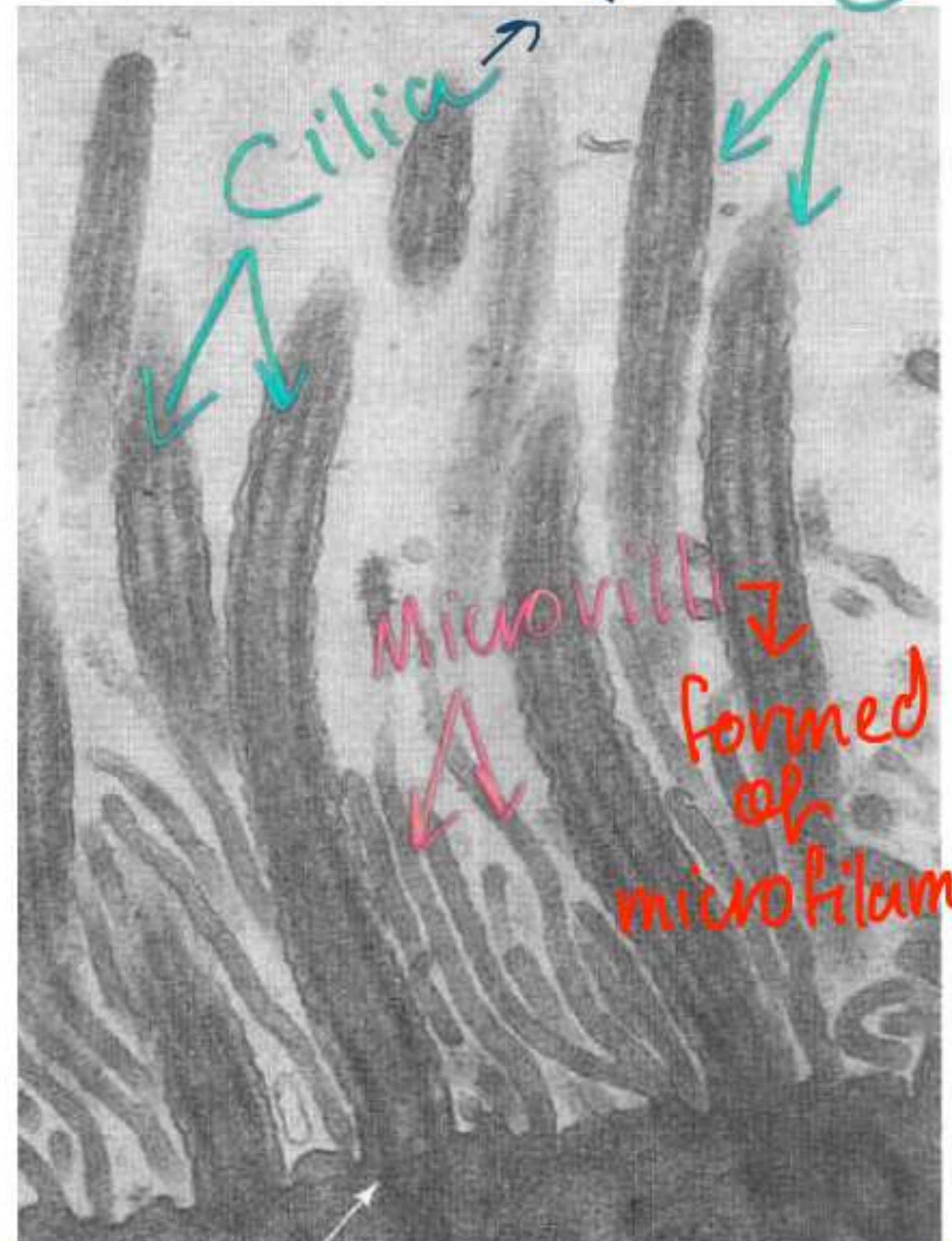
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Respiratory epithelial

Fig.23: LM image above shows the cilia of the epithelium of the respiratory tract. In the EM image on the right, note how the cilia are much longer and thicker than the microvilli.



From microtubules

Cilia

Microvilli

formed of microfilament

- **Flagella** (single = flagellum) are structurally like cilia but are much longer and, usually, only one flagellum is present on a cell. The movement of the flagellum is rotational.
- The only cell in the human body that has a flagellum is the sperm. Here, it's used for movement of the sperm.

It's surrounded by cell membrane and is formed of microtubules arranged in a specific pattern.

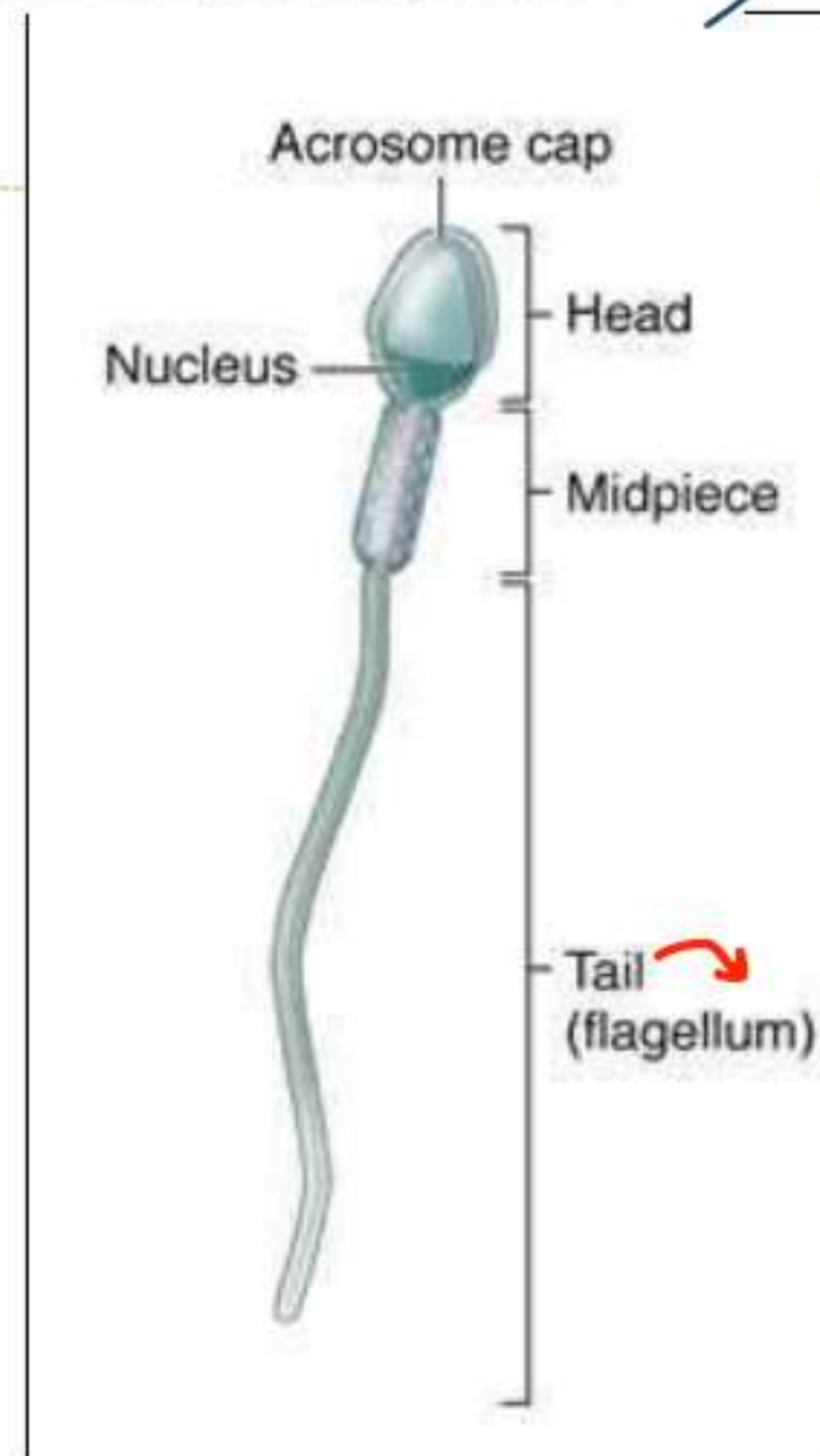


Fig.24: The tail of the sperm is a flagellum.

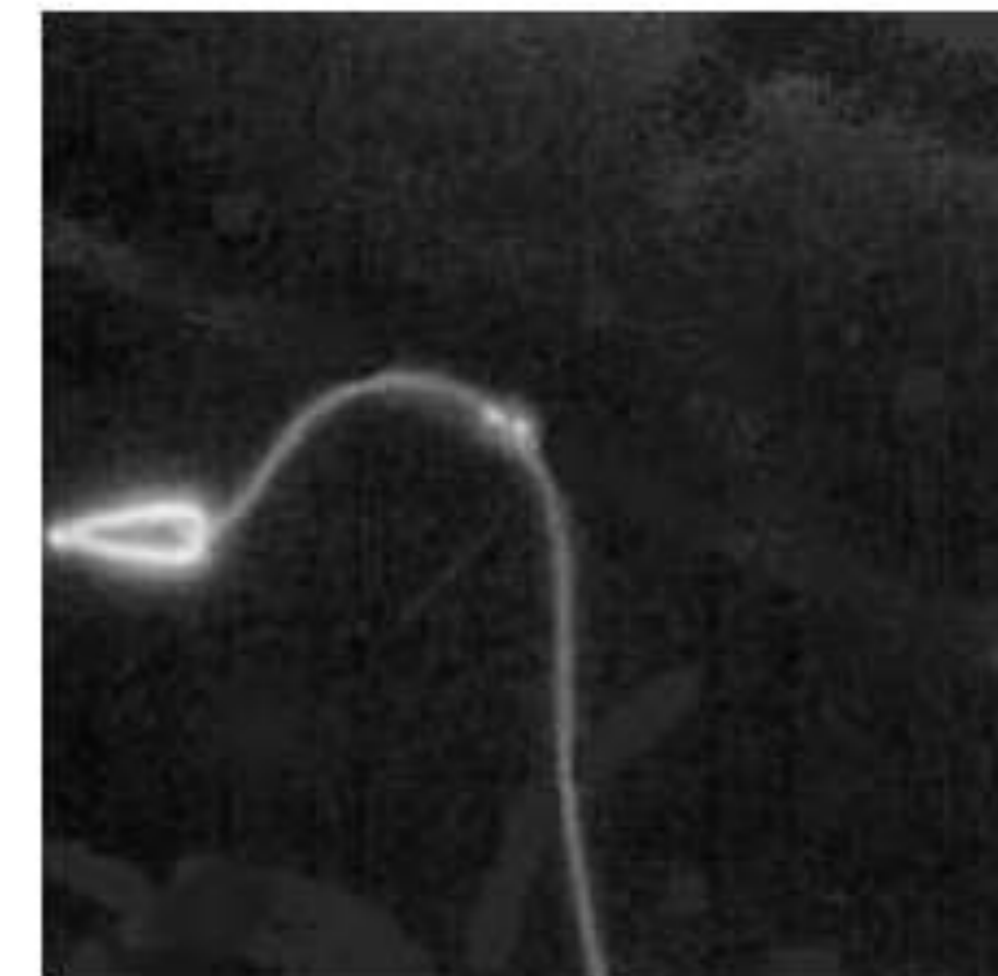
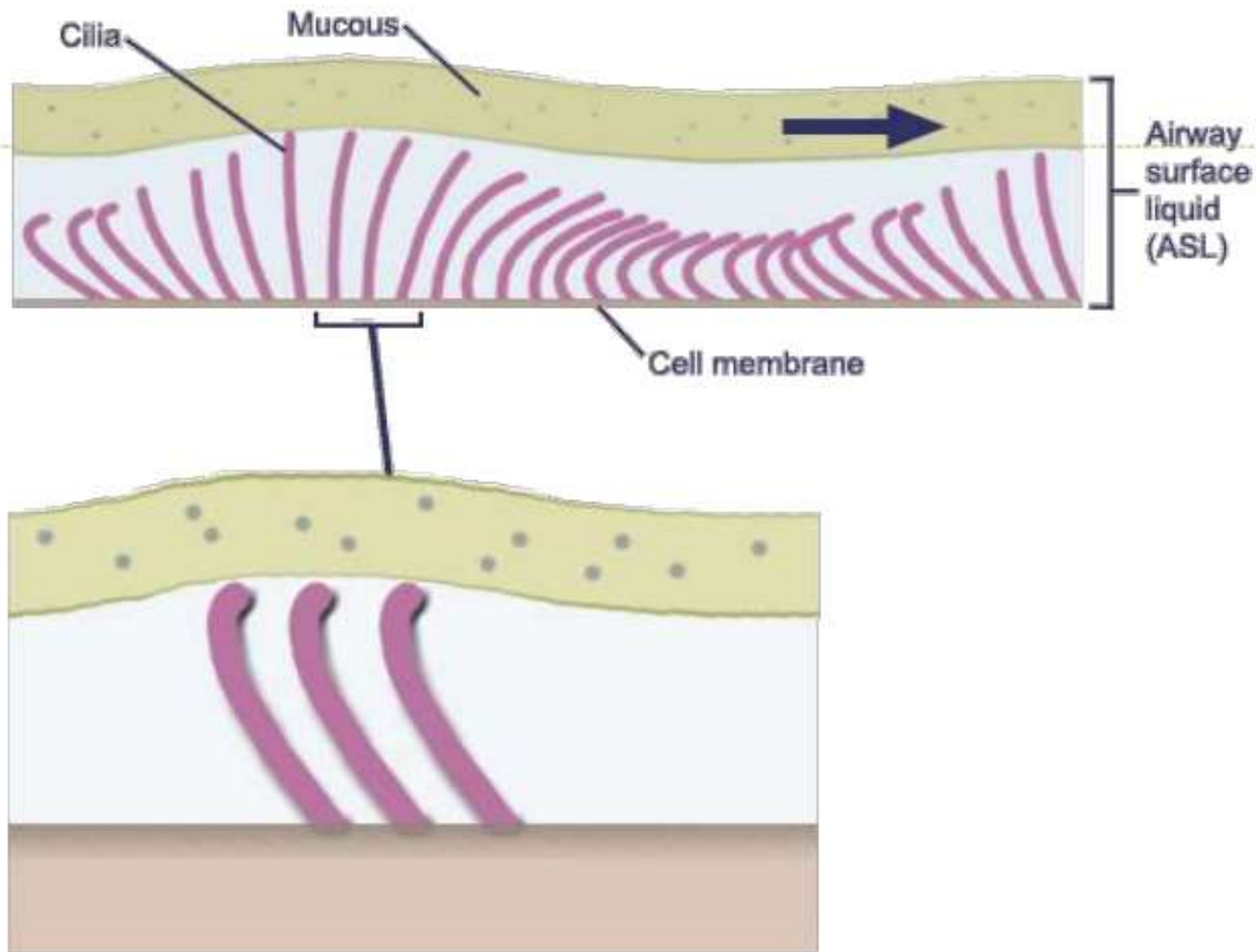


Fig.25: The left animated image shows the forwards and backwards *sweeping* motion of cilia. Compare it with the rotational propulsive movement of the flagellum (tail) of a sperm shown in the right animated image.

## Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (Immotile Cilia Syndrome)

- It's a genetic disorder in which there is abnormality in the movement of cilia and flagella.
- Mucus is not easily removed from the respiratory system leading to repeated infections.

- Sperms cannot move easily leading to male infertility.

- The cilia of the uterine tubes may also be affected leading to infertility in females.

→ lined by ciliated simple columnar

→ moves the fertilized egg from uterine tube to the uterus where implantation occurs



**THANK YOU**

**It's better to know one  
thing about everything  
and everything about  
one thing**