Microscopic structure of the sense organs

Aleš Hampl

Sense system

It serves to convey stimuli that influence organism from inside and outside

Sensitive nerve endings
(with simple structure)

- Simple sensory endings
- Intraepithelial sensory endings
- Sensory bodies

Complex organs

- Photosensitive organ - Eye
- Organ of hearing and equilibrium - Ear

Photoreceptor organ – Eye

Analyzes the form, light intenzity and colour reflected from objects

Eye ball
(three-layered structure)

- tunica externa = fibrosa
- tunica media = vasculosa
- tunica interna = nervosa

Accessory structures

- eye lids
- conjunctiva
- lacrimal apparatus
- muscles

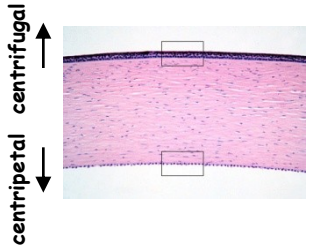
What do we expect form the eye ?

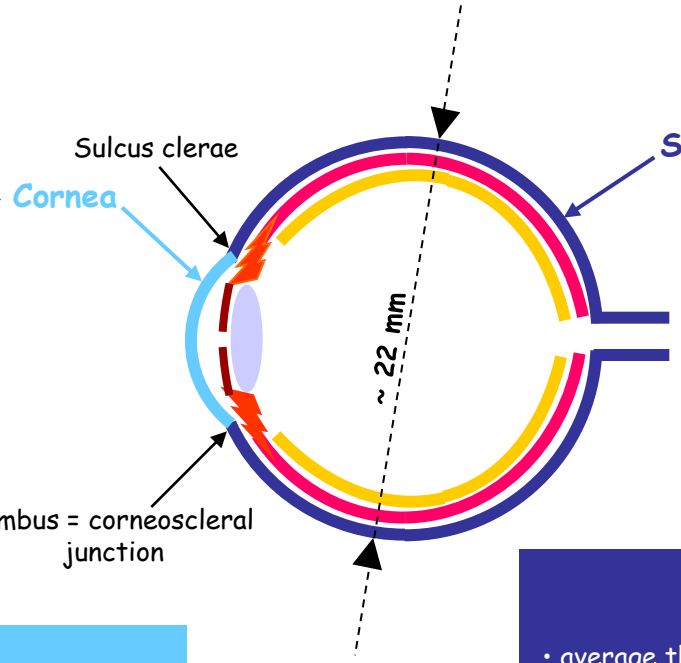
- Ability to sense signals and transfer them to CNS
- Ability to focus on objects
- Enough strength
- Ability to regenerate
- Ability to move with a minimal friction

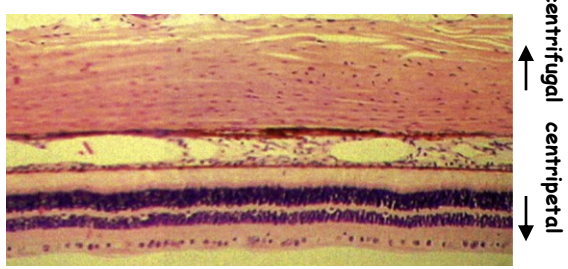
Enough strength

Eyes sit in the protective environment of the skull, in orbits, surrounded by the fat cussions..

Cornea	+	Sclera	=	Tunica externa oculi
1/6	+	5/6	=	6/6 of the surface







Cornea

- average thickness 0.9-1.0 mm
- colorless
- transparent
- thoroughly avascular
- 5 distinct layers

continues on the next slide

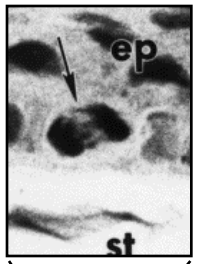
Sclera

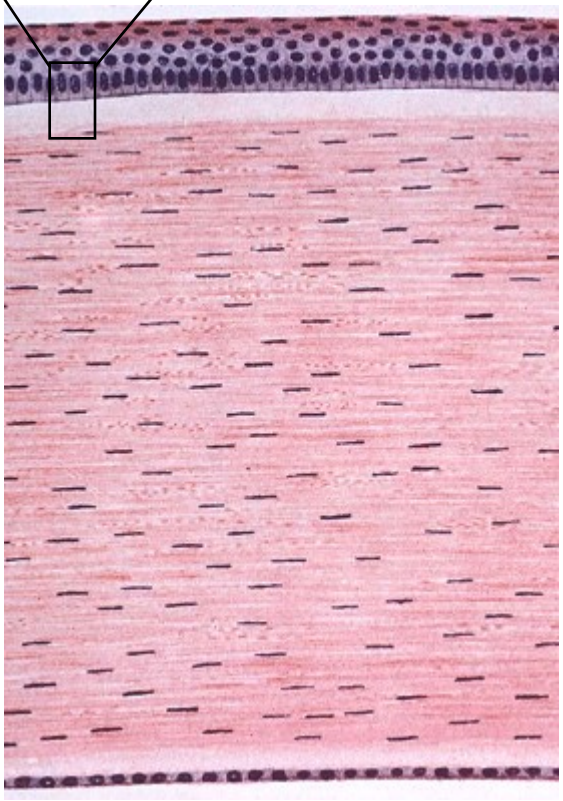
- average thickness 0.5 mm (thicker in posterior part)
- bundles of flat collagen I fibers (intesrsecting in all directions)
- few fibroblasts, minimum ground substance
- relatively avascular
- connected by loose system of collagen fibers with **Tenon´s capsule** - **Tenon´s space** - allows for free movement of the yee
- **lamina suprachoroidea** - connection to choroid

(loose connective tissue with melanocytes, fibroblasts and elastic fibers)

Cornea

(transversal section)





Anterior

Posterior

Corneal epithelium

- stratified + squamous (5-6 layers)
- nonkeratizing
- rich in nerve endings
- surface cells equipped with microvili
  (protrude into the space with the film of tears)

Bowman´s membrane

= **Lamina limitans anterior**
- thickness about 7 – 12 μm
- fine collagen fibers (intersecting in all directions)
- no cells
- provides strength

Substancia propria corneae = STROMA

- many layers of collagen fibers (in right angles)
- flat keratocytes in between the collagen lamellae (fibroblast-like cells)
- contains mucoid substance rich in chondroitinsulphate
- properly hydrated

KEY to the TRANSPARENCY

Descemet´s membrane

= **Lamina limitans posterior**
- fine collagen fibers
- fibers are arganized to 3D network

Corneal endothelium

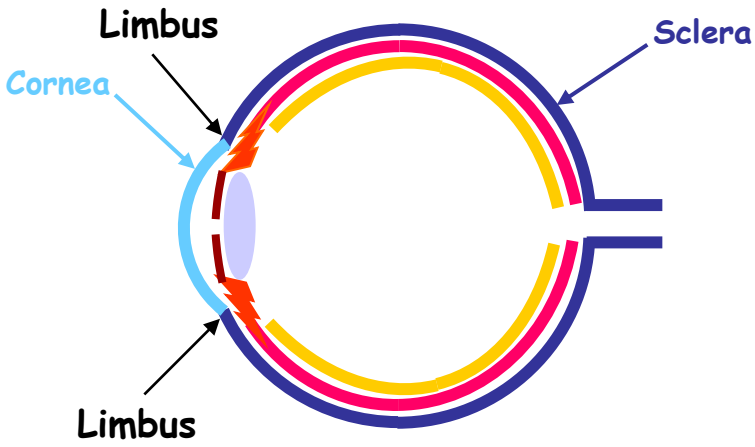
- simple + squamous
- active in transport to maintain cornea in a proper state
- continues on the frontal part of iris
  (via spongium anguli iridocornealis)

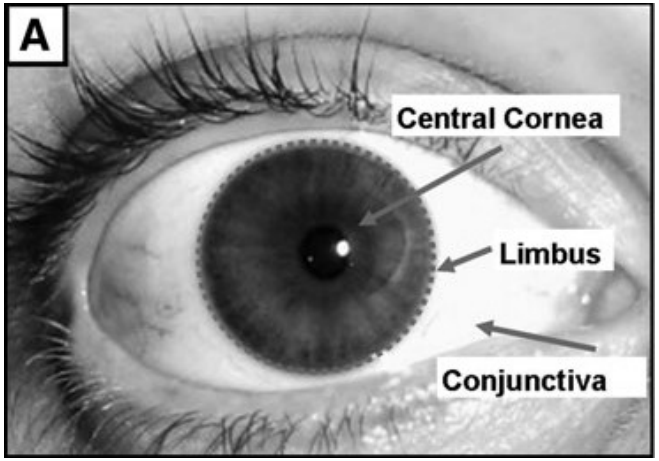
Ability to regenerate

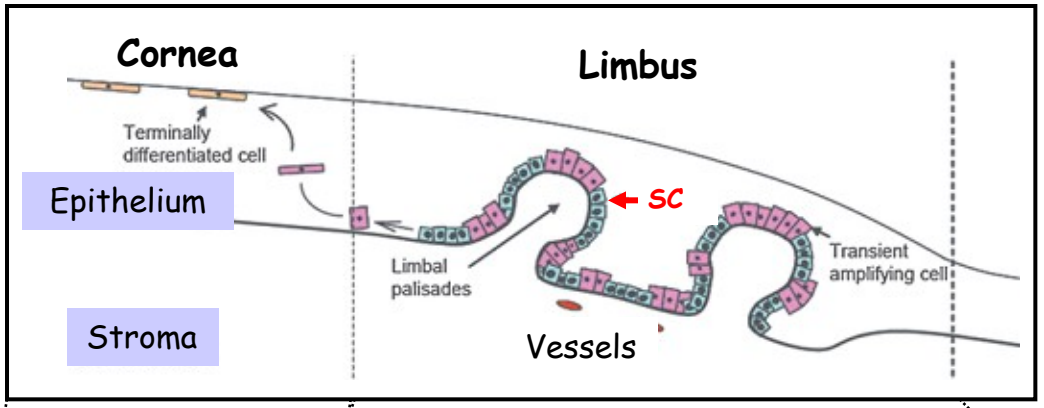
Limbus – corneoscleral junction

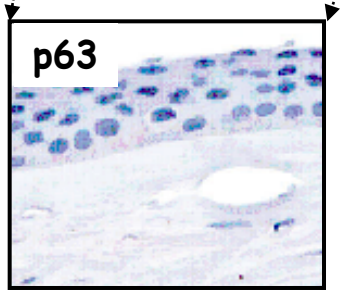
The area of transition of the transparent collagen bundles of cornea into the opaque collagen bundles of sclera.

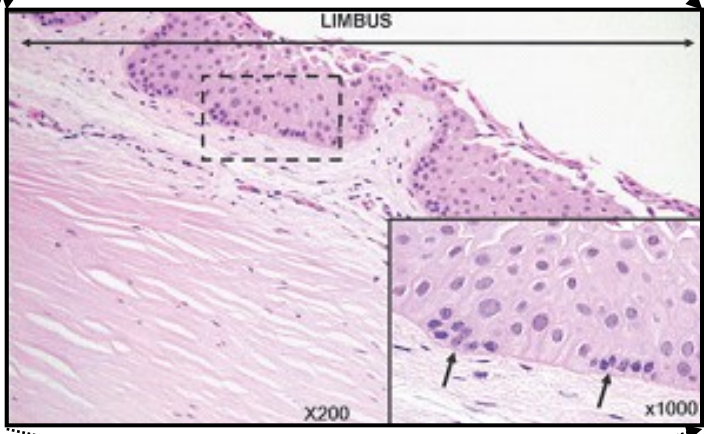
Highly vascularized – feeds avascular cornea

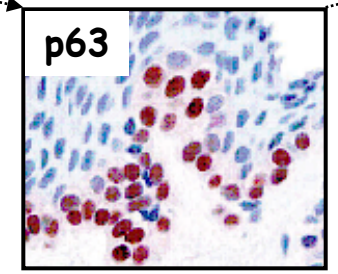


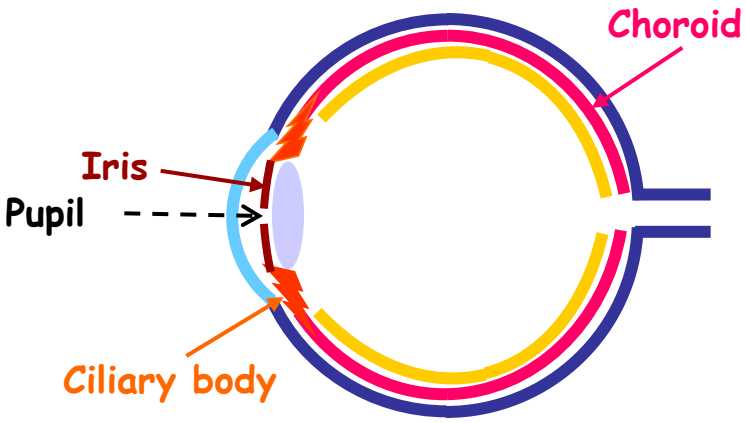












Enough supply of resources

Choroid	+	Ciliary body	+	Iris	=	Tunica media
Choroidea		Corpus ciliare		Iris		T. vasculosa

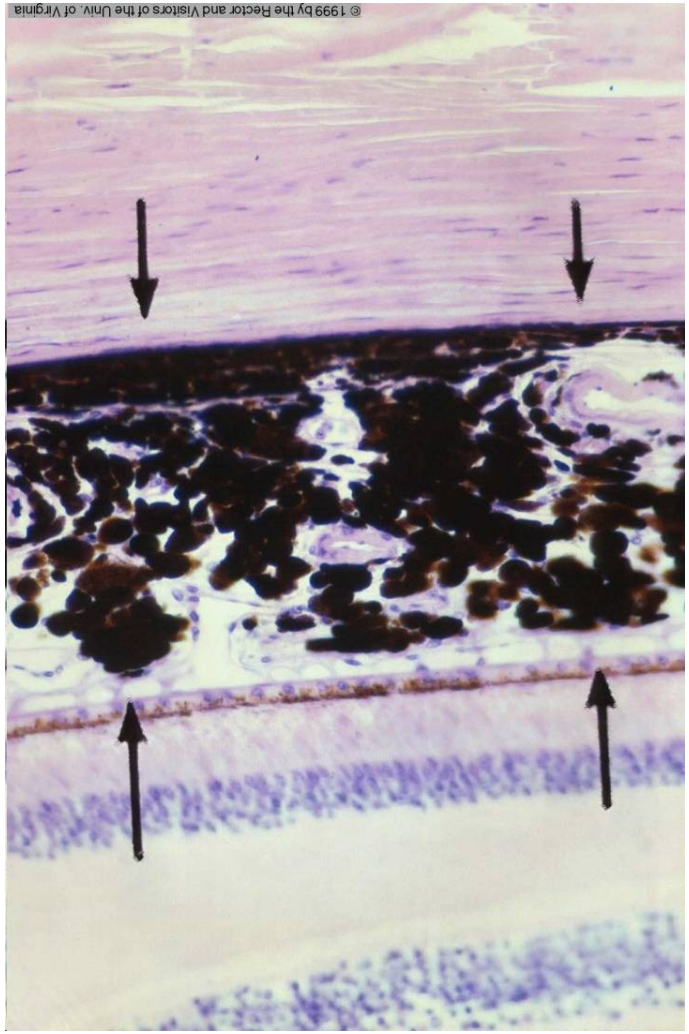
Choroid = 4-layered structure

Lamina suprachoroidea
- loose connective tissue
- rich for pigment cells - melanocytes

Lamina vasculosa
- loose connective tissue
- rich for pigment cells - melanocytes
- contains larger vessels and nerves

Lamina choriocapillaris
- loose connective tissue
- network of small vessels

Lamina vitrea = L. basalis = Bruch's membrane
- fibers of collagenu a elastin
- averall thickness about 3-4 μm
- links together basal lamina s of Lamina choriocapillaris of choroid and pigmented epithelium of retina

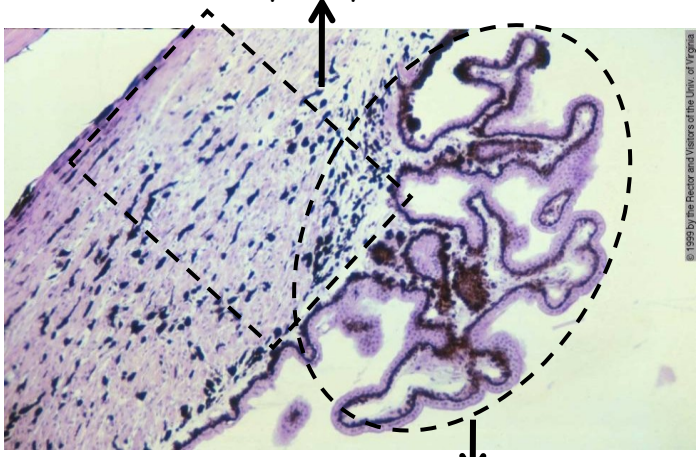


Ability to focus on objects

Ciliary body – anterior extension of the choroid

Stroma of ciliary body

- loose connective tissue
- contains elastic fibers, vessels and melanocytes
- rich for capillaries (chamber fluid)
- bundles of smooth muscle fibers (anchored to sclera and protrude to the processes of ciliary body – *m. ciliaris*)



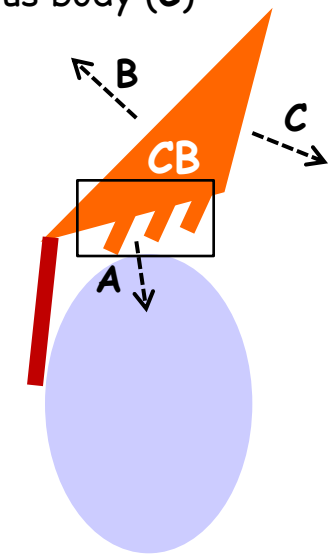
Processes of CB (Processus ciliares)

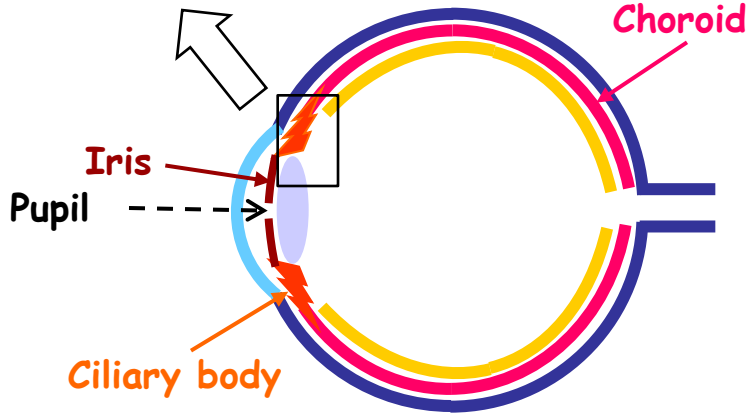
- protrude into posterir chamber
- total number of about 70-80
- rich for capilaries (chamber fluid)
- covered by two-layered epithelium (from the retina – *pars ciliaris retinae*)
- linked to the lens capsula *fibrae suspensoriae lentis* (zonulae)

Triangular on crossection

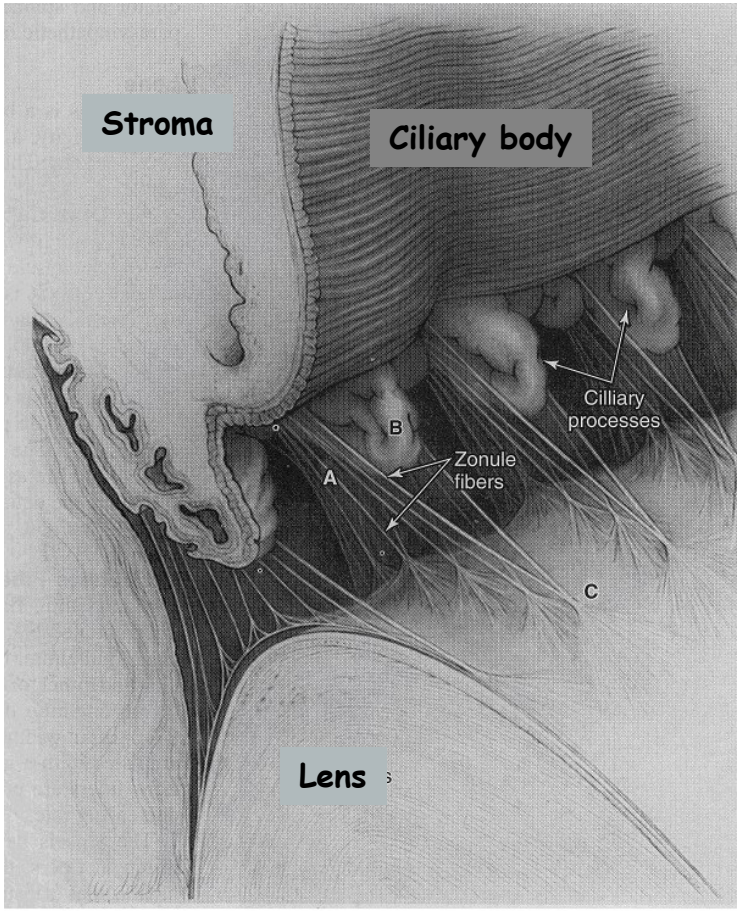
Connects to:

- lens + posterior chamber (**A**)
- sclera (**B**)
- vitreous body (**C**)

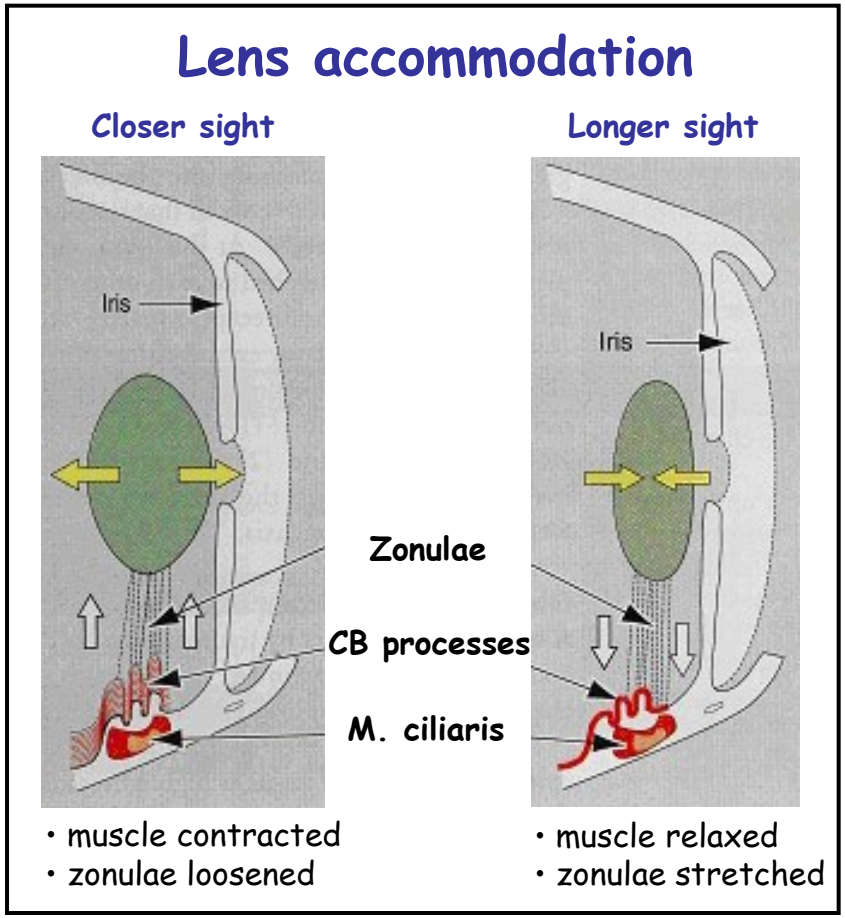




Ciliary body

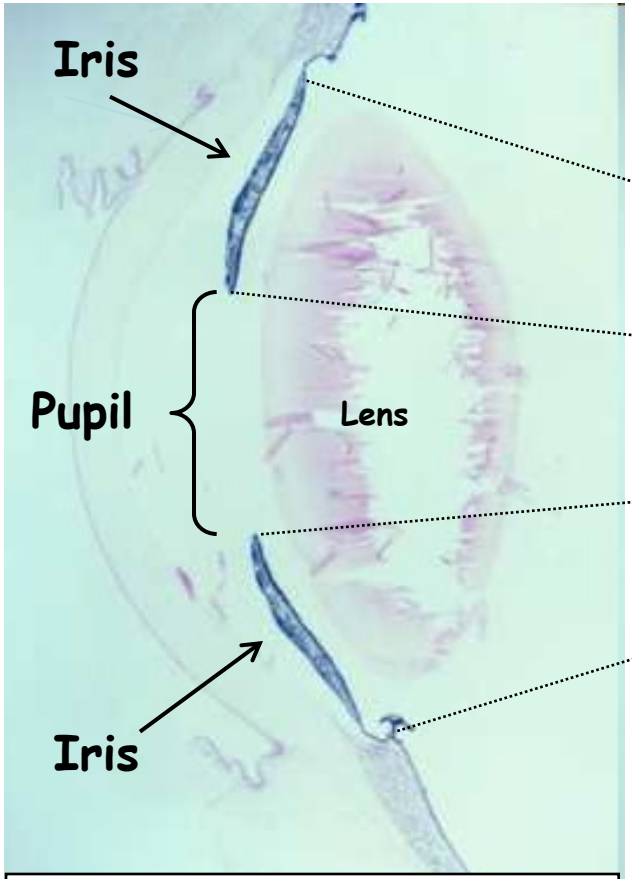


Lens accommodation

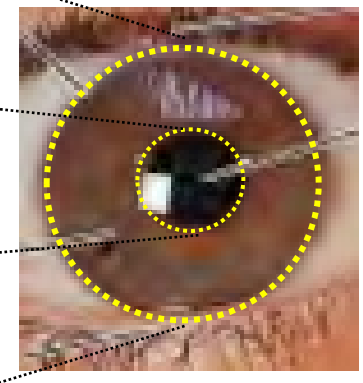


Iris - 1

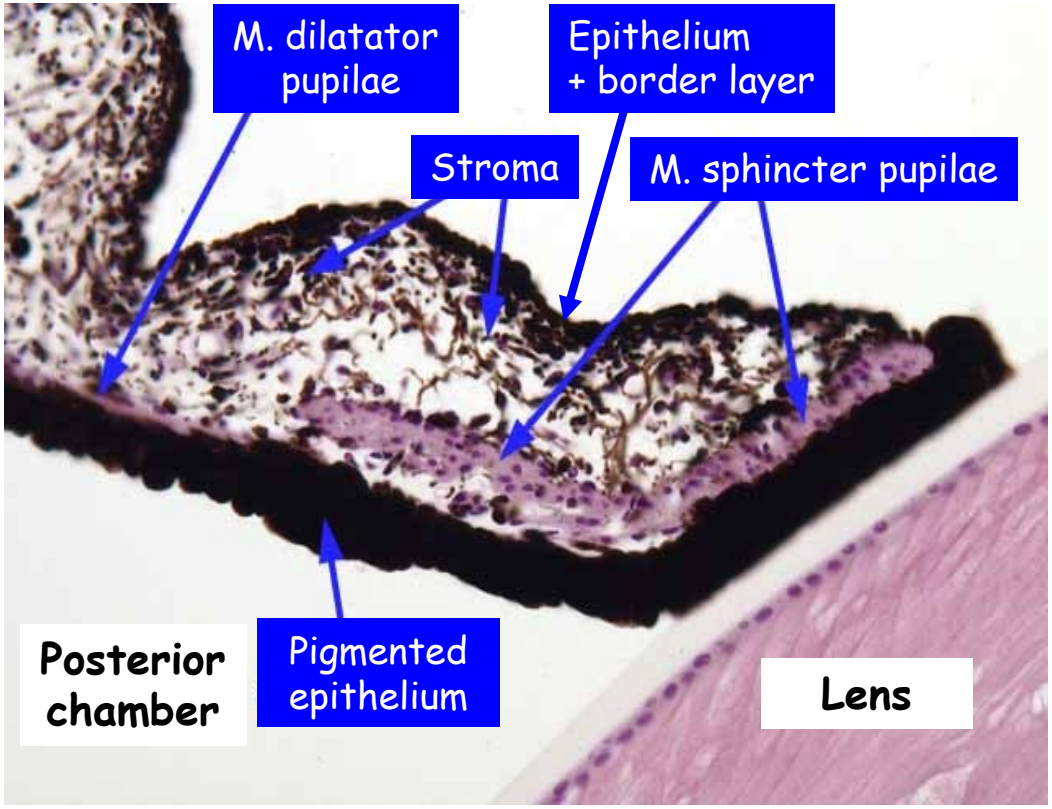
Anterior continuation of the choroid.
Partially covers the lens.



Section through the anterior part of the eye



Iris - 2



Iris = 4-layered structure
Layers from outside:

1. **Anterior epithelium**
   - continuation of the posterior ep. of the cornea
   - discontinuos layer of flat epithelial cells, fibroblasts a melanocytes

2. **Anterior border layer**
   - thin layer of connective tissue
   - rich for pigmented cells - melanocytes
   - decides about eye colour

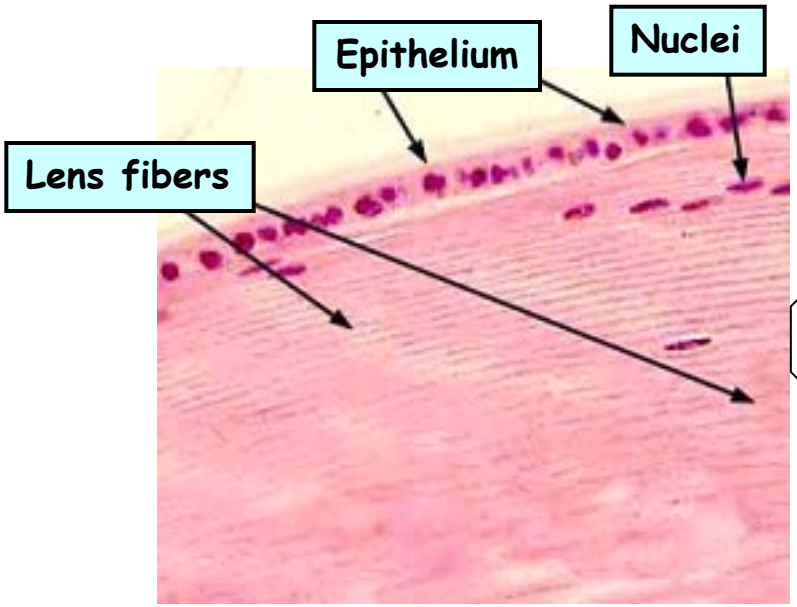
3. **Stroma**
   - loose connective tissue
   - large number of radially running vessels
   - concentrically ordered smooth muscle fibers (=musculus sphincter pupillae)

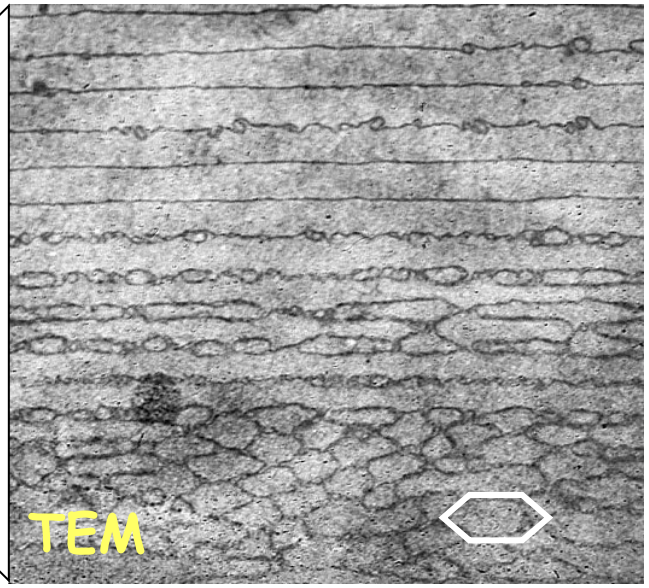
4. **Pars iridica retinae**
   - 2-layered
   - continues form ciliar body
   - layer facing the stroma contains smooth muscle fibers (=musculus dilatator pupillae)

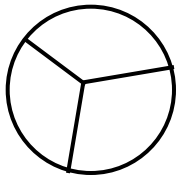
Lens

Capsule + Epithelium + Fibers

- 10-20 μm
- Collagen IV







Epithelium (cuboidal + low cylindrical) only on the anterior surface.

Fibrae suspensorie lentis are anchored to the equator of the lens.

Ability to sense signals and transfer them to CNS for processing

Retina = Tunica aculi interna – Tunica nervosa

Posterior part
- photosensitive
- multilayered

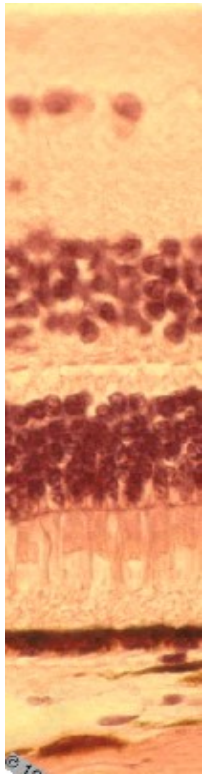
Anterior part
- non-photosensitive
- two-layered
- covers ciliary body and posterior part of the iris

Invagination of prosencephalon creates two-layered **optic cup.**

Outer layer

Stratum pigmenti retinae

- columnar cells
- basally located nucleus
- firm connection with lamina vitrea/basalis of choroid
- zonulae occludentes and adherentes
- rich for smooth ER (esterification of vit A)
- rich for melanin granula
- apical extensions (microvili and sheets)
- vesicles in apical parts



Inner layer

Neural retina

Neural (optical) retina

minimum 15 different types of neurons with tens of interactions (synapses)

9 distingushable layers

Internal limiting membrane

Layer of nerve fibers

Ganglion cell layer

Internal plexiform layer

Internal nuclear layer

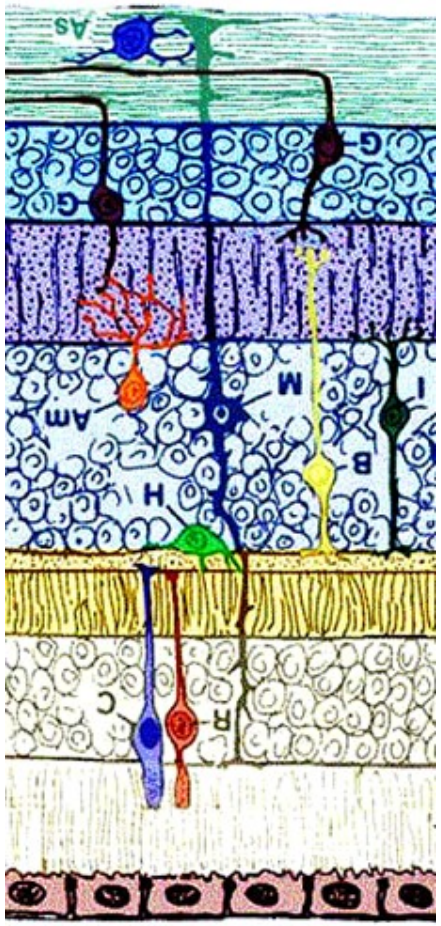
External plexiform layer

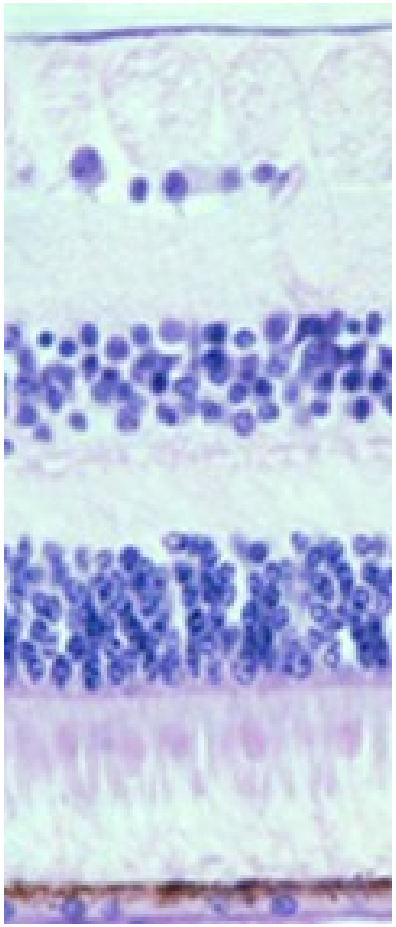
External nuclear layer

External limiting membrane

Layer of rods and cones

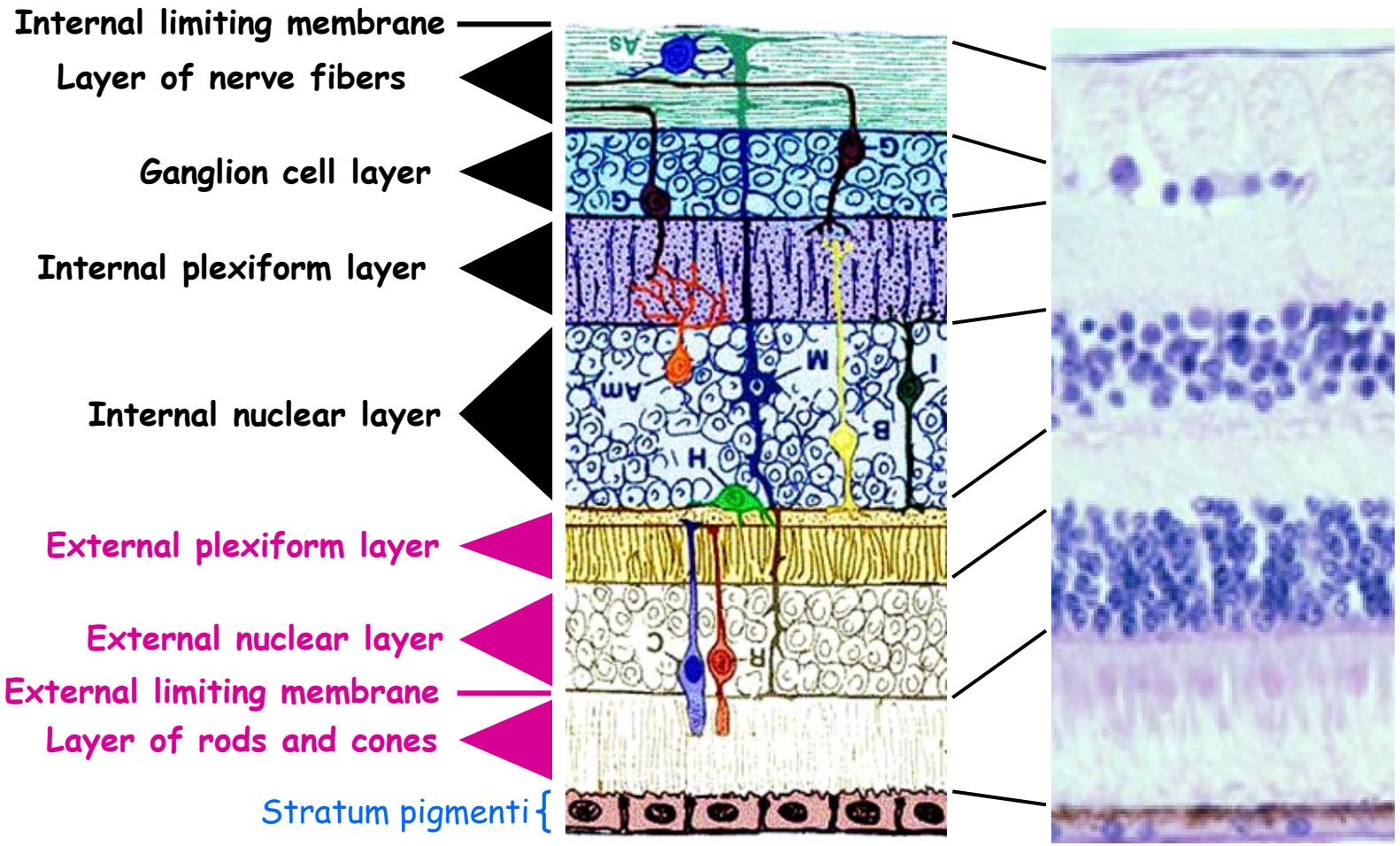
Stratum pigmenti





Photoreceptors = Rod and cone cells 1

I. Neurones of the optical path



Photoreceptors = Rod and cone cells 2

I. Neurones of the optical path

External plexiform layer

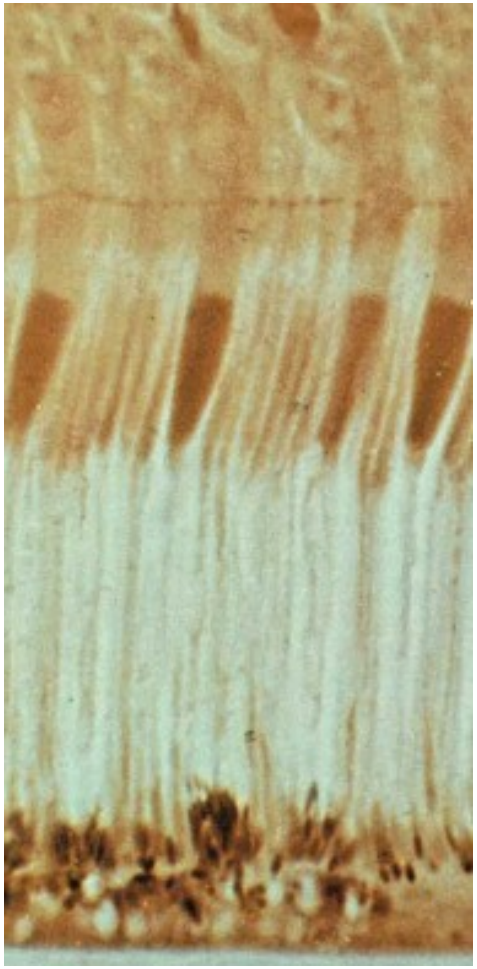
External nuclear layer

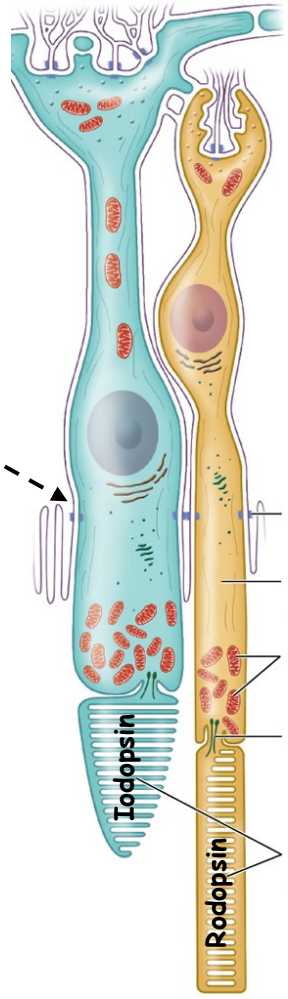
Membrana limitans externa

(series of junctional complexes between photoreceptors and glial Muller cells)

Layer of rods and cones

SEM





Synaptic region

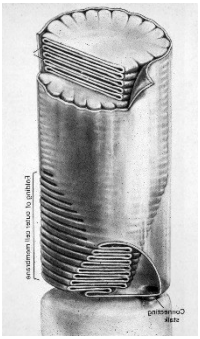
Nuclear region

Central part

Inner segment

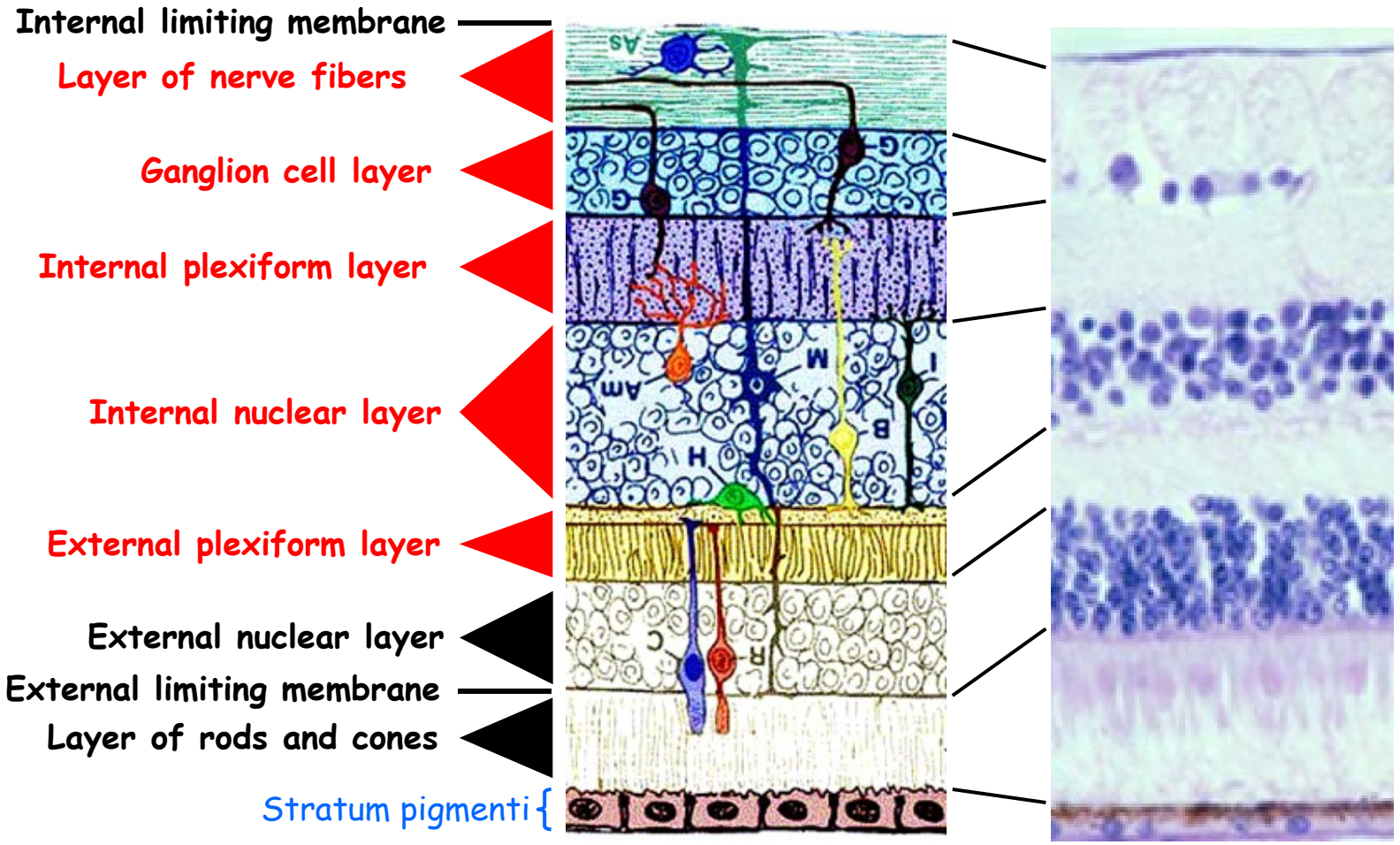
Outer segment

Peripheral part



Rod cells: 100-150 mil.
Cone cells: 7 mil. (méně citlivé)

Other neurons of the optical path 1



Other neurons of the optical path 2

II. neuron
Bipolar cells

Diffuse
- Synapses with two or more receptors

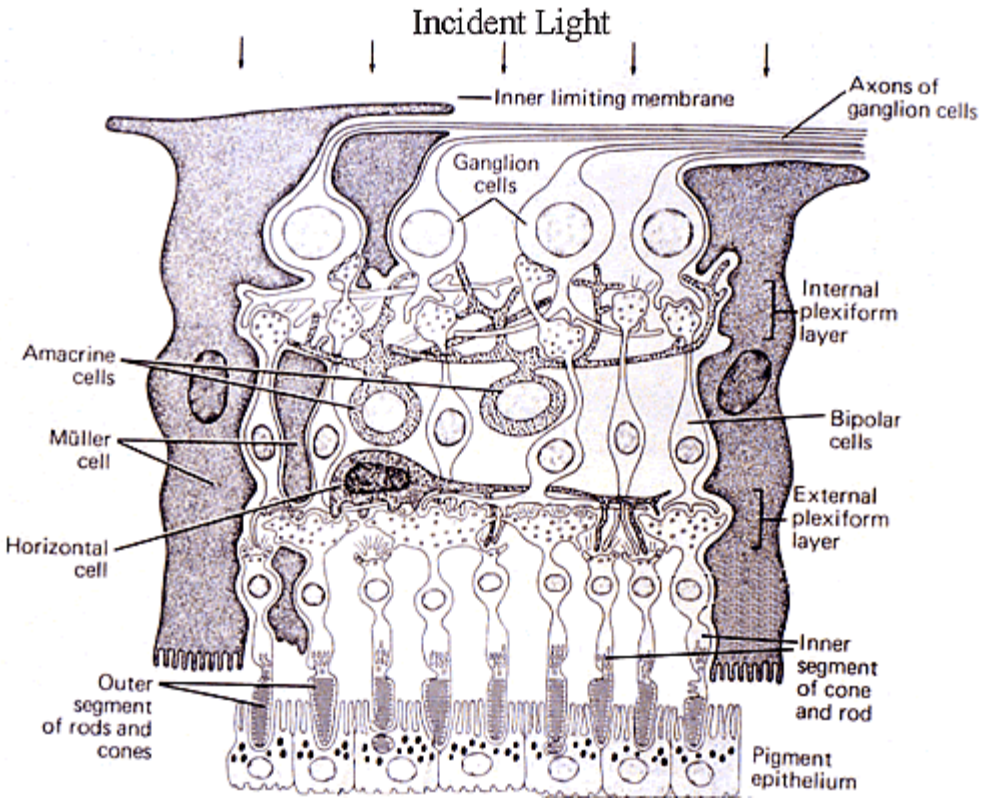
Monosynaptic
- Synapses with only one receptor
- Direct transfer of impulses from some rods

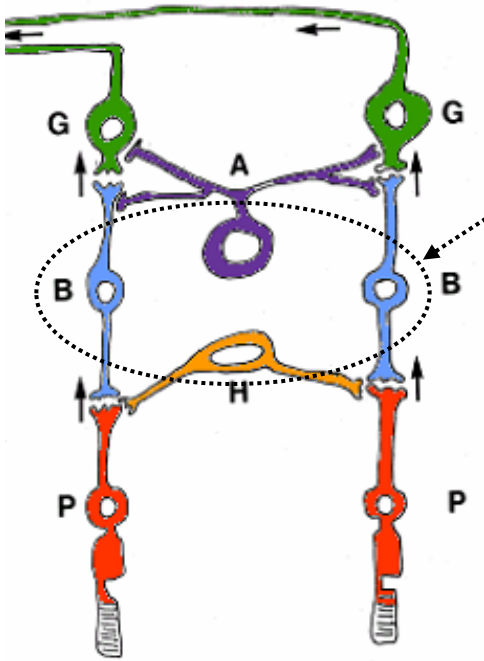
III. neuron
Ganglion cells (multipolar)
- Large cells
- Nuclei mainly in one layer
- Dendrites connect to neurites of bipolar and amakrine cells
- Neurites run in 9. layer of the retina and come together to form optic nerve

Asociating + integrating neurons

Horizontal cells
- Small
- Multipolar

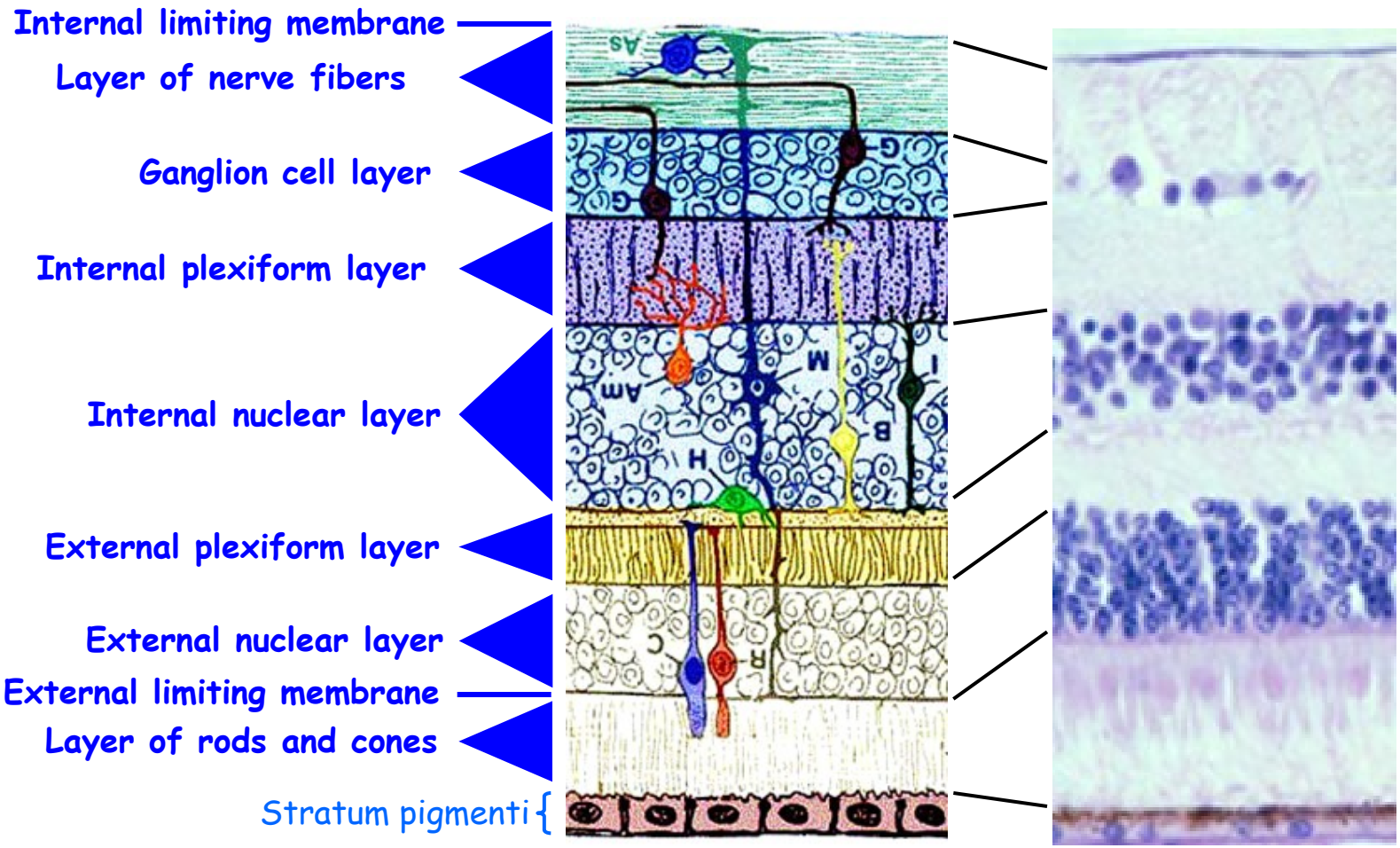
Amacrine cells
- They don´t have neurite





Cells with their nuclei in internal nuclear layer

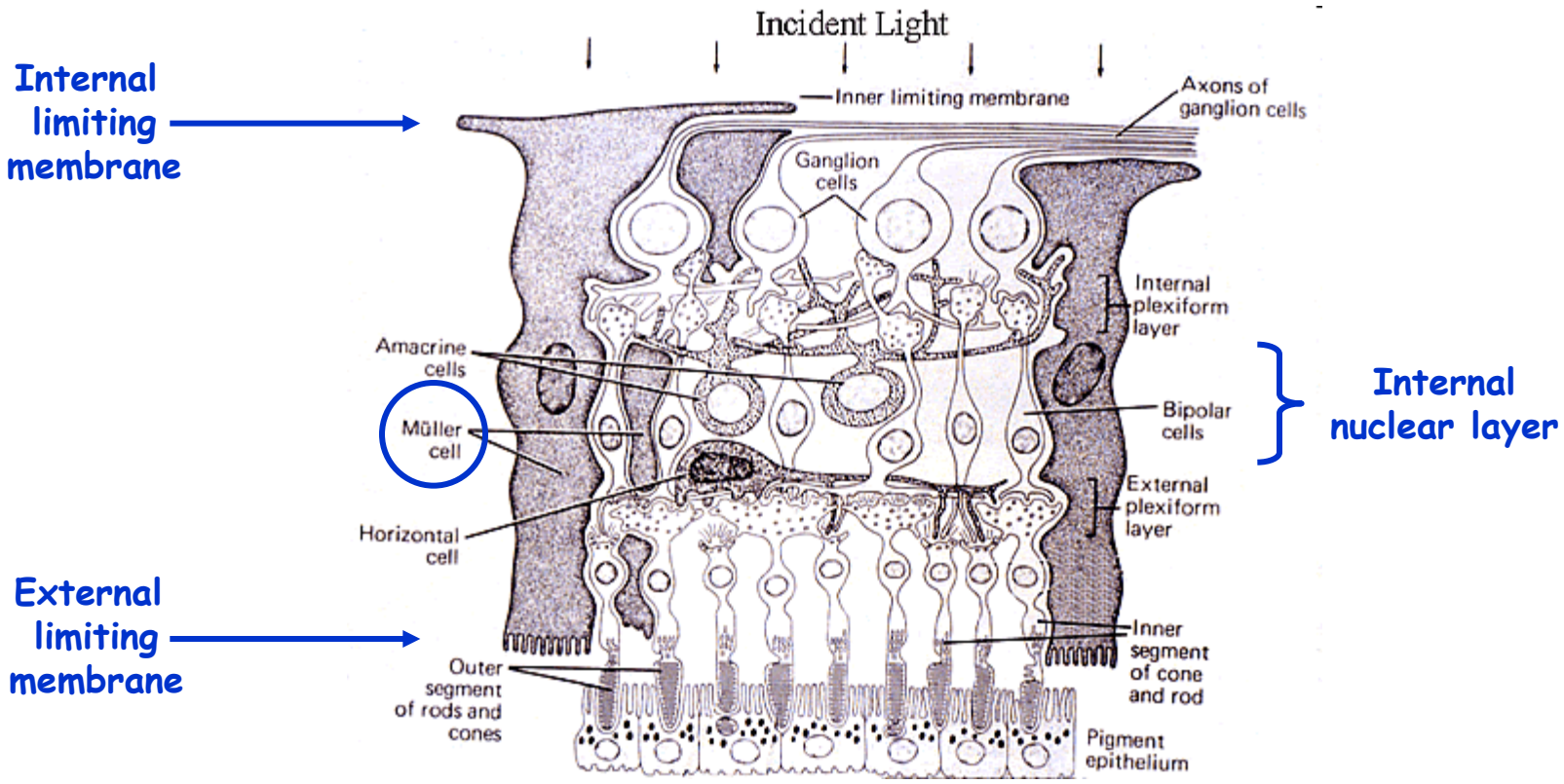
Supporting cells of the retina 1



Supporting cells of the retina 1

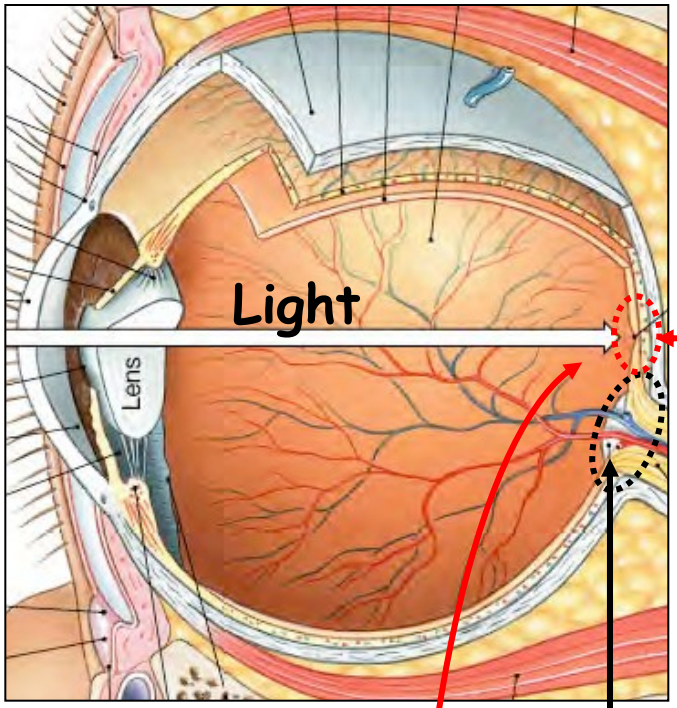
Muller cells

= modified glial cells of the CNS

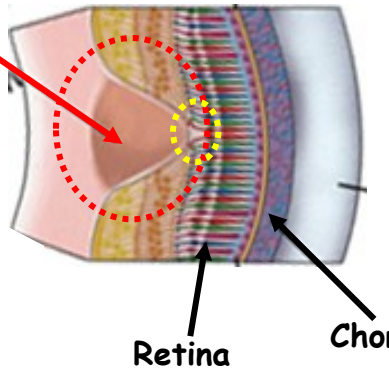


„Does the retina see the same in all its areas"

Central x Peripheral vision

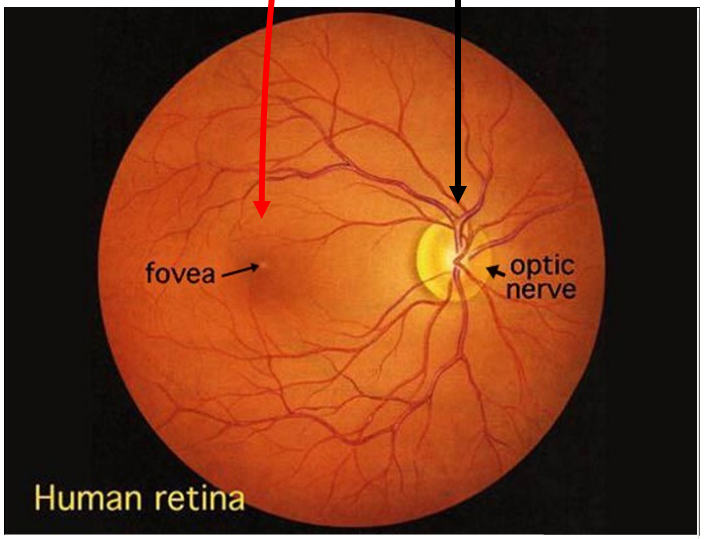


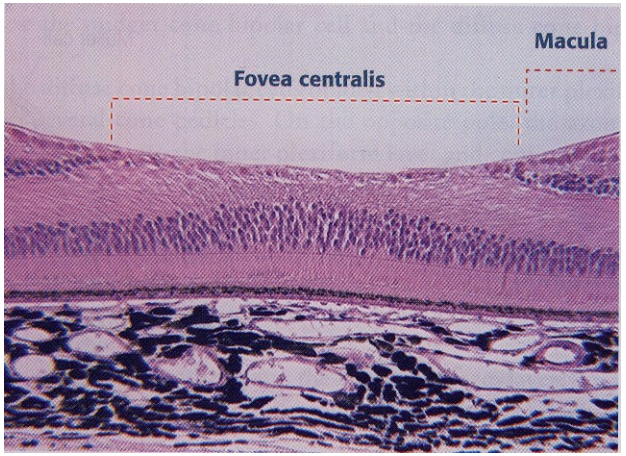
Macula lutea



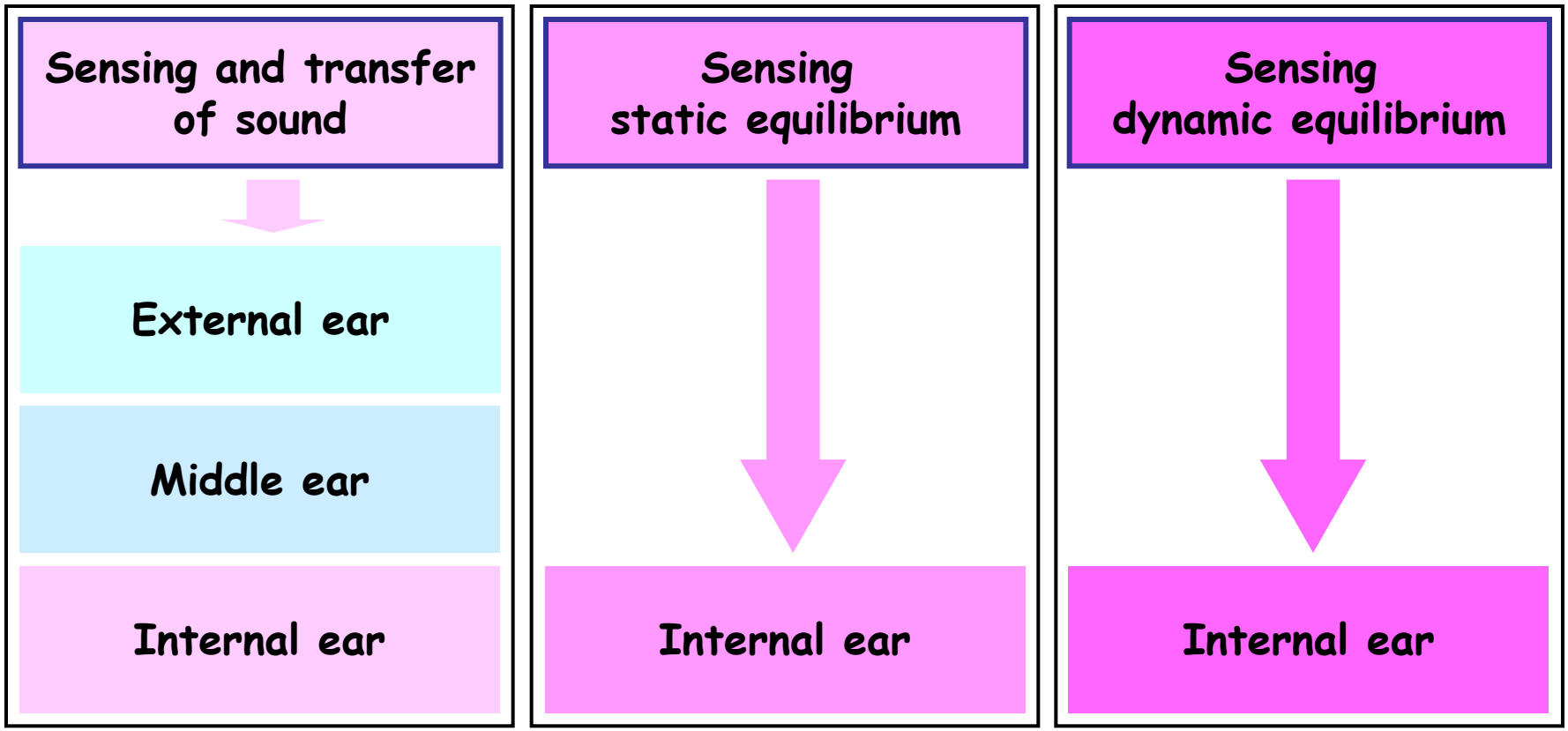
Papilla of the optic nerve

Fovea centralis of the macula lutea = the sharpest vision



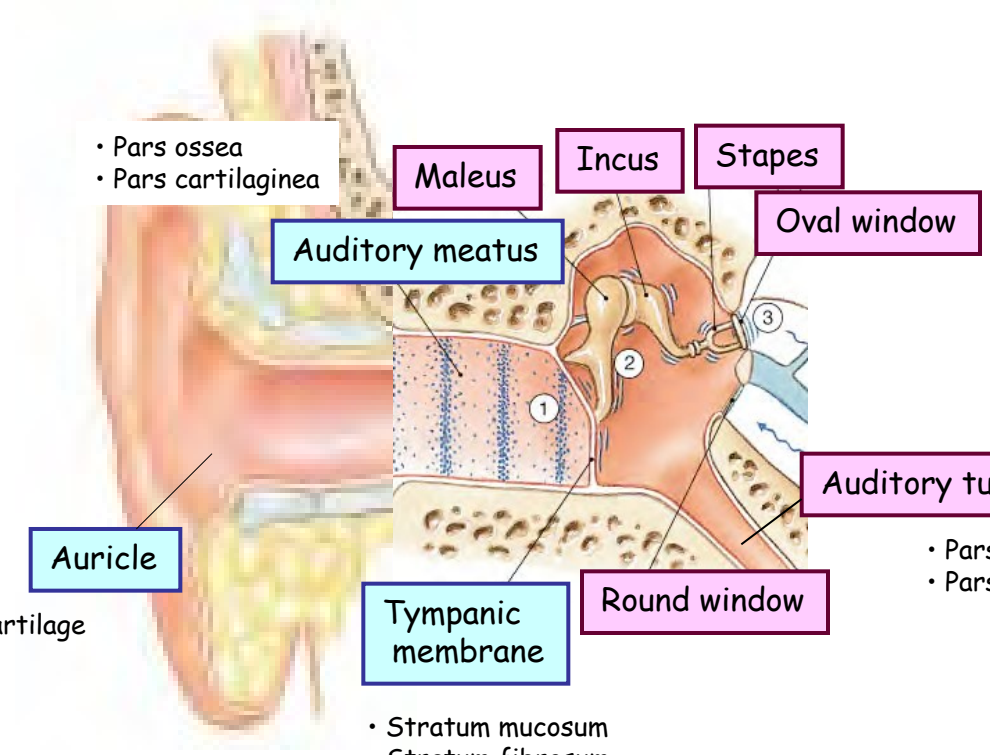


Audioreceptor system
=
Vestibulocochlear apparatus



External + Middle ear – Organ of hearing

Middle ear – fitted in the cavities of temporal bone along with internal ear – osseous labyrinth.



Internal ear

Bony labyrinth

- series of cavities
- petrous portion of temporal bone

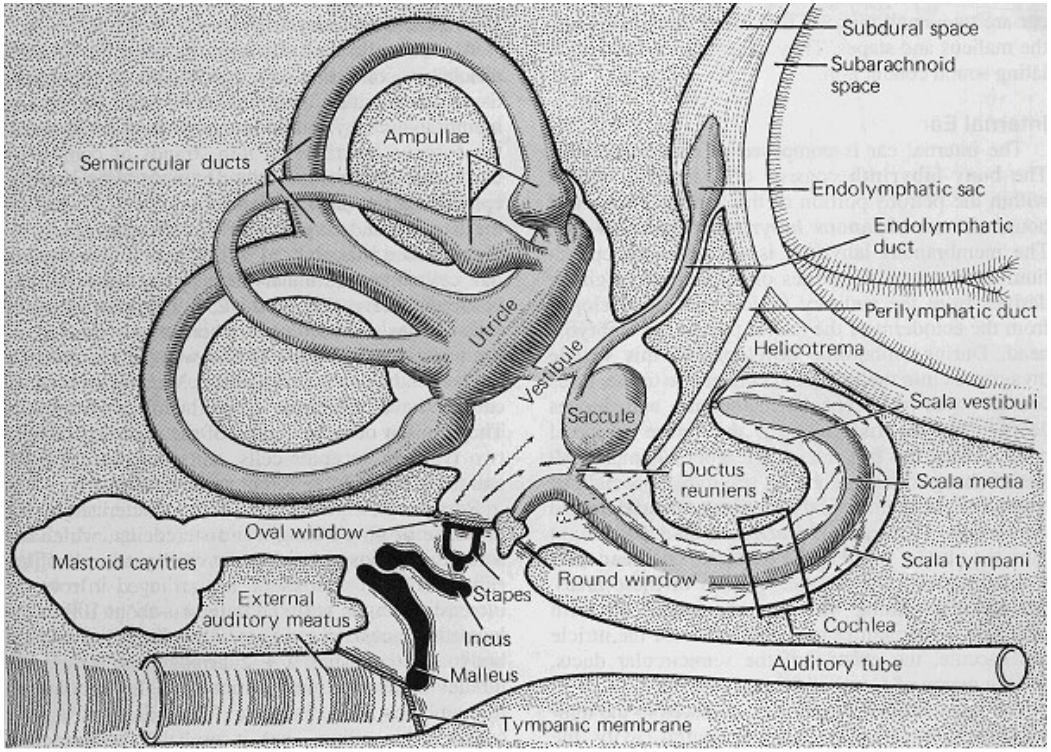
Vestibulum | **Cochlea** | **Semicircular canals**

Membranous labyrinth

- series of interconnected tubes and vesicles
- lined by epithelium
- positioned in bony lybrinth

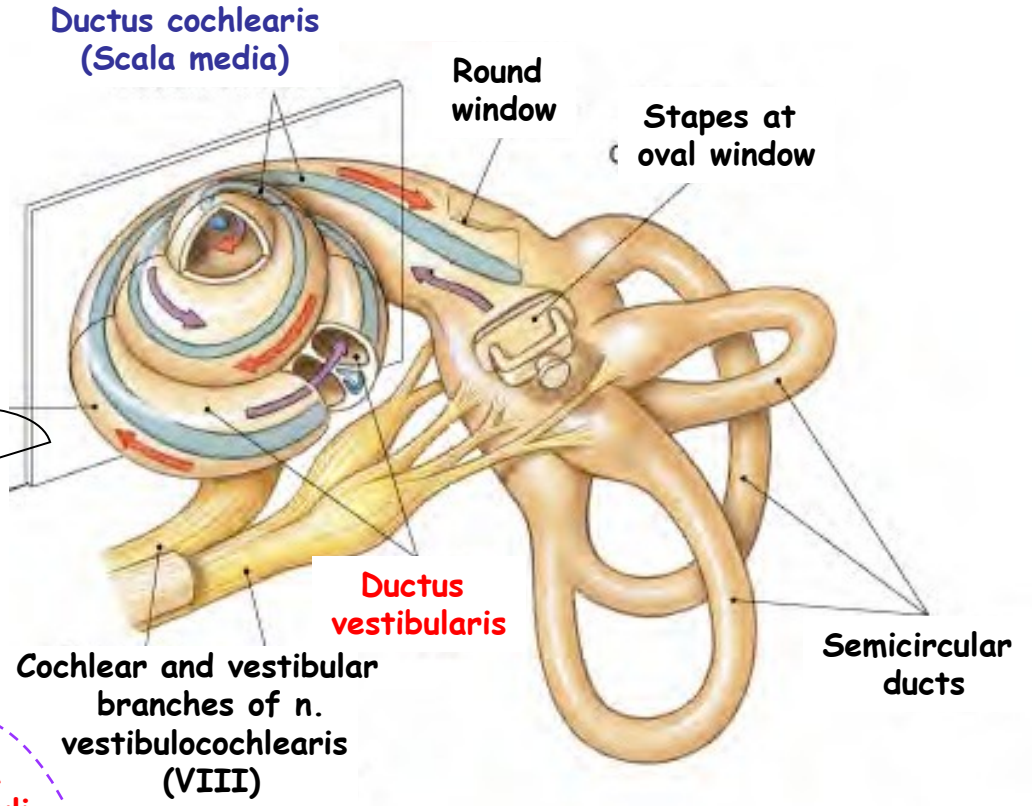
Utricle → **Semicircular ducts**

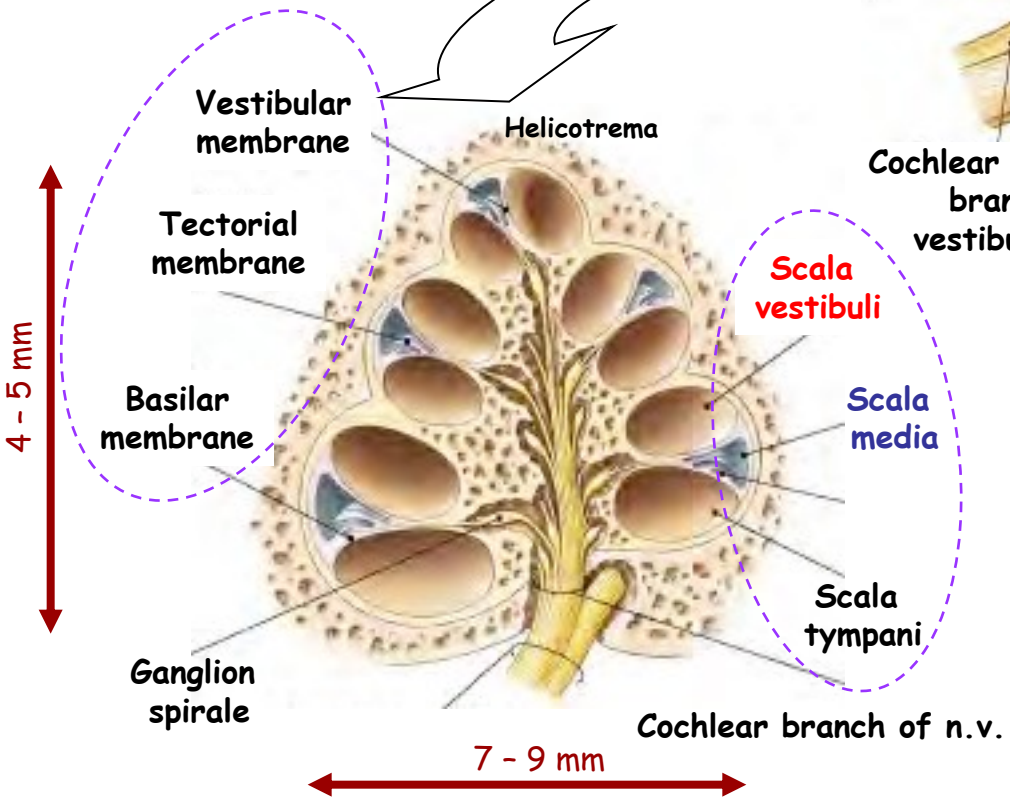
Saccule → **Cochlear duct**



Internal ear – Organ of hearing

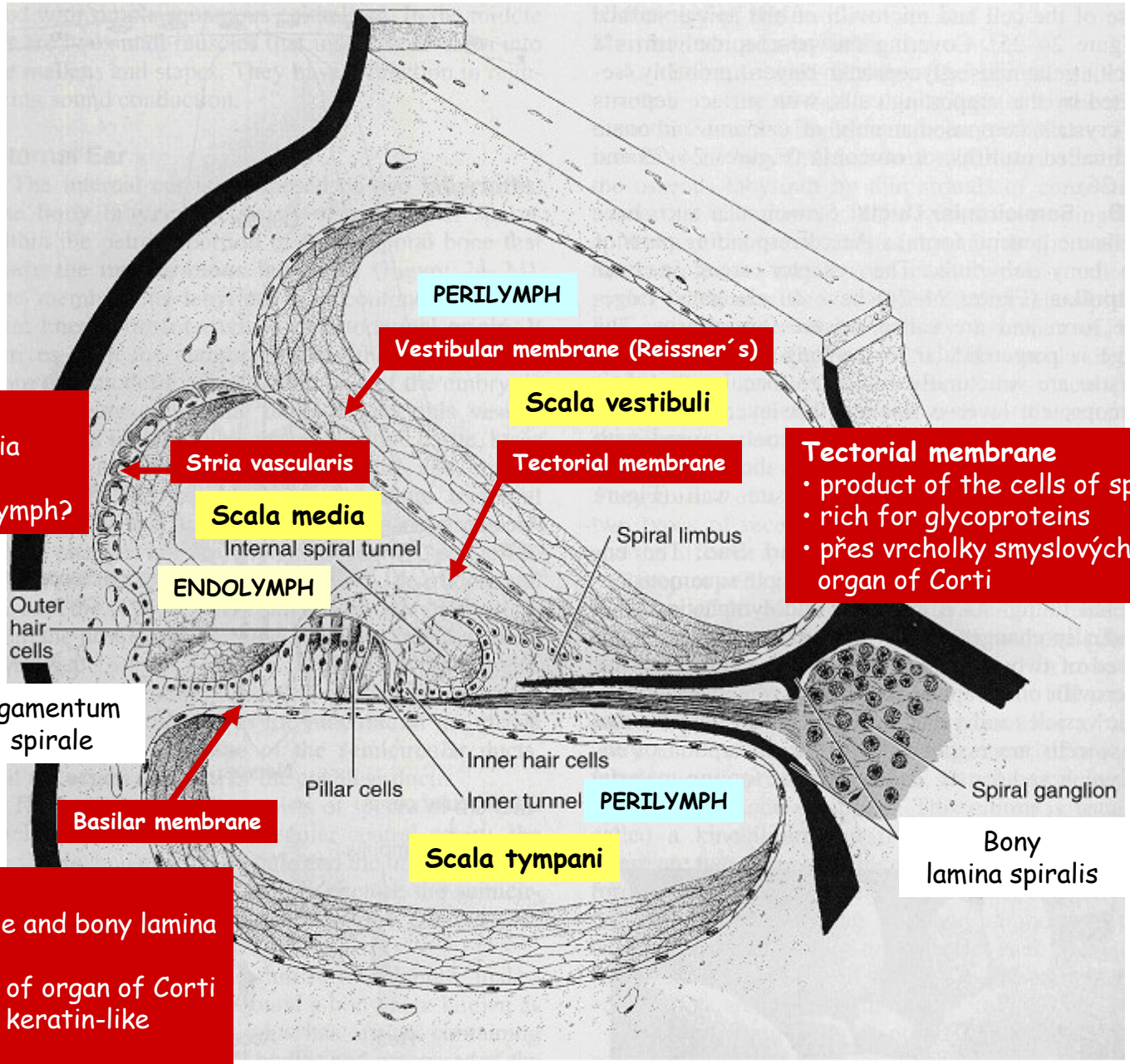
Cochlea
- 2,5 turns around modiolus
- total length about 35 mm





Modiolus (bony core)
- central axis of cochlear duct
- contains ganglion spirale cochleae, nervus cochlearis and vessels

Internal ear – Detail of cochlear duct

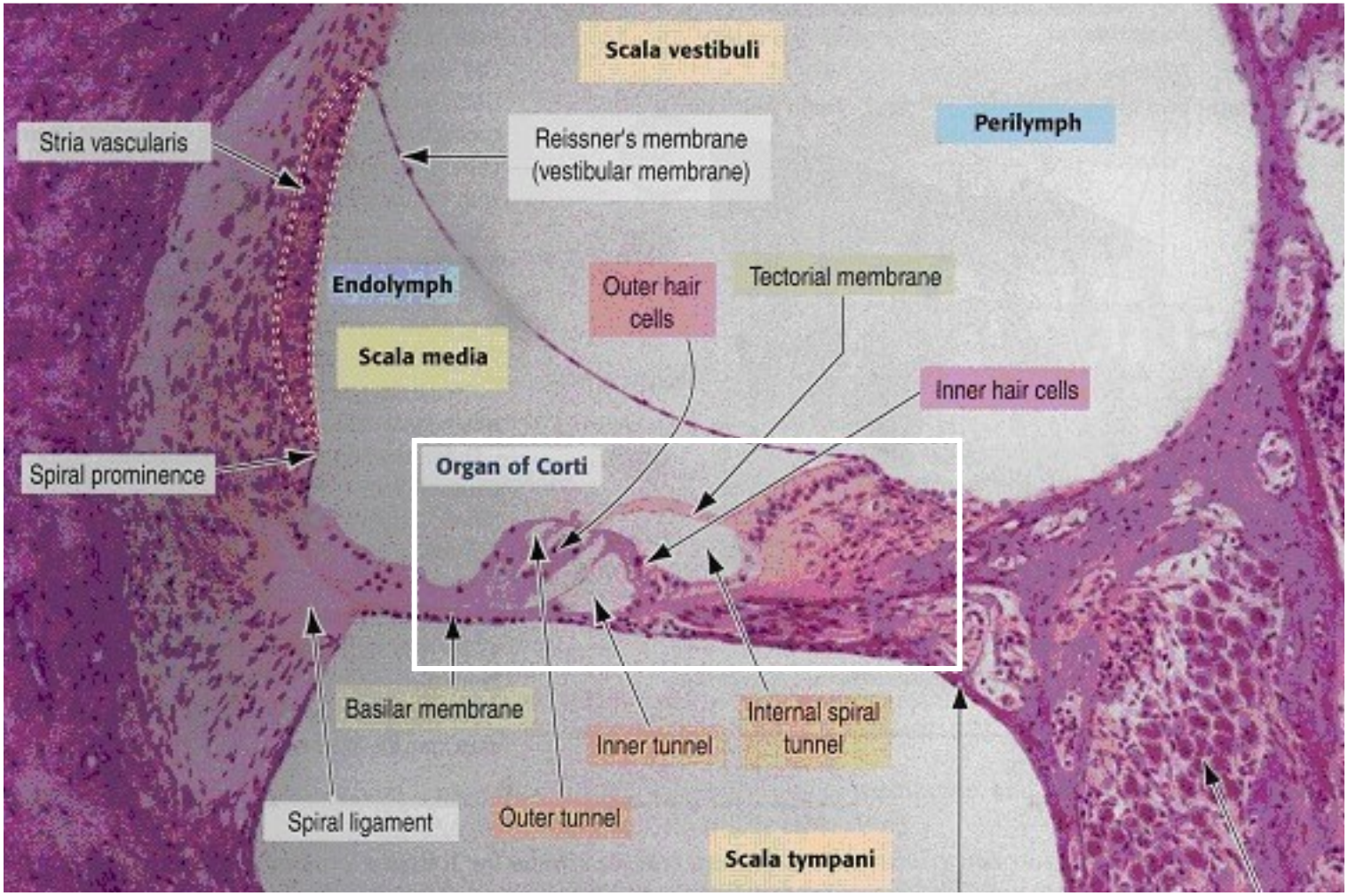


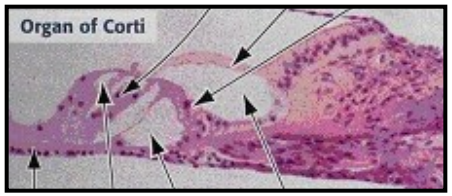
Stria vascularis
- vascularized epithelia
- responsible for the composition of endolymph?

Tectorial membrane
- product of the cells of spiral limbus
- rich for glycoproteins
- přes vrcholky smyslových buněk organ of Corti

Basilar membrane
- between lig. spirale and bony lamina spiralis
- supports the cells of organ of Corti
- made of fibrils of keratin-like proteins

Internal ear – Organ of Corti - 1





Internal ear – Organ of Corti - 2

Secondary receptor cells

- hearing hairs – stereocilia
- in contact with tectorial membrane
- bases wraped by dendrites of bipolar cells of ganglion spirale

Outer hair cells
- 3-5 rows, ~12 000, no axonema

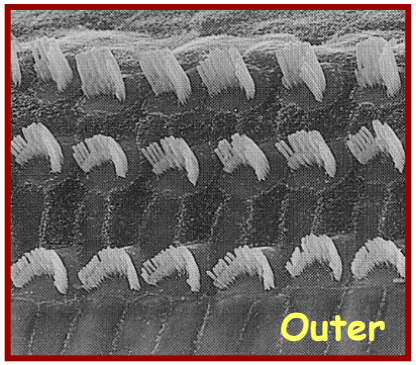
Inner hair cells
- 1 row, ~3 500, no axon.

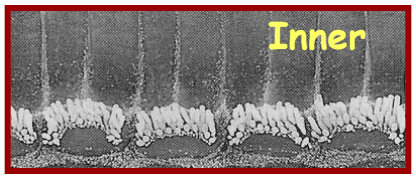
Supporting cells

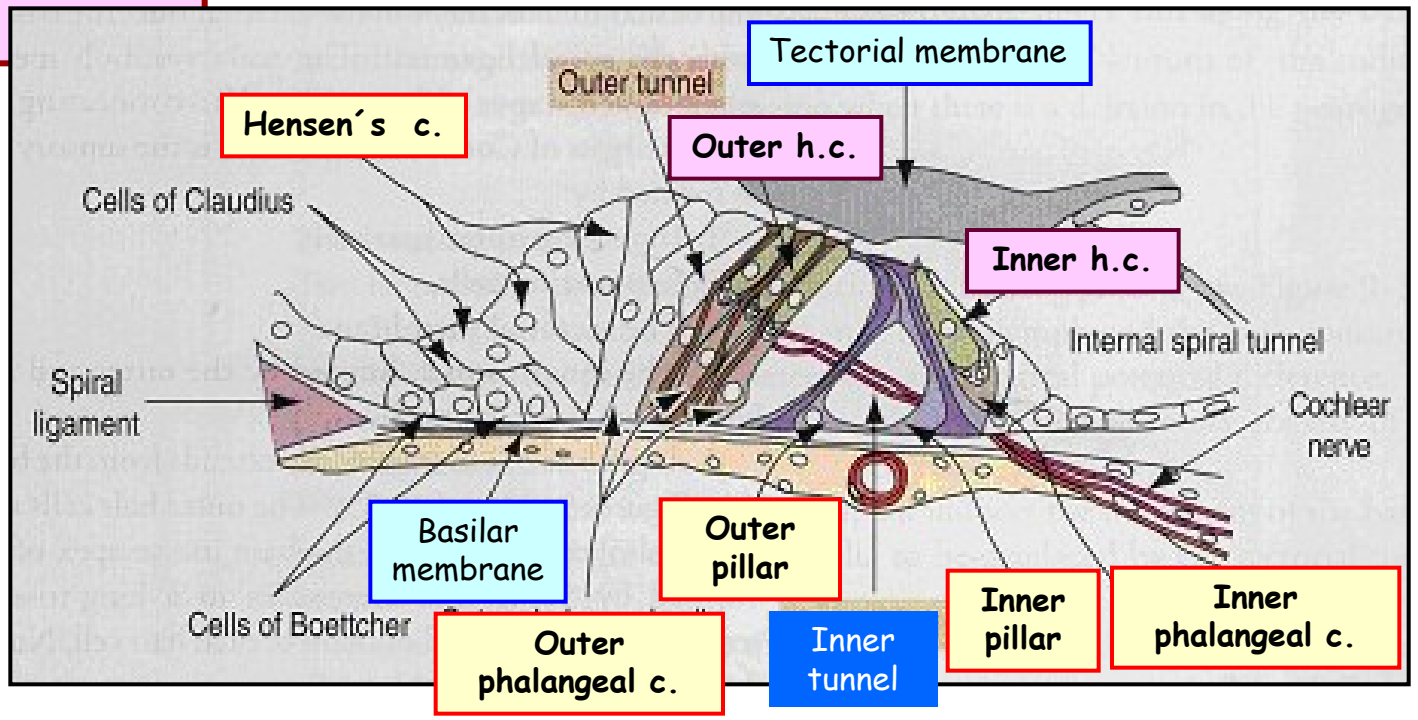
Hensen´s cells
Outer phalangeal cells
- support to hair cells, which run through the spaces between ph.

Outer pillar of Corti
Outer pillar of Corti
Inner phalangeal cells
- same as inner ph. cells

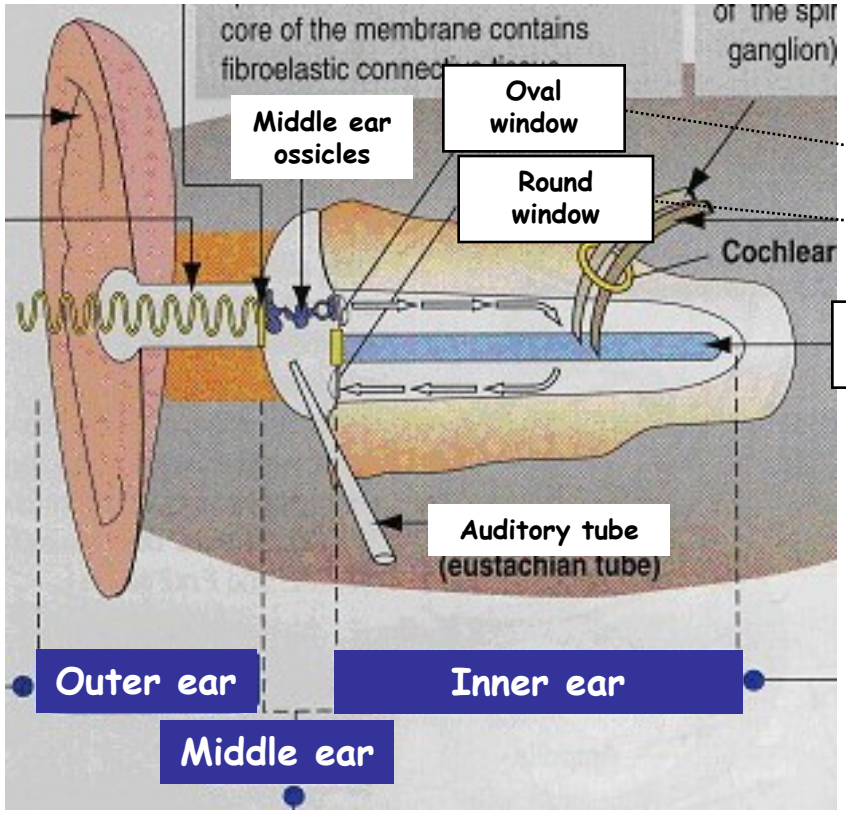
Border cells

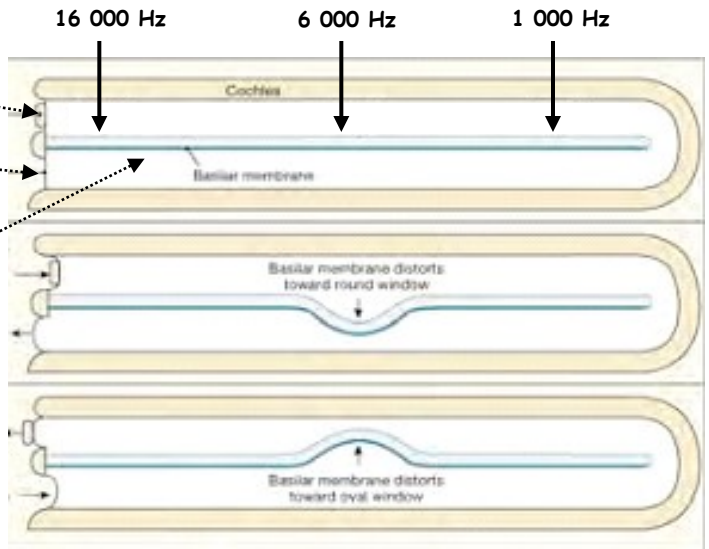


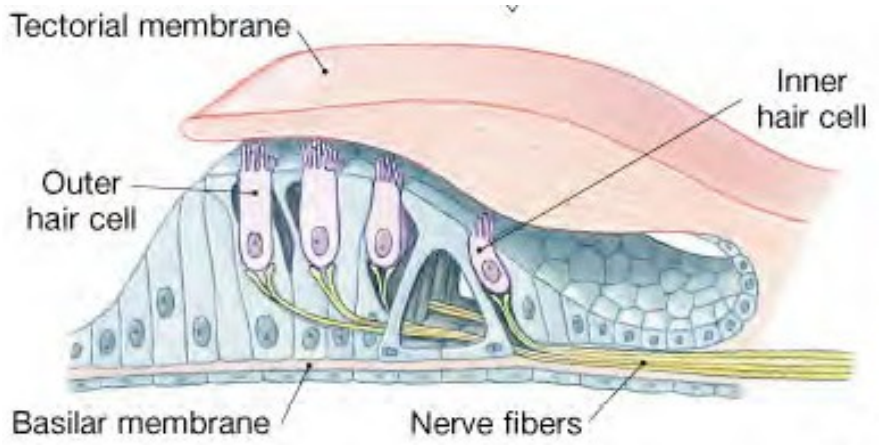




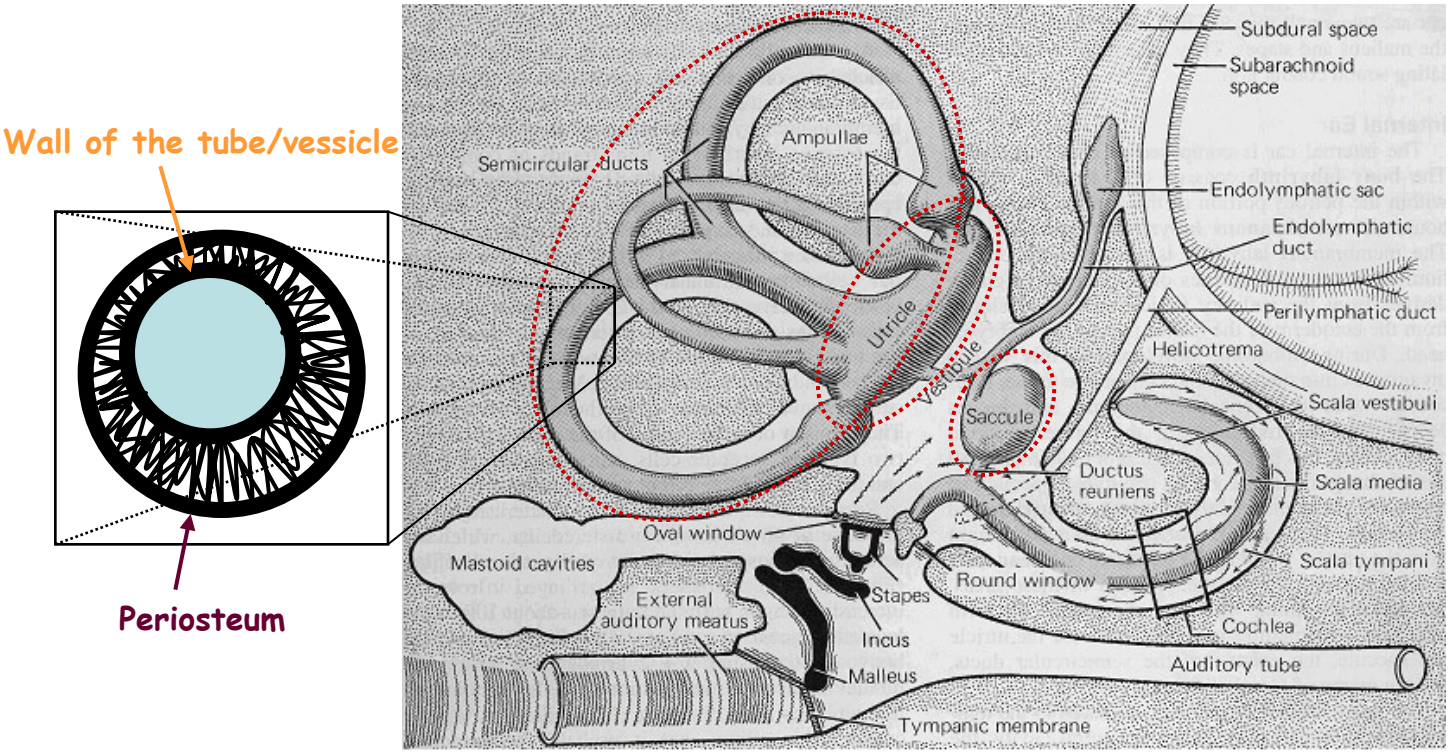
Inner ear – Principle of hearing







Inner ear – Statokinetic / Vestibular organ - 1



Uniform composition of the wall (vessicles and tubes)
Thin layer of connective tissue + single-layer squamous/cuboidal epithelium.

Unifying concept of the composition of sensing elements
(vessicles – maculae; tubes – cristae ampullares)
Thickening of the wall with neuroepithelial cells inervated by branches of n. vestibularis.

Inner ear – Statokinetic / Vestibular organ - 2

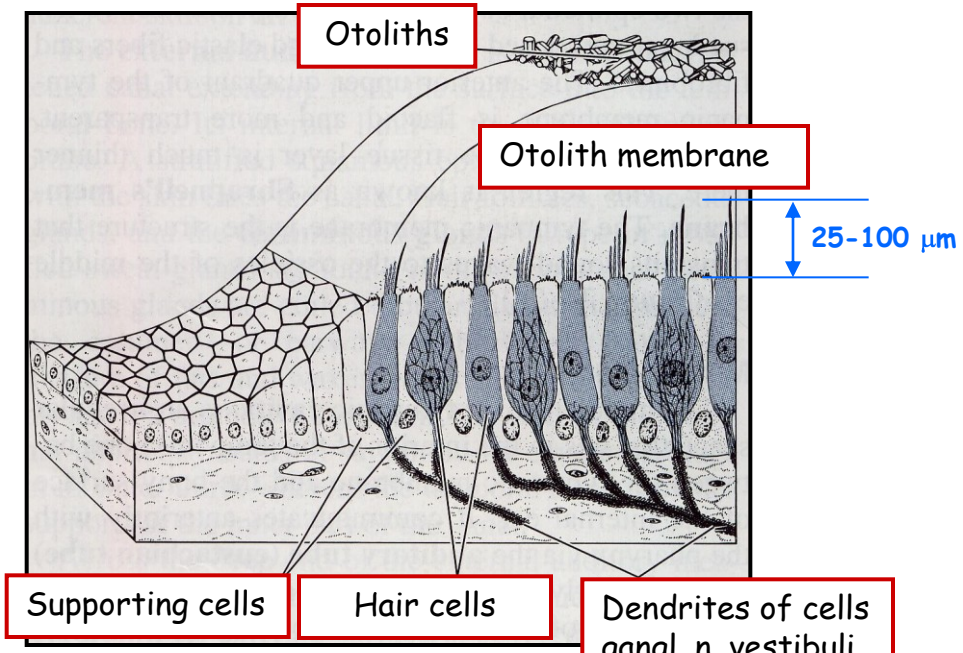
Sensing of static equilibrium (maculae = static spots)

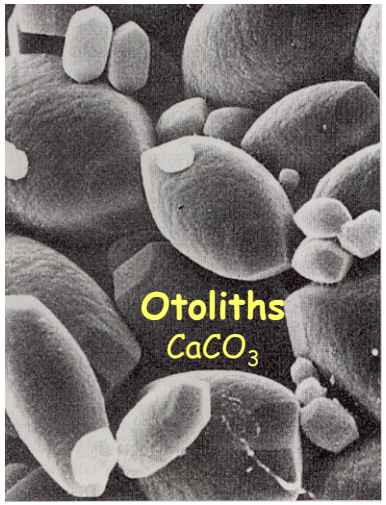
Deviation from the gravity force
(gravity force of otoliths)
max. pressure – max. pull

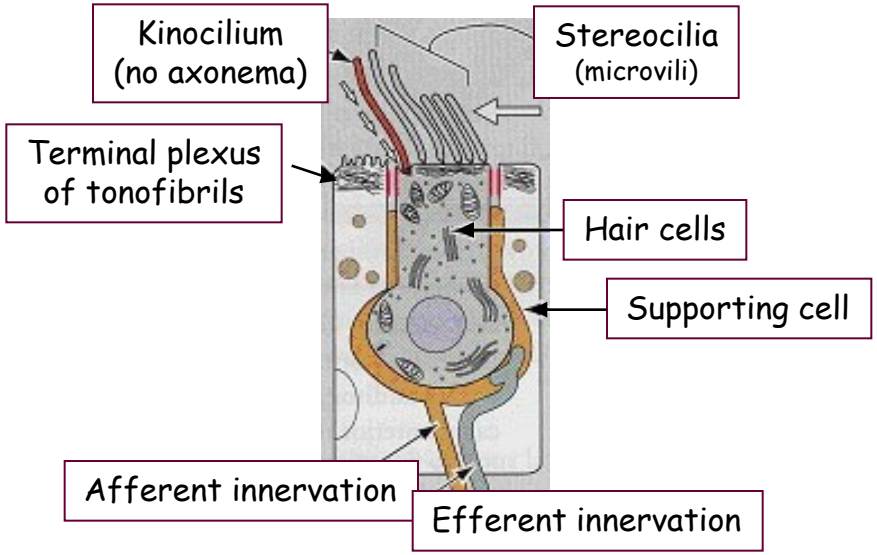
Position of maculae

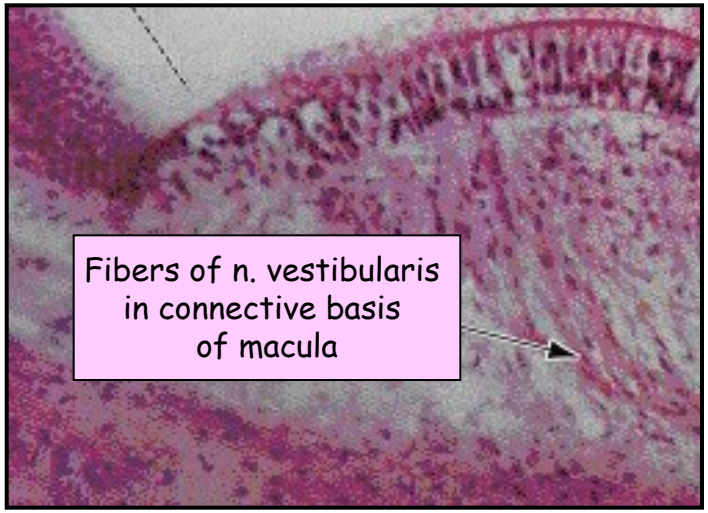
Saccule
bottom

Utricle
lateral wall



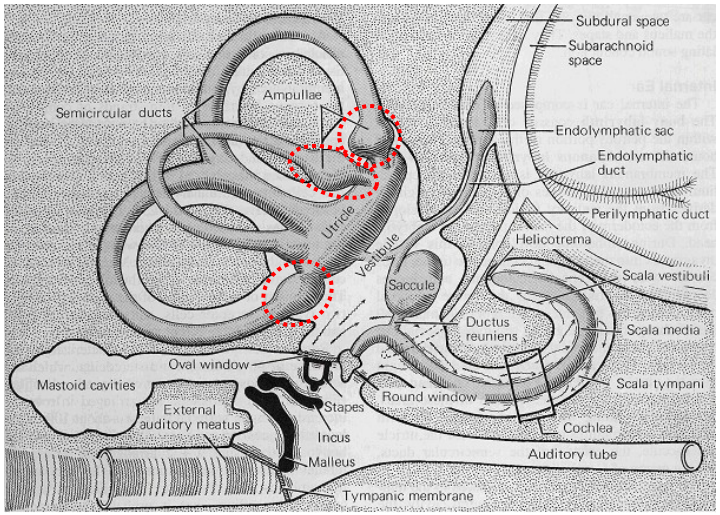




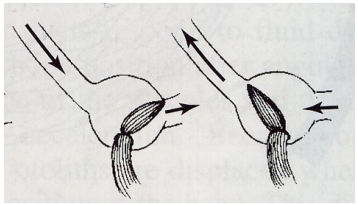


Inner ear – Statokinetic / Vestibular organ - 3

Sensing of dynamic equilibrium (cristae ampulares)

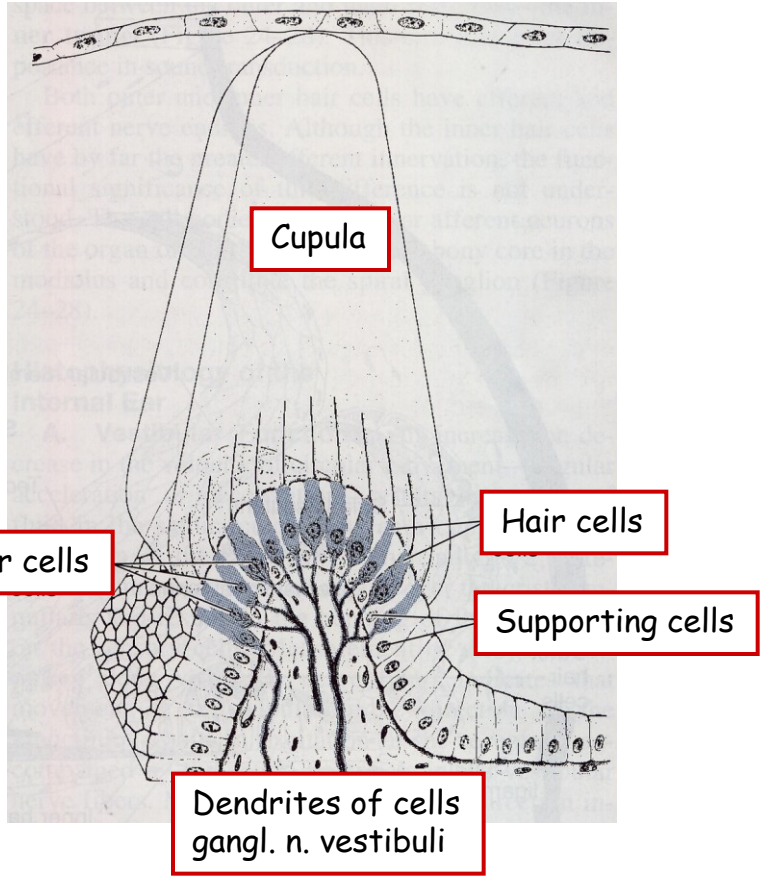


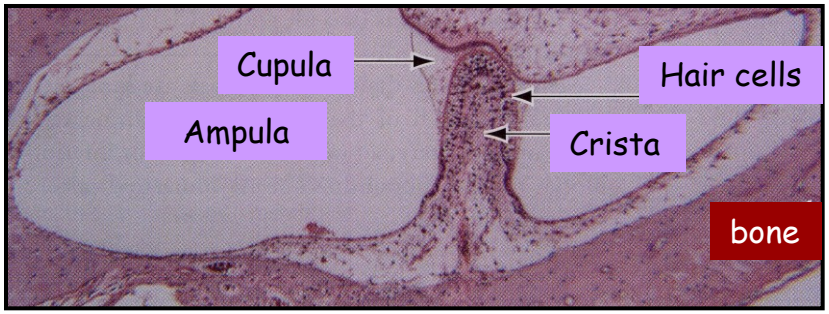
Reaction on acceleration/deceleration
(movement of endolymph)



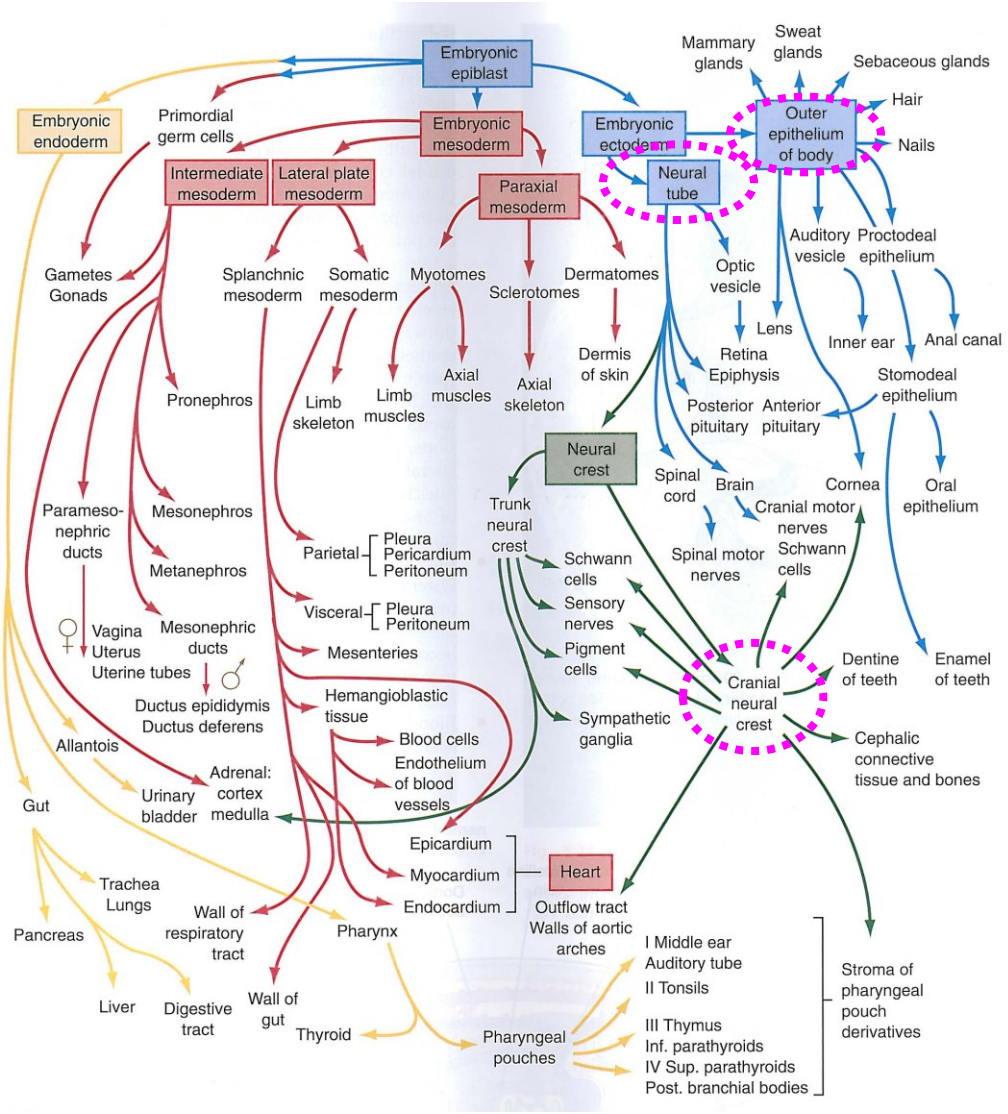
Position of cristae amplulares

- in ampules of semicircular ducts
- ridges perpendicular to axis of SDs

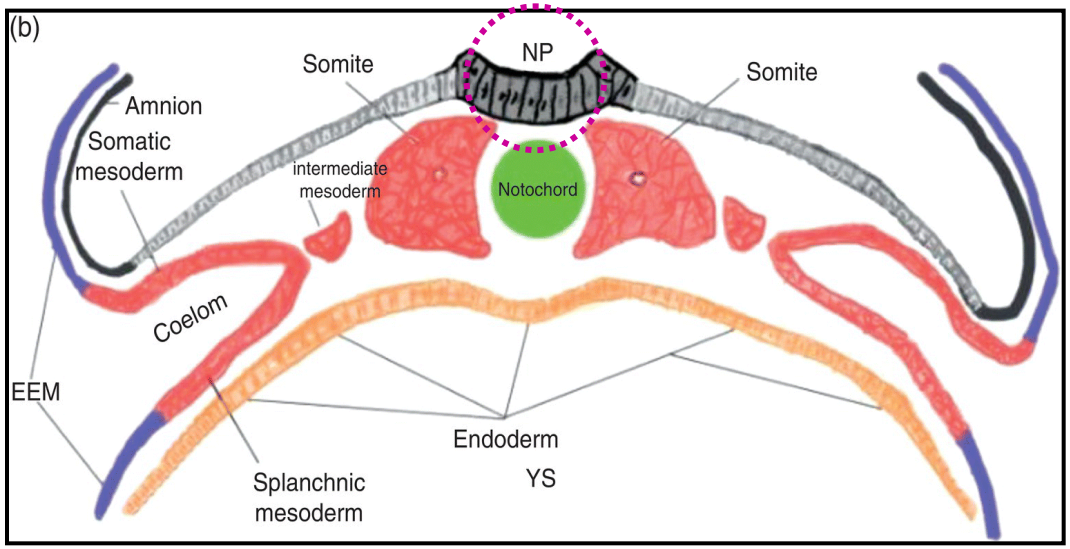


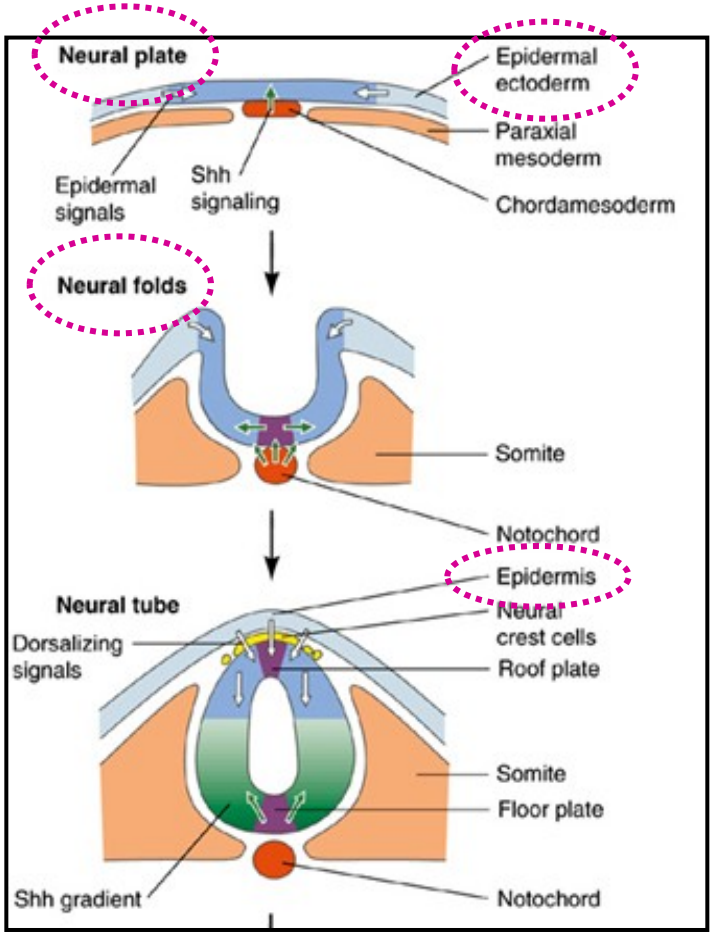


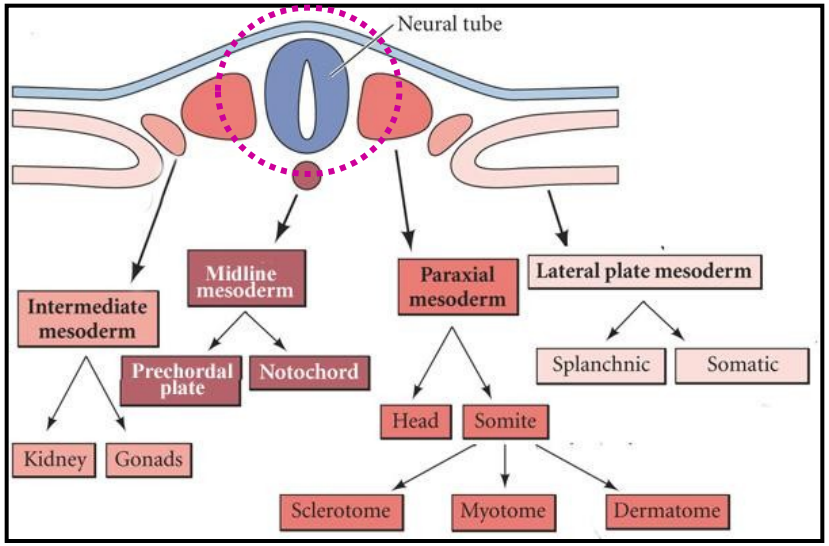
Development of sense organs – Overall picture

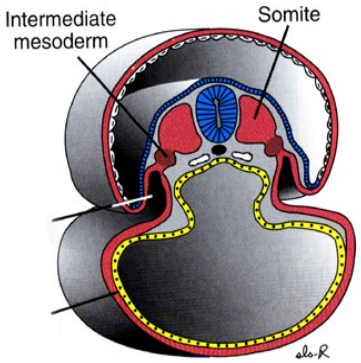


Sense organs – Reminder – Neural tube

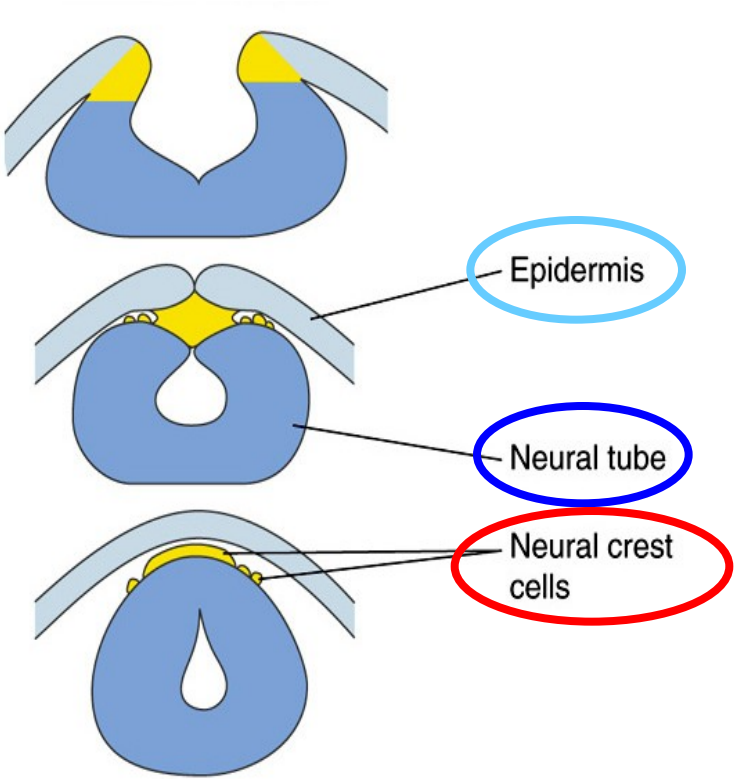






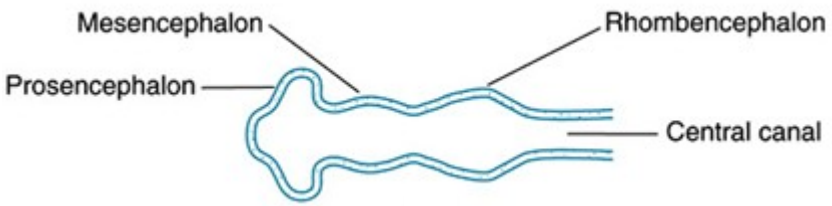


Sense organs – Reminder – Neural crest



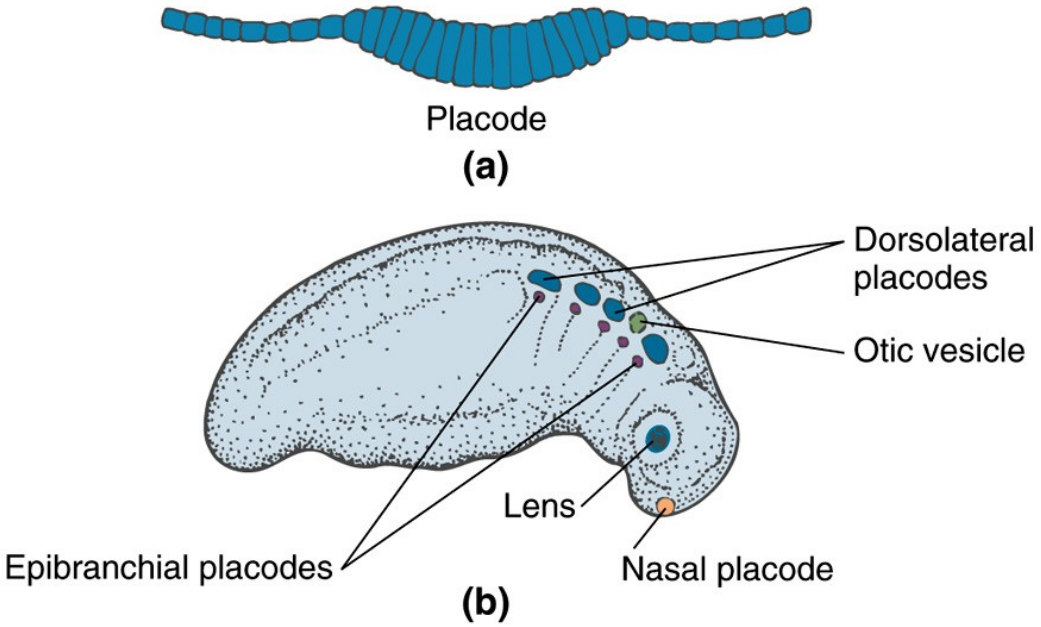
Arise from both
dorsal epidermis and neural plate

Sense organs – Cranial neural tube + Placodes



Brain after 4 weeks of development

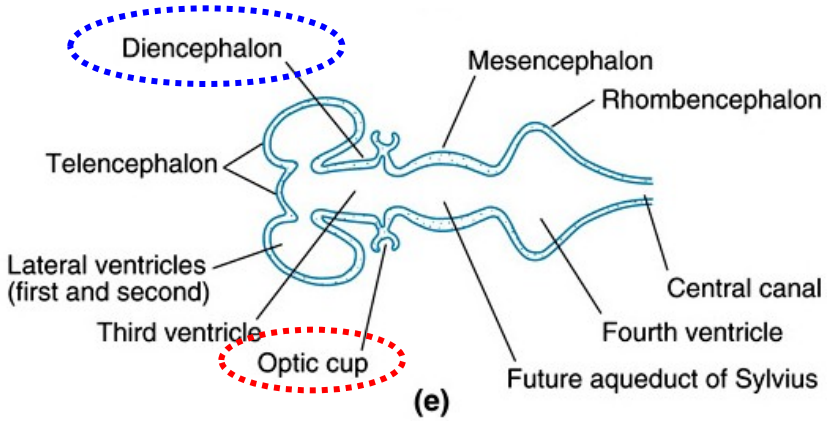
Placodes: **patches of dense culumnar epithelium in the epidermis covering the head – their formation is induced by underlying brain and mesenchymal tissue – develop in week 4**



Dorsolateral placodes
Contribute to:
- eye – lens placode
- ear – otic placode
- nose – nasal placode
- sensory ganglia

Epibranchial placodes
Develop into:
- sensory ganglia of cranial nerves (V, VII, IX, X)

Sense organs – Eye development 1



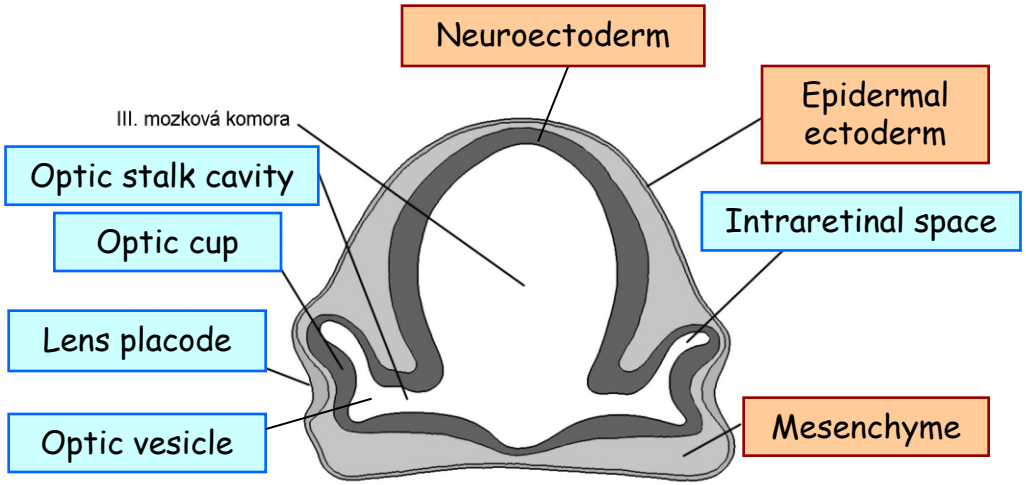
Brain after 5 weeks of development

Neural plate ectoderm -> prosencephalon (forebrain) **eye fields** ->

-> neural plate growth carries eye field region forward ->

-> eye field invaginates forming **optic grooves (sulci)**

Sense organs – Eye development 2



Prosencephalon – transversal section – about 30 days

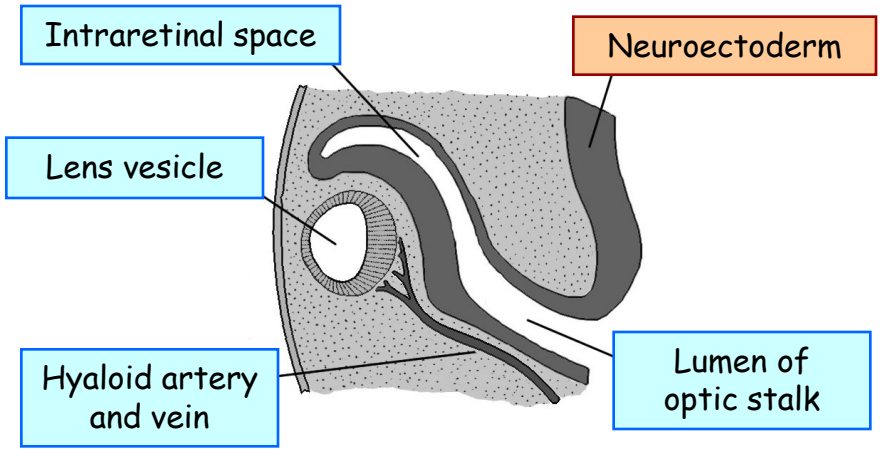
Lens placode: the ectoderm invaginates in response to signals from the optic cup underneath. It then pinches off as a lens vesicle. Cells elongate to fill the vesicle and start to synthesize crystallins.

Optic cup: forms from the neural tube by invagination. The opening (choroid fissure) closes forming a round optic cup, an extension of the brain.

Optic stalk: connection to the brain that is filled with neurons to form the optic nerve.

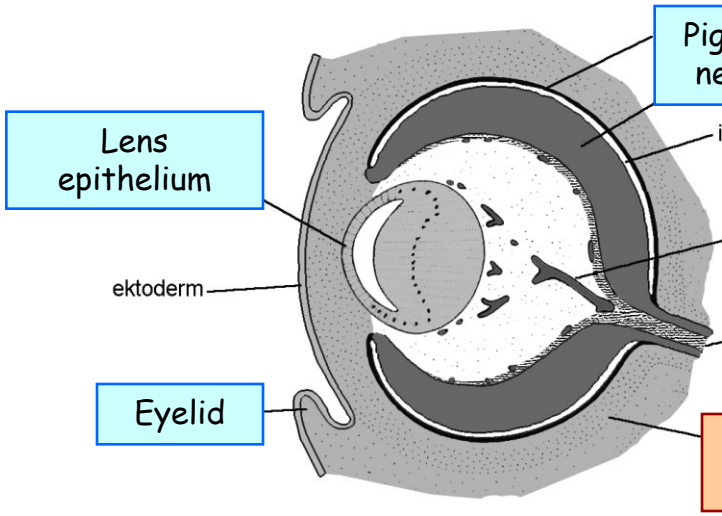
Reciprocal interaction: the lens induces the formation of the optic cup and the cup regulates formation of the lens.

Sense organs – Eye development 3



Diencephalon – transversal section – 6 weeks

Sense organs – Eye development 4

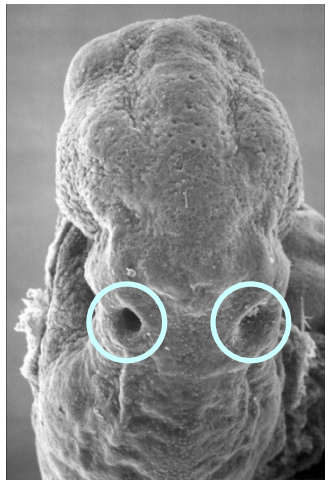


Histogenesis of retina ends in 8 month.

- m. ciliaris
- proc. ciliares
- stroma iridis
- choroid
- sclera
- vitreous

About 7 weeks

Sense organs – Ear development



Rhombencephalon – transversal section

Thank you for your attention !