

Male reproductive system

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October 2021

Key components & Gross anatomy

Paired gonads (glands) = testes

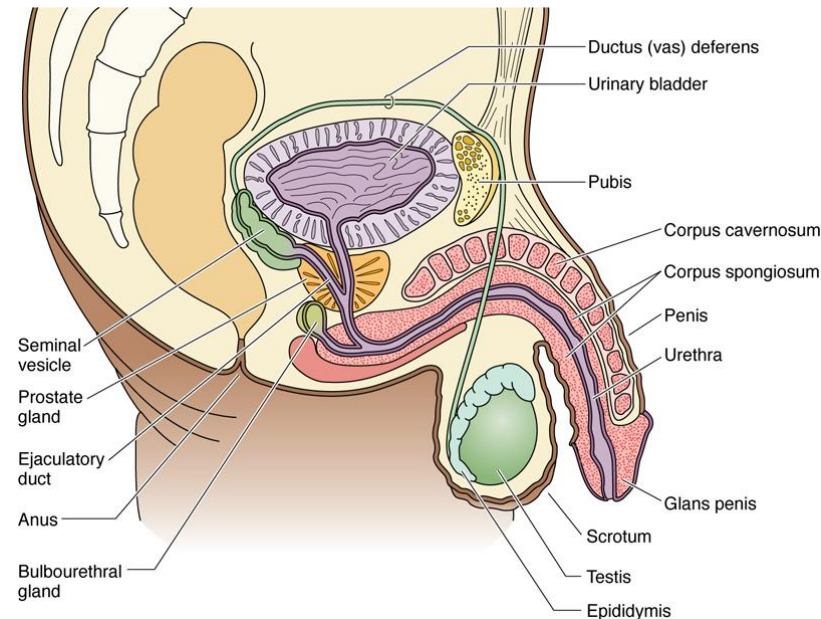
Genital ducts	Intratesticular <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tubuli recti • Rete testis • Ductuli efferentes
	Extratesticular <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epididymis • Ductus (vas) deferens • Ejaculatory duct • Urethra

Associated glands

- Seminal vesicles (paired)
- Prostate
- Bulbourethral glands (paired)

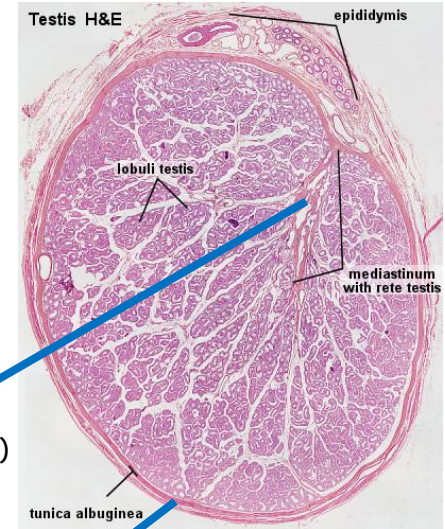
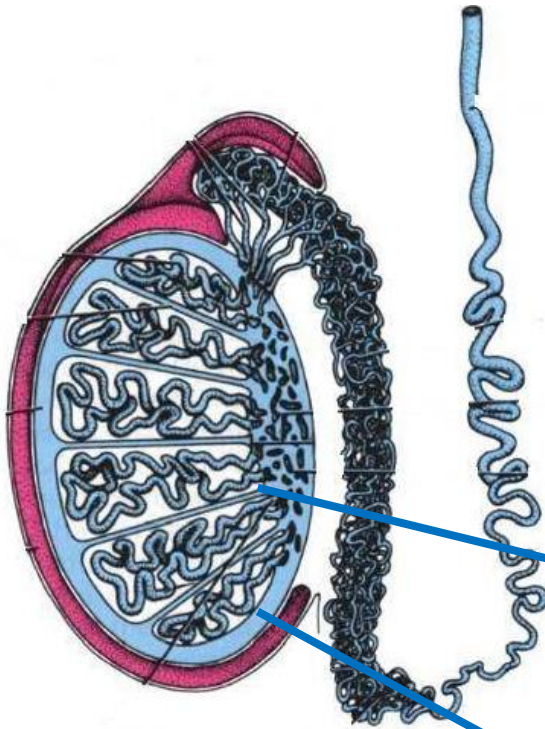
External genital organs

- Scrotum
- Penis



Testis - 1

Length: 4 cm
Width: 2-3 cm
Thickness: 3 cm



Mediastinum + Septa

- divide testis into **lobuli** (250-300)

Tunica albuginea - capsule

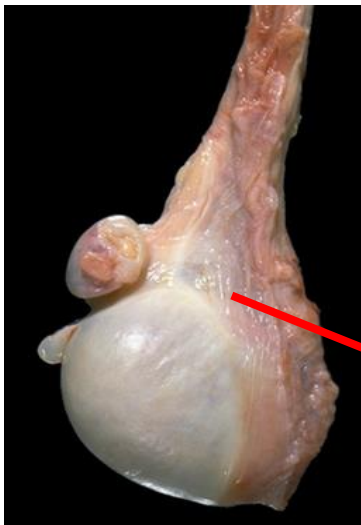
- dense connective collagenous tissue

Tunica vasculosa

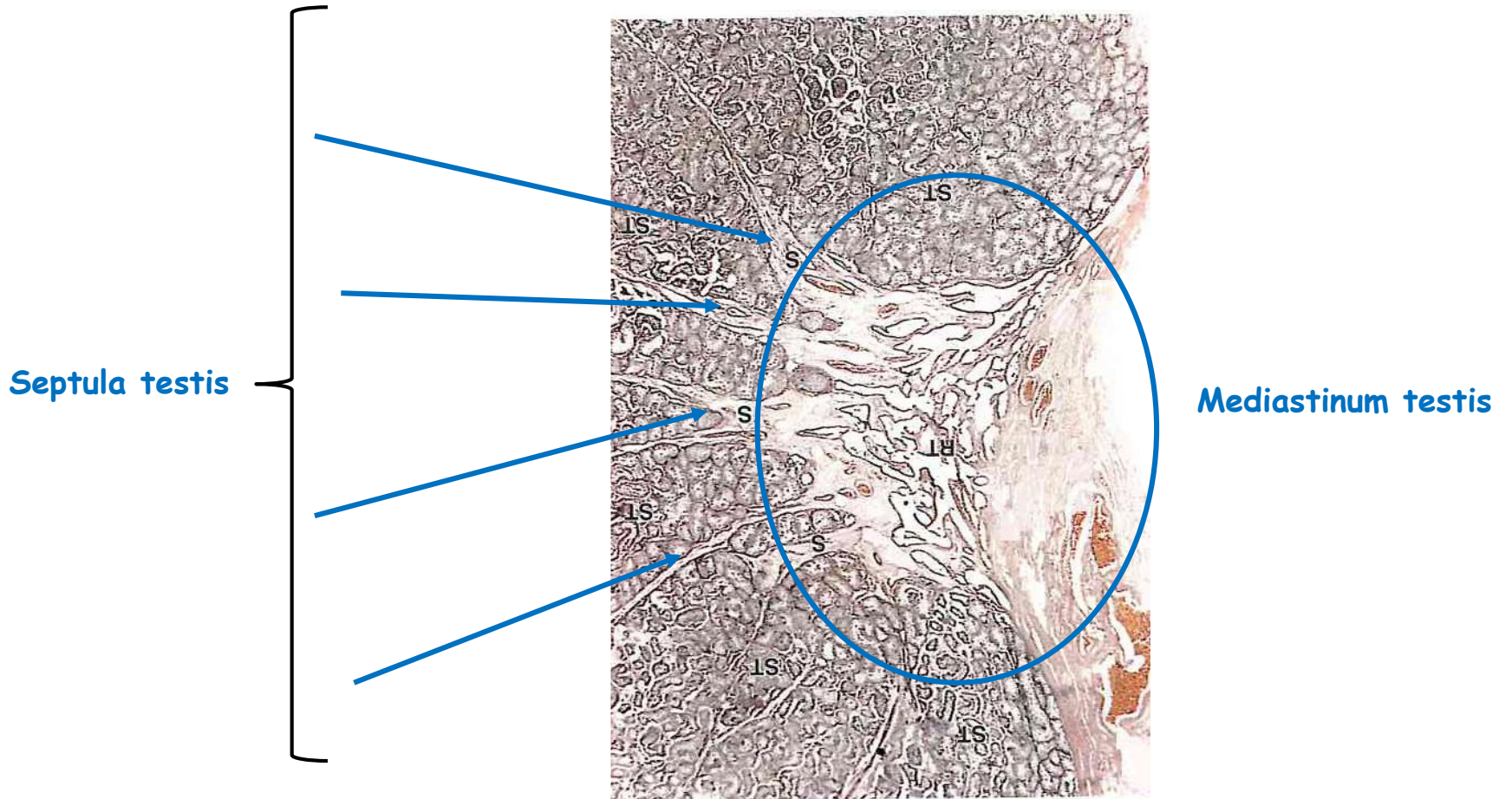
- inside of T. albuginea + adjacent to septa

Tunica vaginalis (epiorchium + periorchium)

- serous, originates from peritoneum

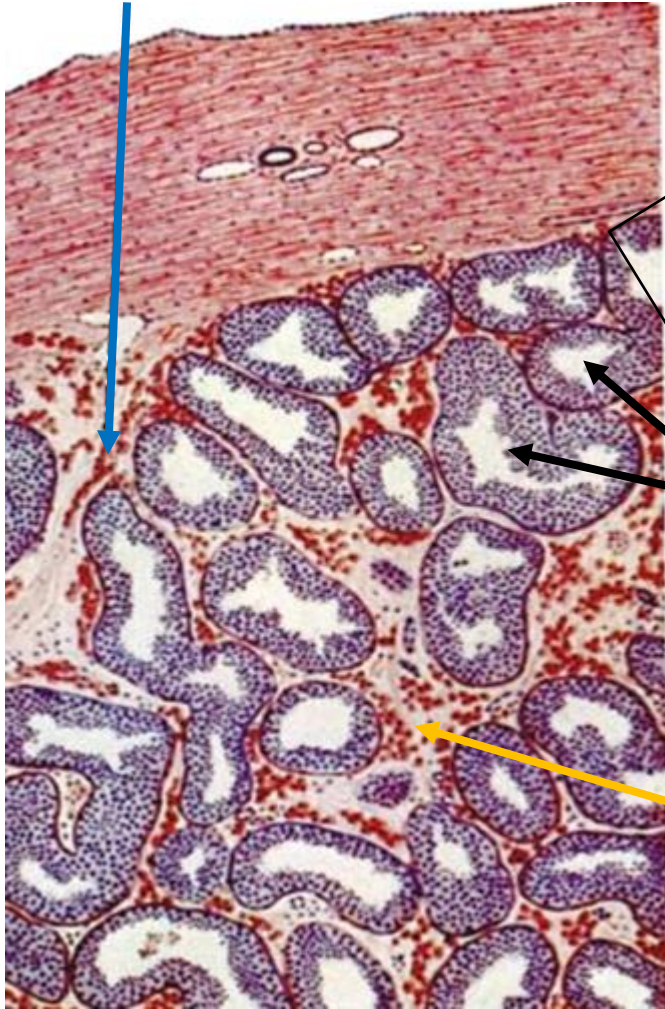


Testis - 2

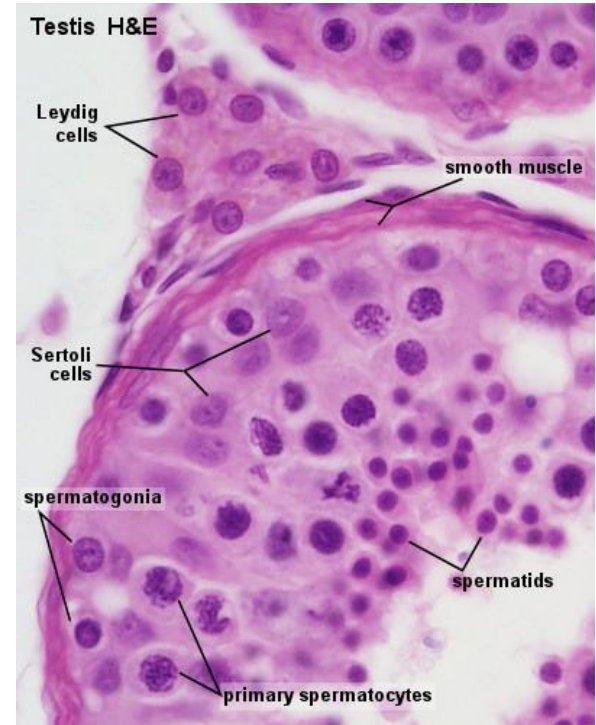


Testis - 3

Septulum testis



Tunica albuginea



Testis H&E

Leydig cells

smooth muscle

Sertoli cells

spermatogonia

spermatids

primary spermatocytes

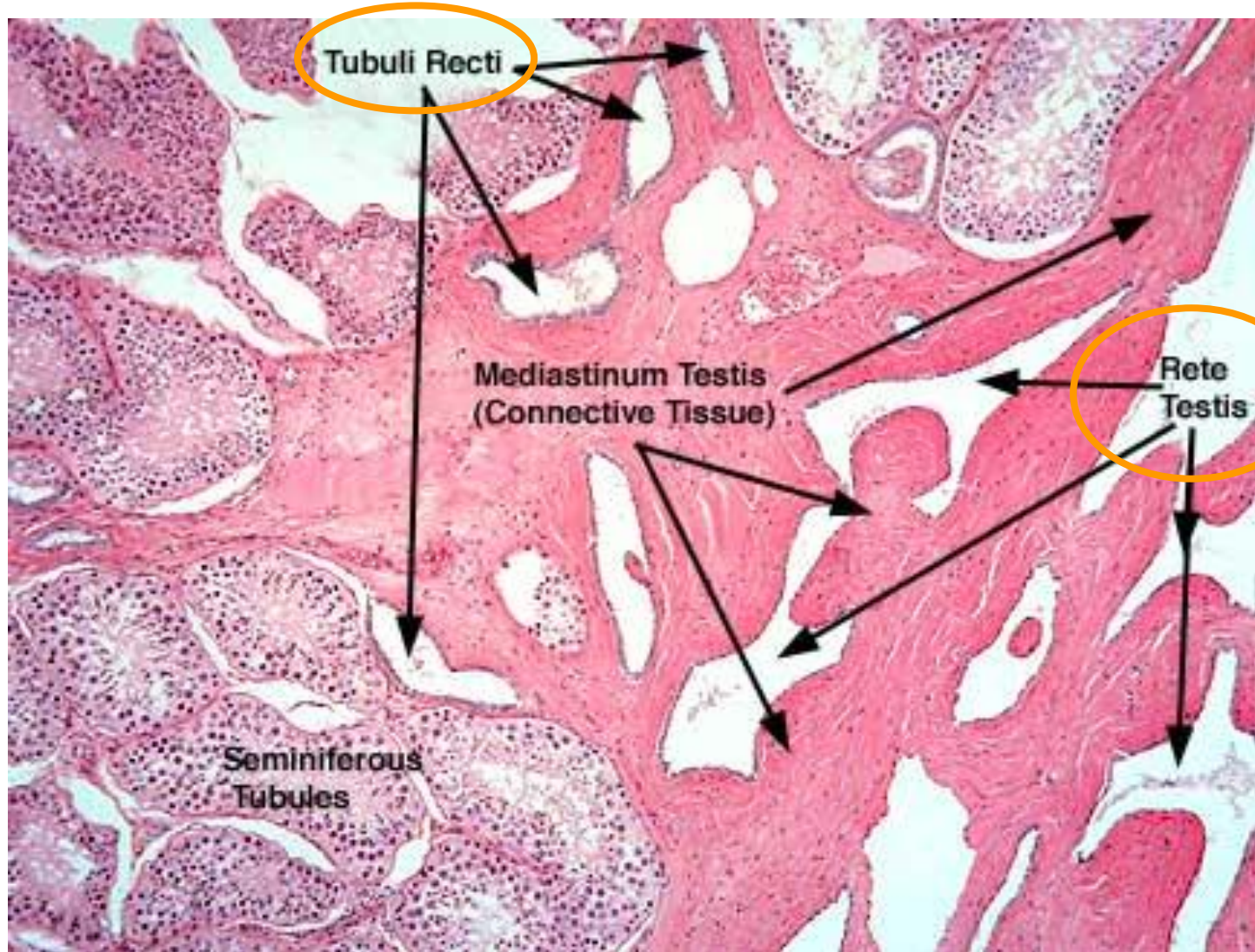
Seminiferous tubules

- 1 to 4 in one lobule
- 1 tubule - 30 to 70 cm in length
- total number about 1000
- total length about 500 m

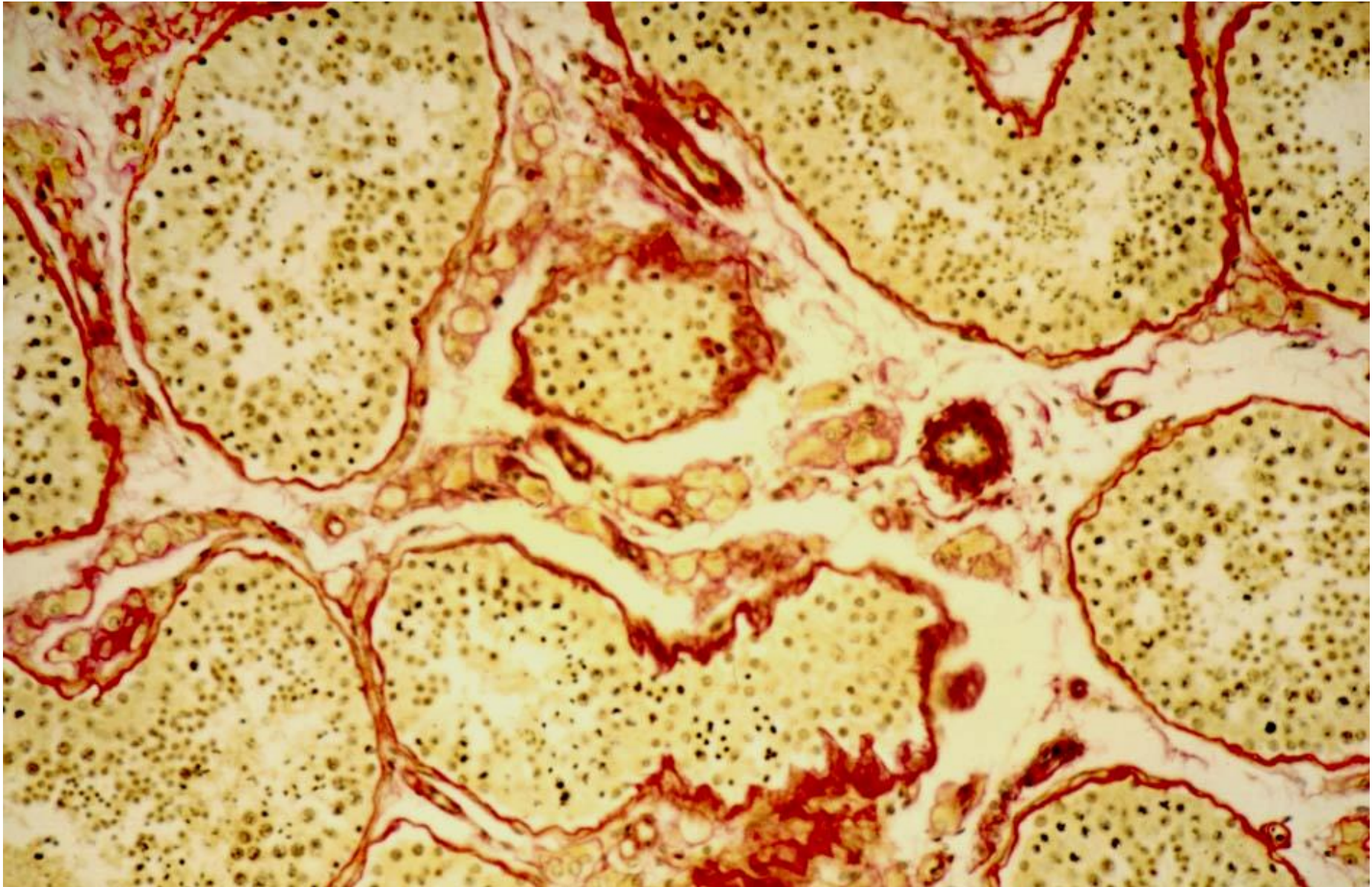
Interstitial tissue

- derived from T. vasculosa
- contains dispersed Leydig cells (brown)

Testis - 4 - continuation of seminiferous tubuli



Testis - 5



Testis - 6 - interstitium - Leydig cells

Interstitium

- loose connective tissue
- fenestrated capillaries + lymphatics + nerves
- mast cells + macrophages + **Leydig cells**

Myofibroblasts

Capillaries



Leydig cells

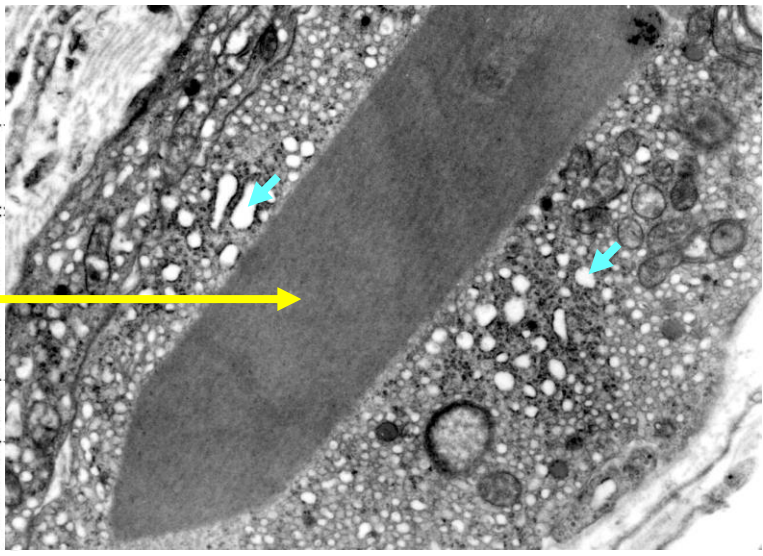
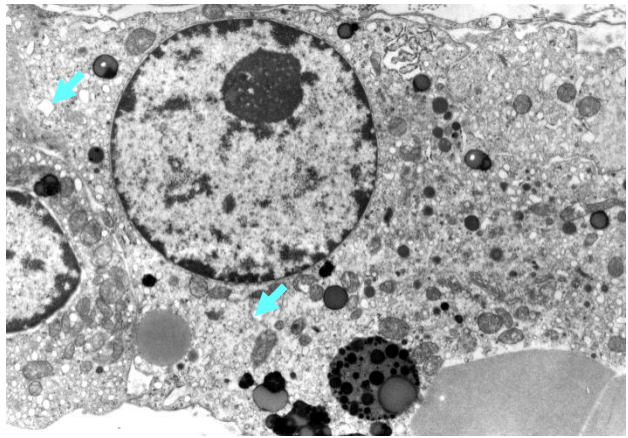
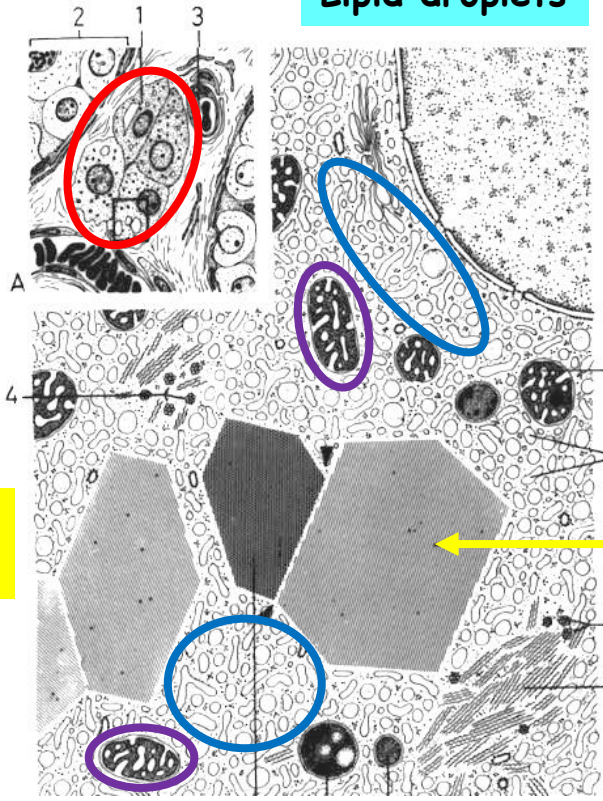
- round shaped
- large centrally located nuclei
- eosinophilic cytoplasm
- lipid droplets
- **testosterone** synthesis

Testis - 7 - interstitium - Leydig cells

Mitochondria
+
Smooth ER

Testosterone

Lipid droplets

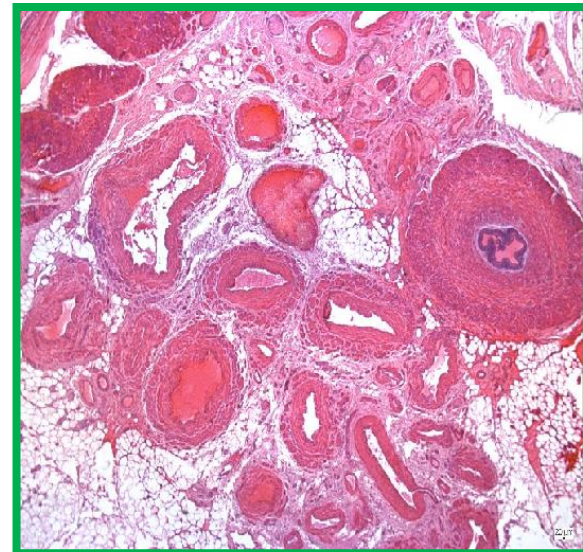
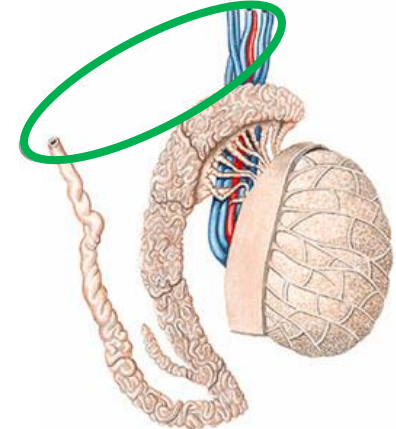
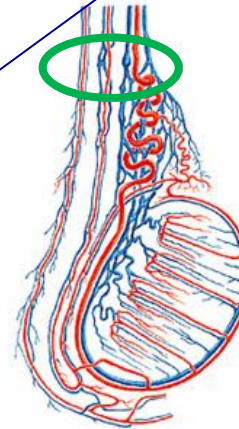
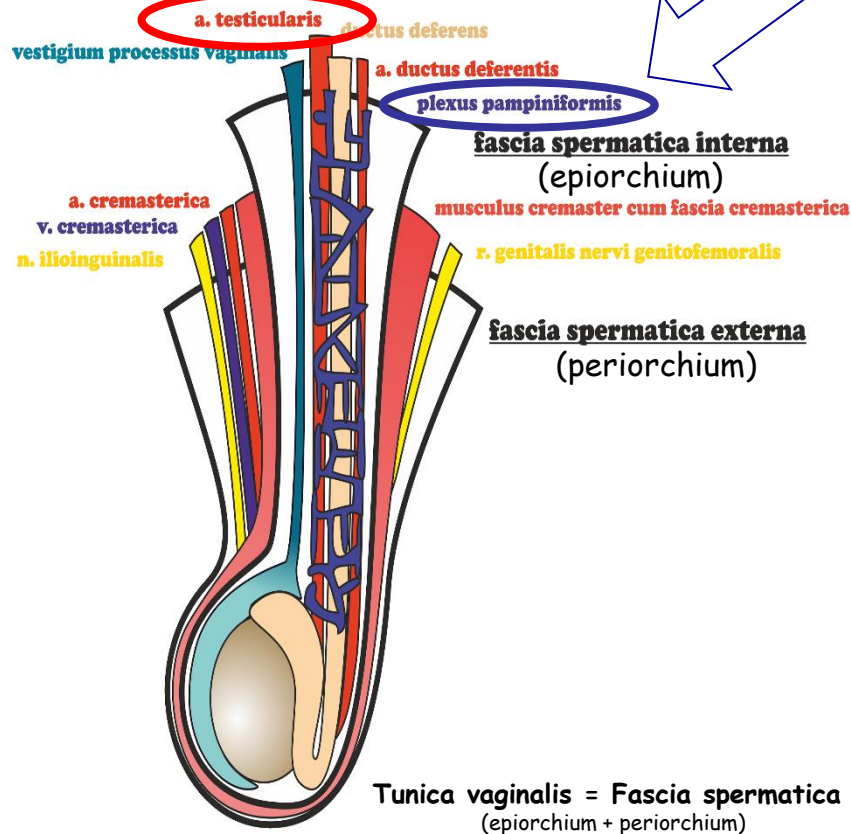


crystals
of Reinke

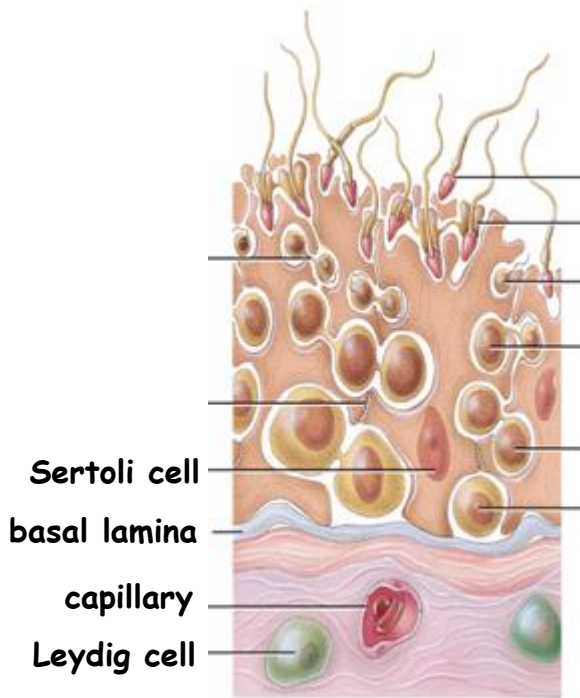
Testis - 8 - Blood supply - Plexus pampiniformis

Spermatic cord

Funiculus spermaticus



Testis - 9 - Seminiferous / Germinal epithelium



Testis - 10 - Sertoli cells

Morphology:

- tall, columnar
- highly folded membranes, undistinguishable boundaries
- hosts 30 to 50 germ cells
- abundant SER, minimal RER
- numerous mitochondria + well developed Golgi
- abundant cytoskeletal elements
- **occluding + gap junctions**

Function:

- support - physical + nutritional
- blood-testis barrier
- phagocytosis
- secretion of sperm transporting fluid + fructose
- endocrine: **anti-Mullerian hormone** + **inhibin** + **androgen-binding protein**



adluminal
compartment

basal
compartment

Sertoli - Sertoli
junctional complexes
=
blood-testis barrier
occluding + gap junctions

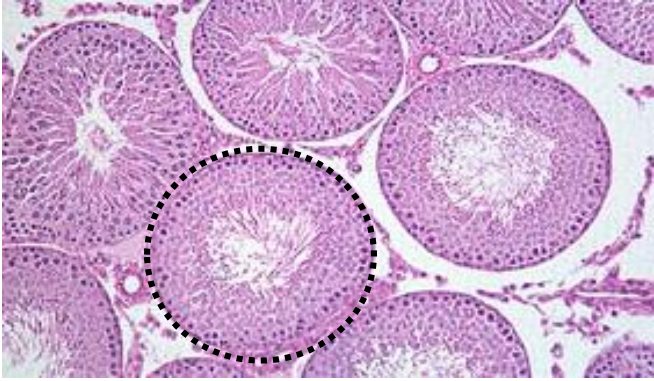
Testis - 11 - Sertoli cells - Junctional complexes



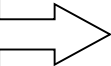
Sertoli-to-Sertoli

Sertoli-to-Spermatid

Spermatogenesis

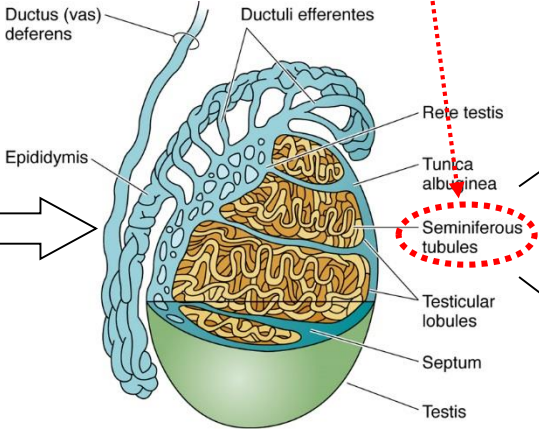
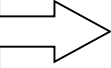


Before puberty

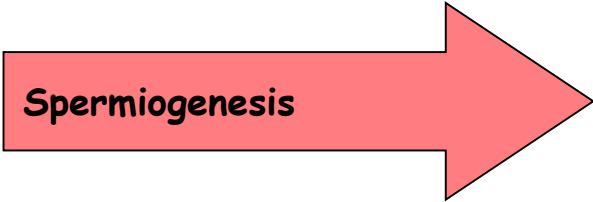
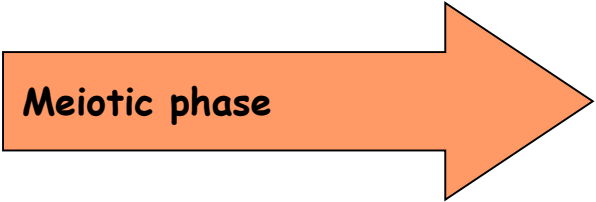
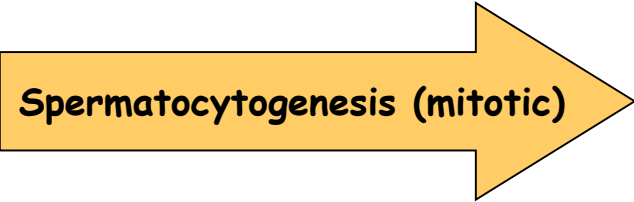
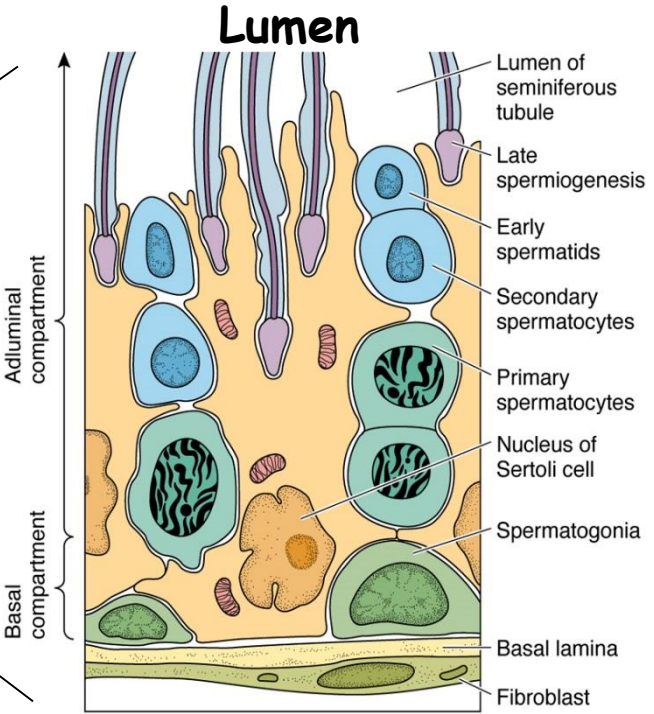


Slowly mitotically dividing spermatogonia in cords

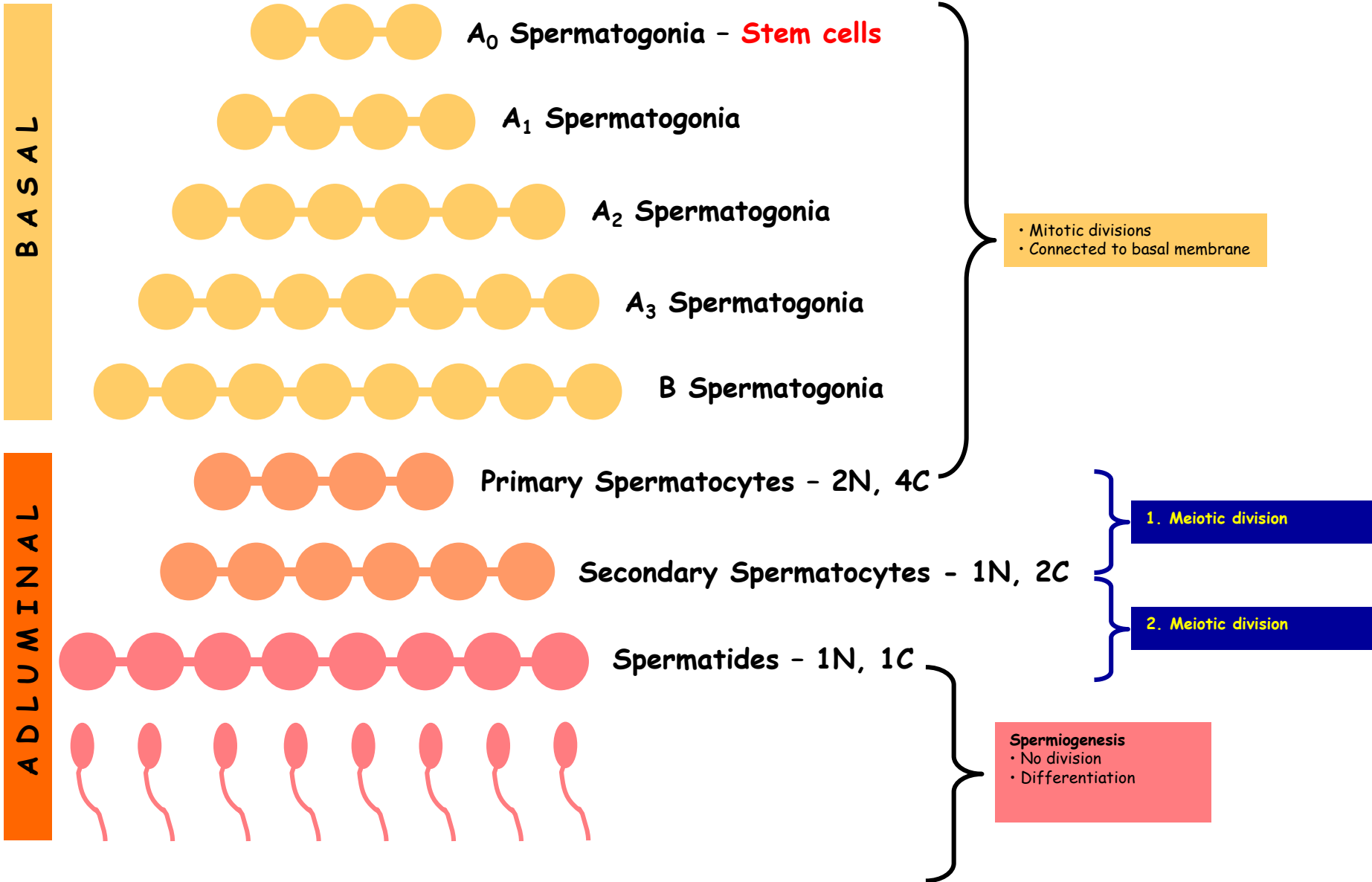
After puberty



~0.25 mm
~0.5 km

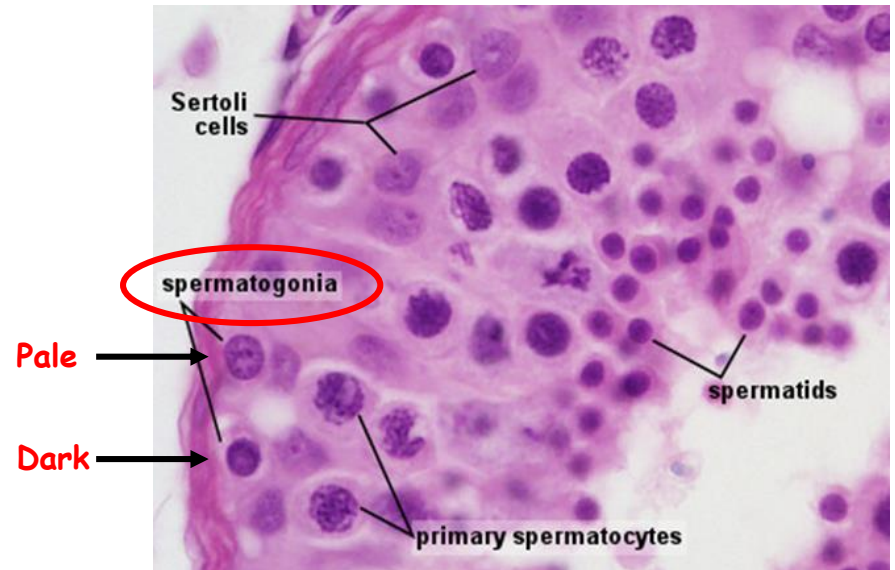
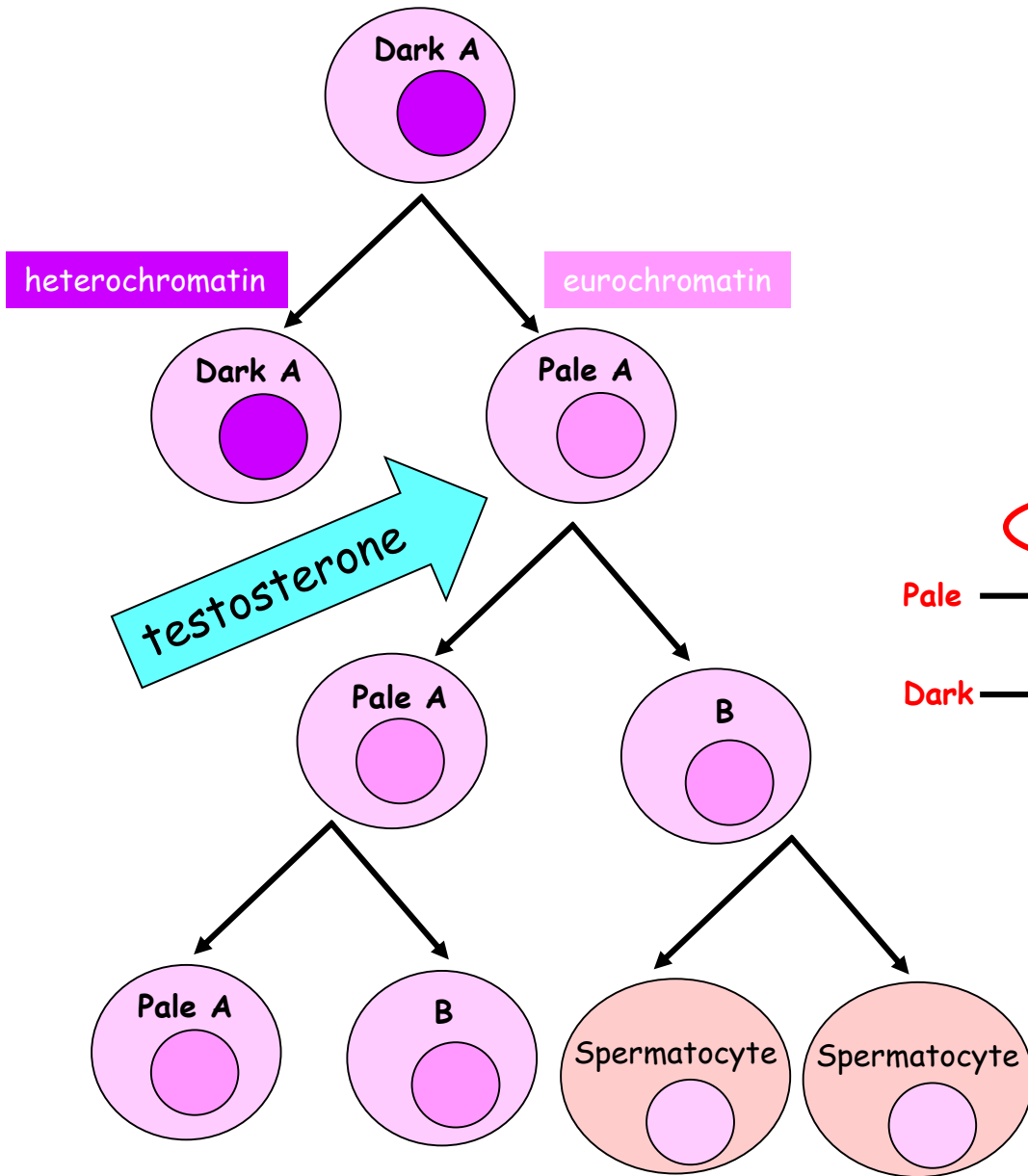


Spermatogenesis



Spermatogenesis - Spermatogonia

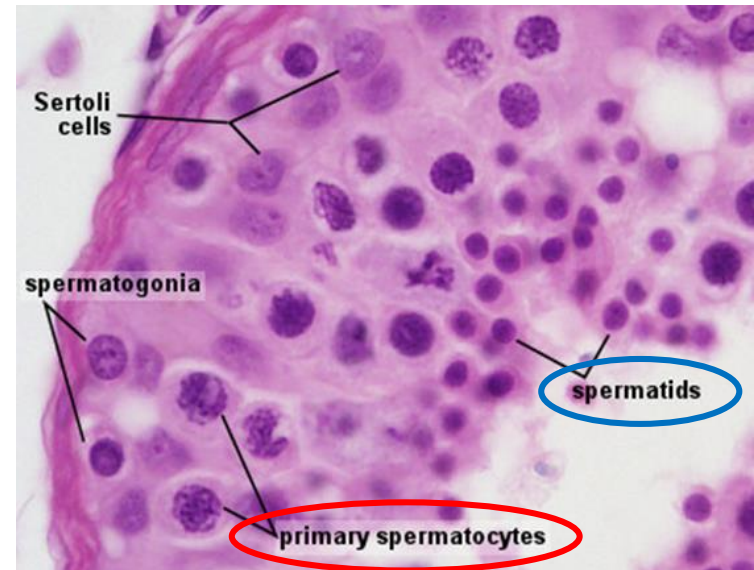
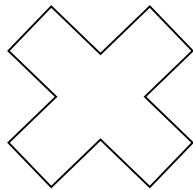
About 12 μm



Spermatogenesis - Spermatocytes

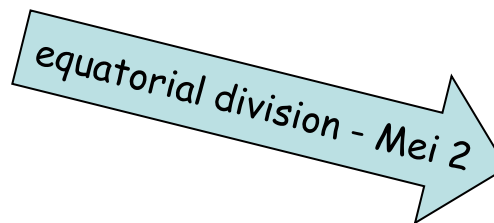
Primary spermatocytes

- largest germ cells (16 μm)
- at various stages of Mei 1 (~24 days)
- from basal to adluminal compartment
- occlusion junctions with Sertoli cells



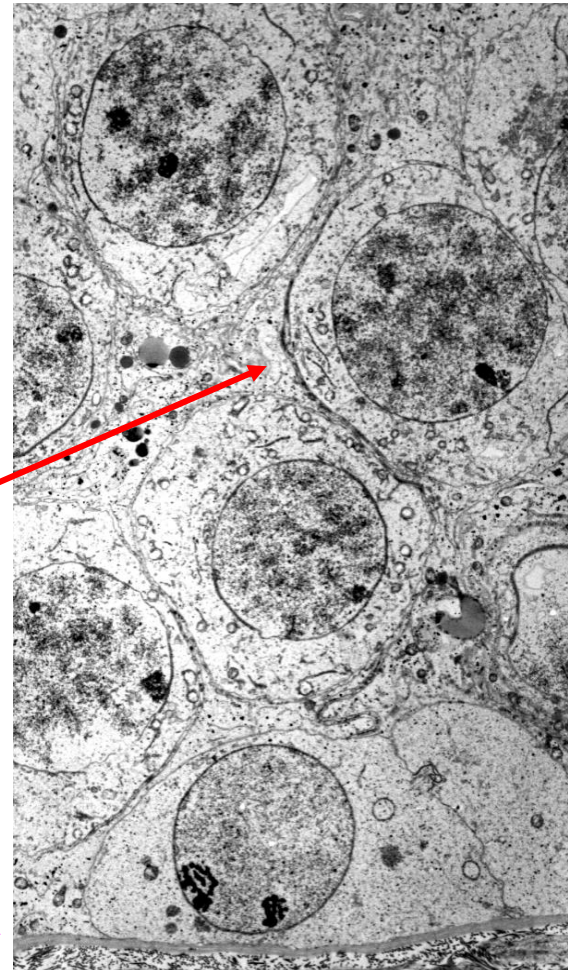
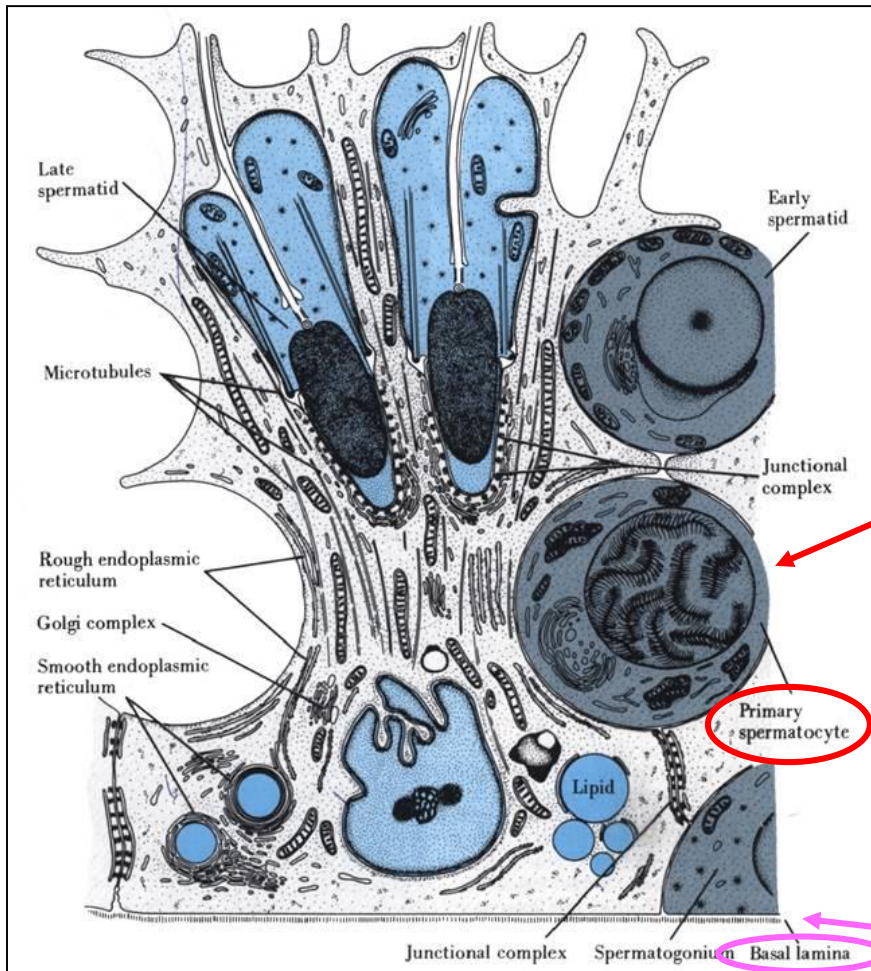
Secondary spermatocytes

- smaller (12 μm)
- short living (~8 hrs)
- infrequently seen

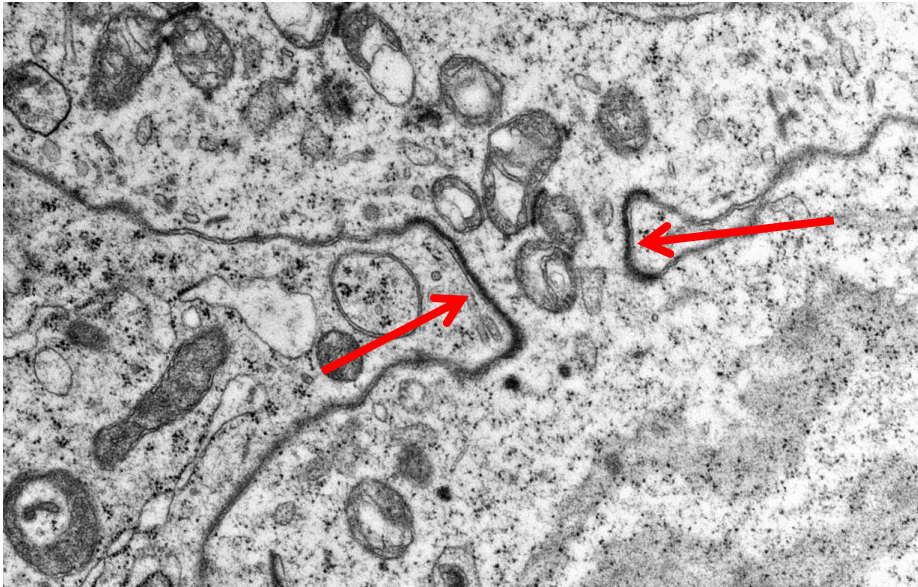
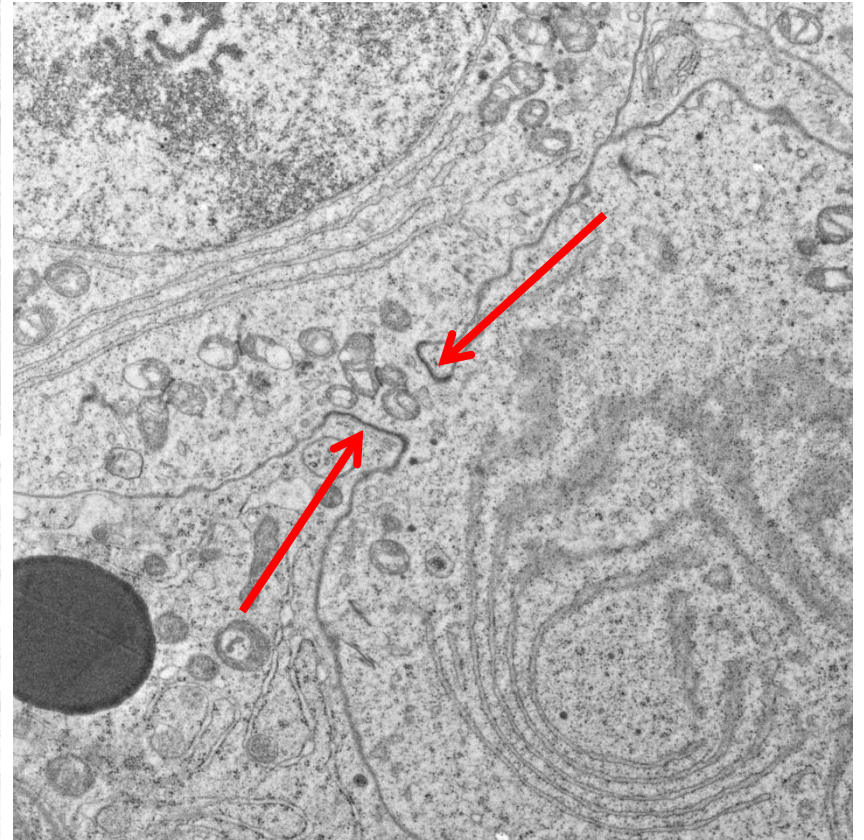
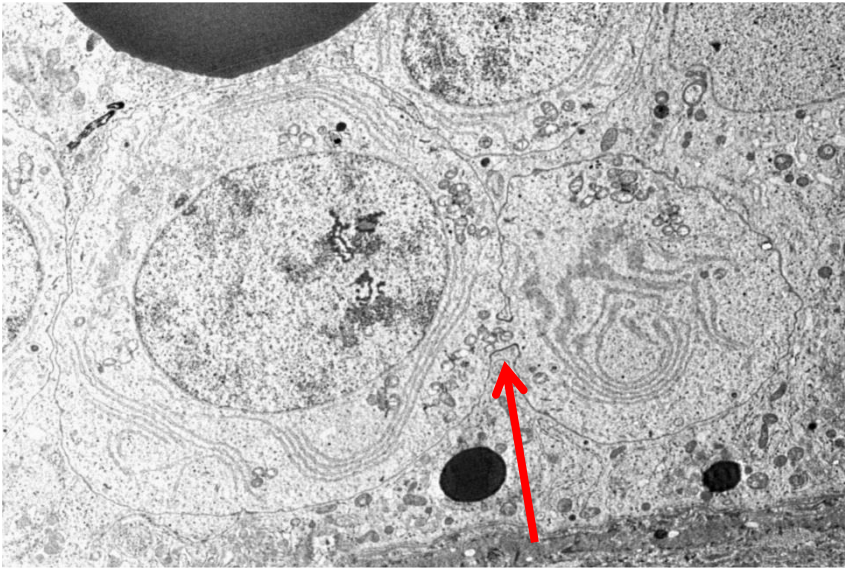


Spermatids

Spermatogenesis - Spermatoocytes



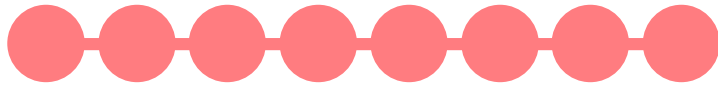
Spermatogenesis - Cytoplasmic bridges



Spermatogenesis - Spermiogenesis

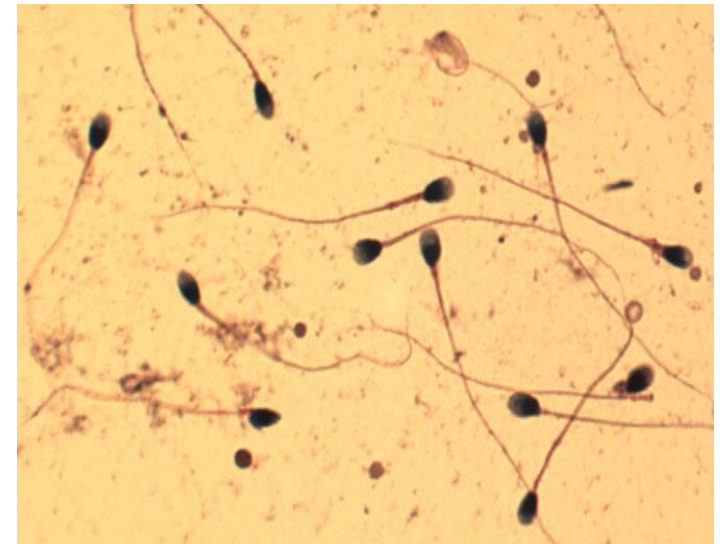
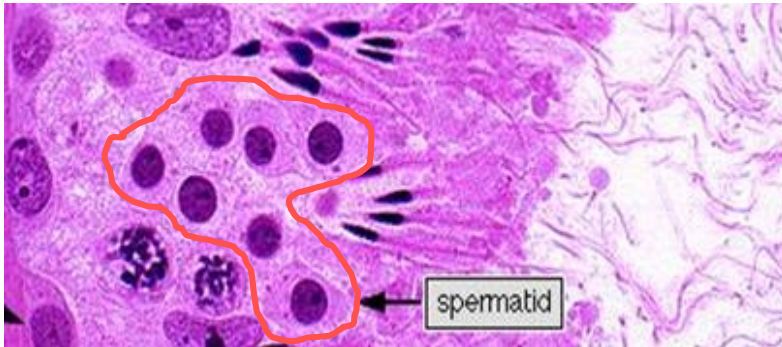
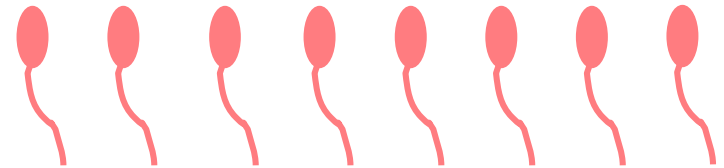
Spermatides

- small germ cells (6-8 μm)
- cytoplasmic bridges



morphogenesis

Spermatozoa



Key elements

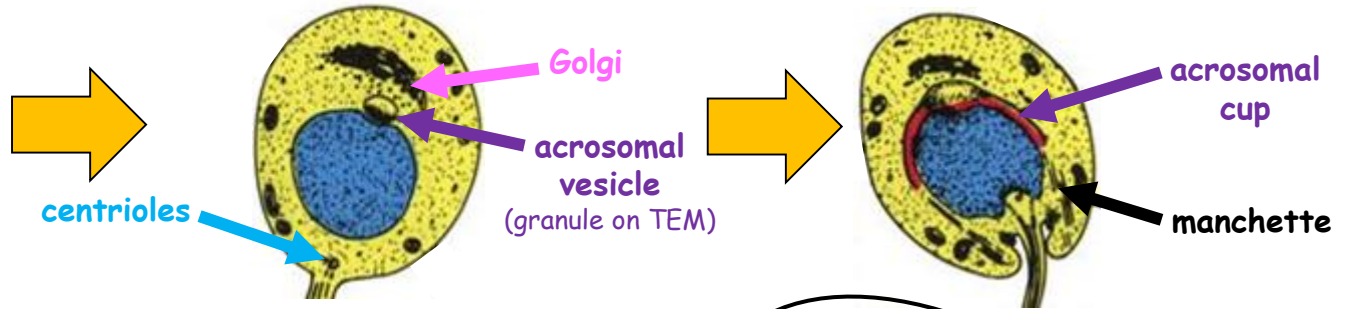
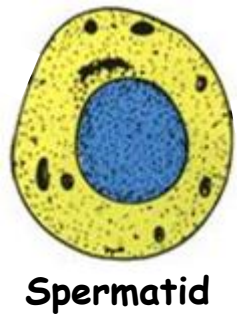
1. Formation of acrosome
2. Development of flagellum
3. Chromatin condensation + shaping the nucleus
4. Reduction of cytoplasm
5. Histones to protamines

Spermatogenesis - Spermioogenesis

- Prominent Golgi complex
- Numerous mitochondria
- Pair of centrioles

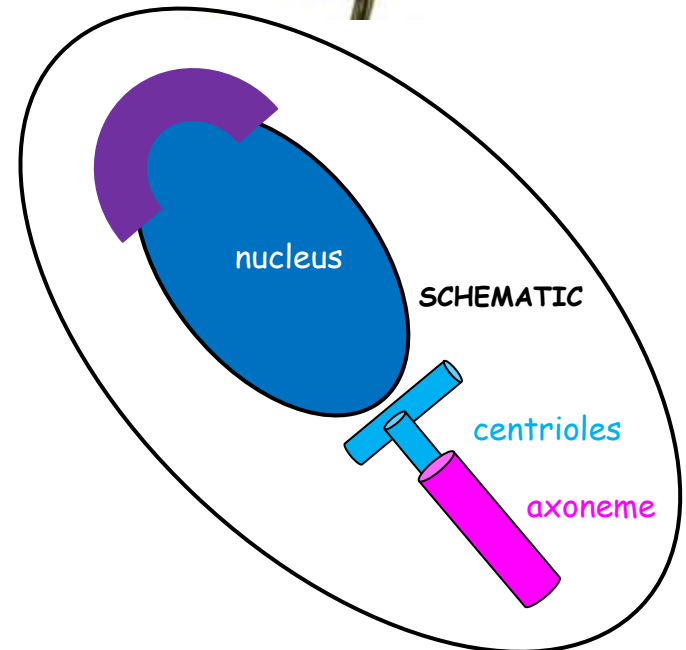
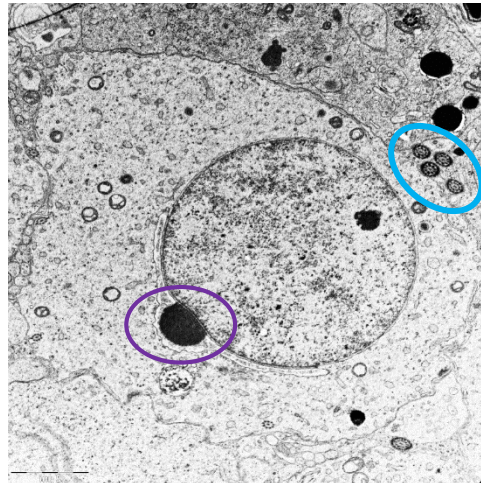
- Transgolgi pathway produces granules
- Granules form **acrosomal vesicle**

- Acrosomal vesicle flatten - **cup**
- Microtubules arrange into **manchette**
- Chromosomes begin to condensate

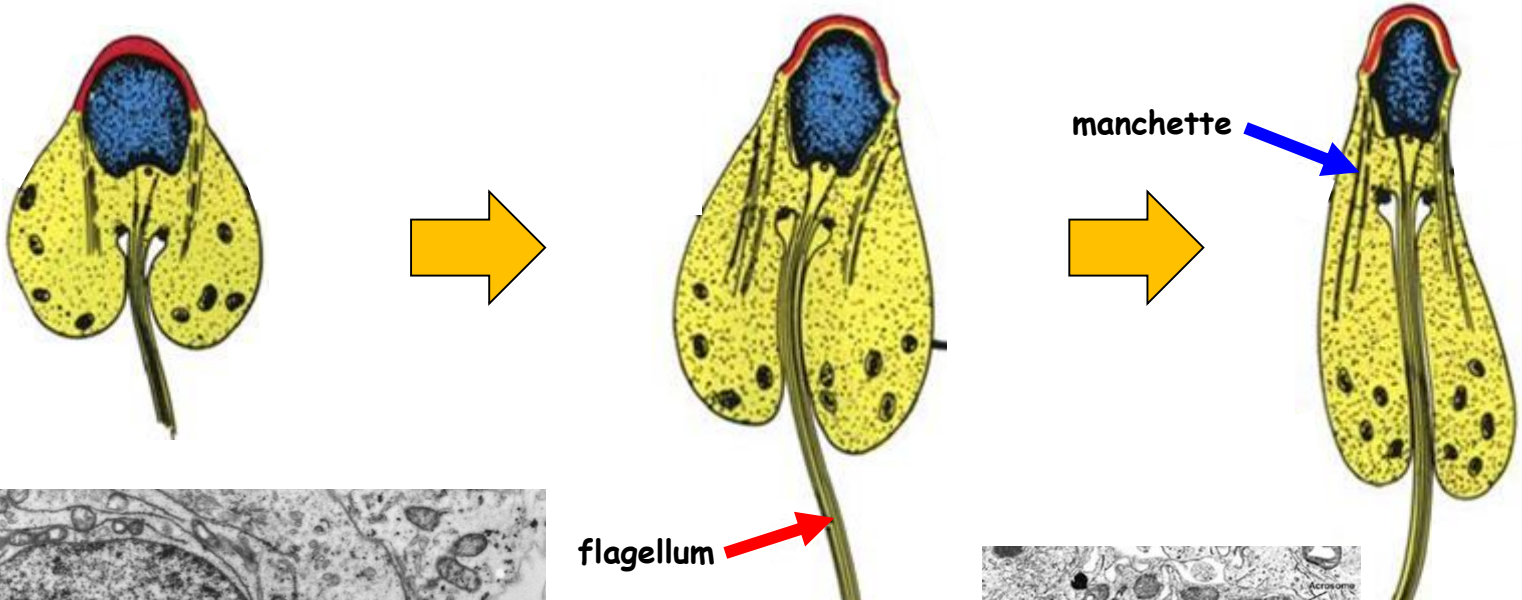


Acrosomal enzymes

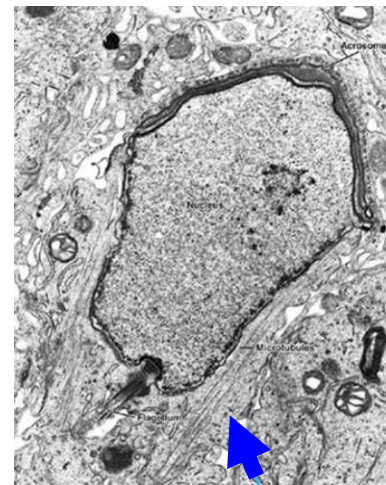
- hyaluronidase
- acrosin
- acid phosphatase
- neuraminidase



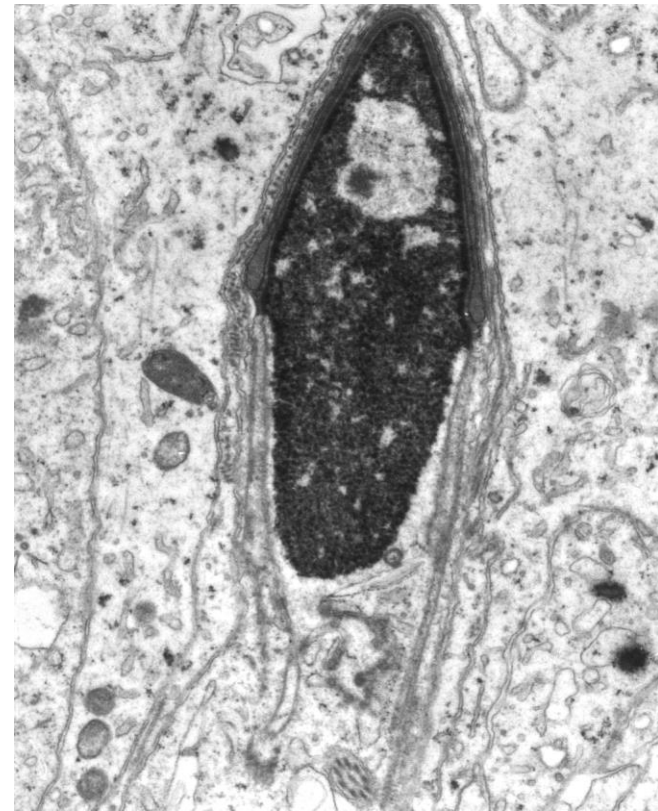
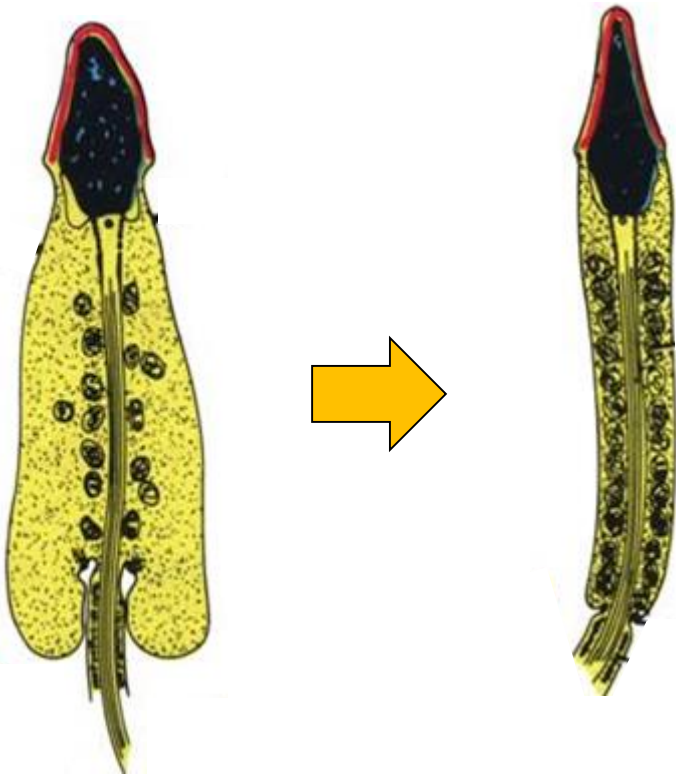
Spermatogenesis - Spermio genesis



flagellum

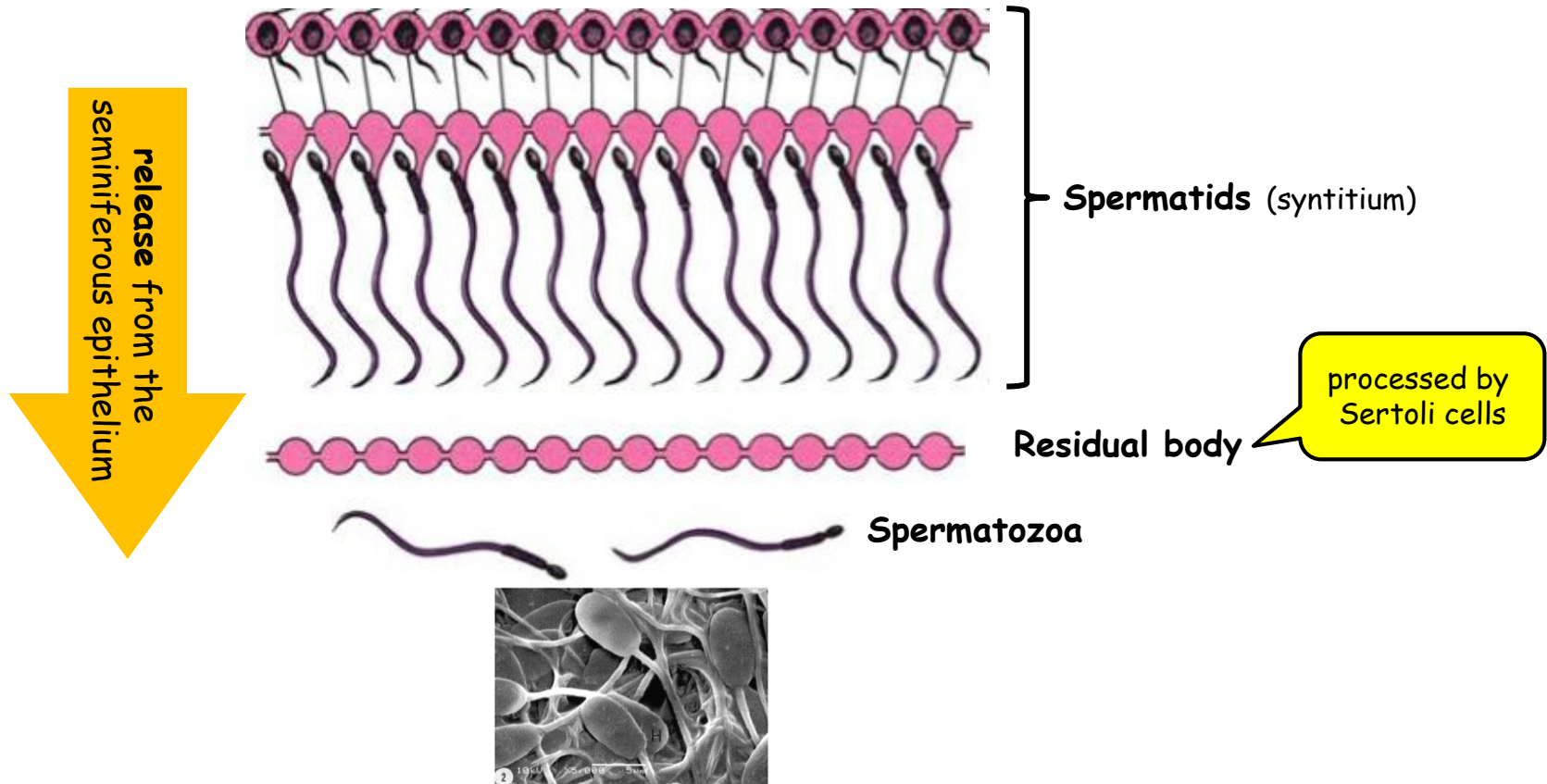


Spermatogenesis - Spermogenesis



Spermatogenesis - Spermiation

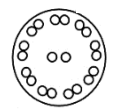
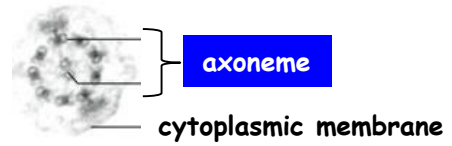
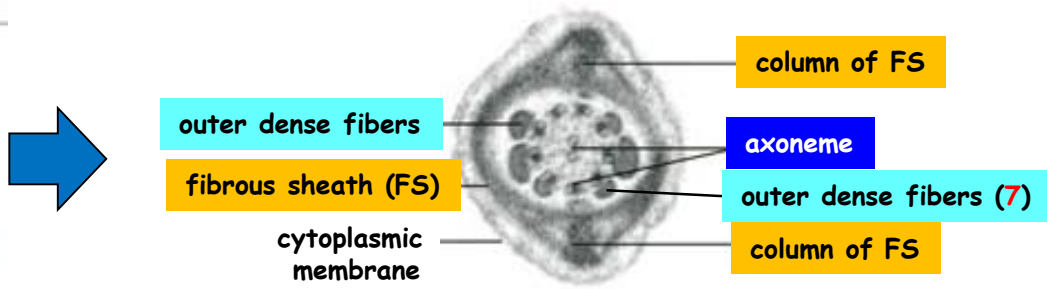
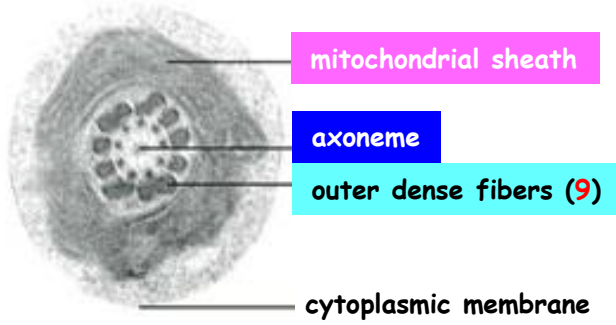
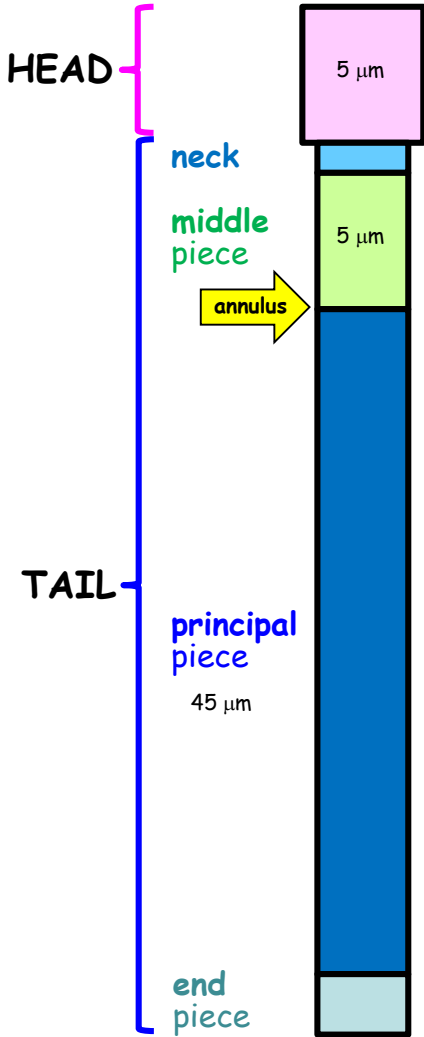
= final stage of spermiogenesis



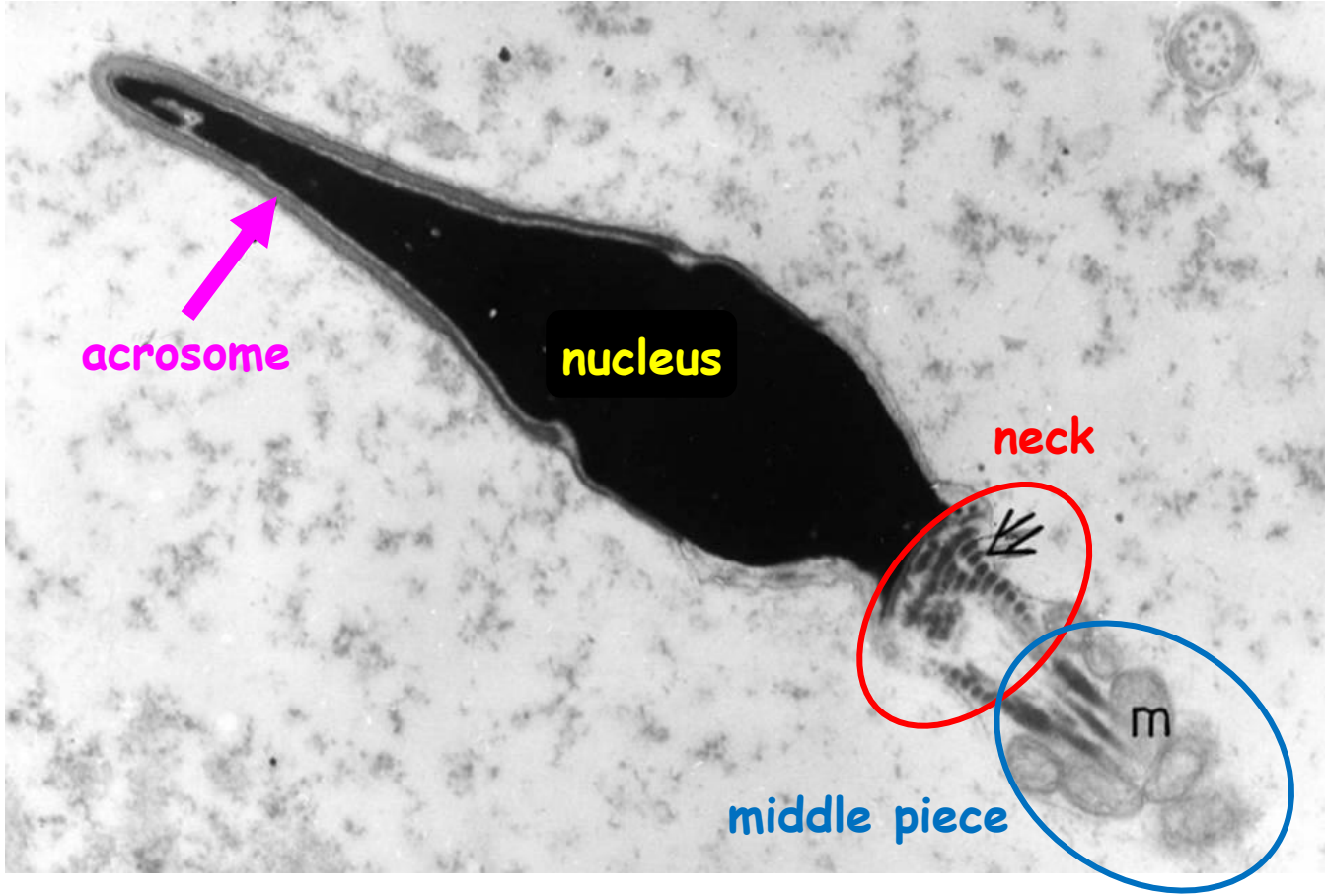
Spermatozoon



Total length = 65 μm

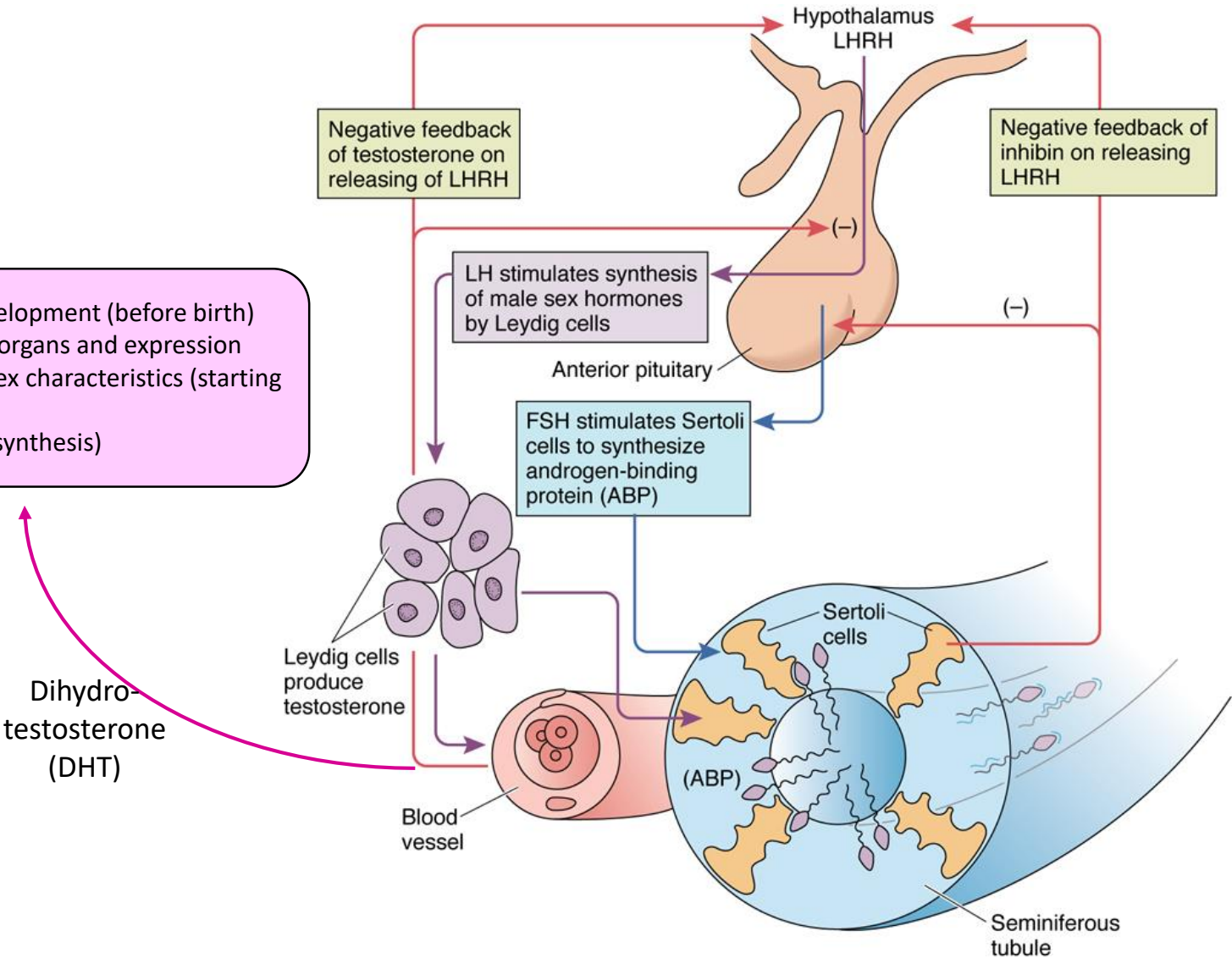


Spermatozoon



Spermatogenesis - Hormonal regulation

- Male pattern of development (before birth)
- Growth of male sex organs and expression of male secondary sex characteristics (starting at puberty)
- Anabolism (protein synthesis)



Spermatozoa + Ejaculate

Properties of spermatozoa

- life-span: 2 to 3 dys in female reproductive tract
several weeks in epididymis
- fertilising ability: up to 2 days
- velocity: 3-5 mm/min.
- 2 types of spermatozoa: with X or Y chromosome

Composition of ejaculate

Corpuscular:

- spermatozoa (40-100 mil./1ml)
- desquamated epithelia
- residual bodies
- prostatic concretions

Seminal plasma:

- secretions of seminal vesicles, prostate, bulbourethral, and Littré's glands
- testicular fluid
- secretions of epithelia of excretory ducts

Spermatozoa + Ejaculate

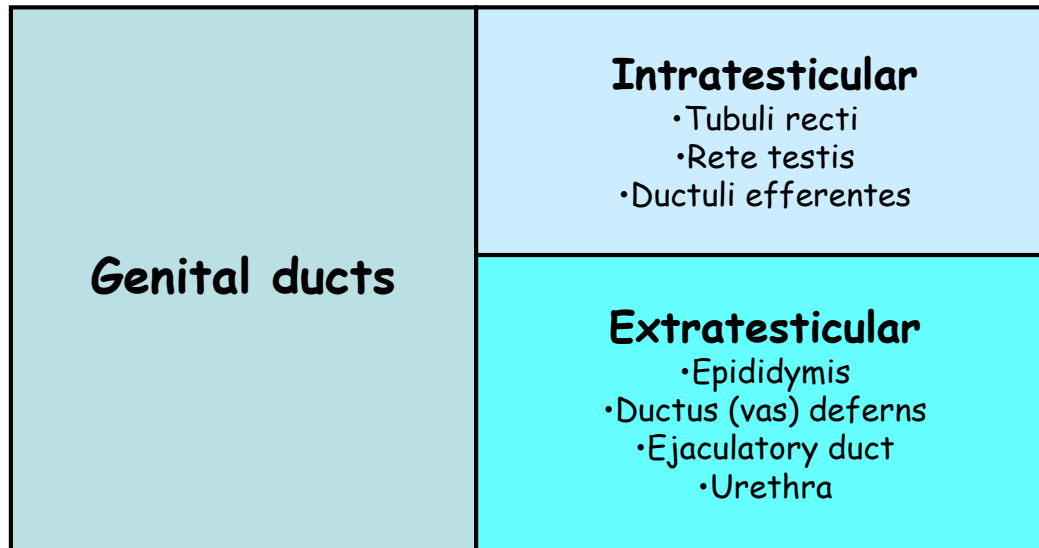
Normozoospermia - WHO standard

- **volume** of ejaculate: 2,0 ml and more
- **pH** of ejaculate: 7,2-7,8
- **sperm concentration**: minimally 20 mil. spermatozoa/1ml, total at least 40 mil./ejaculate
- **movability**: min. 50 % movable with 25 % quickly and progressively moving
- **morphology**: min. 30 % normal spermatozoa
- **vital spermatozoa**: minimally 50 %

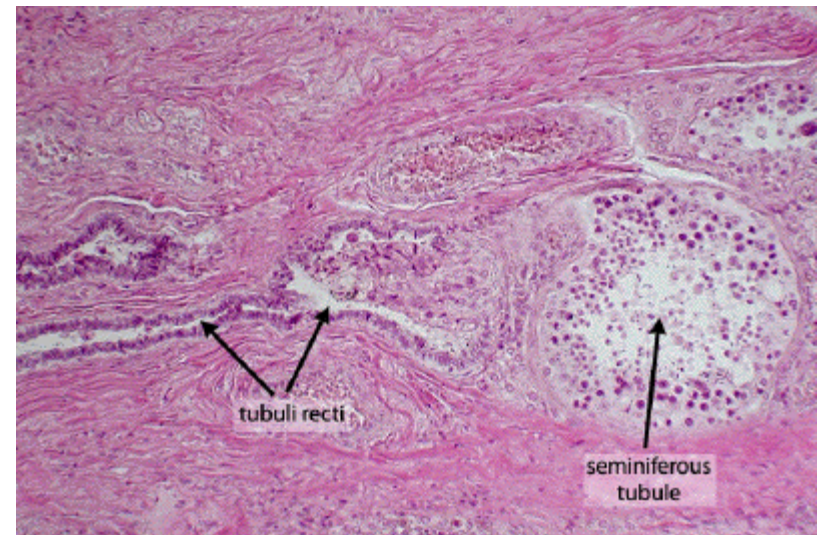
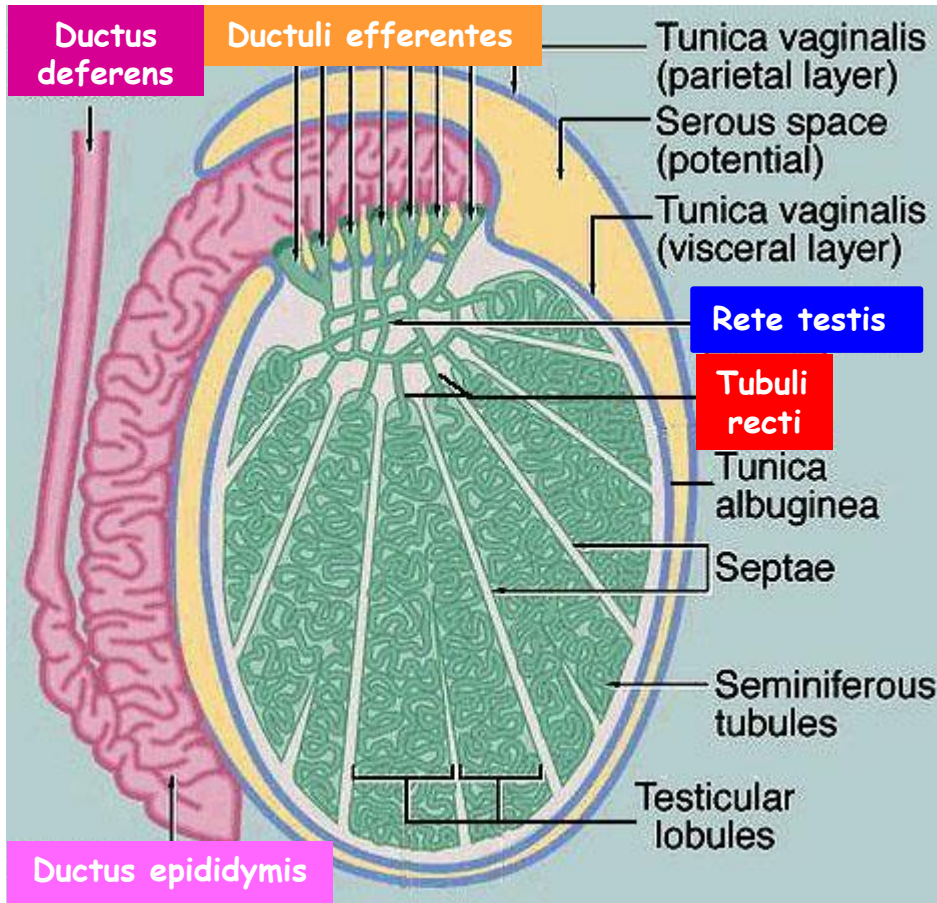
Abnormal spermiogram - Nomenclature

- **Asthenozoospermia**: reduced sperm motility
- **Oligozoospermia**: reduced sperm concentration in ejaculate
- **Teratozoospermia**: large numbers of morphologically abnormal sperm
- **Oligoastenoteratospermia**: combined abnormality in numbers, motility, and morphology of sperm
- **Azoospermia**: complete absence of sperm in ejaculate
- **Necrozoospermia**: high percentage of dead sperm (norm = minimum 58%)
- **Pyospermia**: unusually high numbers of leucocytes in ejaculate (norm = max. 1 million)

Male efferent passages = Genital ducts

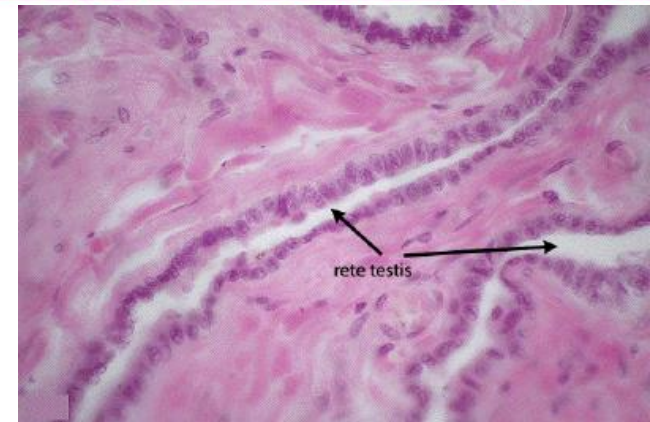
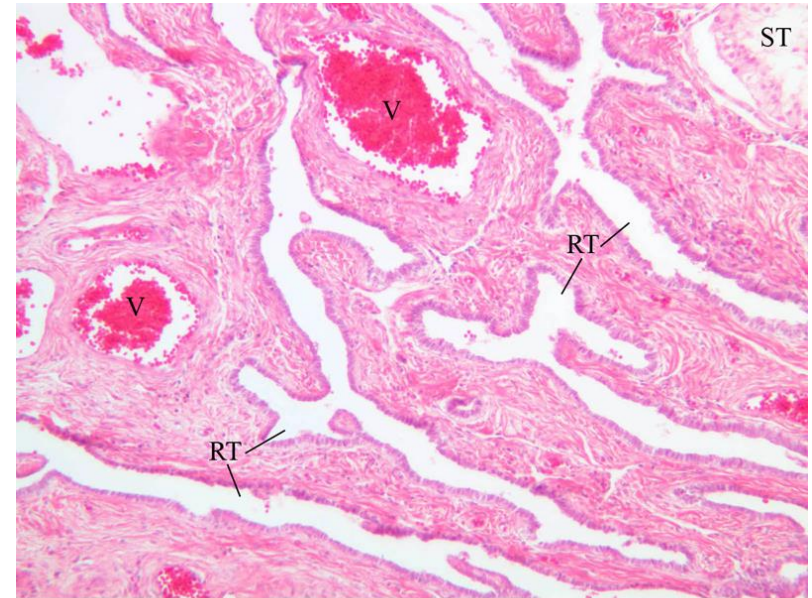
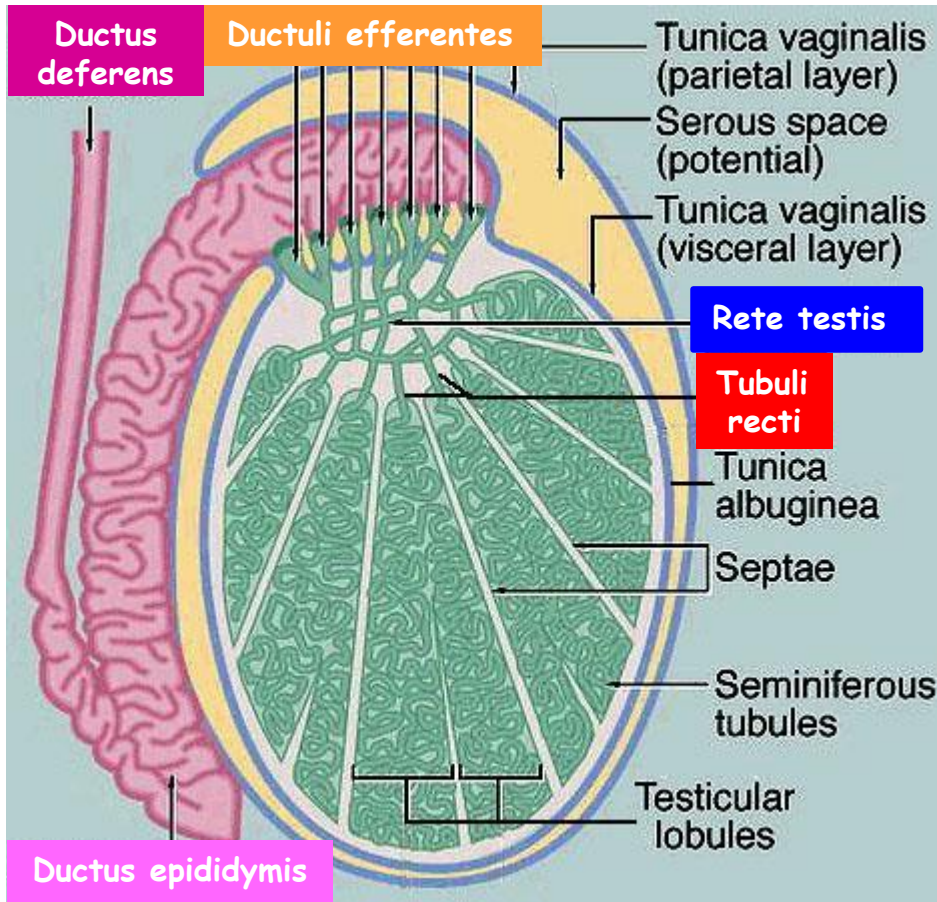


Intartatesticular genital ducts - **Tubuli recti**



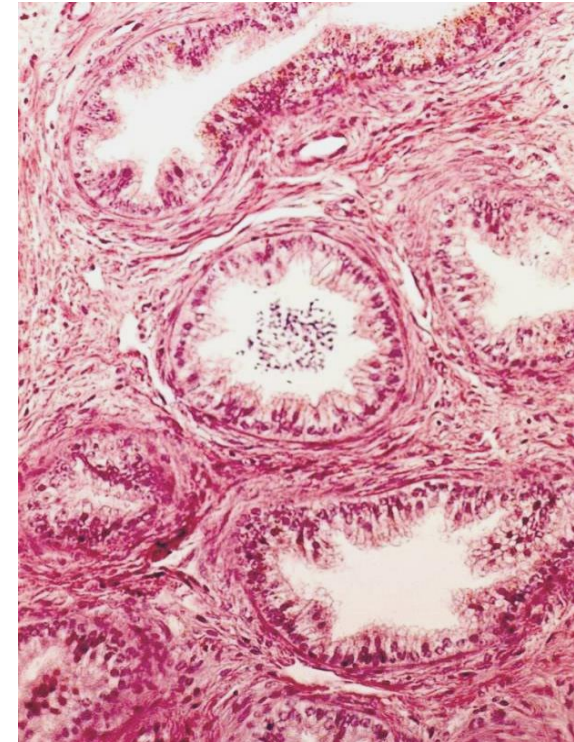
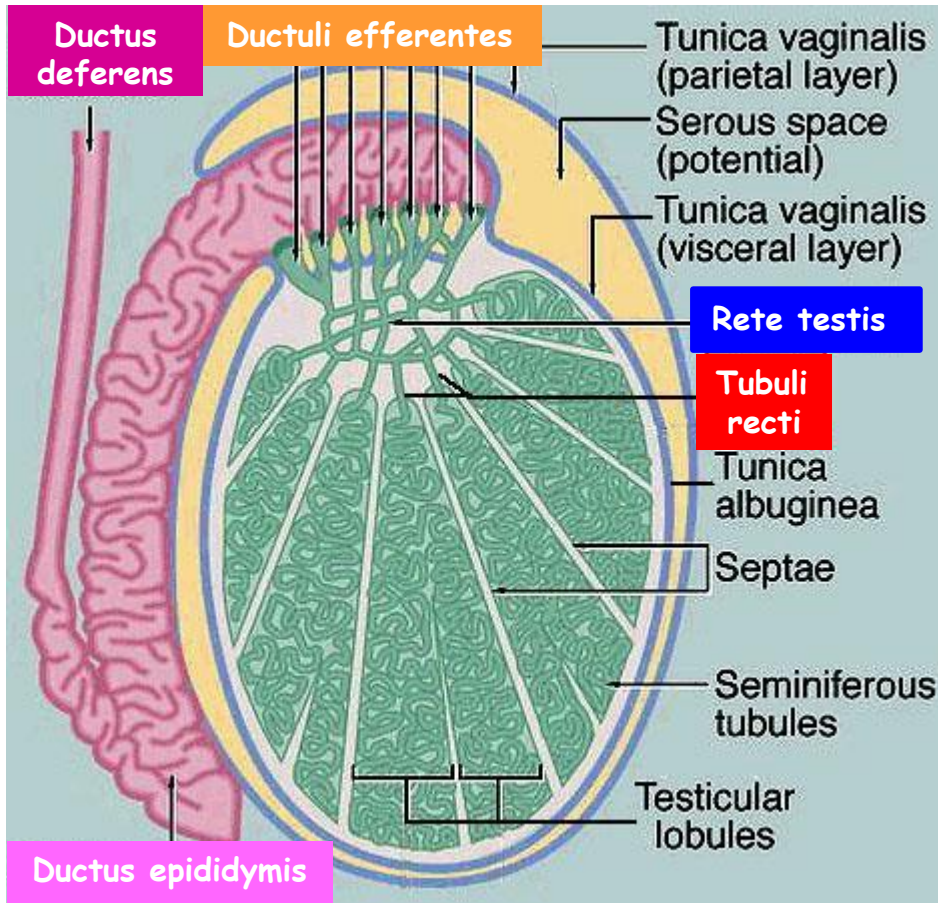
- short - about 1 mm
- in septula
- proximal part: Sertoli cells
- distal part: simple cuboidal epithelium
(with microvili + cilium)

Intartatesticular genital ducts - Rete testis



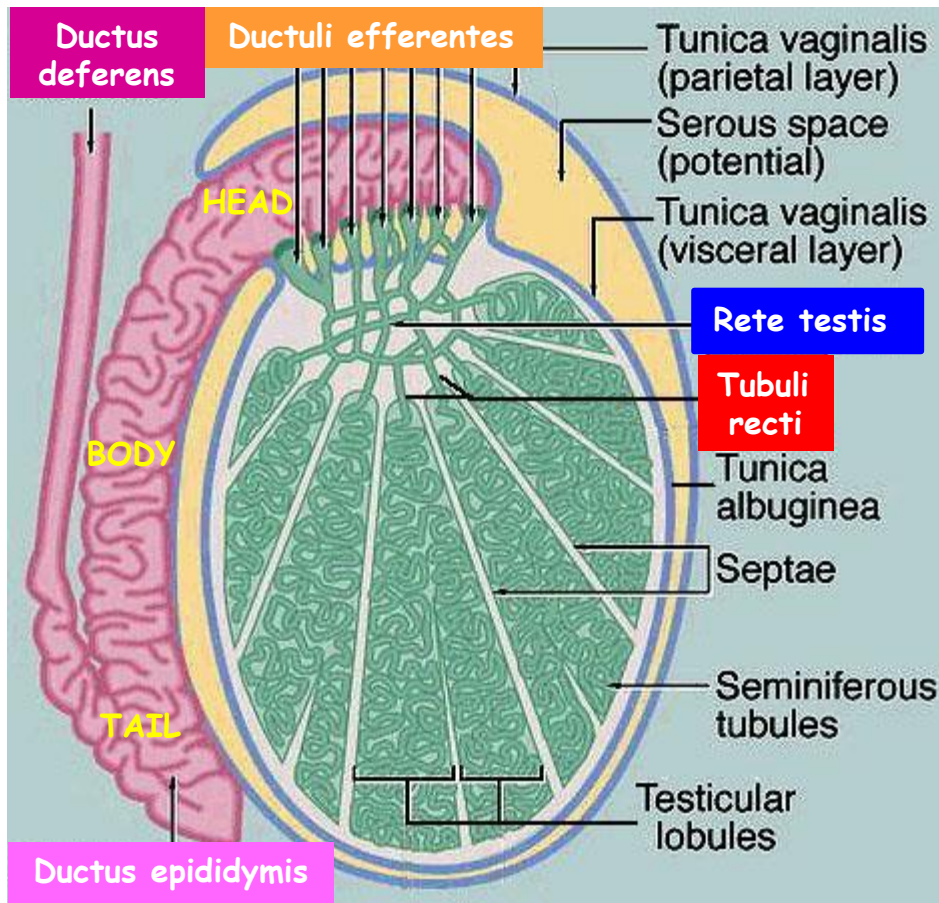
- labyrinth - interconnected channels
- in mediastinum
- simple cuboidal epithelium (as in Tubuli recti)
(with microvili + cilium)

Intartatesticular genital ducts - **Ductuli efferentes**



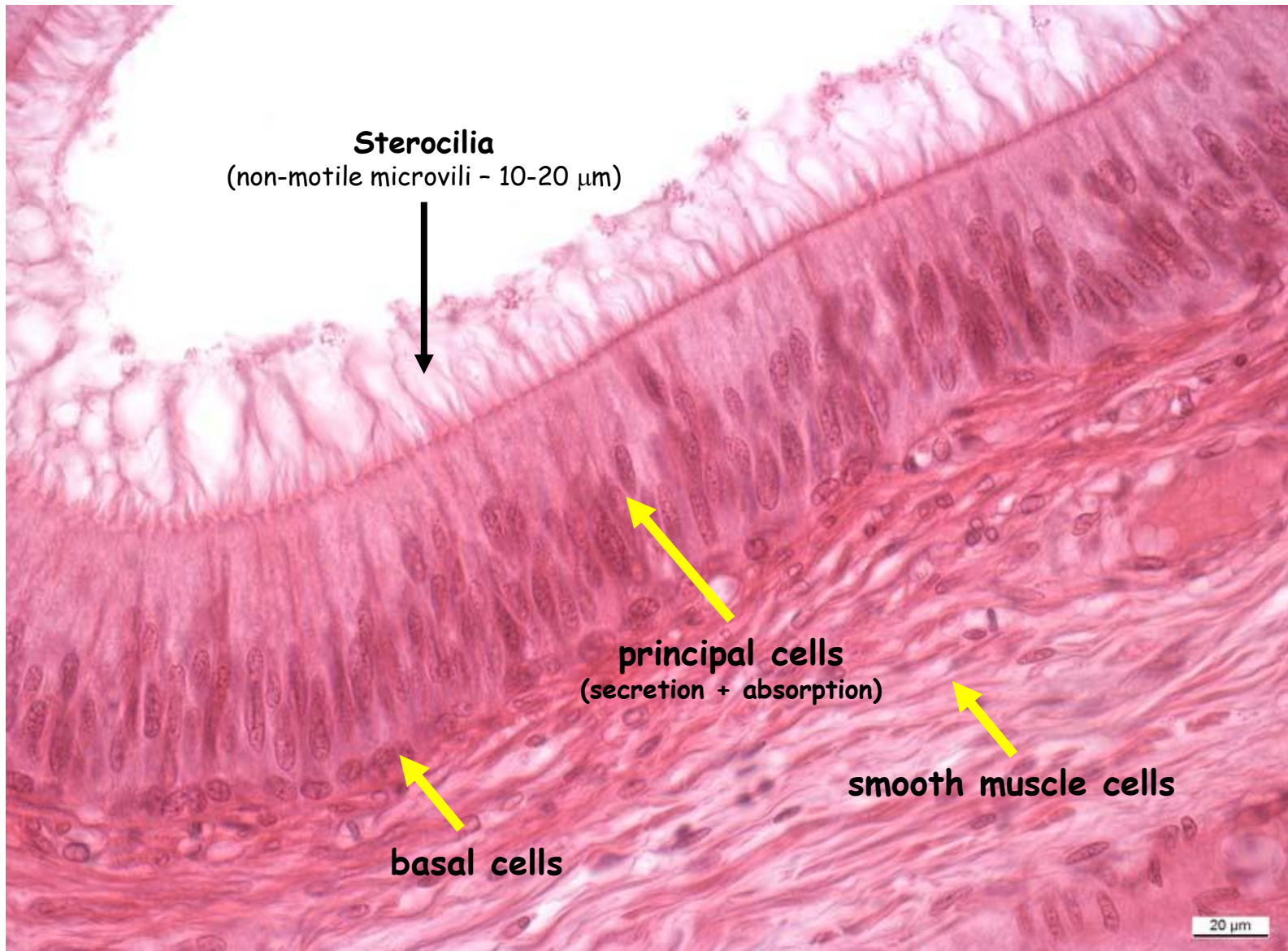
- 10 to 20
- penetrate tunica albuginea
- cuboidal + columnar cells (patches)
- **non-ciliated + ciliated** - sperm passage
- microvili + lysosomes - absorption of luminal fluid
- **smooth muscle cells** - passage of sperm

Extratesticular genital ducts - Ductus epididymis 1

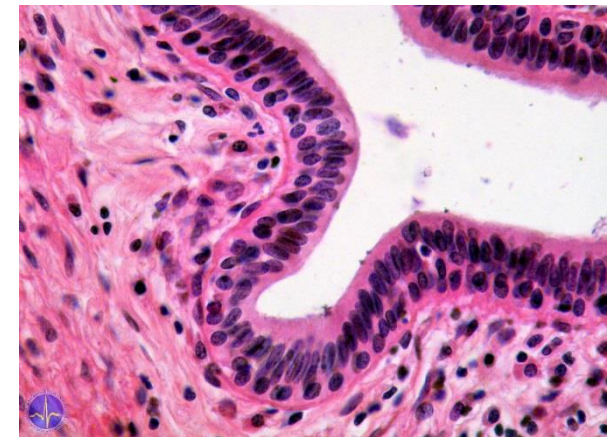
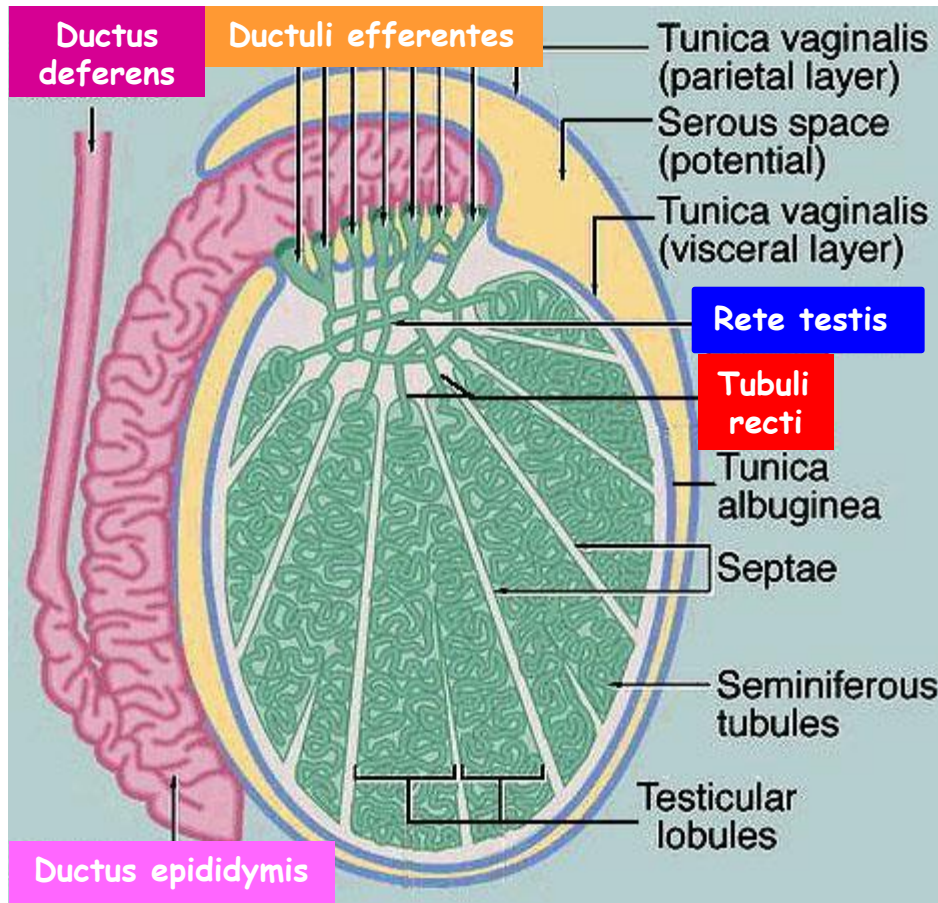


- about 5 meters long
- highly convoluted (head + body)
- tail (cauda) straight - sperm storage + maturation (under hormonal influence)
- columnar **pseudostratified** lining: **basal cells** (polyhedral) + **principal cells** (columnar)
- principal cells with **stereocilia**
- surrounded by circular **smooth muscle** layer (peristaltic motion)

Extratesticular genital ducts - Ductus epididymis 2

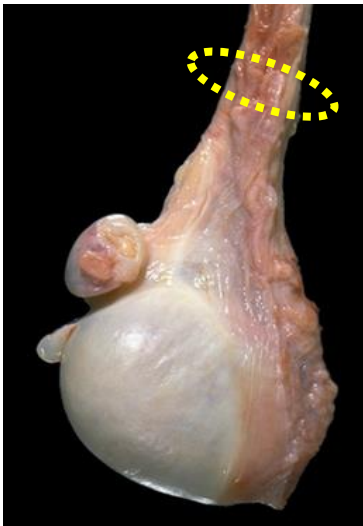


Extratesticular genital ducts - Ductus deferens 1

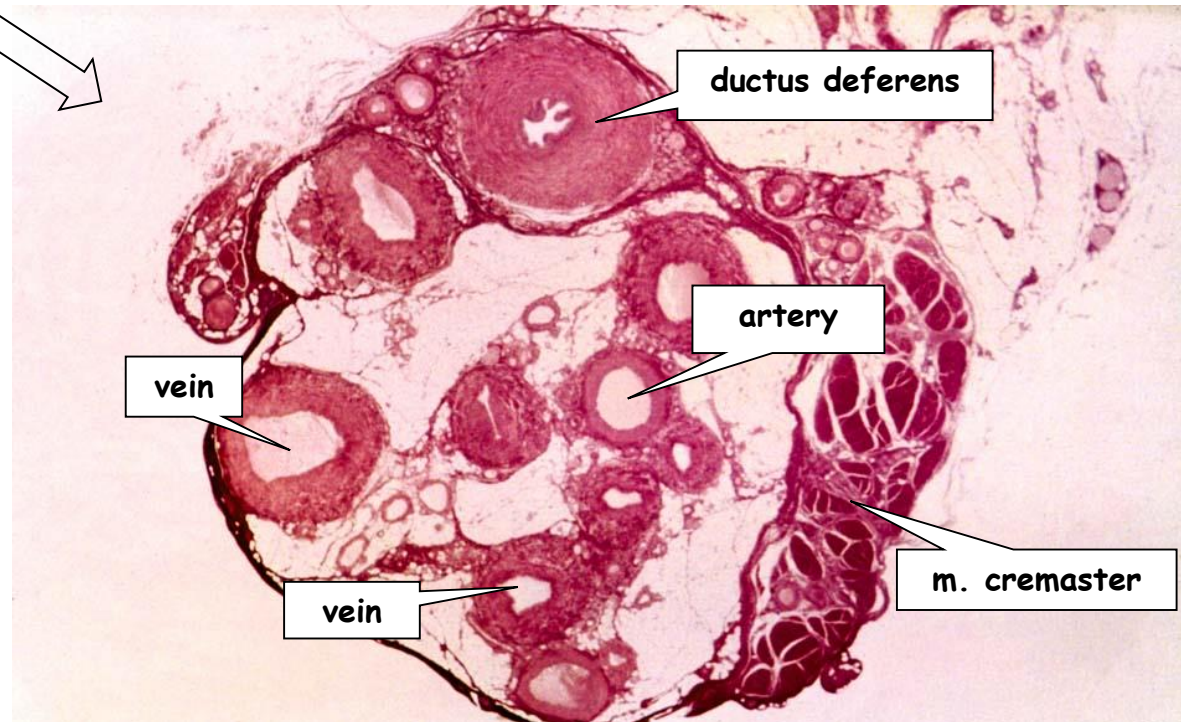


- thick walled + folded lumen
- epithelia similar to D. epididymis - columnar **pseudostratified** (basal cells + principal cells)
- surrounded by three layers of **smooth muscle** layer (circ+long+long)
- sympathetic innervation - initiate ejaculation

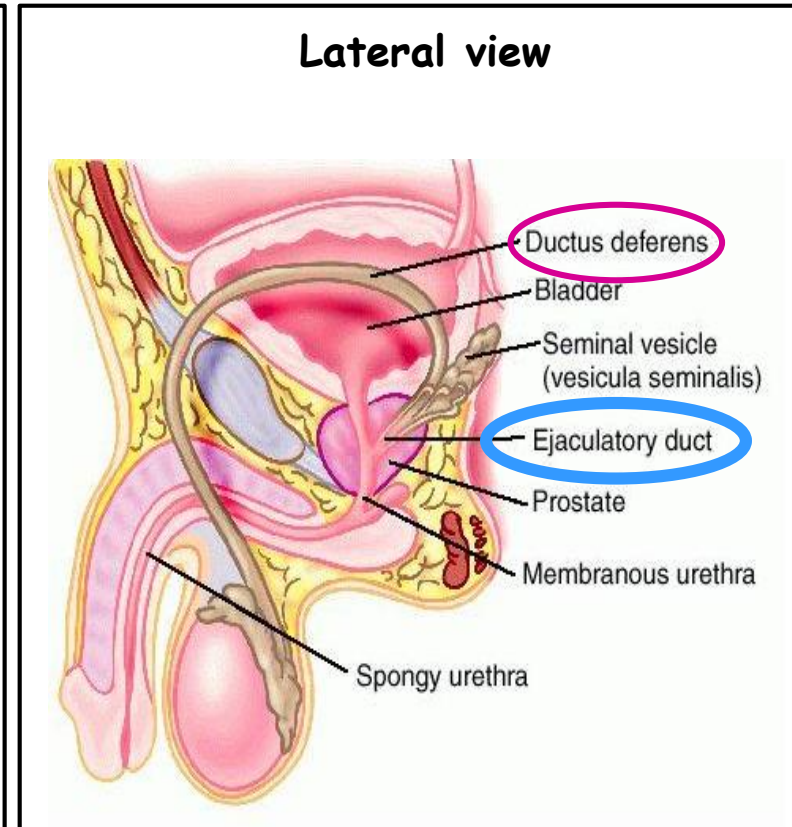
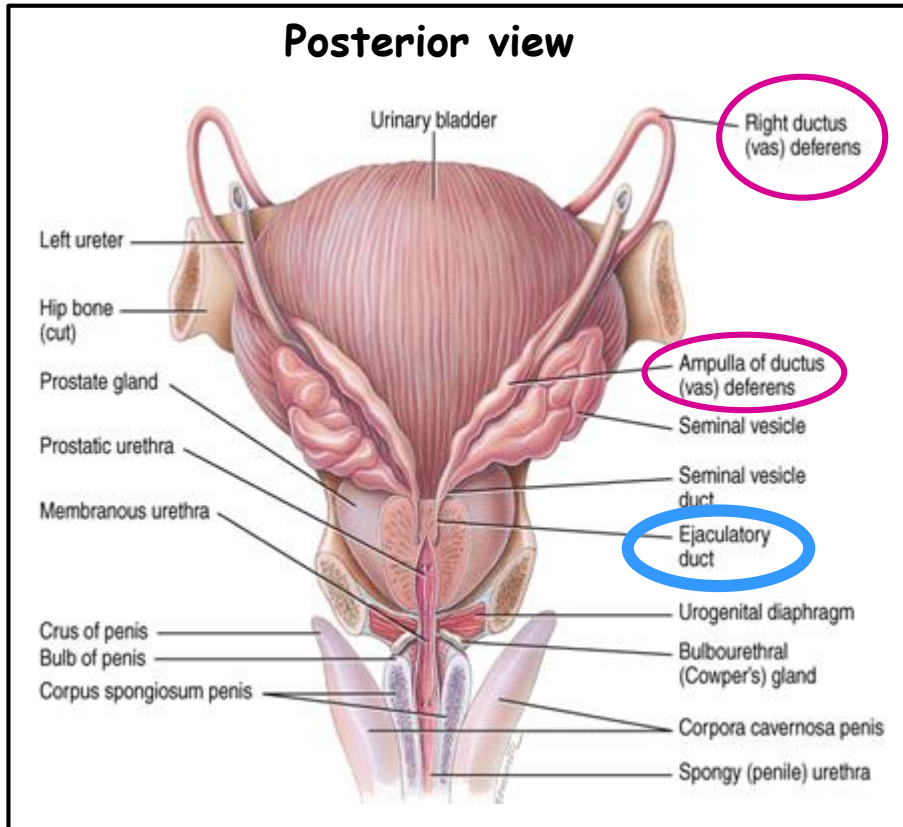
Extratesticular genital ducts - Ductus deferens 2



Funiculus spermaticus
(Spermatic cord)

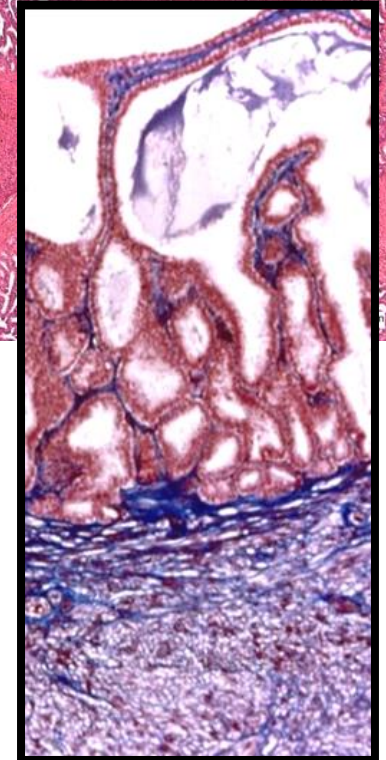
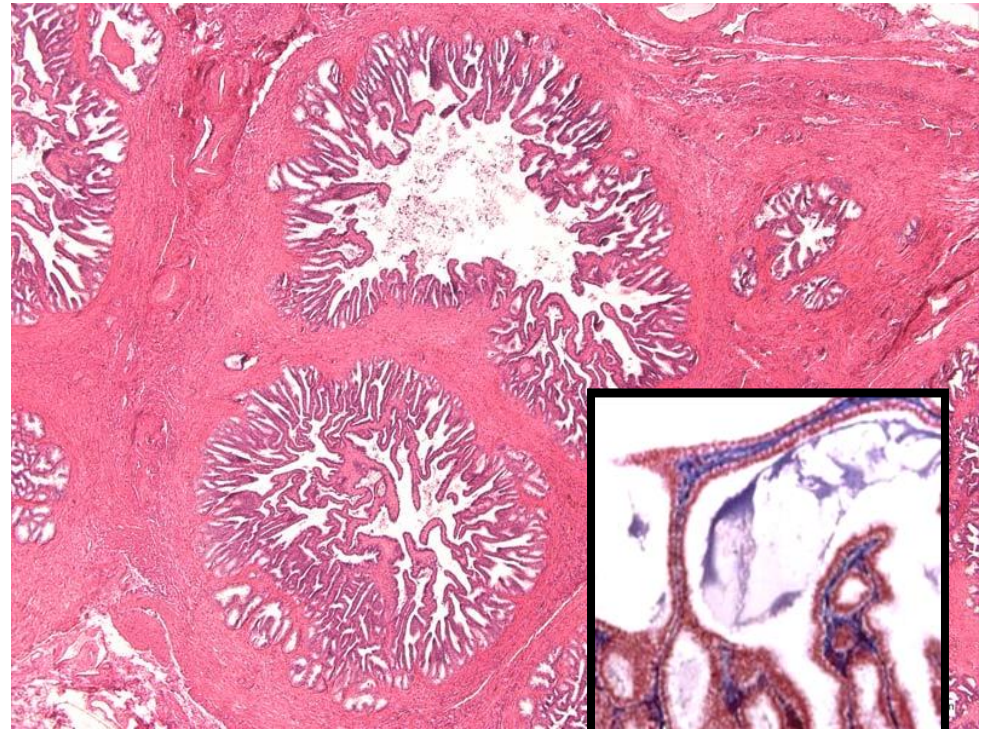
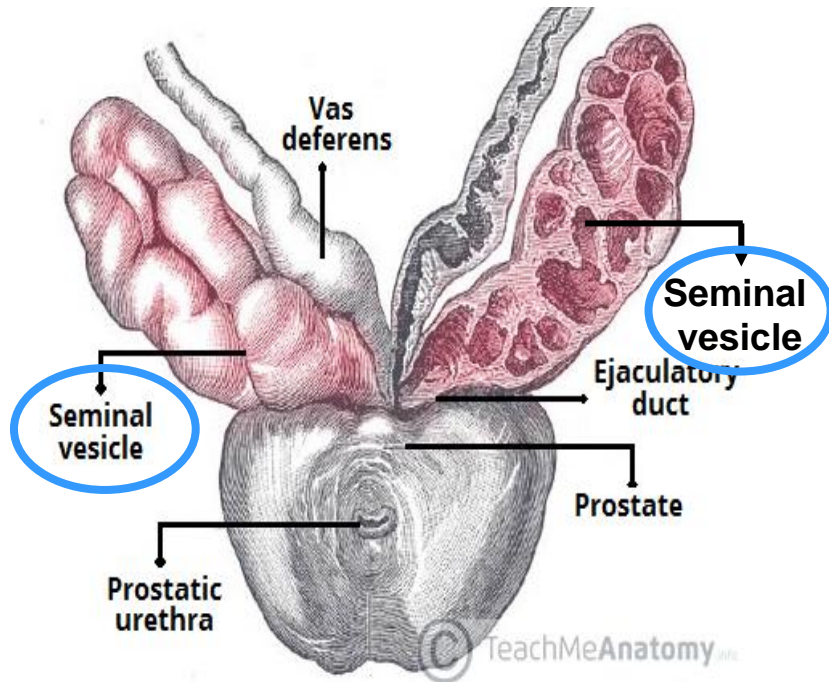


Extratesticular genital ducts - Ejaculatory duct



- short + straight
- portion after entry of seminal vesicle duct
- surrounded by prostate
- enters urethra at the **colliculus seminalis** (verumontanum)
- lined with **simple columnar epithelium**
- **NO smooth muscle layer**

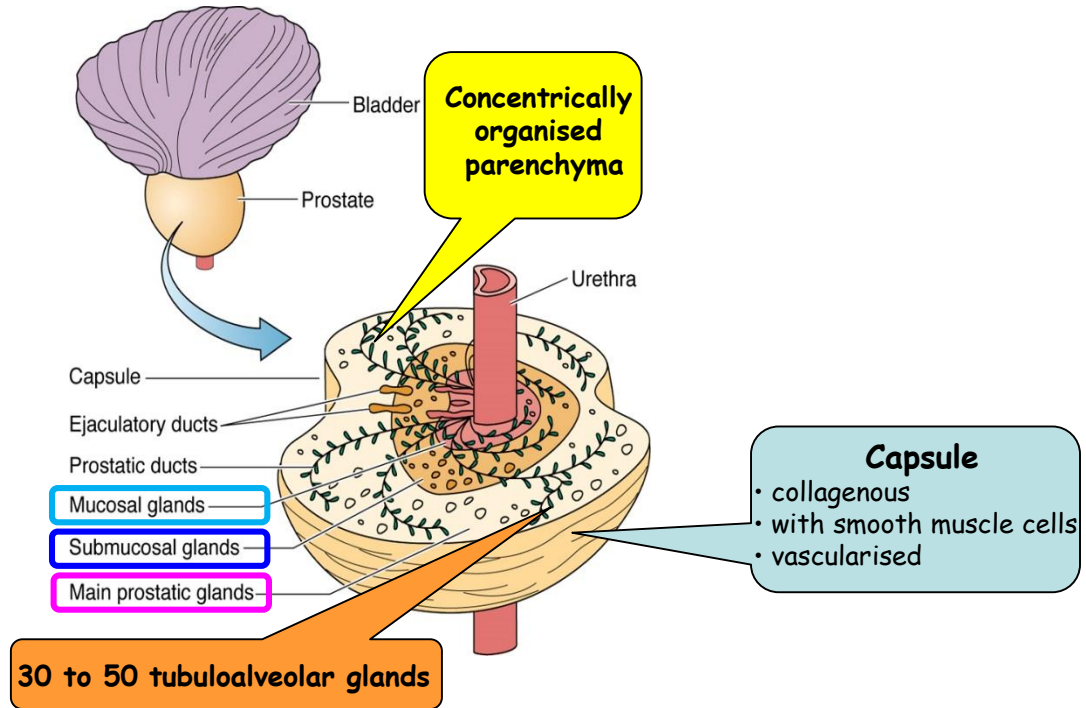
Accessory genital glands - Seminal vesicles



- develops from ductus deferens
- about 15 cm long snaking tube (about 5 cm external length)
- highly folded mucosa - labyrinthous cul-de-sac with openings to lumen
- **pseudostratified epithelium** - **basal** + **principal** cells (with microvilli+ cilium)
- **fibroelastic submucosa** + **smooth muscle layer**
- **seminal fluid** - constitutes about 70% of ejaculate (rich for **fructose**)

Accessory genital glands - Prostate gland 1

- Mucosal (5%)**
 - closest to the urethra = shortest
- Submucosal (25%)**
 - larger than mucosal
- Main (70%)**
 - largest
 - most abundant

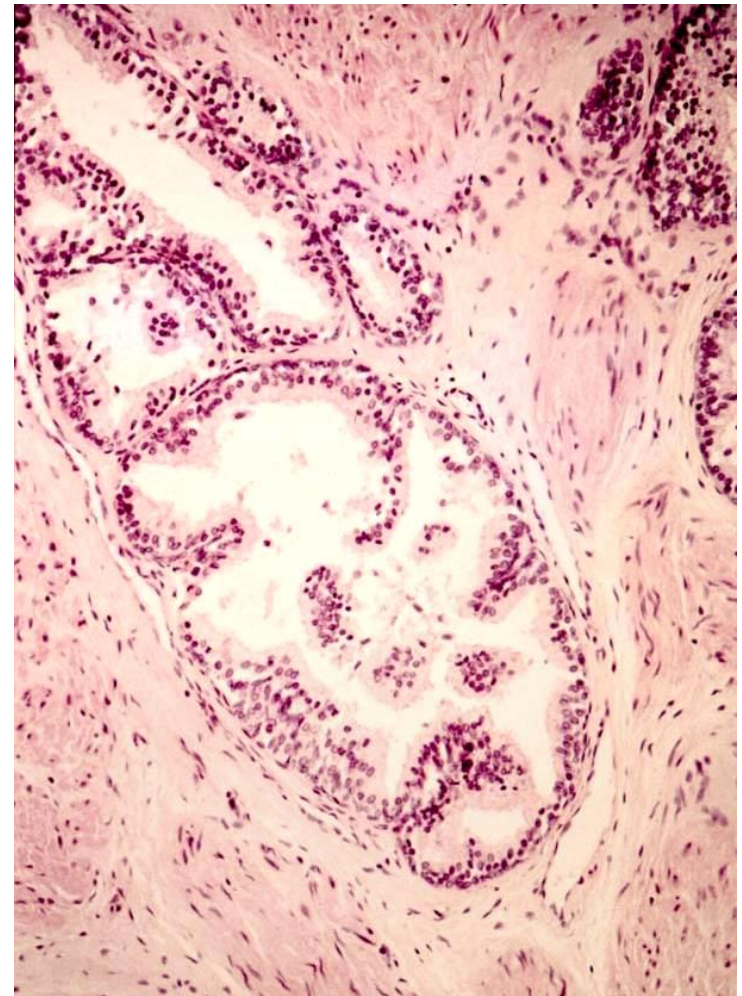
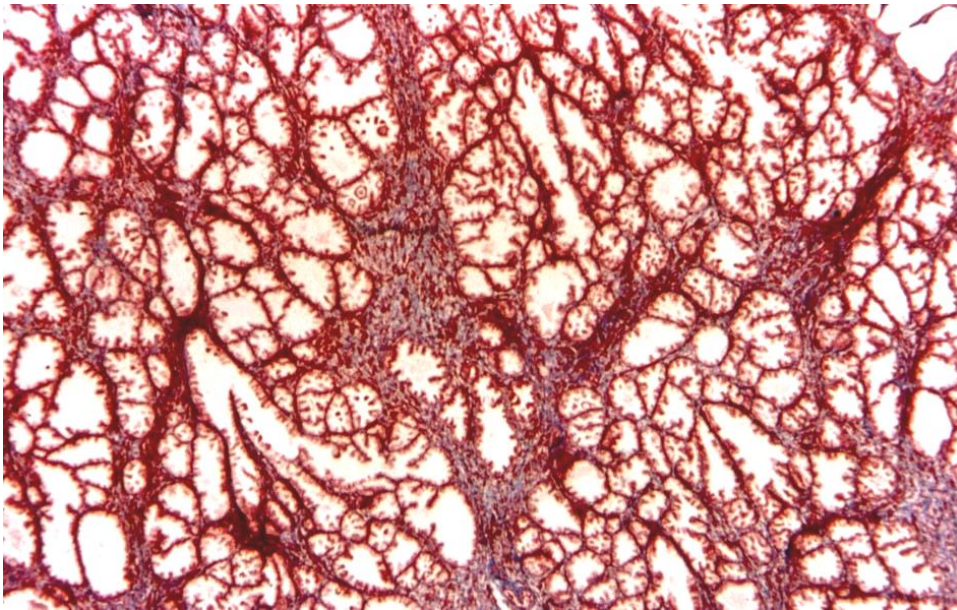


GLANDS

- simple **pseudostratified columnar** epithelium
- abundant RER + Golgi + secretory granules

- size and shape of **chestnut** (the largest accessory gland)
- **stroma** (derives from the capsule): fibroelastic elements, many **smooth muscle cells**
- **prostatic secretion**: lipids, acid phosphatase, proteolytic enzymes, citric acid, fibrinolysin - **PSA** (liquifies semen)

Accessory genital glands - Prostate gland 2

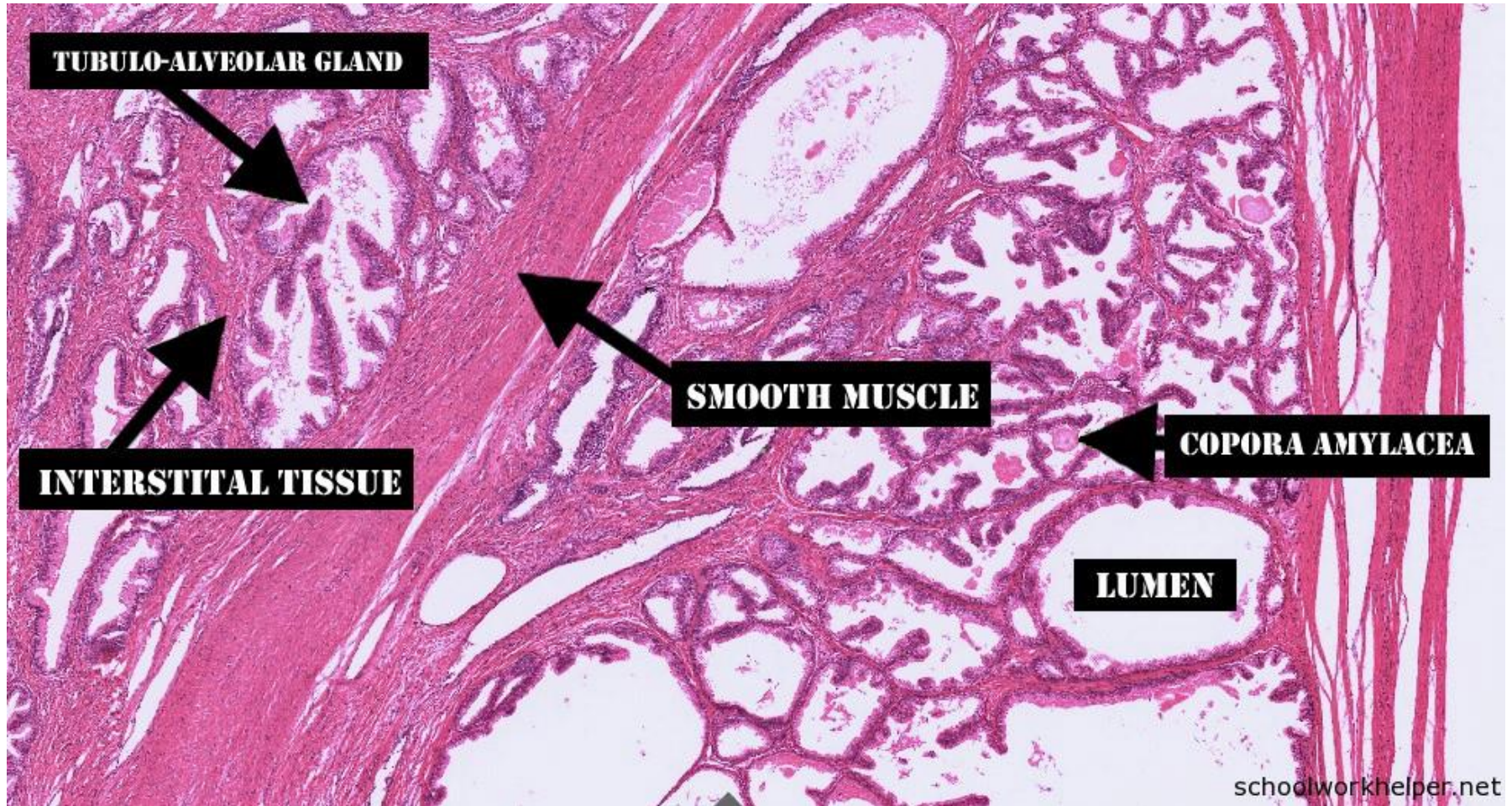


Corpora amylacea
= prostate concretions

- increase with age
- may calcify
- size even 1 mm

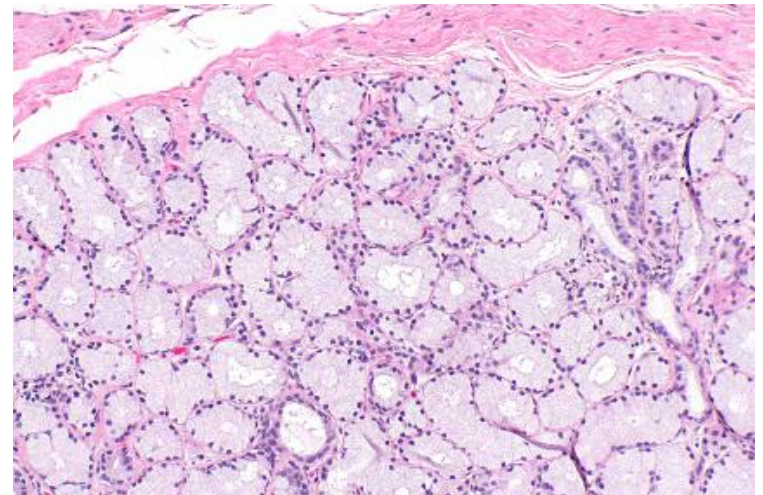
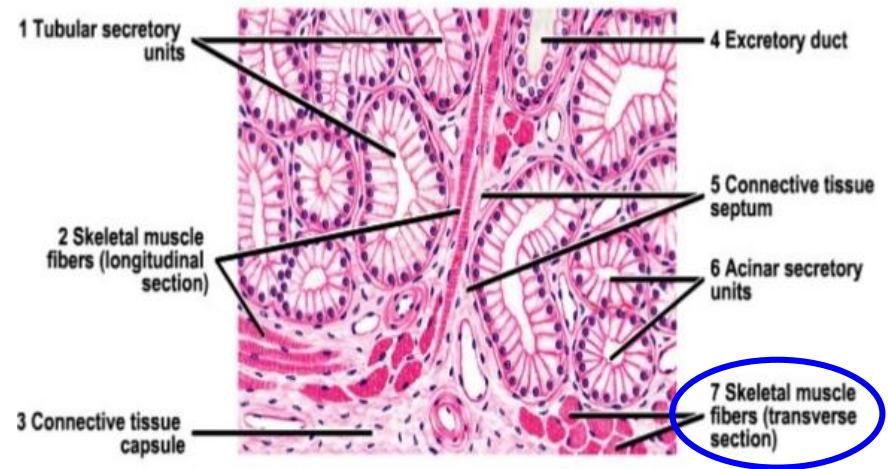
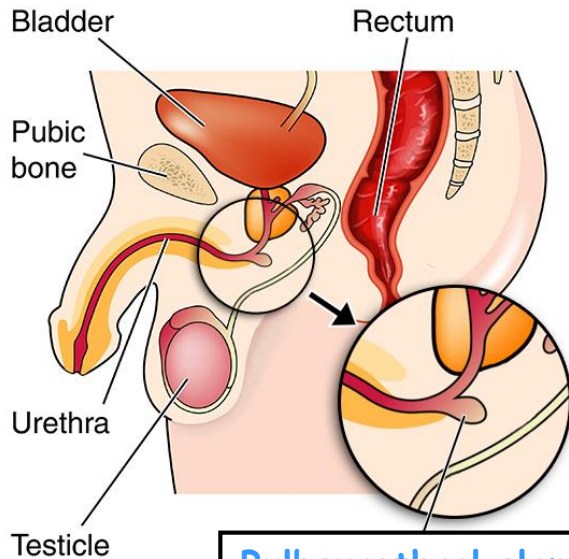


Accessory genital glands - Prostate gland 3

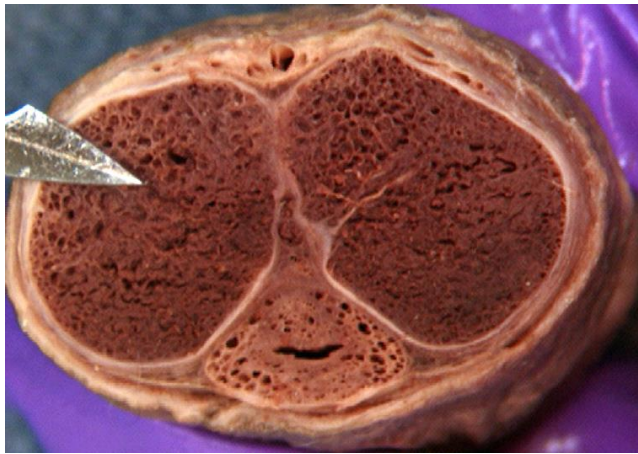


Accessory genital glands - **Bulbourethral glands**

Lateral view



- small - 3 to 5 mm
- at the root of the penis
- **lobular** structure (septa)
- **tubuloalveolar**
- **skeletal muscle fibers** (derived from urogenital diaphragm)
- **simple cuboidal epithelium**
- lubricating fluid (sialic acid + galactose)



Penis - 1

Superficial dorsal vein
Deep dorsal vein
Dorsal artery
Dorsal nerve
Deep artery

Tunica albuginea
Septum (discontinuus)

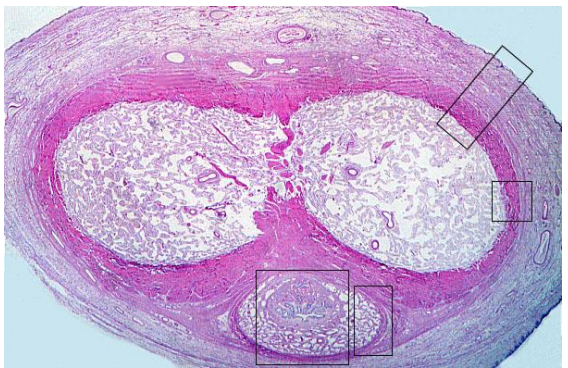
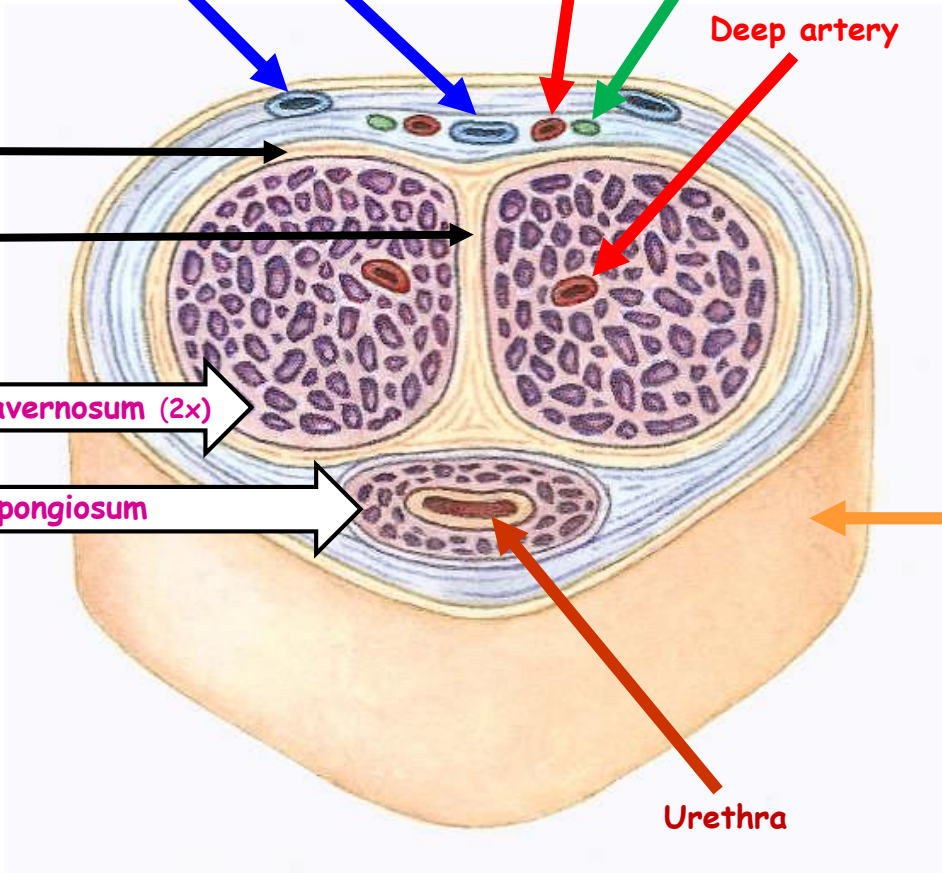
ERECTION

Erectile tissue

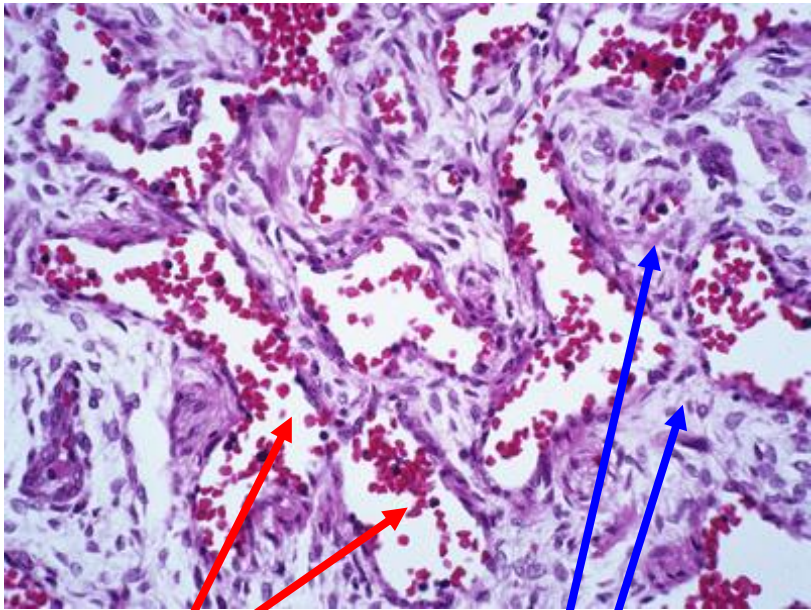
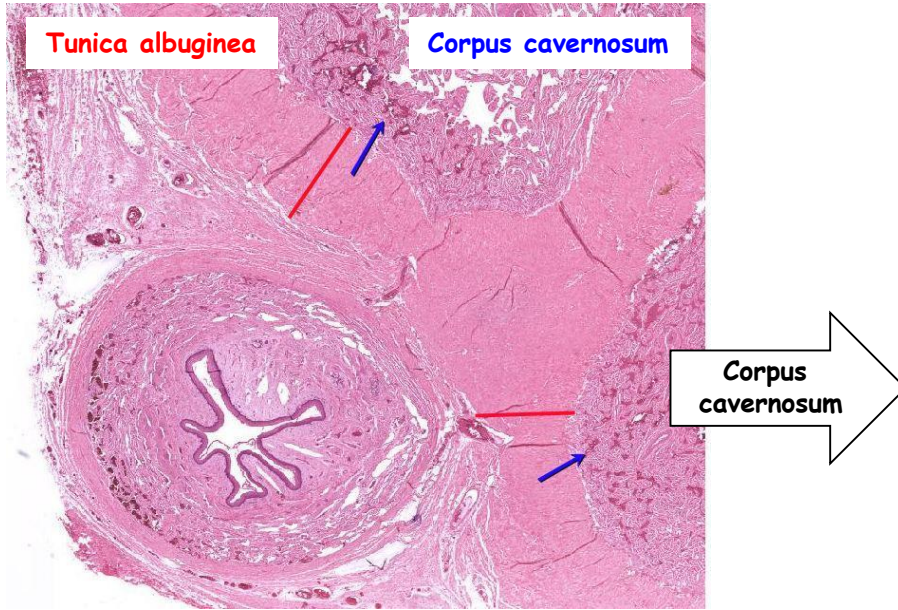
Corpus cavernosum (2x)
Corpus spongiosum

Skin

Urethra



Penis - 2

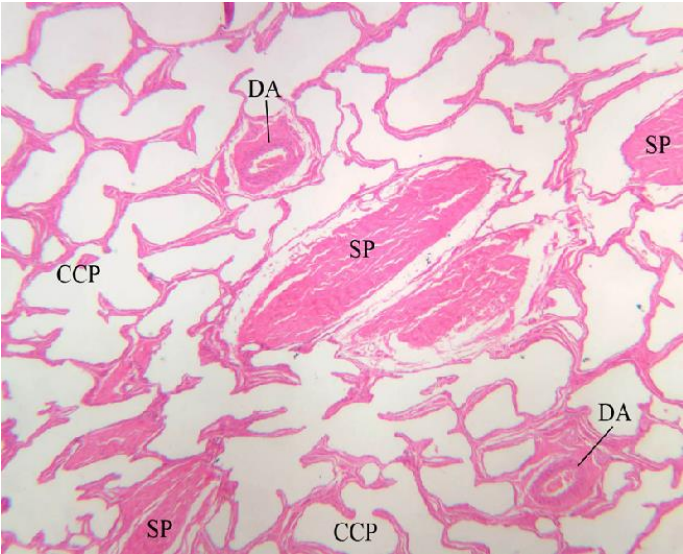


Vascular spaces

- lined by endothelia

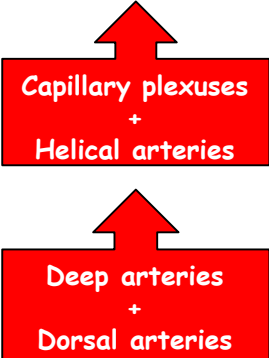
Trabeculae

- elastic fibers
- smooth muscle cells



Capillary plexuses + Helical arteries

Deep arteries + Dorsal arteries



Thank you for your attention !

Questions and comments at:
ahampl@med.muni.cz