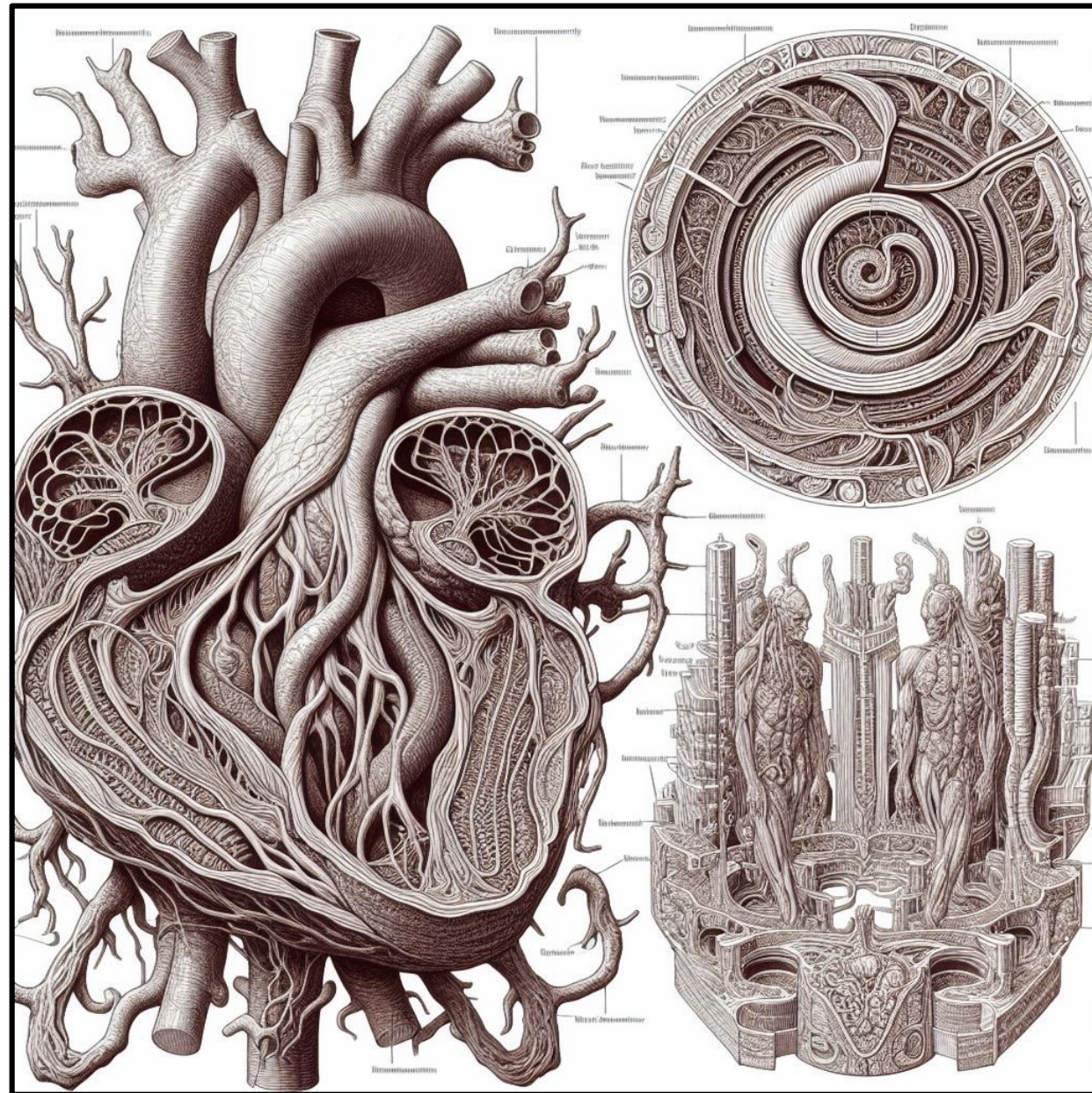
A scenic landscape featuring a valley with a lake, surrounded by dense green forests and rolling hills. In the background, there are majestic mountains with patches of snow under a soft, hazy sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

**You must not allow  
kitchen appliances  
to liven up your  
solitude**

# Histology of the Cardiovascular System



Contact me

Marius Loots

072 580 6723

# Philosophy 1:

What is the least amount of  
work I can do so I can get  
out of here.

You vs Future You  
There is a cost



Philosophy 2:

Today and Now

I will do something for my  
future self.

# Investment

## 5 slides

Tuesday

Muscular artery and vein

wednesday

Elastic artery

Thursday

Large vein

Friday

Ductus thoracicus & valve

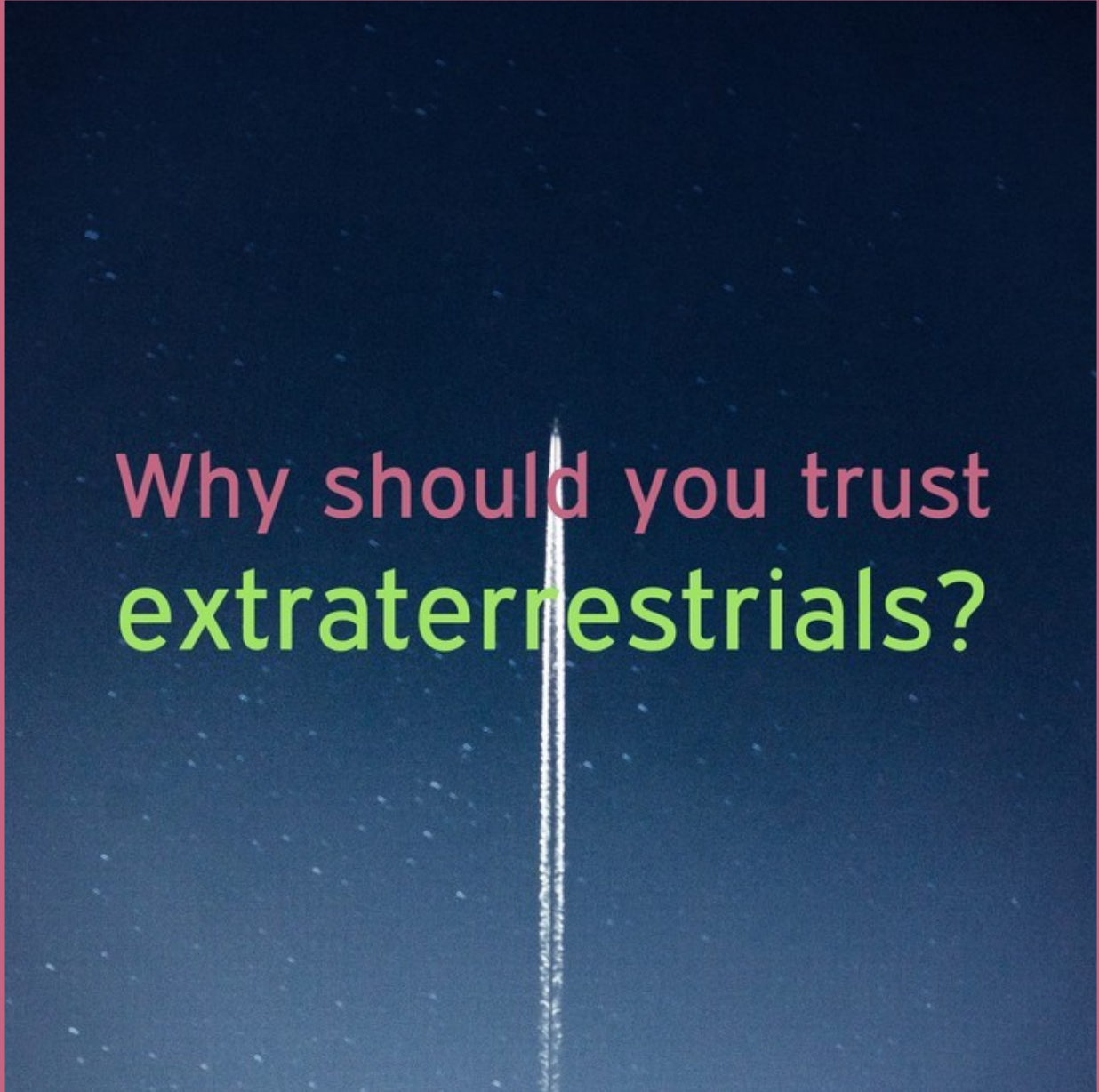
weekend

Complete work

Next week

Revision

Point to ponder

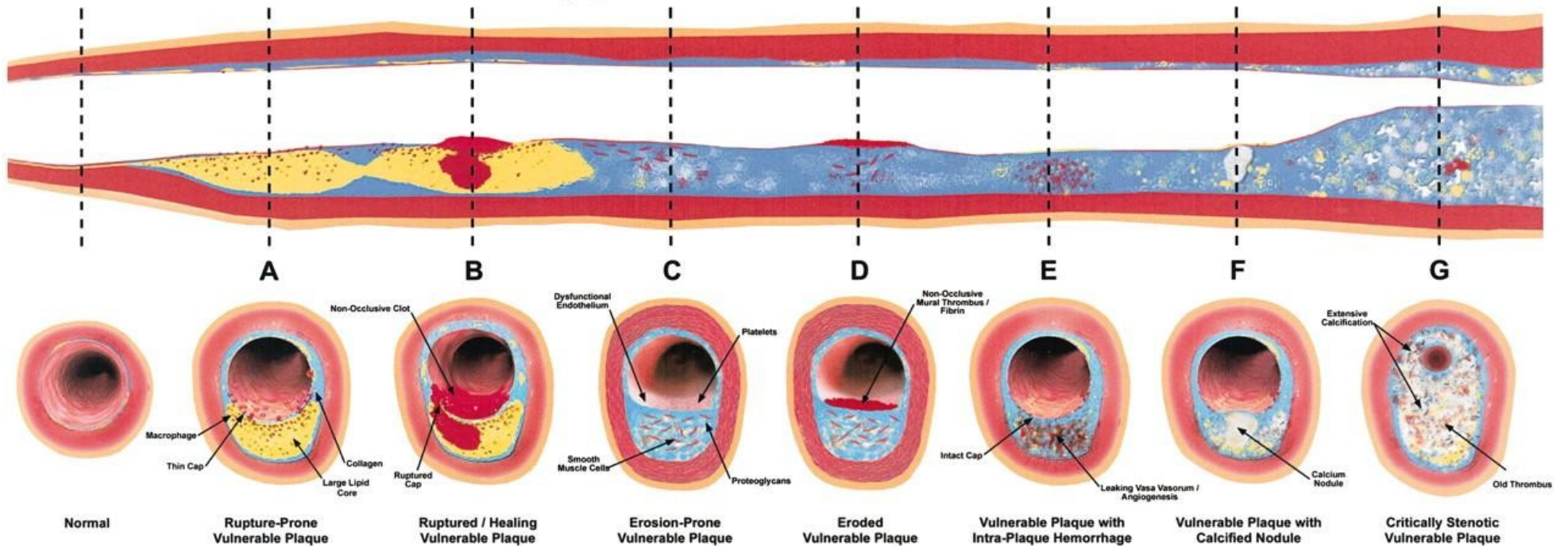
A vertical streak of light, possibly a meteor or a satellite trail, is centered in the frame against a dark blue, starry night sky. The streak is bright and slightly blurred, extending from the bottom towards the top of the image. The stars are small, white dots scattered across the background.

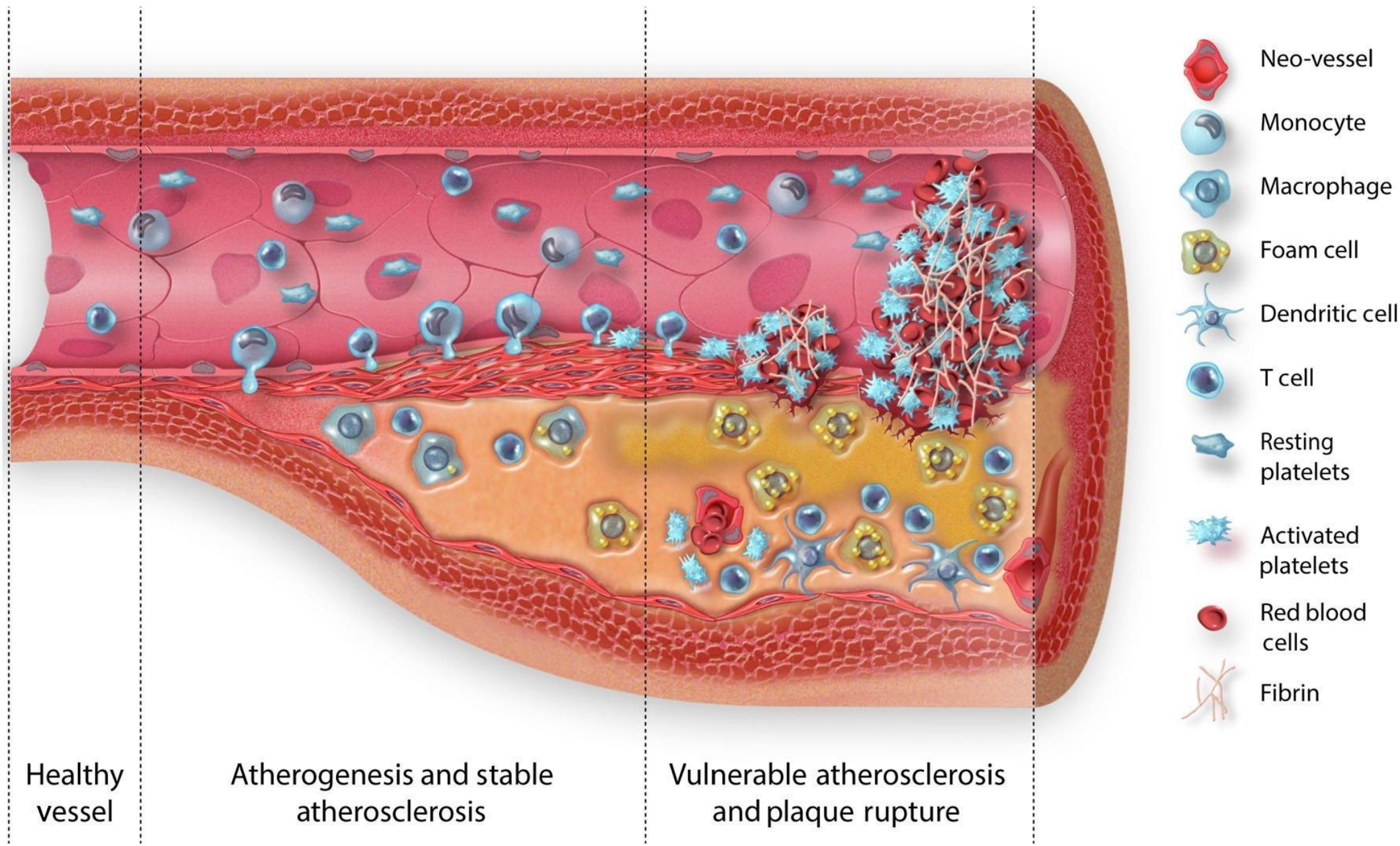
Why should you trust  
extraterrestrials?



# Histology of the CVS?

## Different Types of Vulnerable Plaque





Healthy vessel

Atherogenesis and stable atherosclerosis

Vulnerable atherosclerosis and plaque rupture

Neo-vessel

Monocyte

Macrophage

Foam cell

Dendritic cell

T cell

Resting platelets

Activated platelets

Red blood cells

Fibrin

## Words

adipose, adventitia, arteriole, artery, blood, bundle, capillary, capsule, cell, circular, collagen, compact, connective, continuous, cross, distribute, elastic, elastic, endothelium, erythrocyte, fenestrated, fiber, fine, flap, ganglion, hilus, inner, internal, interspersed, intima, laminae, large, layer, longitudinal, loose, lumen, lymph, lymphatic, media, medium, membrane, muscle, muscular, narrow, nerve, node, oblique, pericyte, perineurium, red blood cell, sinusoid, small, smooth, sphincter, sub-endothelium, sympathetic, terminal, thick, thin, tissue, transverse, tunica, unmyelinated, valve, vasa vasorum, vasomotor, vein, venule, vessel, wall

Others?

cells

erythrocyte

fat cell

nerve cell

pericyte

red blood cell

smooth muscle fiber

squamous cell

others?

# Tissues

adipose tissue  
collagen fibres  
elastic fibres

loose connective tissue  
subendothelial connective tissue

Others?

## Structures

arteriole, artery, capillary, capsule, continuous capillary, elastic laminae, endothelium, fenestrated capillary, internal elastic membrane, large vein, lumen, lymph node, lymph vessel, medium vein, muscular artery, nerve, nerve fiber, neurovascular bundle, perineurium, precapillary sphincter, sinusoidal capillary, sympathetic ganglion, tunica adventitia, tunica intima, tunica media, valve, vasa vasorum, vein, venule

Others?

## Slides: vessels

- Muscular artery and vein: slide 69
- Muscular artery and vein: slide 70
- Elastic artery: slide 67
- Elastic artery: slide 49
- Large vein: slide 92
- Large vein: slide 109
- Ductus thoracicus: slide 75
- Ductus thoracicus: slide 65
- valves: slide 47

Tubes

Round "things"



# Objective

- Compare and contrast the three tunics
- Distinguish between:
  - Elastic arteries and muscular arteries
  - Arteries and veins
- Identify capillaries
- Identify lymphatic vessels
- Identify nerves
- Identify small associated features
- Describe the functioning of the capillary bed
- Describe portal systems
- Describe end-arteries

# Overview

- Network of organs and vessels
- Transportation of
  - Blood
  - Transport O<sub>2</sub> & CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Nutrients
  - Hormones
  - Metabolic waste products
- Crucial role
  - Maintaining homeostasis
  - Temperature regulation
  - Immune function

## Components 1: Heart

- Muscular organ
- Central pump
- Four chambers
  - 2x Atria
  - 2x Ventricles
- Left side – oxygenated to body
- Right side – deoxygenated to lungs

## Components 2: Blood vessels

- Arteries
  - Thick walled to the body
- Veins
  - Thinner walls + valves
- Capillaries
  - Tiny connection
  - Facilitate exchange between blood & cells
  - 3 Types
    - Continuous
    - Fenestrated
    - Sinusoidal

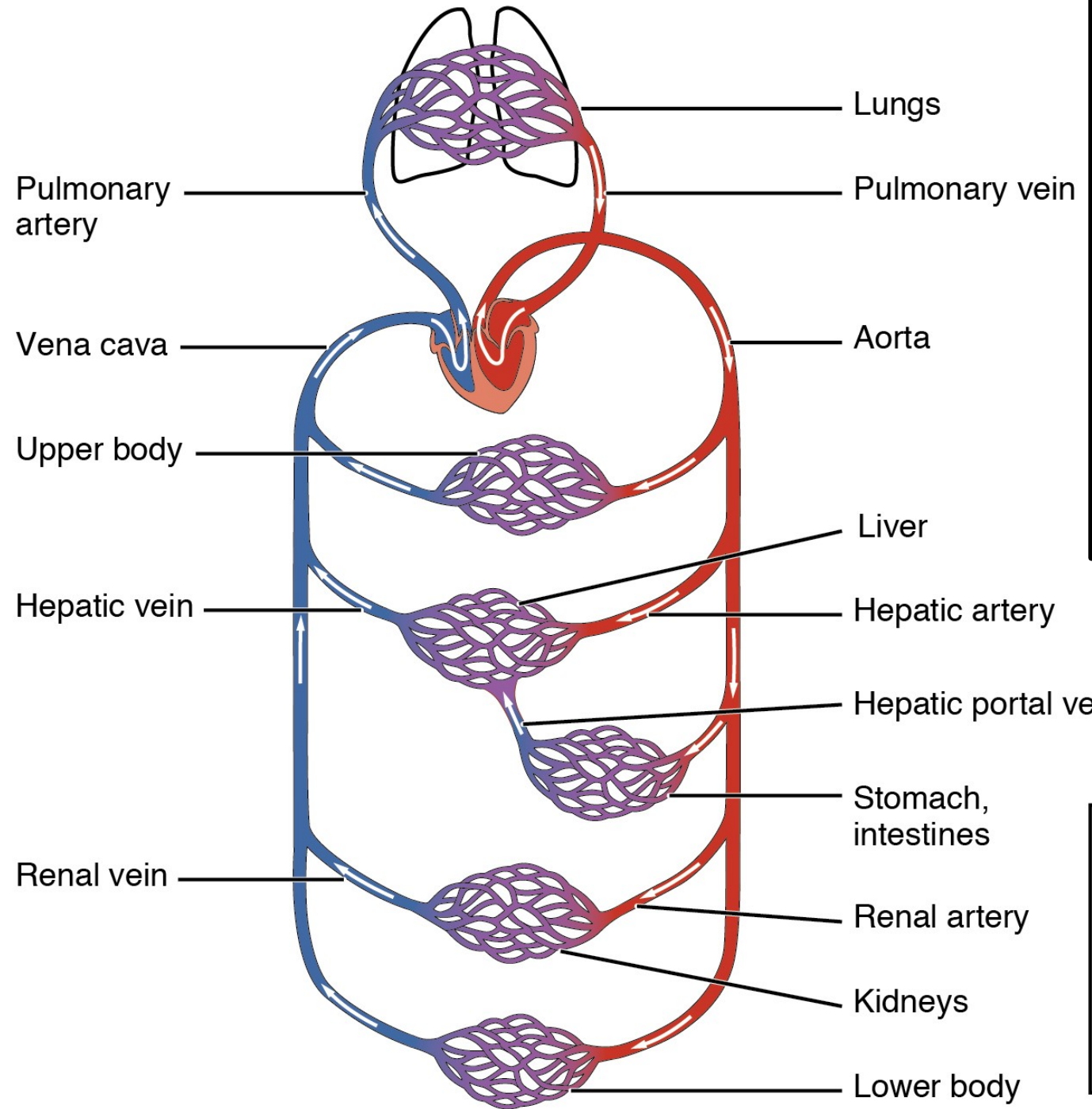
## Components 3: Lymph vessels

- Parallel system
- Blind start
- Transport lymph back to the heart
  - WBC, proteins, waste products
- Role in immune function & fluid balance

Figure 20.2  
 Cardiovascular  
 Circulation  
 Anatomy and  
 Physiology 25 April  
 2013  
 OpenStax  
 CC-A 4.0;  
[https://openstax.org/  
 /books/anatomy-and-  
 physiology/pages/20-  
 1-structure-and-  
 function-of-blood-  
 vessels](https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology/pages/20-1-structure-and-function-of-blood-vessels)

Pulmonary  
 circulation

Systemic  
 circulation



Pulmonary  
 artery

Lungs

Pulmonary vein

Vena cava

Aorta

Upper body

Liver

Hepatic vein

Hepatic artery

Hepatic portal vein

Stomach,  
 intestines

Renal vein

Renal artery

Kidneys

Lower body

- Vessels transporting oxygenated blood
- Vessels transporting deoxygenated blood
- Vessels involved in gas exchange

# Histology of the heart

- Revision exercise
- You can expect questions on this content
- Review from you workbook and Histoweb

## Slides: Cardiac muscle

- Heart muscle (longitudinal section): slide 20
- Heart muscle (cross section): slide 77
- Heart muscle: slide 86



# Blood vessel histology

- Generic structure
  - Tunica intima
    - Endothelial cells
    - Subendothelial layer
  - Tunica media
    - Smooth muscle cells
    - Elastic fibers
    - Collagen fibers
  - Tunica adventitia
    - Collagen
    - Elastic fibers
    - Fibroblasts
    - Vasa vasorum

# Tunica intima

- The innermost layer of the blood vessel, in direct contact with the blood.
- Endothelium
  - Single layer simple squamous epithelial cells known as endothelial cells lines the tunica intima. These cells form a smooth surface that minimizes friction and facilitates the movement of blood.
- Subendothelial layer
  - Beneath the endothelium, composed of connective tissue containing elastic fibers. It provides support to the endothelial layer.

# Tunica media

- Between the tunica intima and tunica adventitia
- Smooth Muscle Cells
  - Predominant cell type
  - Arranged in circular layers around the vessel.
- Elastic Fibers
  - Interspersed among the smooth muscle cells
  - Provide elasticity to the vessel, allowing it to expand and contract with changes in blood pressure.
- Collagen Fibers
  - Contribute to the structural integrity of the vessel and help maintain its shape.

# Tunica adventitia

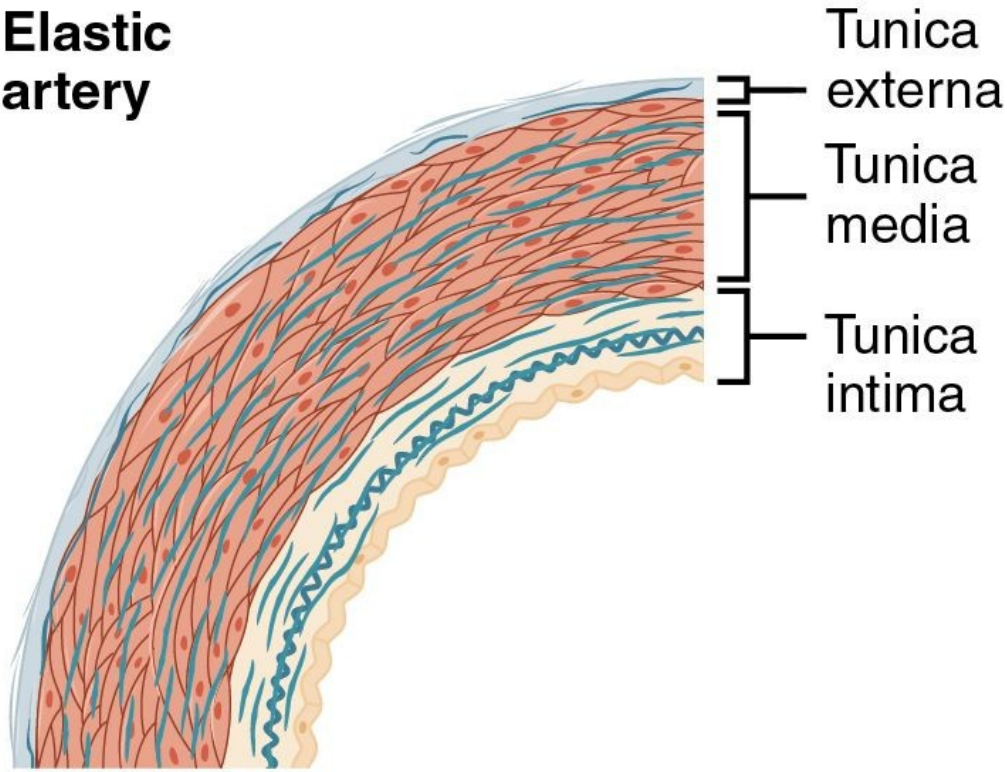
- Outermost layer
- Collagen and Elastic Fibers
  - Rich in collagen and elastic fibers
  - Providing strength, support, and flexibility to the vessel
- Fibroblasts
  - Responsible for synthesizing and maintaining the extracellular matrix.
- Blood Vessel & Nerves (Vasa Vasorum)
  - Small blood vessels and nerves, known as vasa vasorum, are found in the tunica adventitia, supplying oxygen and nutrients to the outer layers of the vessel wall.

# Arteries vs Veins

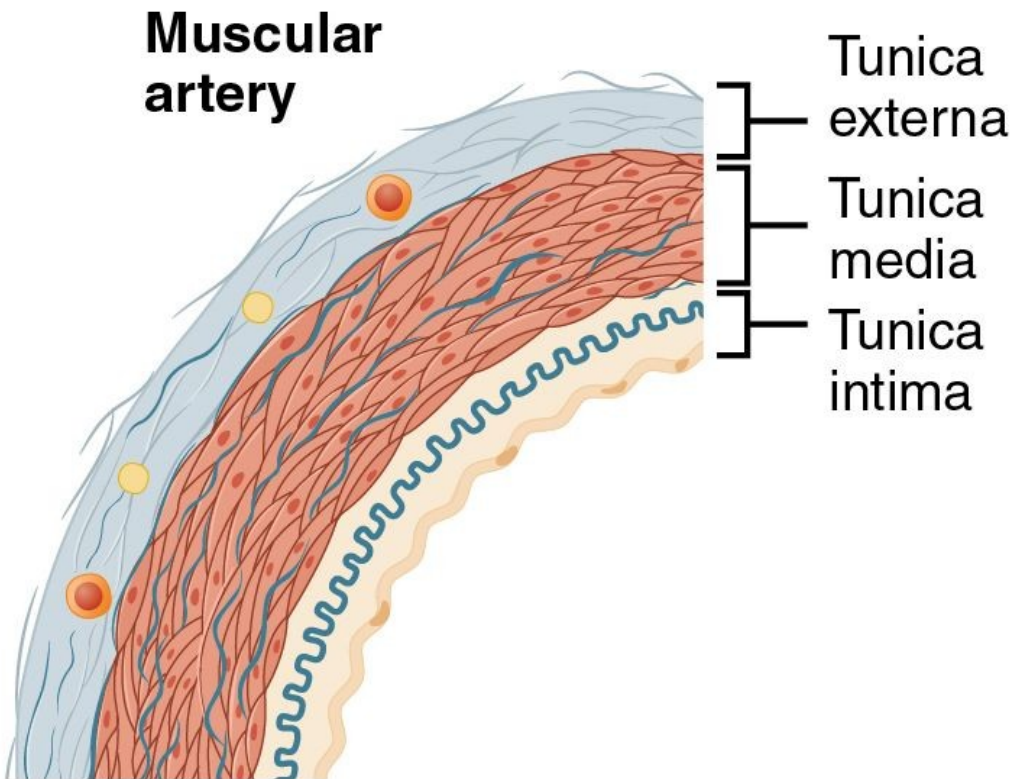
	Arteries	Veins
Wall thickness	Thick	Thin
Size lumen	Narrow	Wide
Shape lumen	Rounded	Irregular, often collapsed

- Three layers not always visible
- Elastic arteries
  - ventricular contraction = systolic blood pressure (BP)
  - Diastolic BP = interim pressure maintained by elastic arteries
- Muscular arteries
  - Distribute blood volume appropriate to requirements at destination
- Layers best seen in muscular arteries

# Elastic artery



# Muscular artery



# Arteriole

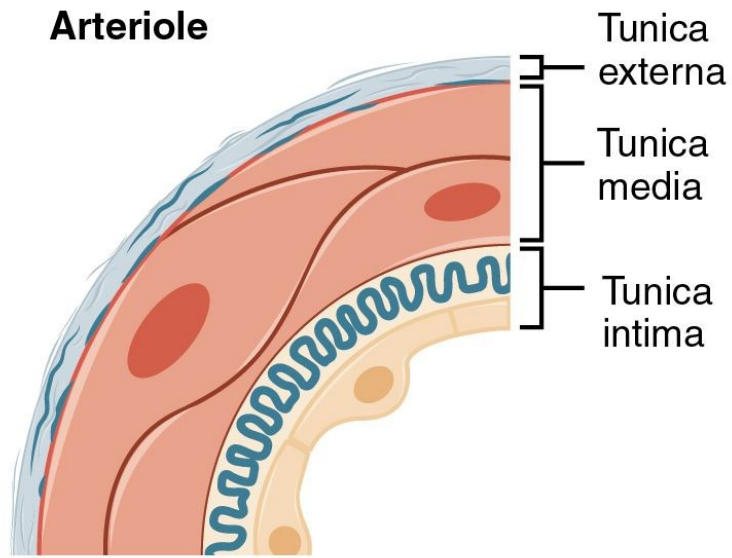
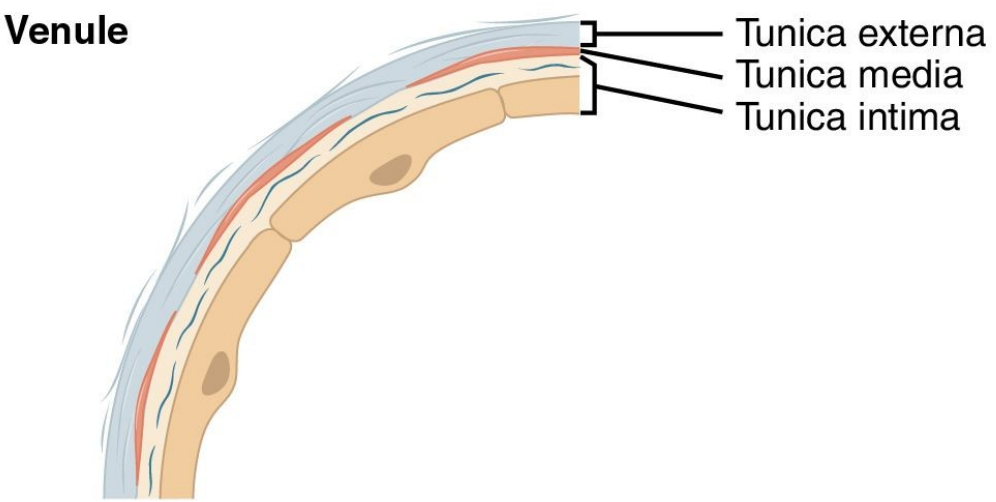
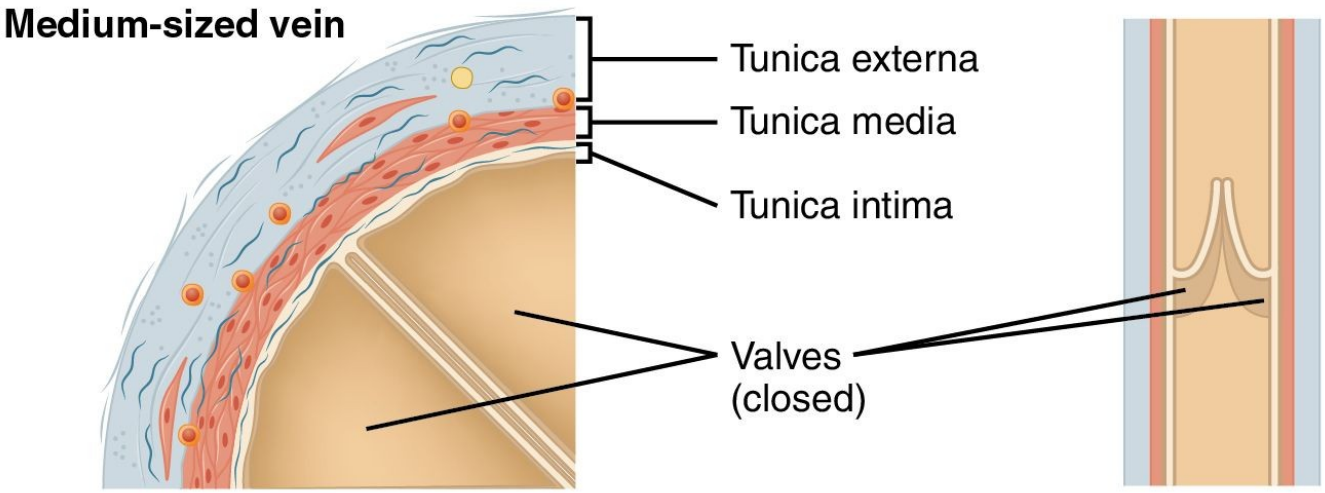
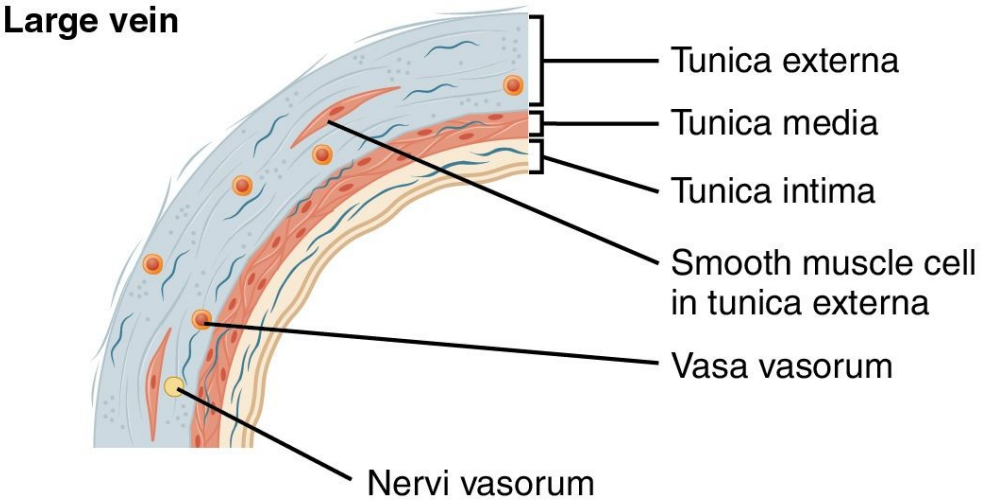


Figure 20.4 Types of Arteries and Arterioles. Comparison of the walls of an elastic artery, a muscular artery, and an arteriole is shown. In terms of scale, the diameter of an arteriole is measured in micrometers compared to millimeters for elastic and muscular arteries.

Anatomy and Physiology 25 April 2013; OpenStax; CC-A 4.0; <https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology/pages/20-1-structure-and-function-of-blood-vessels>

**Figure 20.7 Comparison of Veins and Venules**  
Anatomy and Physiology 25 April 2013; OpenStax; CC-A 4.0; <https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology/pages/20-1-structure-and-function-of-blood-vessels>



## Elastic arteries

Elastic arteries, such as the aorta, act as conduits that expand and recoil to accommodate the surge of blood ejected from the heart during systole. They help maintain continuous blood flow and smooth pressure.



## Muscular arteries

Muscular arteries, like the femoral artery, distribute blood to specific organs and tissues. They regulate blood flow through vasoconstriction and vasodilation, contributing to overall blood pressure control

# Capillaries

- Continuous capillaries
  - Found in muscle and nervous tissue
  - Allow for exchange of small molecules: oxygen & nutrients.
  - Tight junctions limit the passage of larger substances.
- Fenestrated capillaries
  - Present in the kidneys and intestines
  - Pores (fenestrations) that enhance the exchange of larger molecules, including proteins and hormones.
- Sinusoidal capillaries
  - Located in the liver and spleen
  - Large gaps between cells, facilitating the passage of blood cells and larger substances.
  - Role in blood cell filtration and immune responses.

## Medium veins

Medium veins, such as the radial vein, collect blood from smaller veins and return it to the heart. They have valves that prevent the backflow of blood, aiding in the venous return to the heart.

## Large veins

Large veins, including the superior vena cava and inferior vena cava, serve as the major conduits for returning deoxygenated blood from the body back to the right atrium of the heart. They have a larger diameter and thinner walls compared to arteries.

# Lymphatic System

- Collects excess tissue fluid
- Filters through lymph nodes
- Return to blood
- Start as blind-ending vessels

Muscular artery & vein

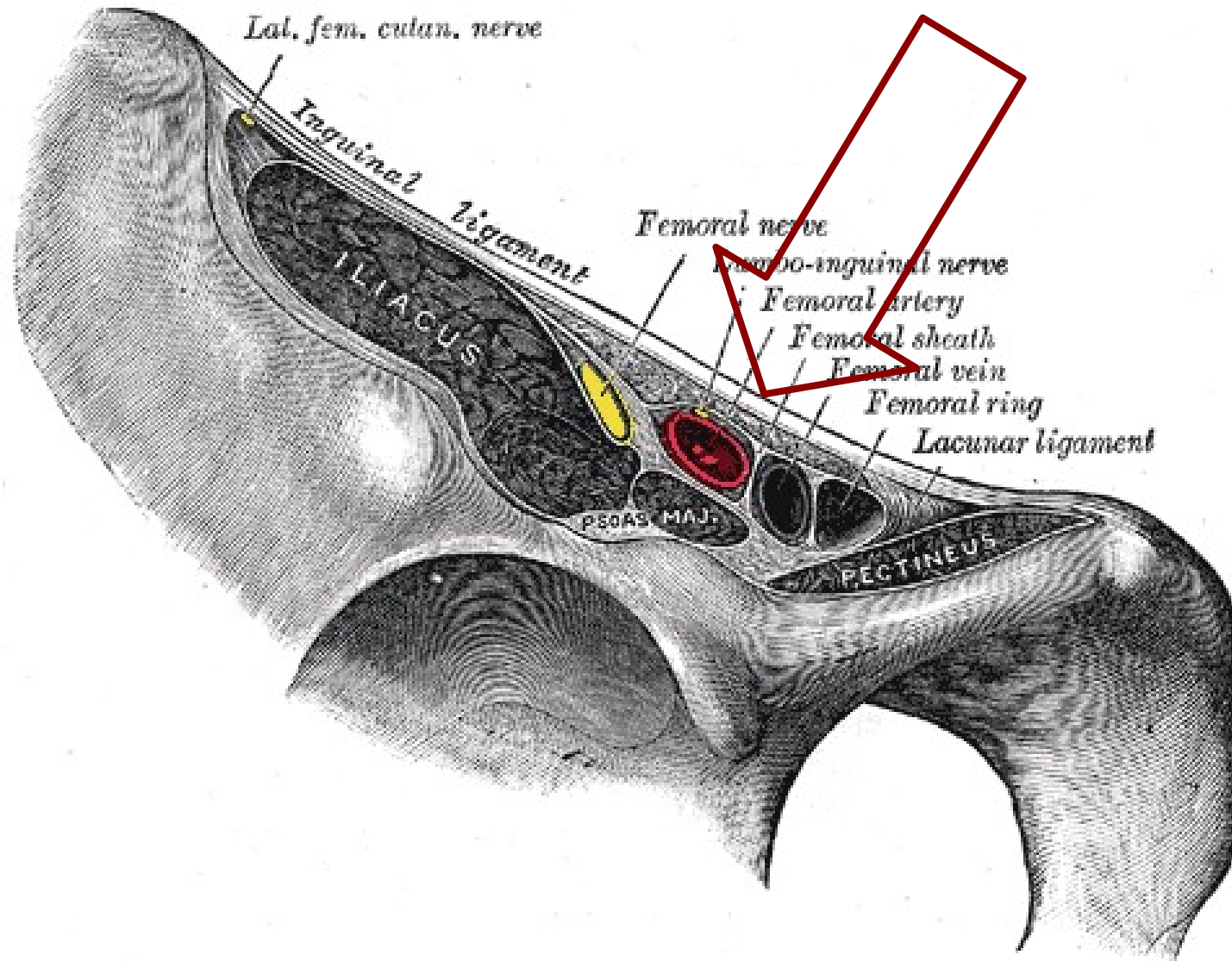
Slides 69 & 70

Majority

## Macroscopic anatomy

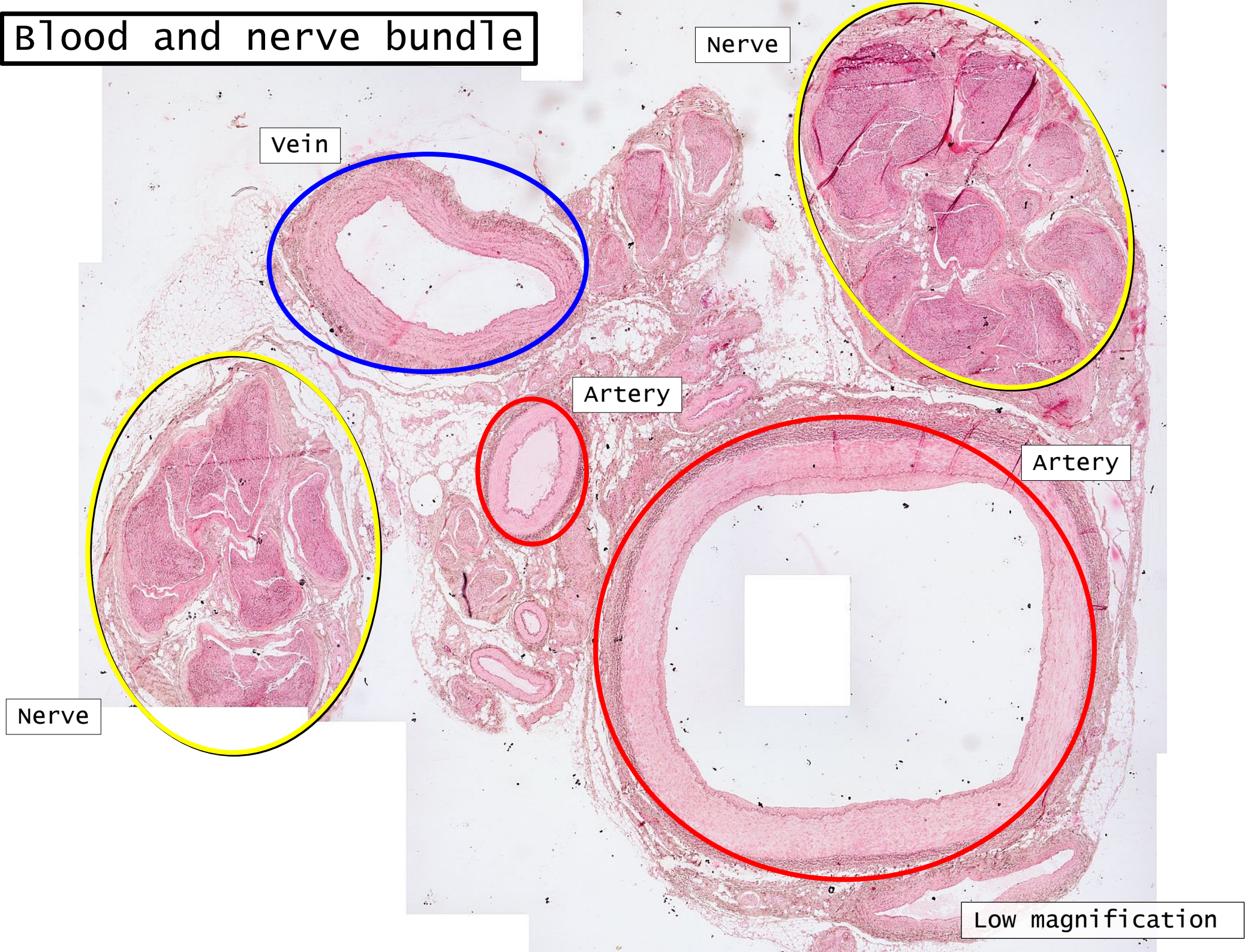
- Holds true at the microscopic level
- Blood vessels in sheath
- Artery + Vein + Nerve + Lymphatics
- Example femoral sheath

# Femoral sheath





# Blood and nerve bundle



Nerve

Vein

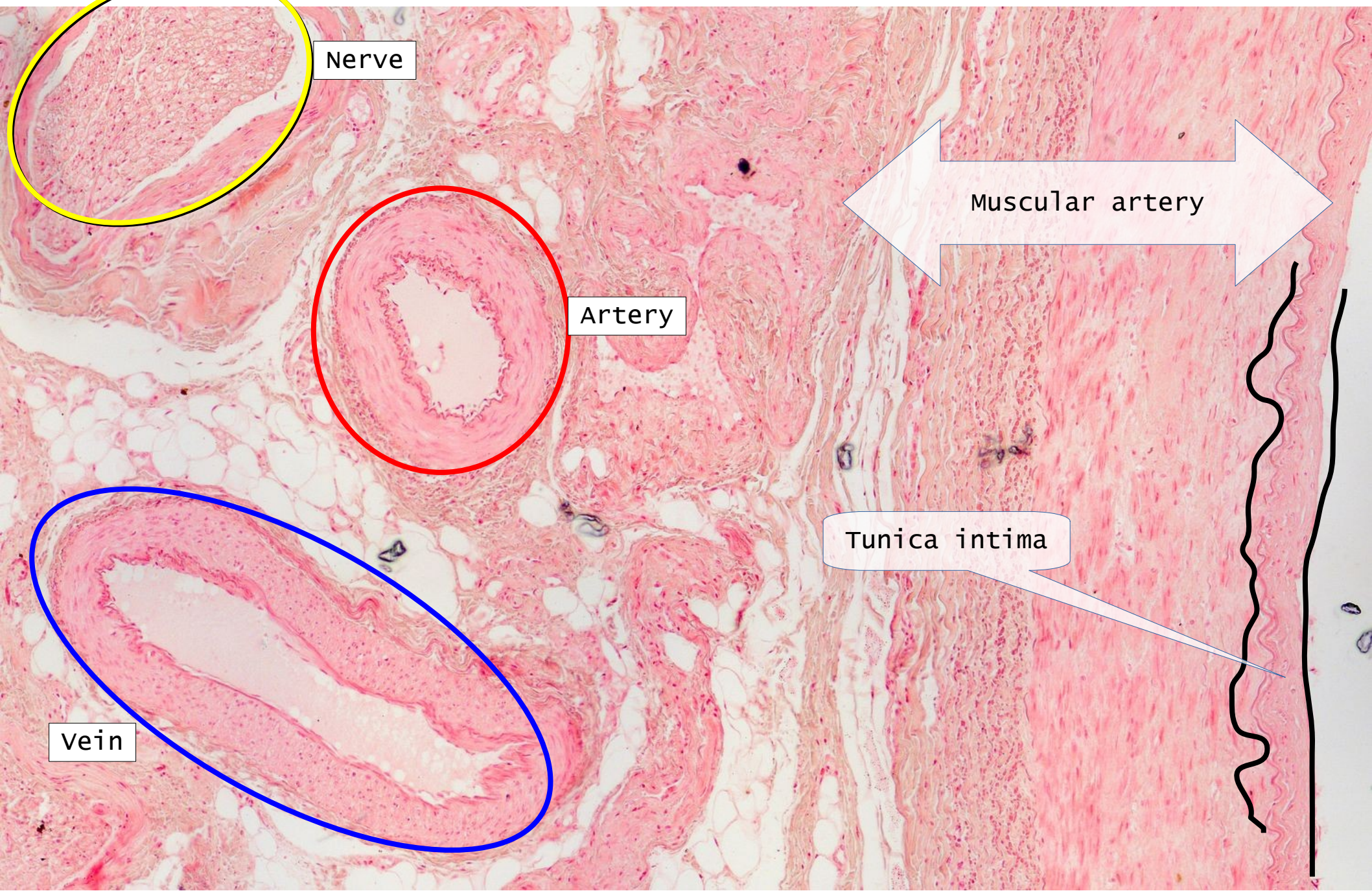
Artery

Artery

Nerve

Low magnification

# Blood and nerve bundle



Nerve

Artery

vein

Muscular artery

Tunica intima

Medium magnification

Muscle artery

Tunica media

Lamina elastica interna

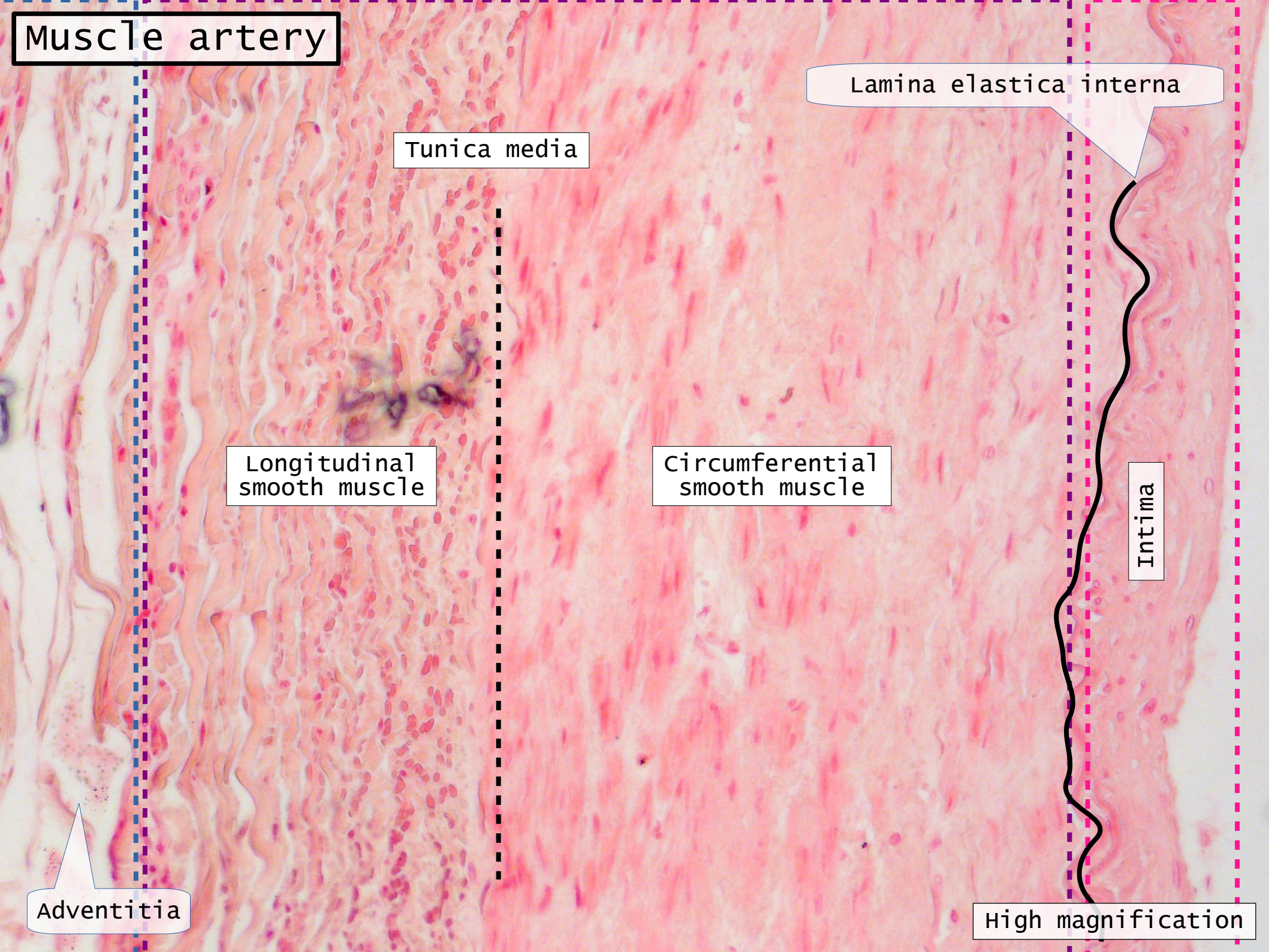
Longitudinal smooth muscle

Circumferential smooth muscle

Intima

Adventitia

High magnification

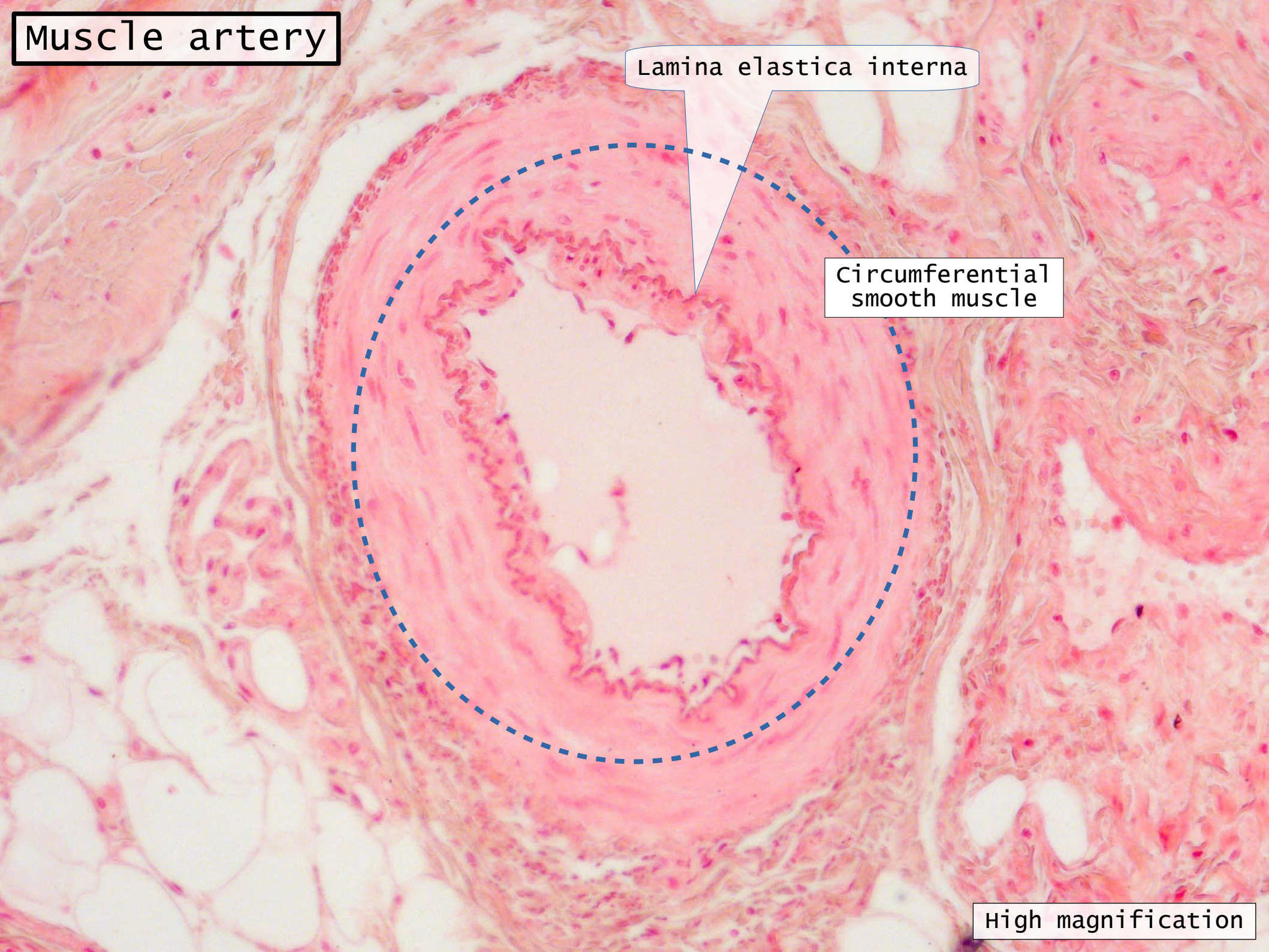


**Muscle artery**

Lamina elastica interna

Circumferential smooth muscle

High magnification



Wall of muscle artery

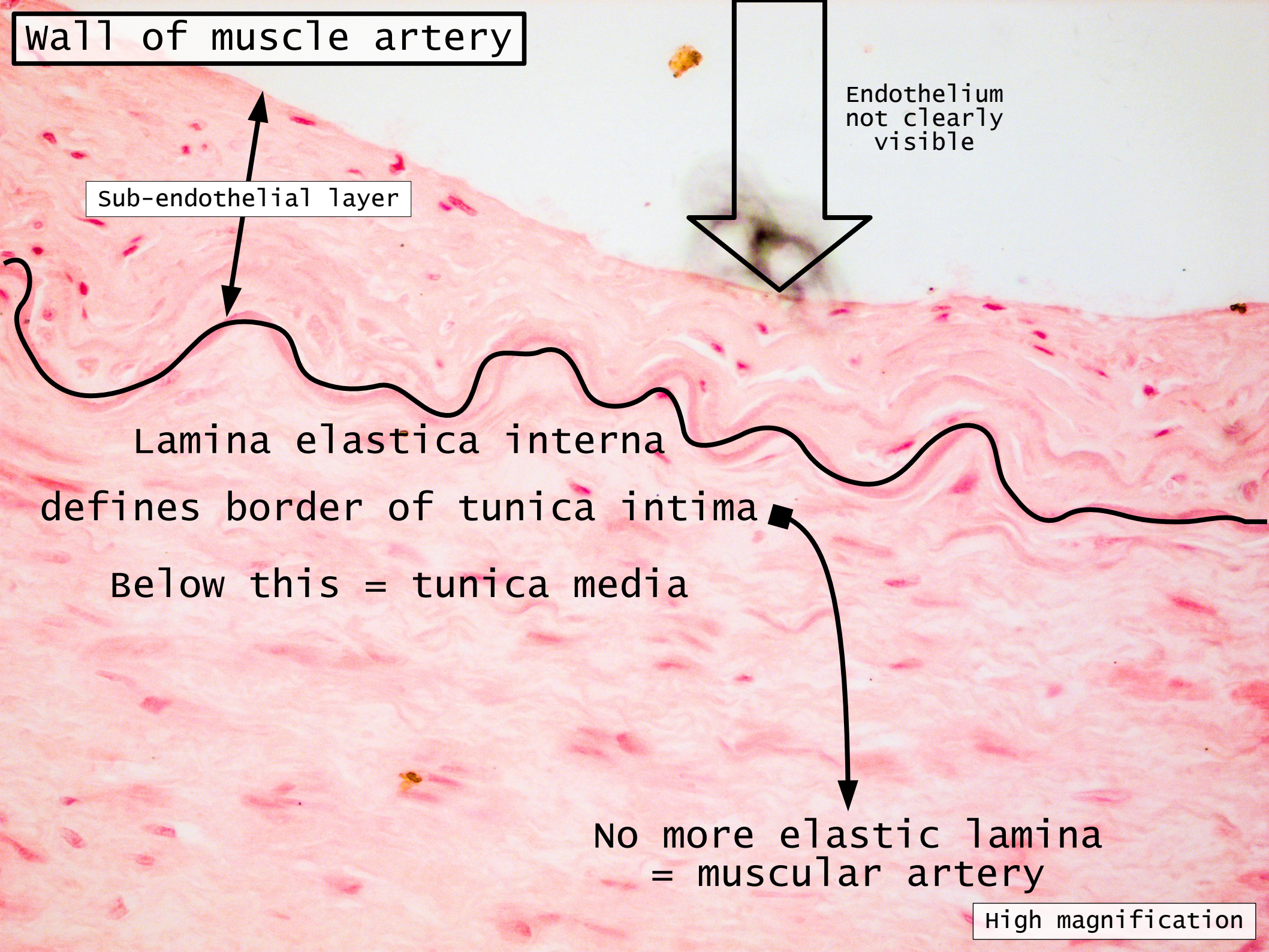
Endothelium  
not clearly  
visible

Sub-endothelial layer

Lamina elastica interna  
defines border of tunica intima  
Below this = tunica media

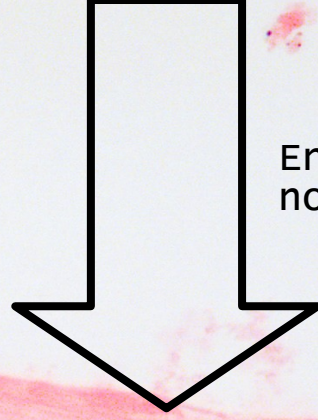
No more elastic lamina  
= muscular artery

High magnification



wall of muscle artery

Endothelium  
not clearly  
visible



Lamina elastica interna  
defines border of tunica intima

cut mark  
during  
slide  
preparation

High magnification

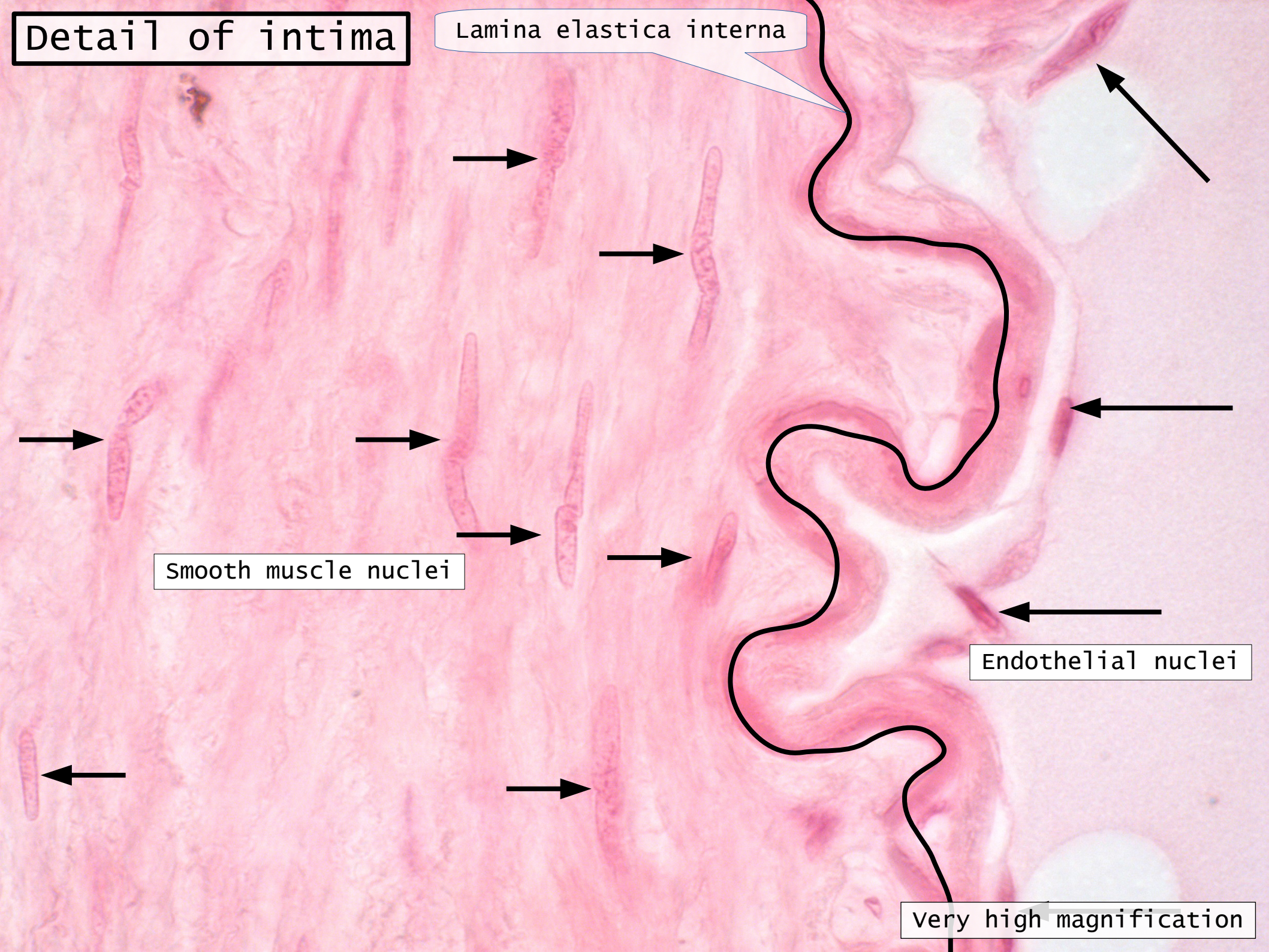
Detail of intima

Lamina elastica interna

Smooth muscle nuclei

Endothelial nuclei

very high magnification



Large vein

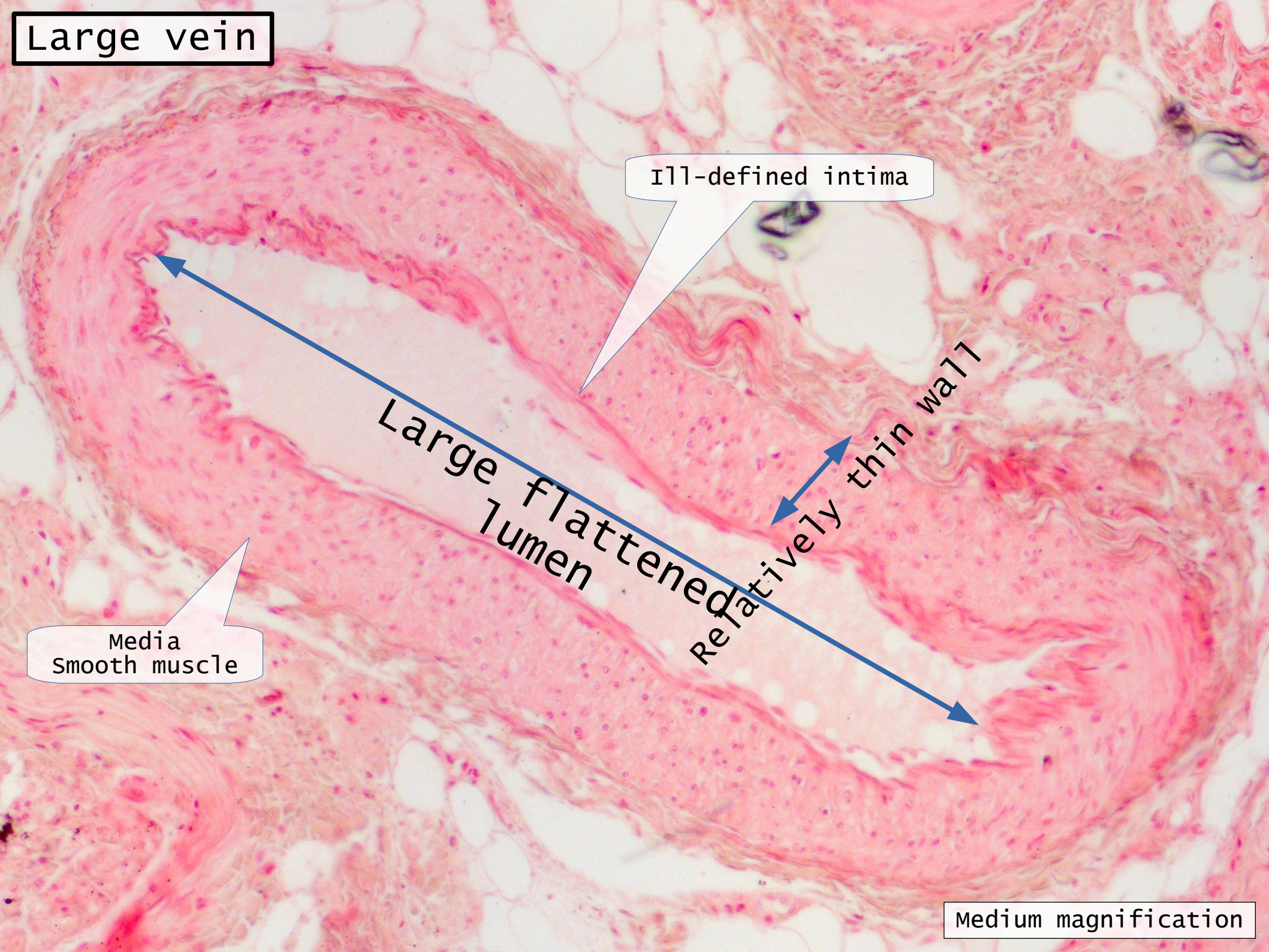
Ill-defined intima

Large flattened lumen

Relatively thin wall

Media  
Smooth muscle

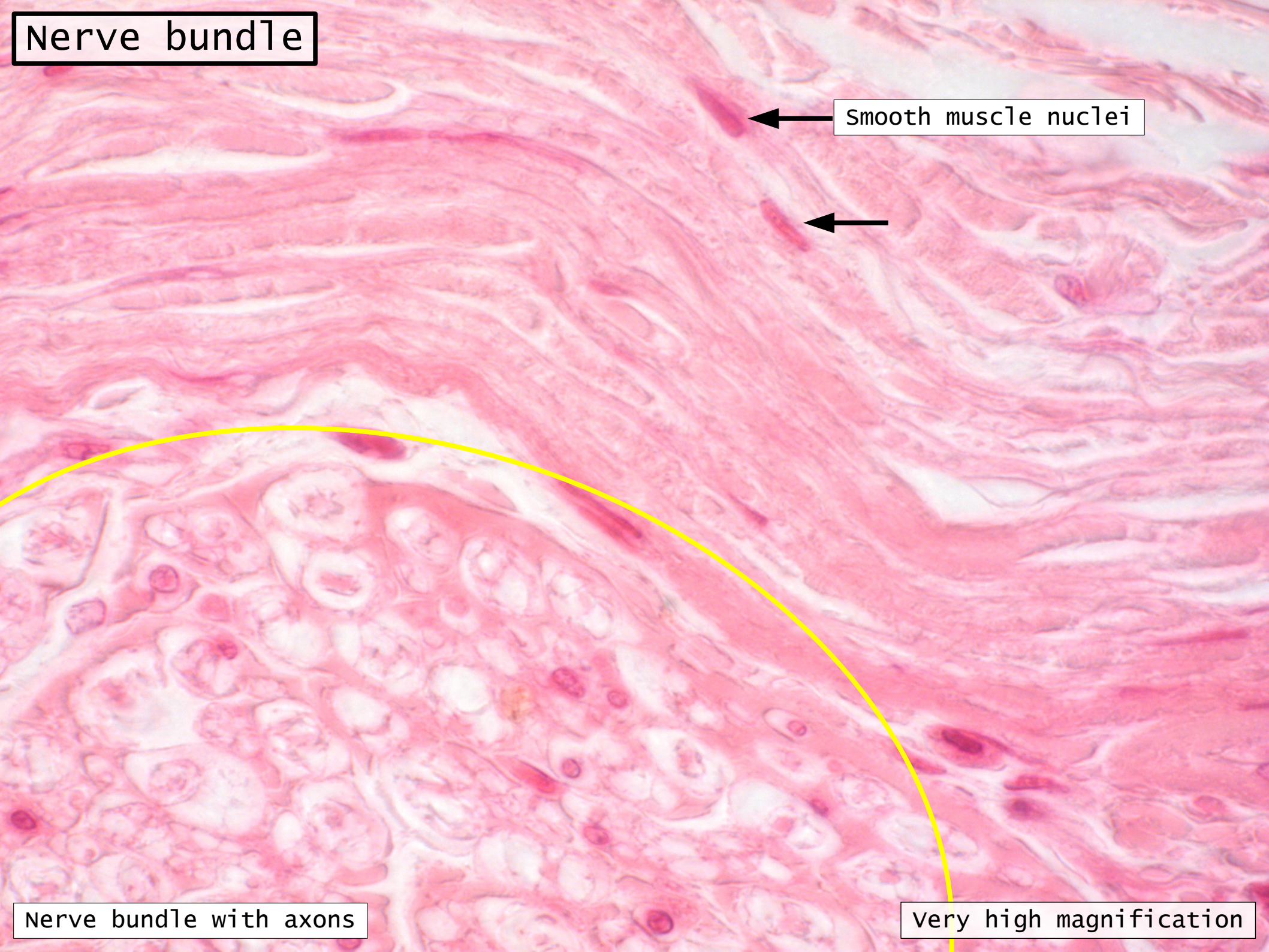
Medium magnification





Nerve bundle

Smooth muscle nuclei

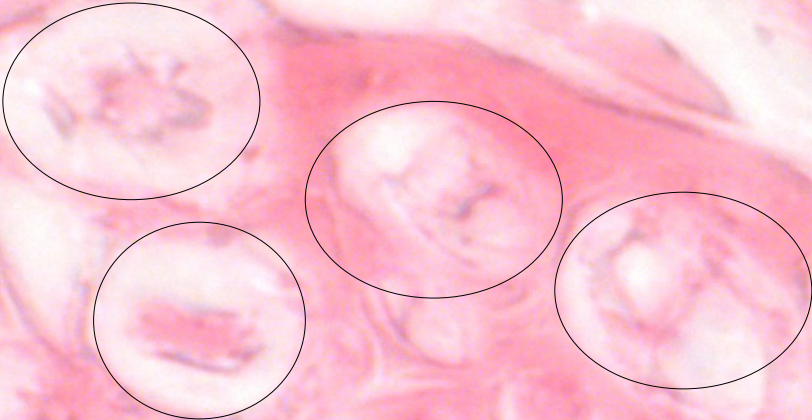


Nerve bundle with axons

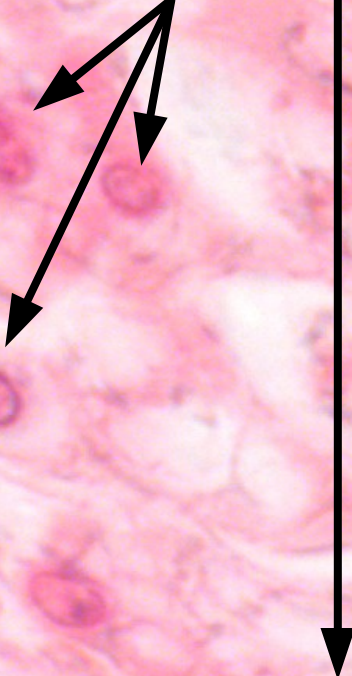
very high magnification

**Axons**

Axons



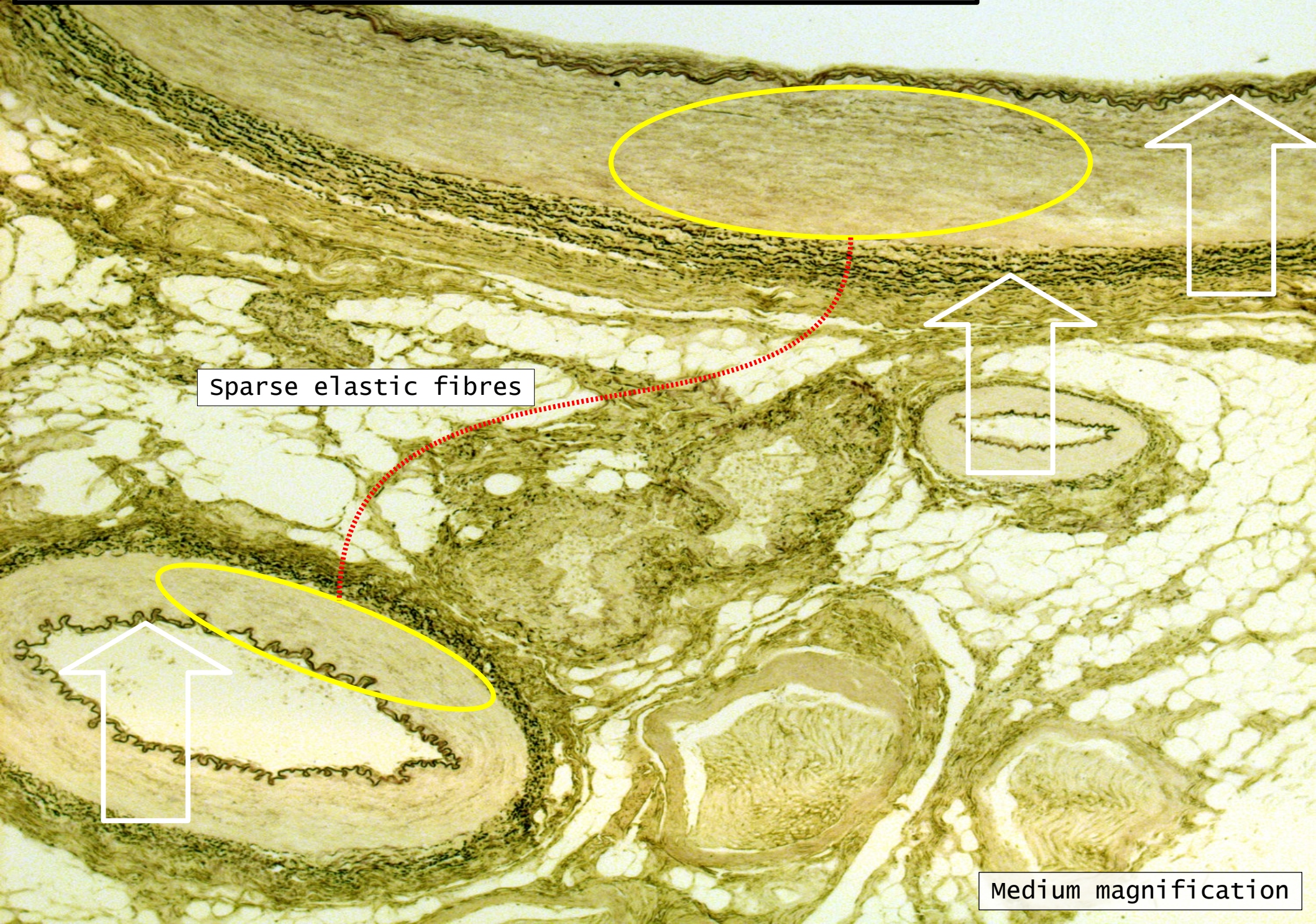
Nuclei of support cells



Schwann cells in peripheral nerves

very high magnification

Resorcin fuchsin to show elastic fibres



Sparse elastic fibres

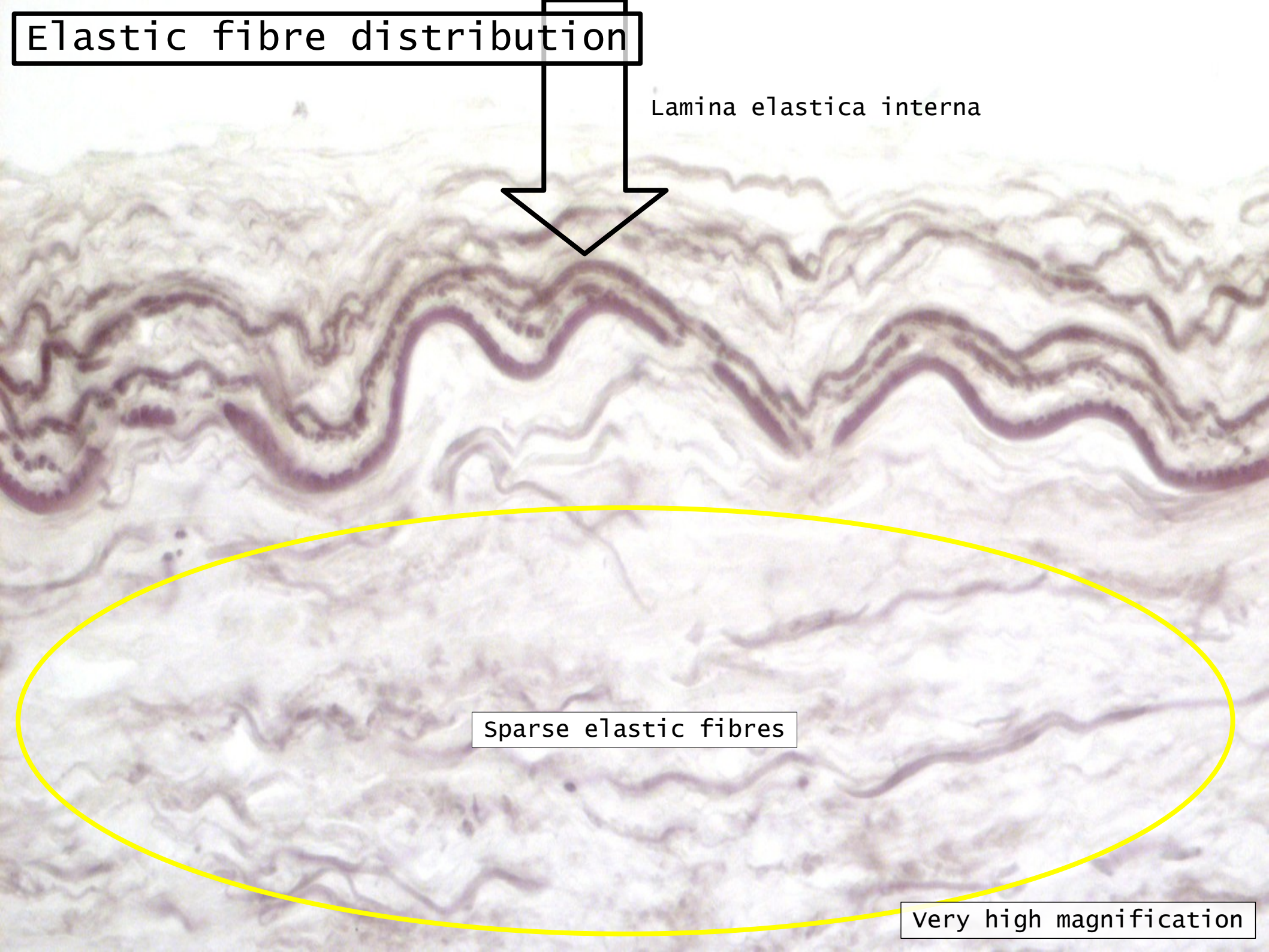
Medium magnification

# Elastic fibre distribution

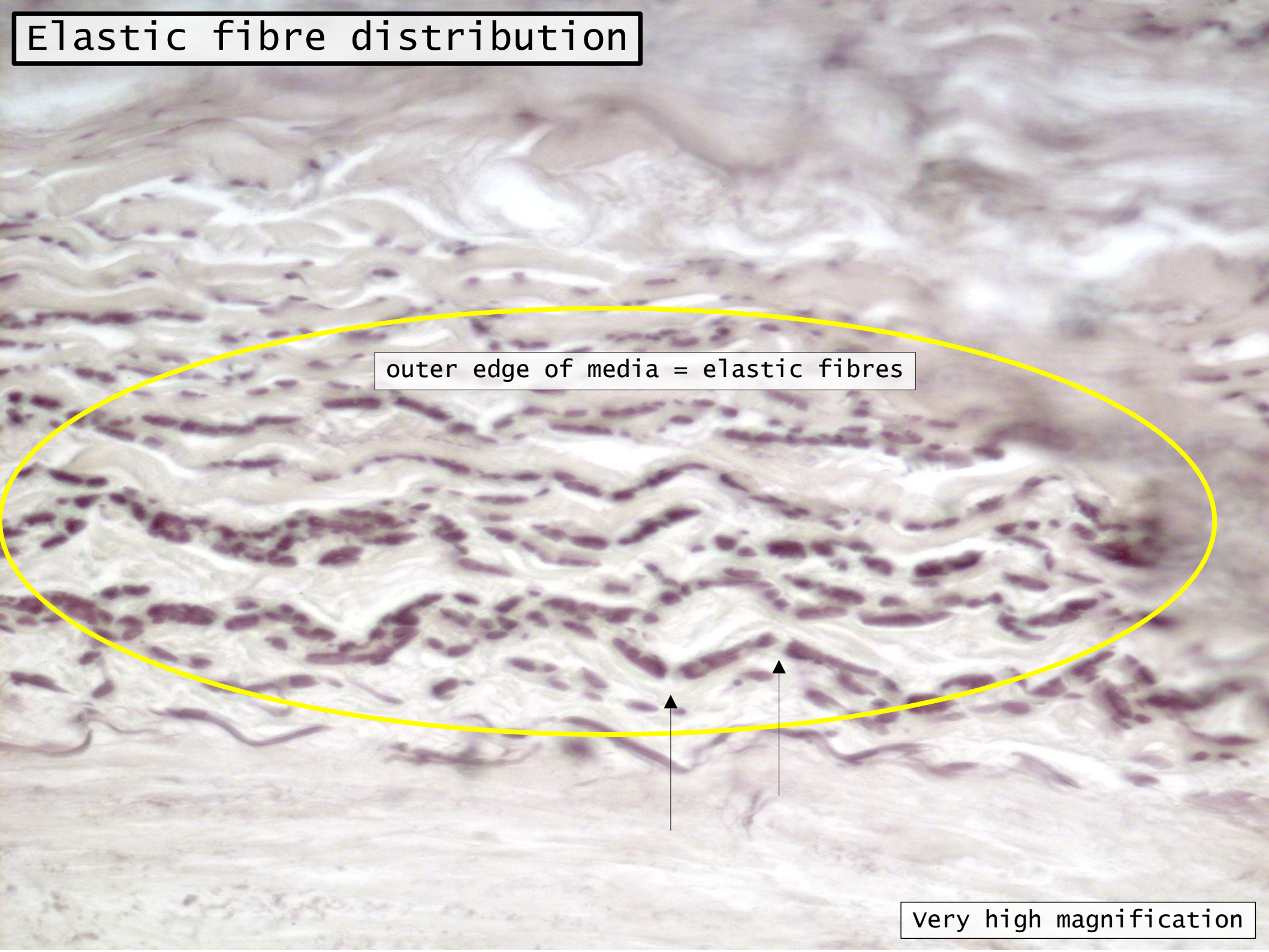
Lamina elastica interna

sparse elastic fibres

very high magnification



# Elastic fibre distribution

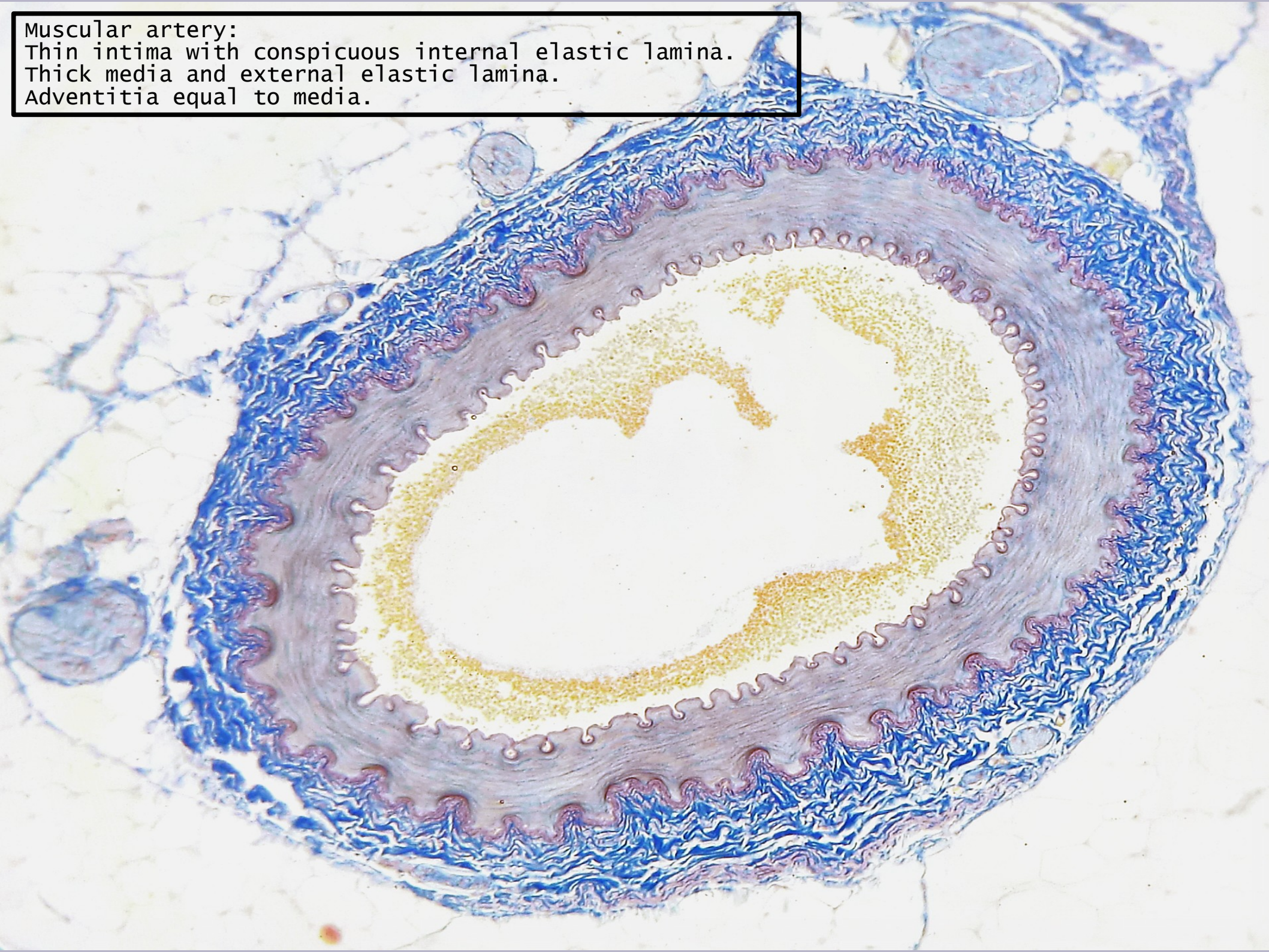


outer edge of media = elastic fibres

This histological image shows a cross-section of an artery wall. The central region, the media, is characterized by a dense, wavy arrangement of elastic fibers, which are stained a dark purple color. These fibers are concentrated at the outer boundary of the media. A yellow oval highlights this specific region. Two black arrows point upwards from the bottom edge of the oval to individual elastic fibers, providing a closer view of their structure. The surrounding layers, the intima and adventitia, appear less dense and more fibrous.

very high magnification

Muscular artery:  
Thin intima with conspicuous internal elastic lamina.  
Thick media and external elastic lamina.  
Adventitia equal to media.

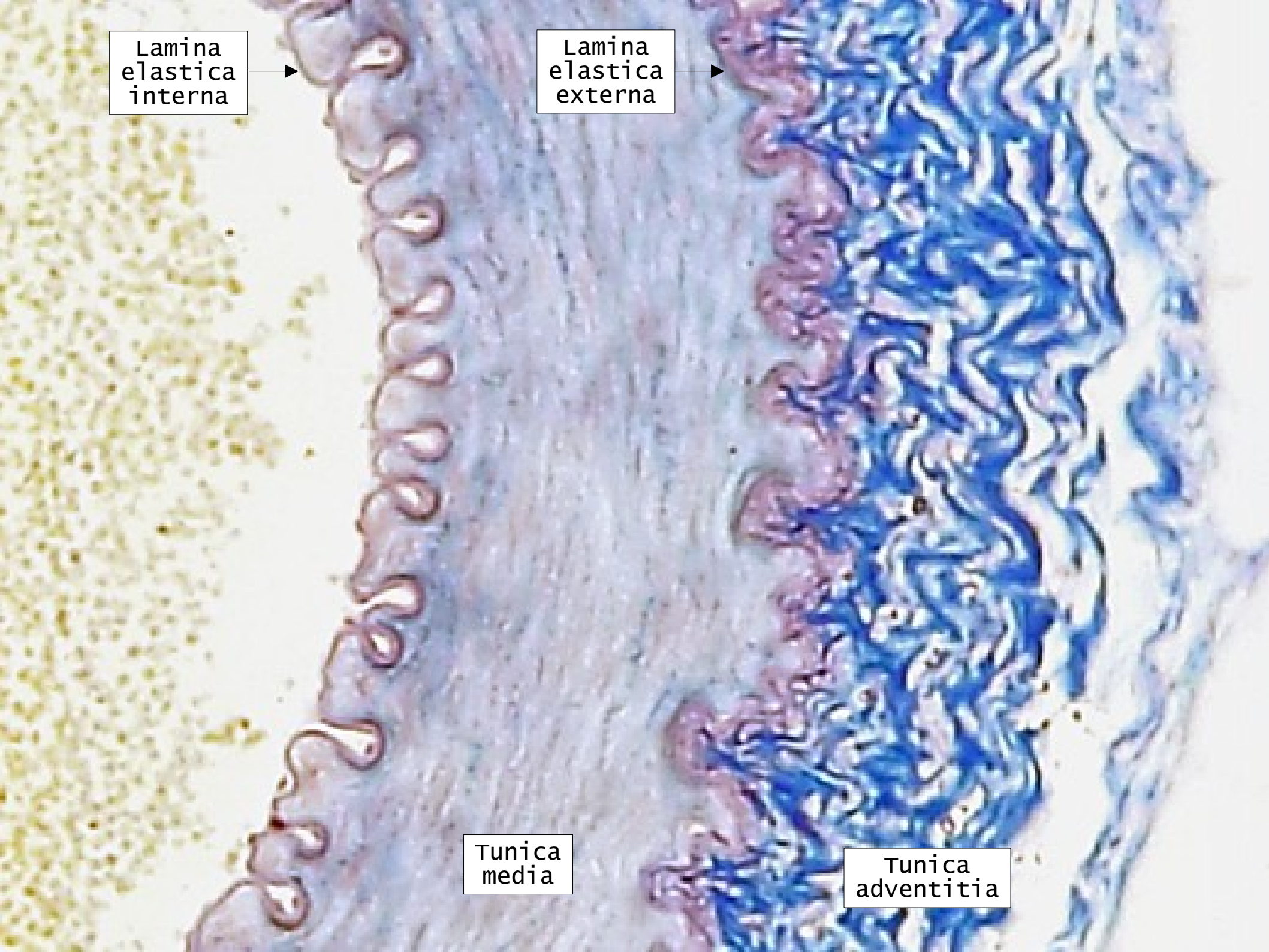


Lamina  
elastica  
interna

Lamina  
elastica  
externa

Tunica  
media

Tunica  
adventitia



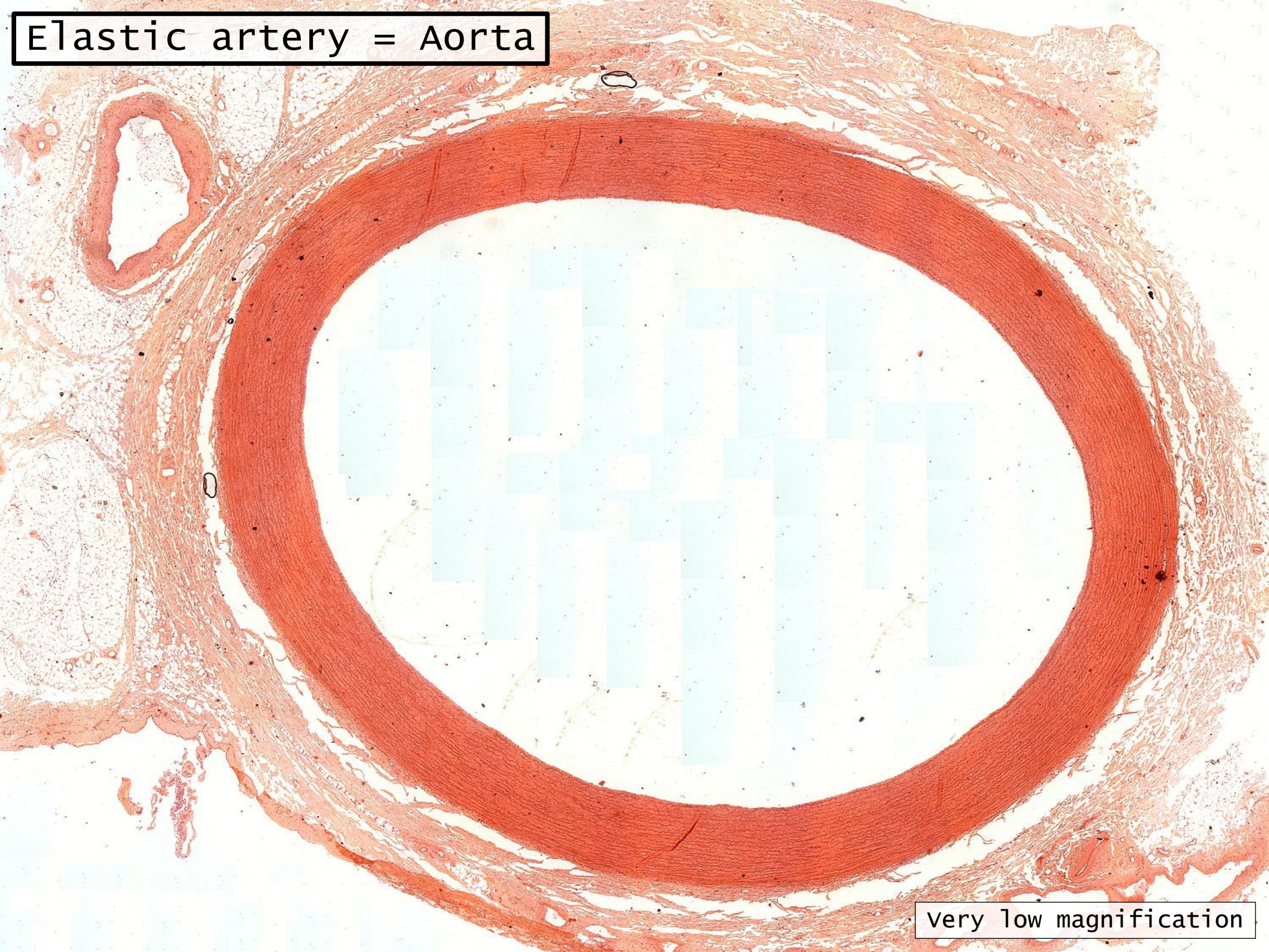
Elastic artery

Slides 67 & 49

Aorta



Elastic artery = Aorta



Very low magnification

# Layers of elastic artery

Adventitia

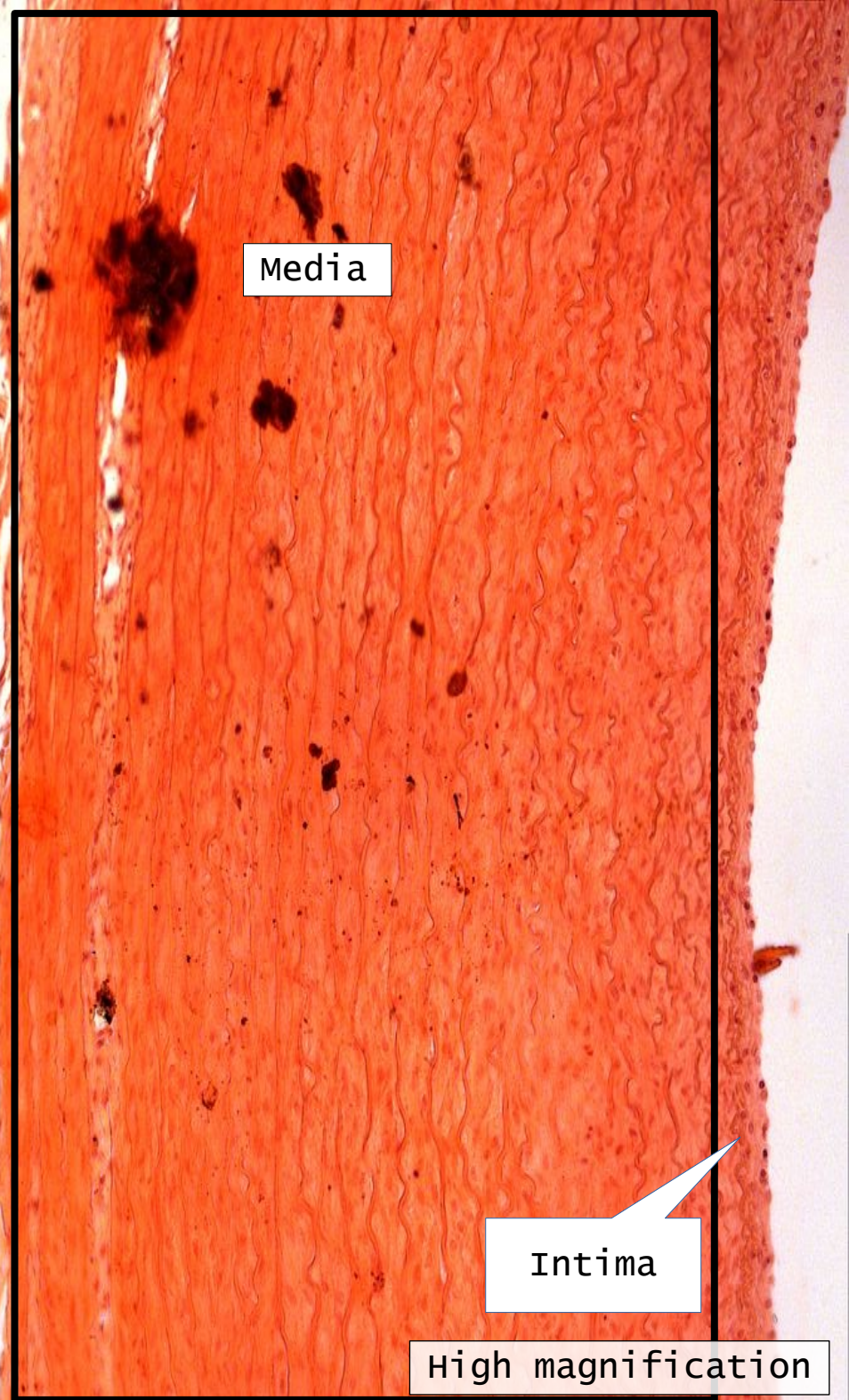
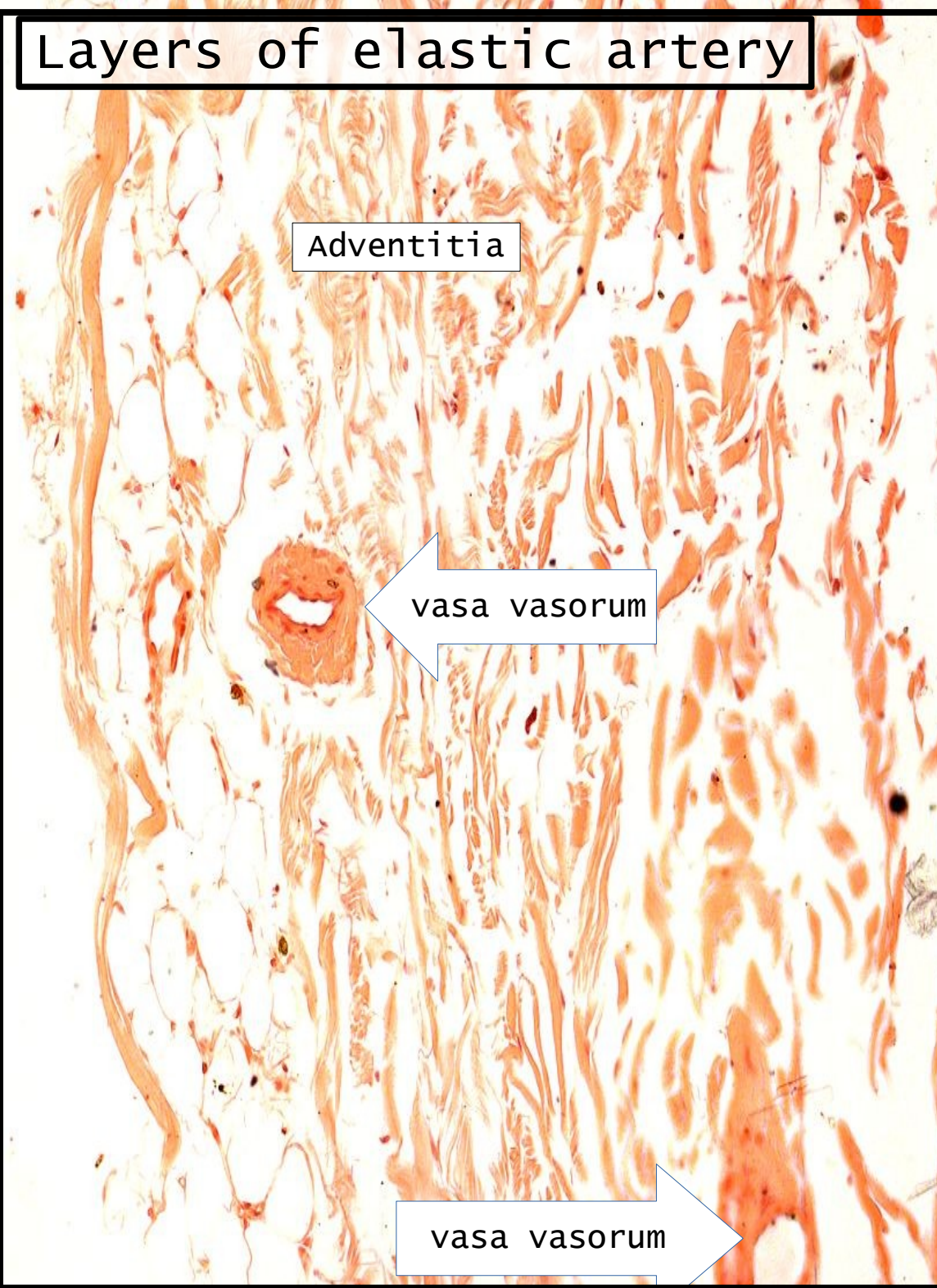
vasa vasorum

vasa vasorum

Media

Intima

High magnification



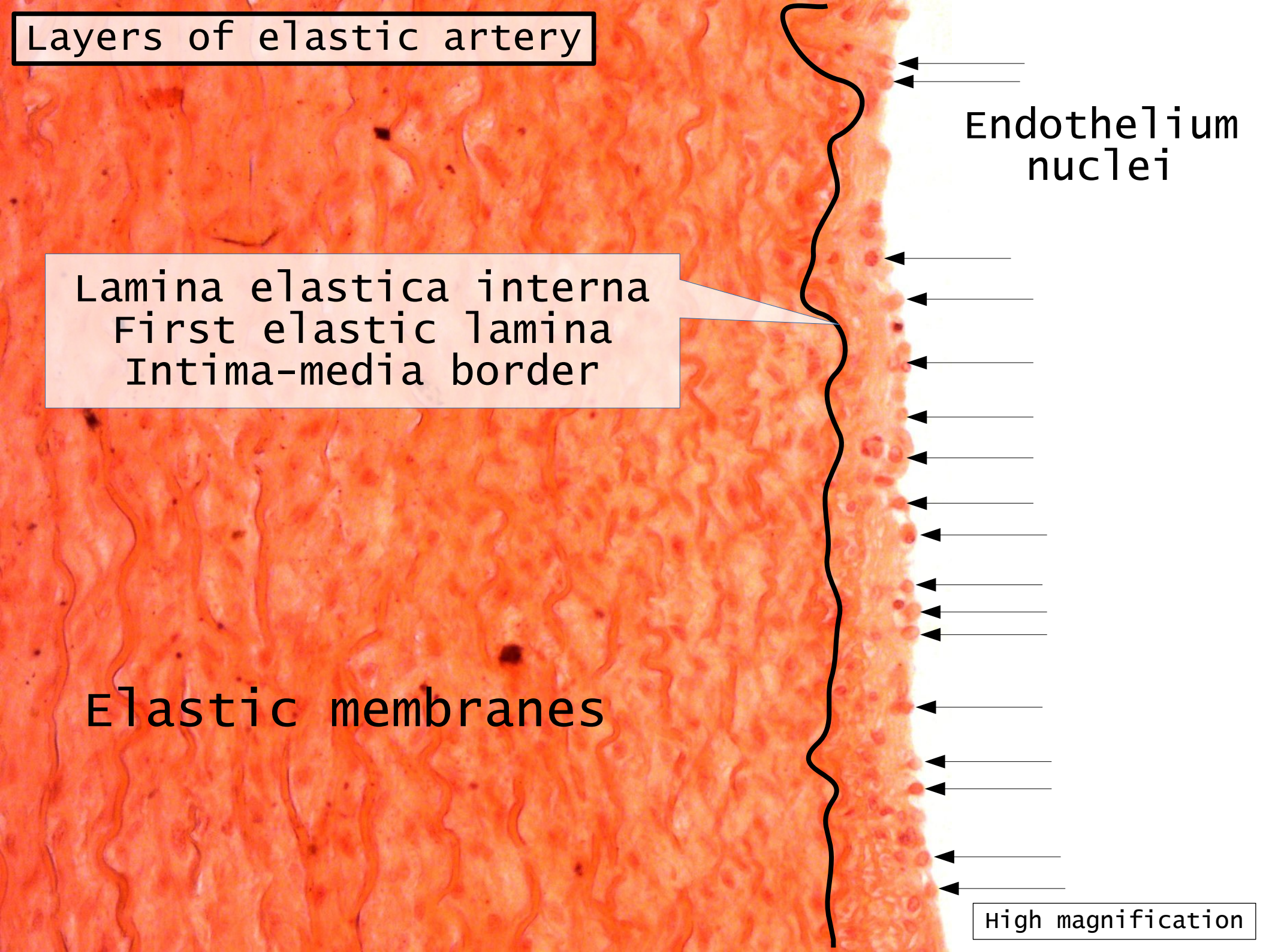
Layers of elastic artery

Endothelium  
nuclei

Lamina elastica interna  
First elastic lamina  
Intima-media border

Elastic membranes

High magnification



Blood vessels of blood vessels



vasa vasorum

The image shows a histological section of adipose tissue. The majority of the field is composed of large, pale, foamy adipocytes with thin, pink-stained cell membranes. In the upper left, there are two prominent blood vessels with thick, multi-layered walls. A white arrow points from the text 'vasa vasorum' to a smaller, circular vessel within the wall of the larger vessel. The overall appearance is that of a well-vascularized connective tissue structure.

adipose tissue  
collection of fat cells

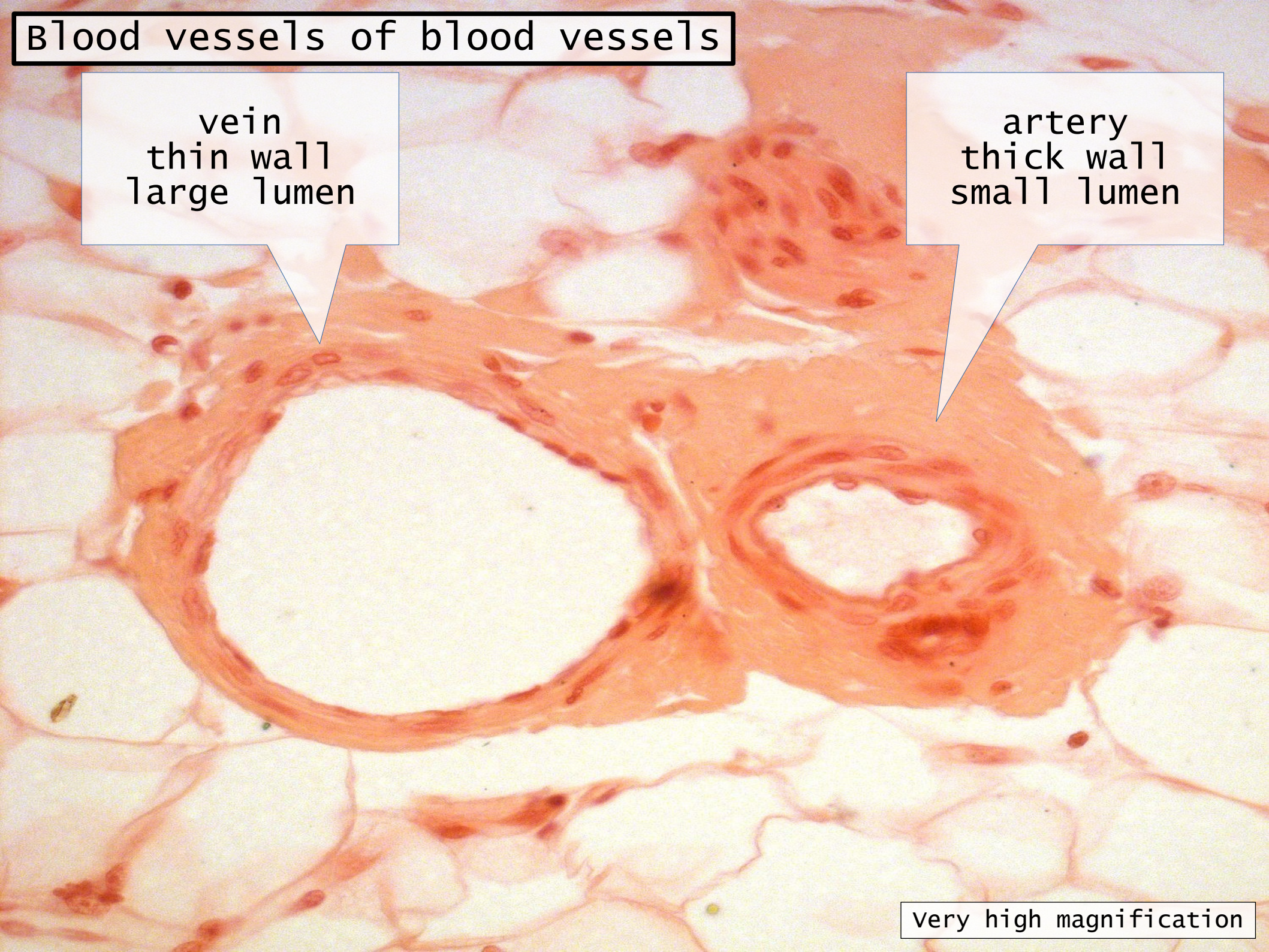
very high magnification

# Blood vessels of blood vessels

vein  
thin wall  
large lumen

artery  
thick wall  
small lumen

very high magnification



Resorcin fuchsin to show elastic fibres



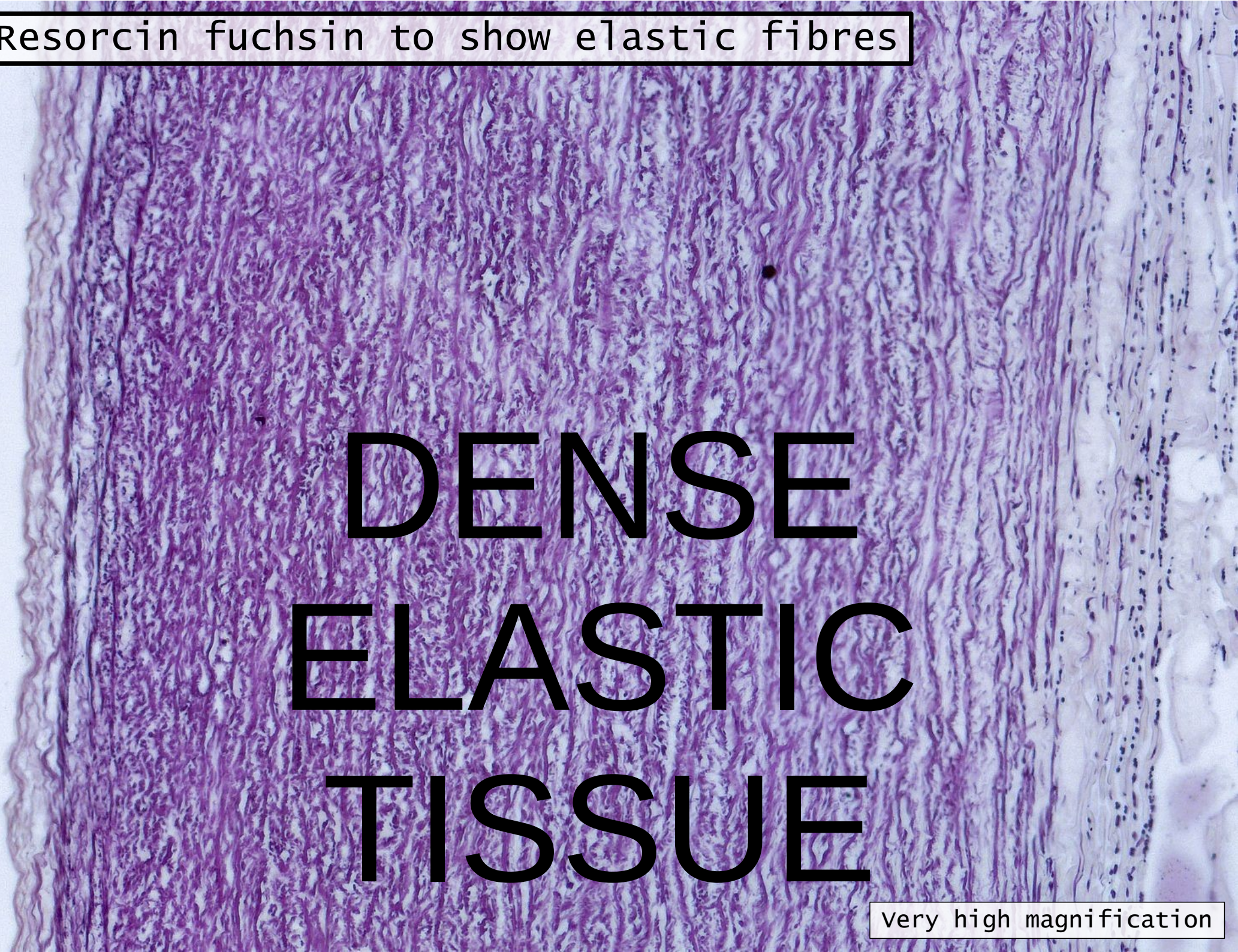
media

Medium magnification

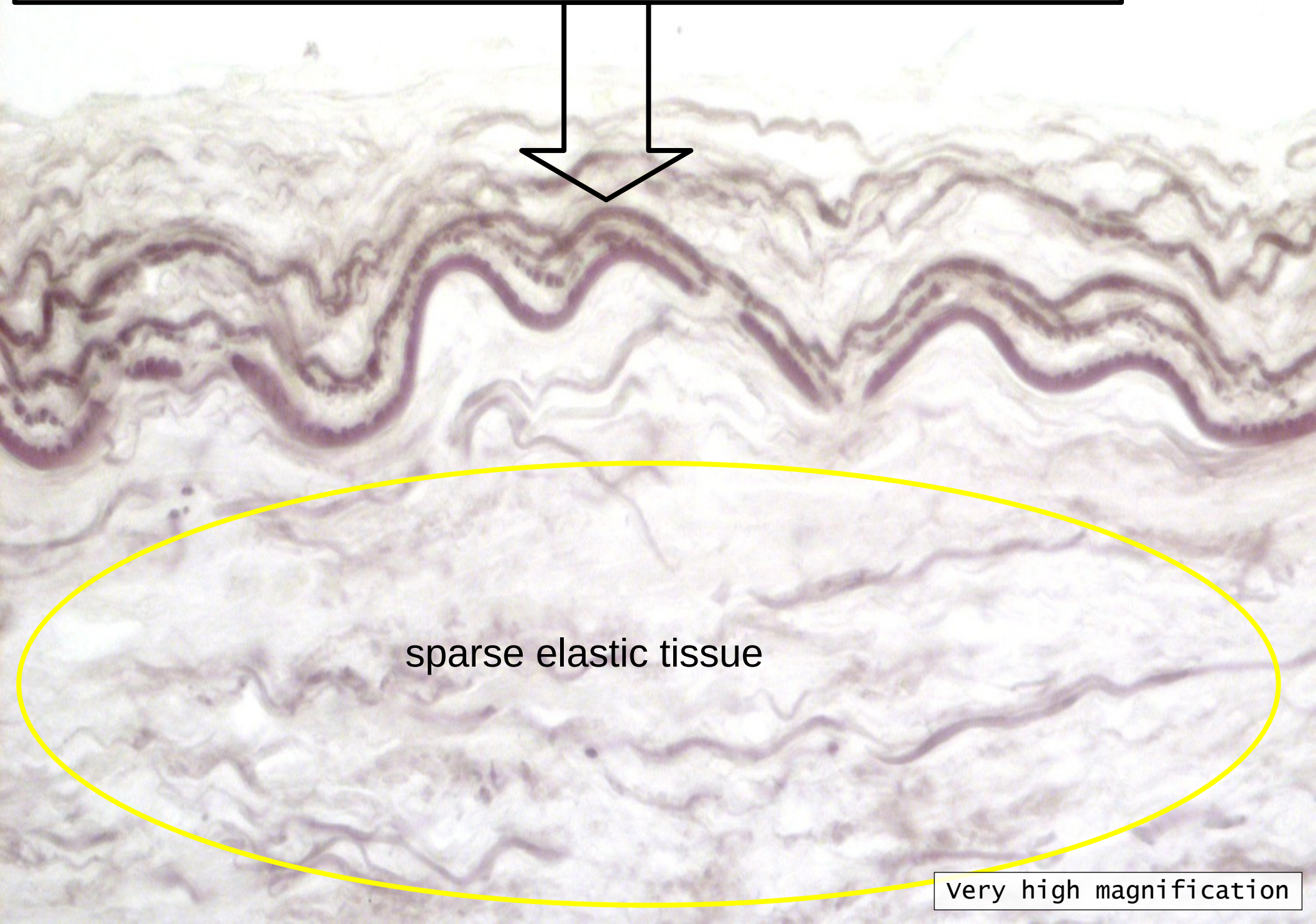
Resorcin fuchsin to show elastic fibres

# DENSE ELASTIC TISSUE

very high magnification



# Elastic fibre distribution in muscular artery

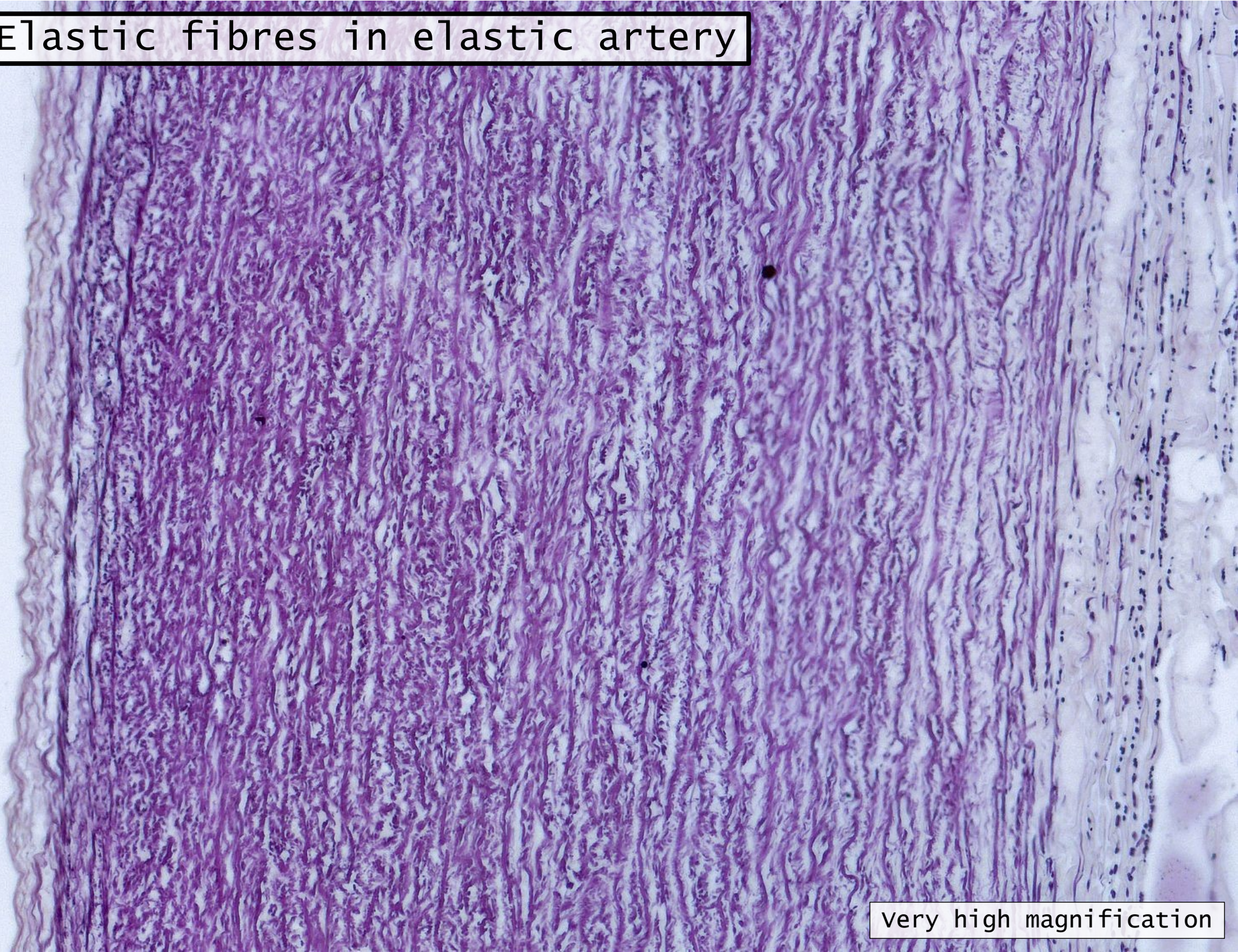


sparse elastic tissue

very high magnification



Elastic fibres in elastic artery



very high magnification

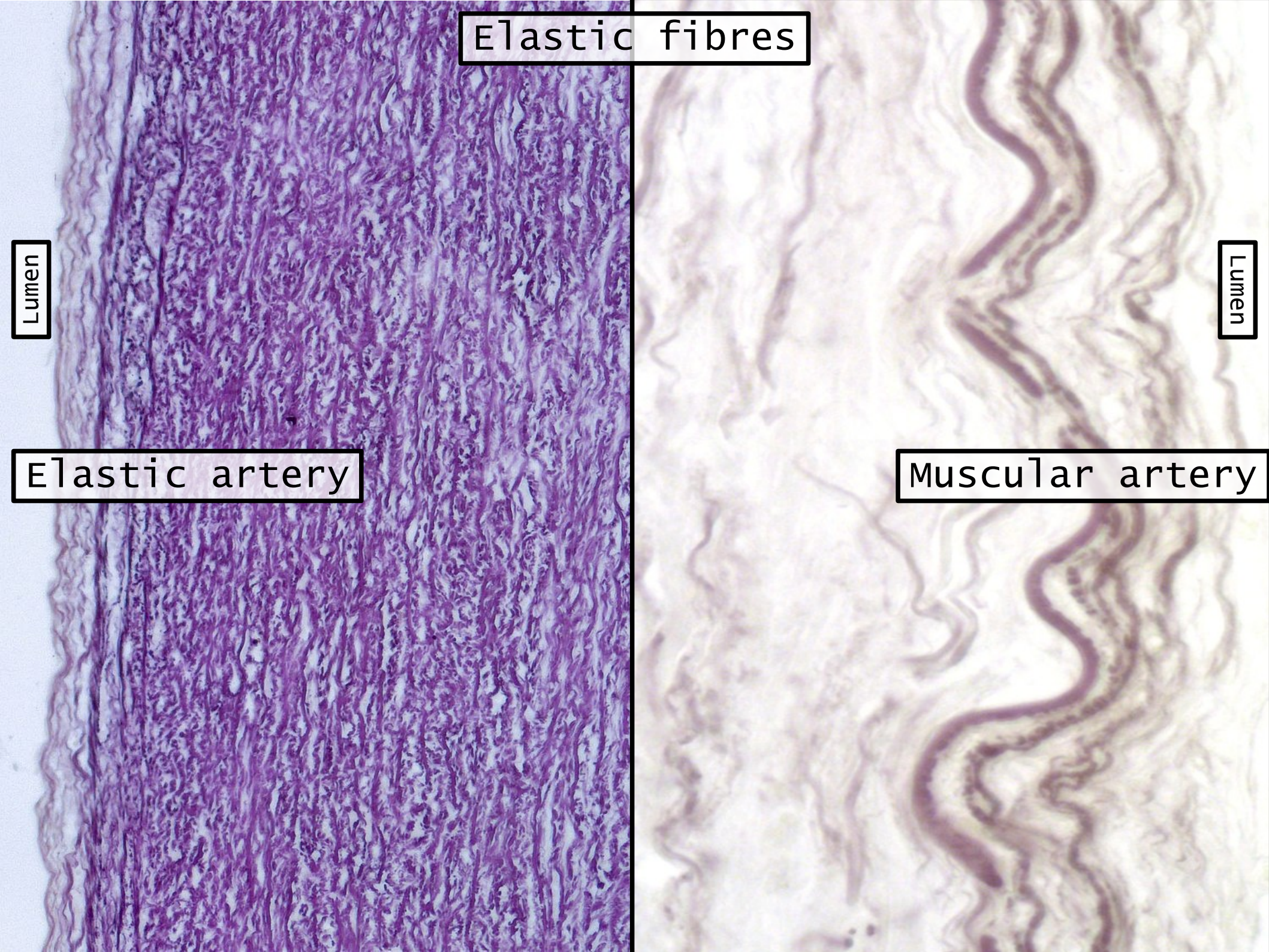
Elastic fibres

Lumen

Elastic artery

Lumen

Muscular artery



Capillaries

In context

# Capillaries

- Small thin walled diameter 8 – 10 $\mu$ m
- Slightly wider than red blood cells
- Intima
  - Lined with endothelium
  - Resting on BM
  - Lateral margins connected with tight junctions
  - Do not extend around entire perimeter
  - Slit-like intercellular clefts
  - Tissue fluid and small molecules can pass through
  - Brain: entire perimeter = blood-brain barrier with astrocytes
  - Scattered pericytes
  - Involved with blood-vessel growth
  - Endo+BM+Pericytes = tunica intima
- No Media
- Adventitia with little CT

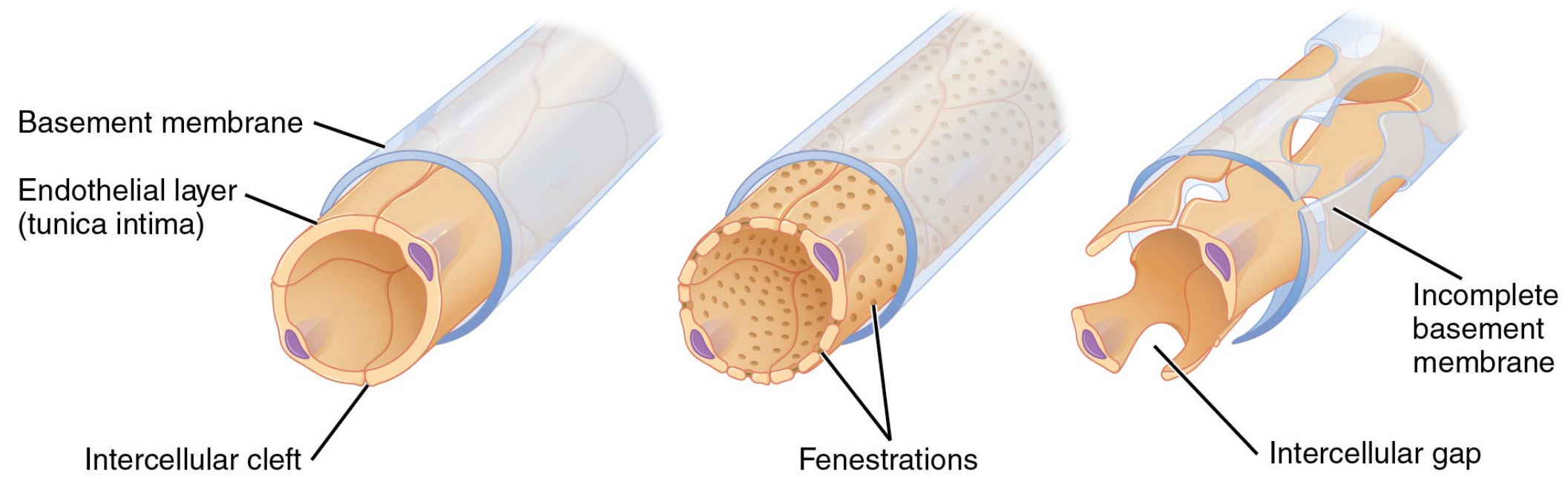
# Capillaries

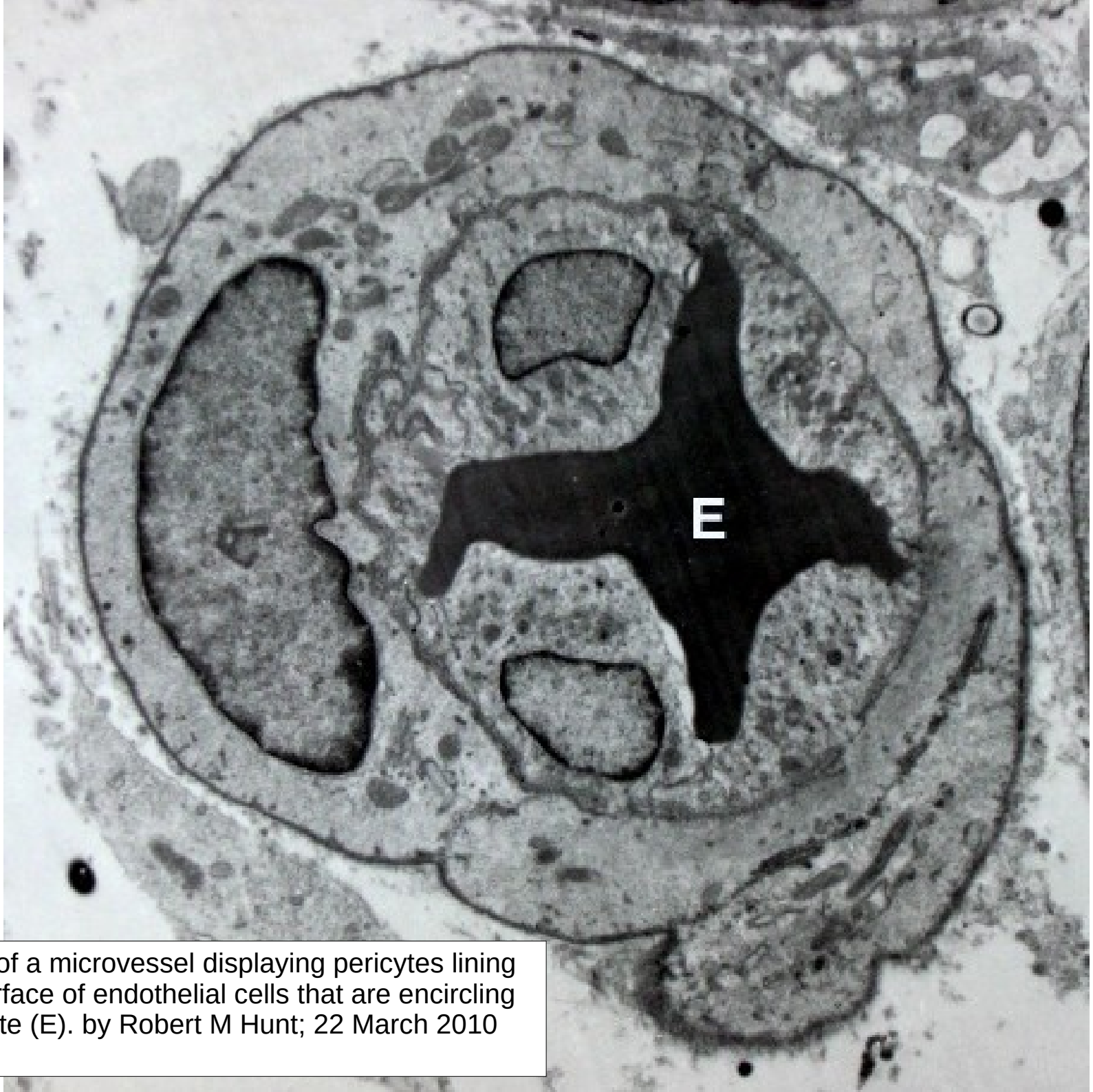
- Three types
- Continuous
  - Most parts
  - Endothelium uninterrupted
  - Allow passage water and ions and small molecules
- Fenestrated
  - Circular fenestrations (windows) in cytoplasm
  - More permeable varies according to location
  - Larger molecules
  - Small intestine, kidneys, endocrine organs
- Sinusoids
  - Thin-walled with wide lumen
  - Associated population of macrophages
  - Extensive intercellular gaps
  - Incomplete BM
  - Large molecules can pass
  - Plasma proteins and cells
  - Bone marrow, liver, spleen, lymph nodes, endocrine organs

**Continuous**

**Fenestrated**

**Sinusoid**



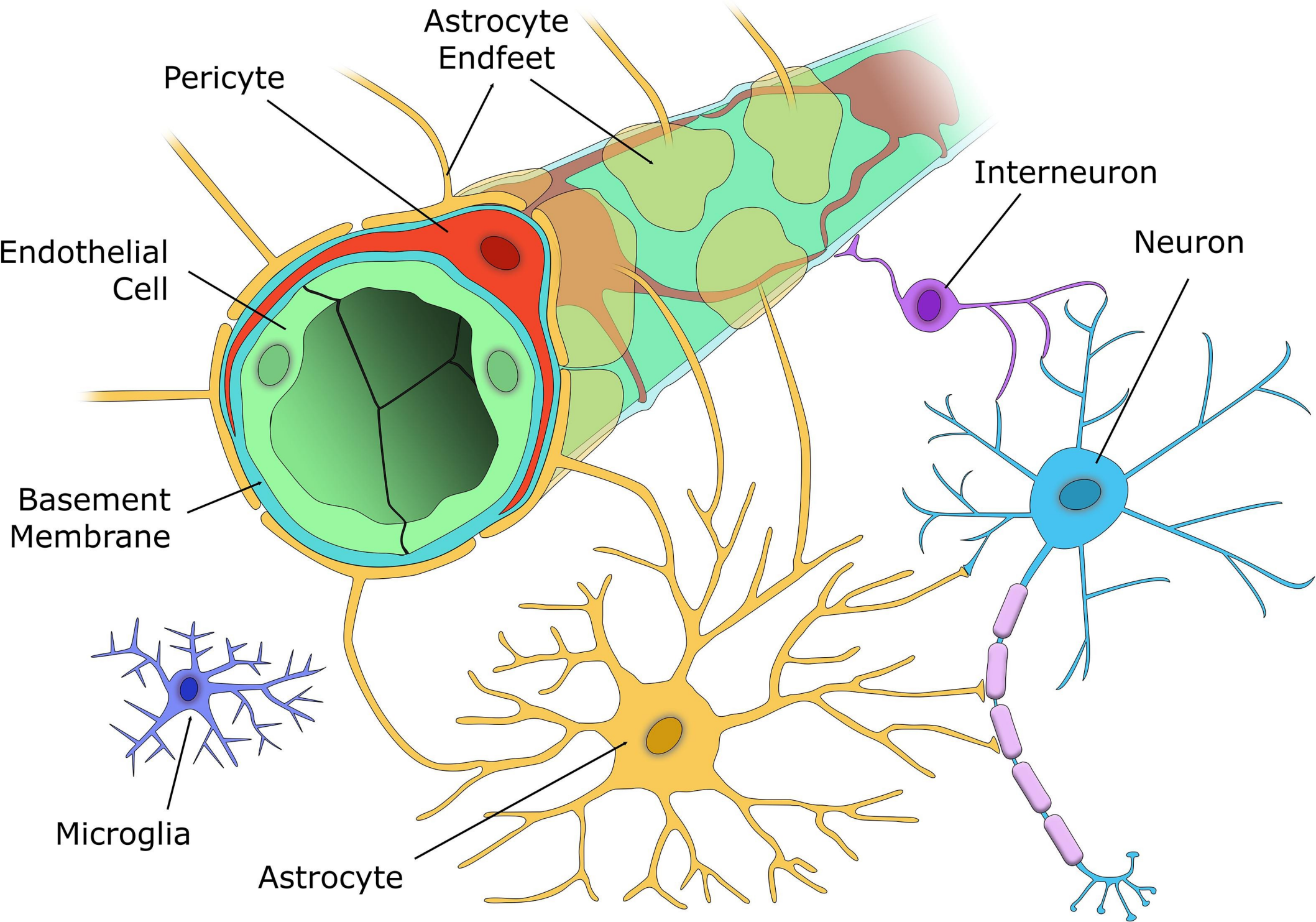


TEM image of a microvessel displaying pericytes lining the outer surface of endothelial cells that are encircling an erythrocyte (E). by Robert M Hunt; 22 March 2010  
CC-A 3.0

TEM image of a capillary in the the pancreas. There is a red blood cell within the capillary. The capillary lining consists of long, thin endothelial cells, connected by tight junctions. The image shows fenestration of these endothelial cells.

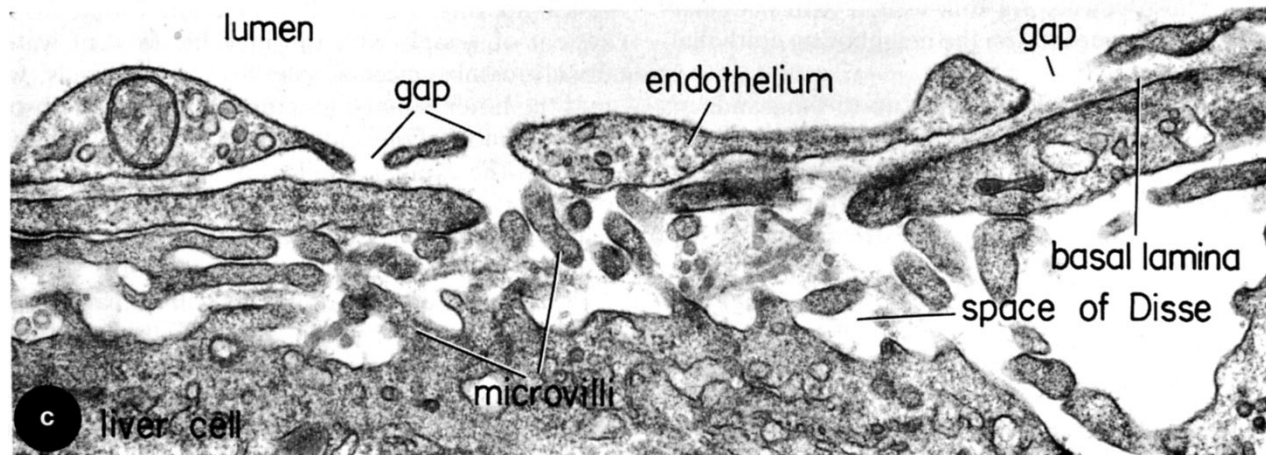
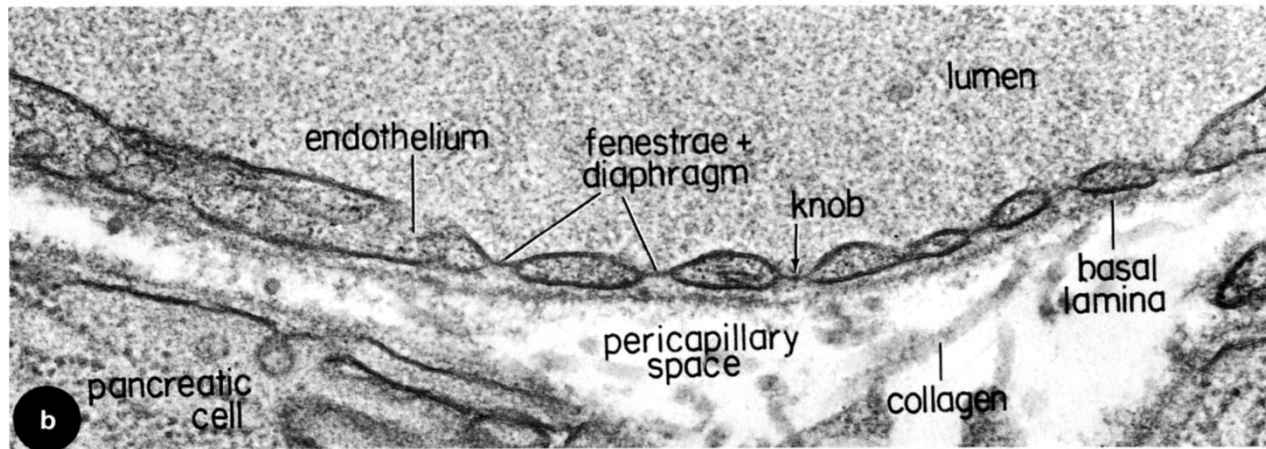
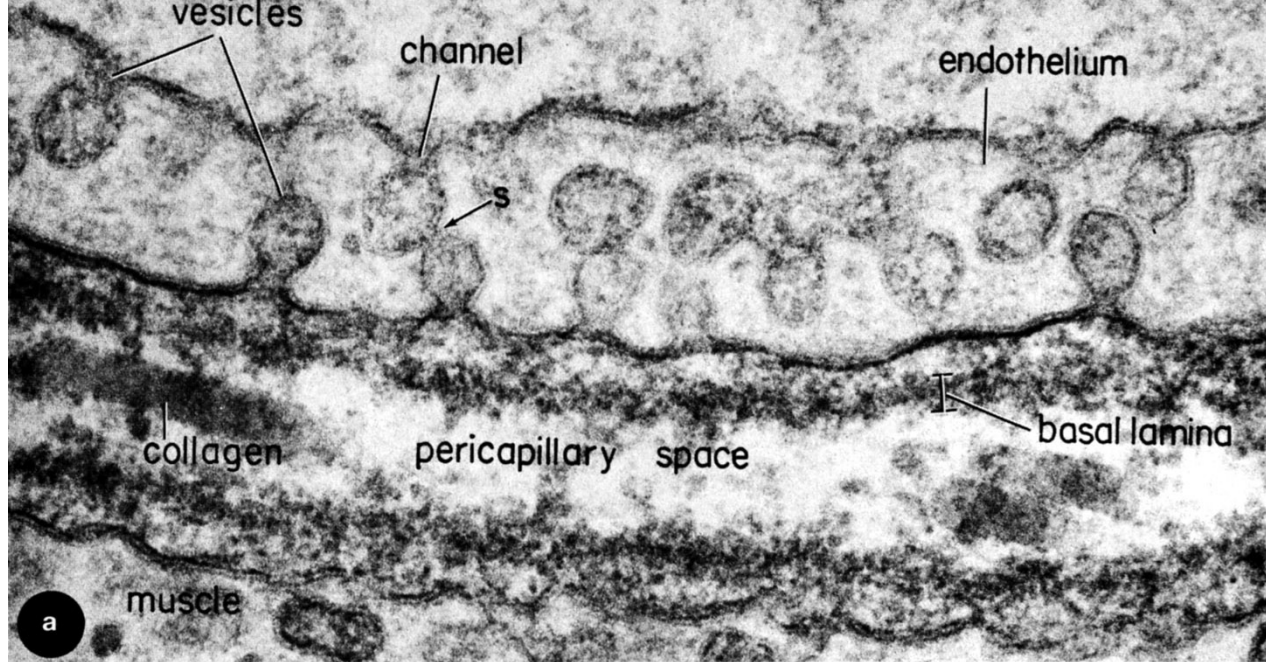






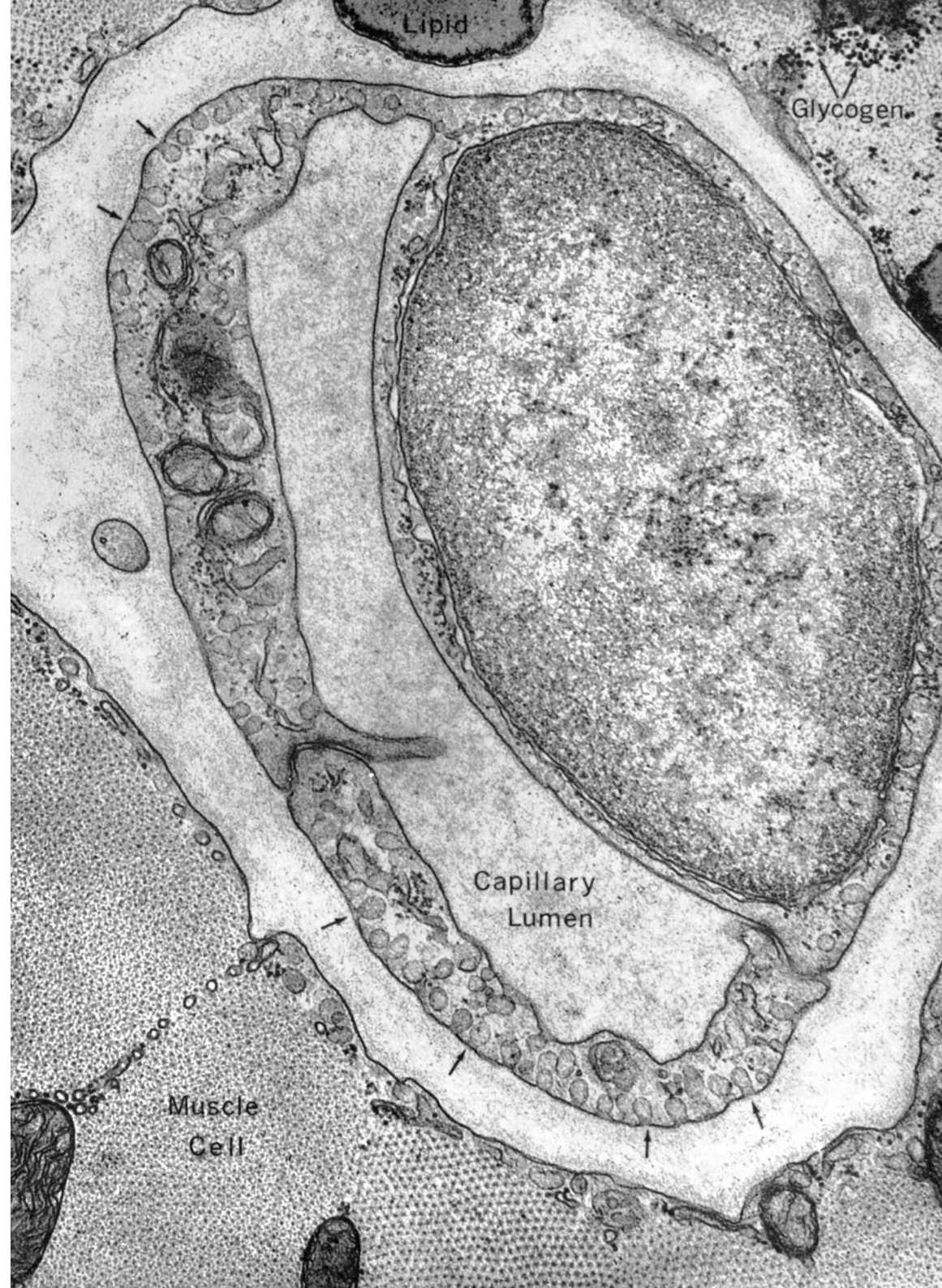
Three types of blood capillaries are differentiated by the continuity of the endothelial cell and the basal lamina. A, continuous capillary; b, fenestrated capillary; c, discontinuous capillary (sinusoid). Rat diaphragm, pancreas and liver, respectively.

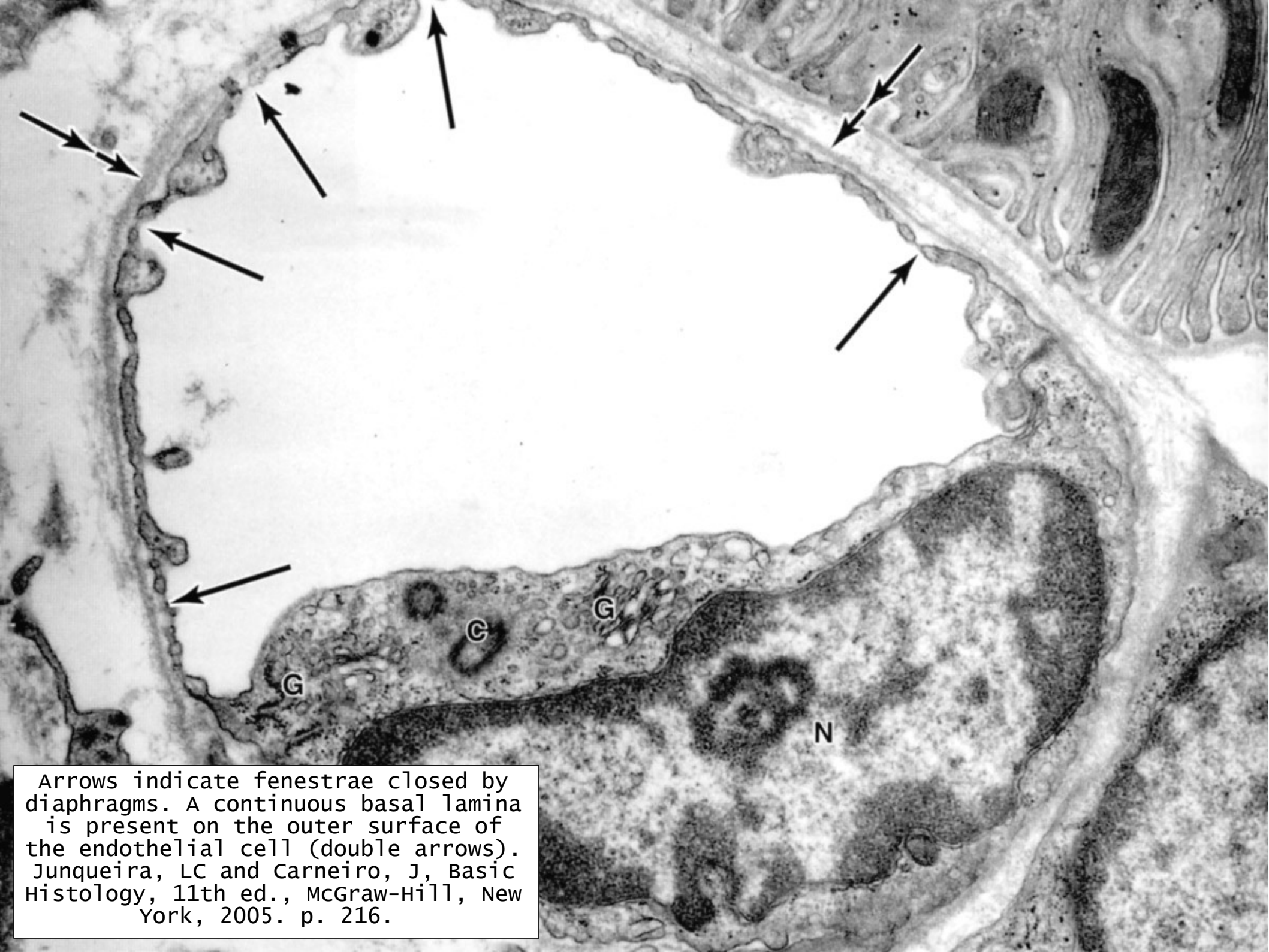
Weiss, L. ed., Cell and Tissue Biology, 6th ed., Urban & Schwarzenberg, Baltimore, 1988, p. 381.



Endothelial cells of continuous capillaries are joined by tight junctions and a continuous basal lamina.

Fawcett DW, The Cell: An Atlas of Fine Structure, WB Saunders, Philadelphia, 1966, p. 403.

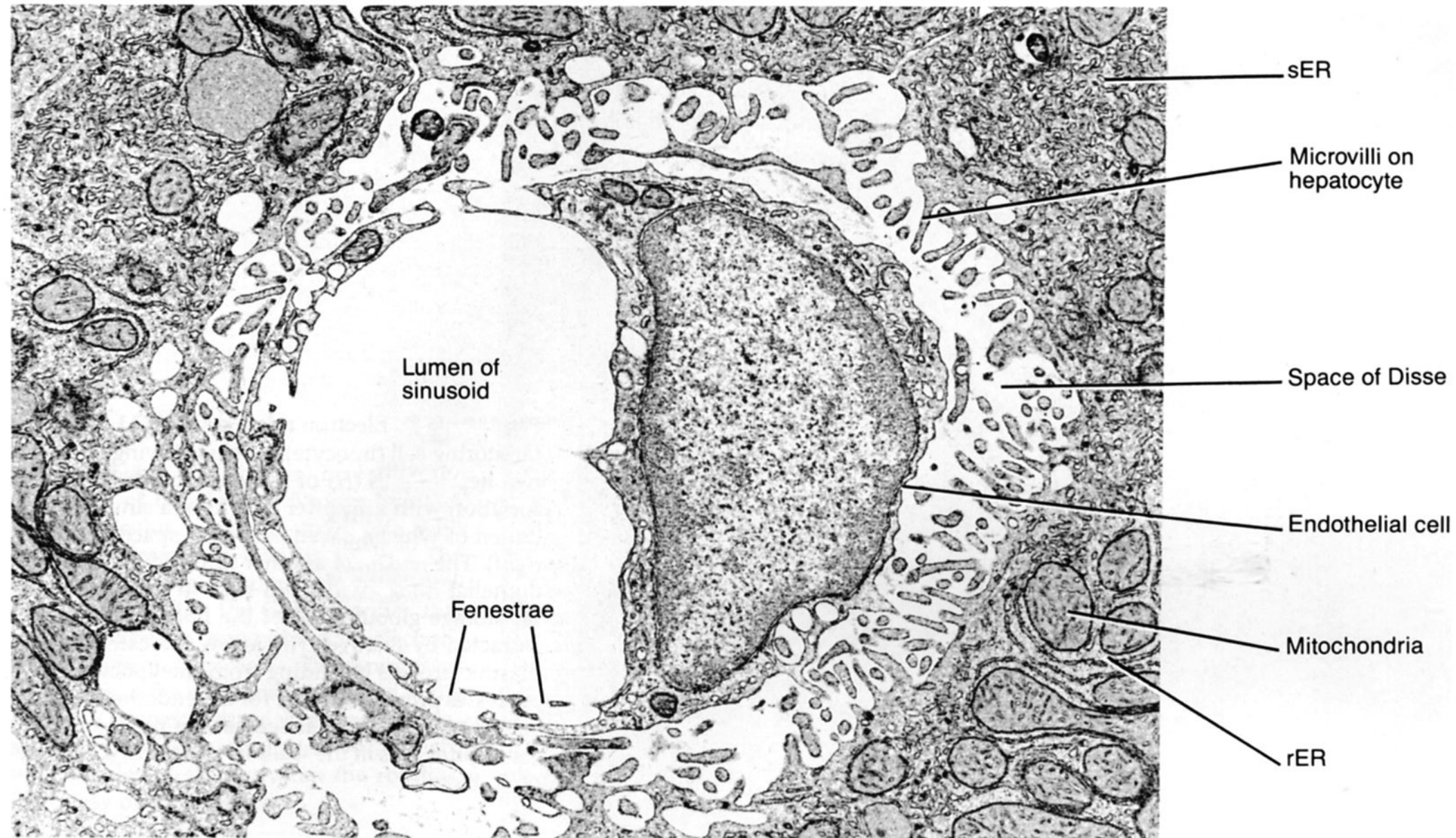




Arrows indicate fenestrae closed by diaphragms. A continuous basal lamina is present on the outer surface of the endothelial cell (double arrows). Junqueira, LC and Carneiro, J, Basic Histology, 11th ed., McGraw-Hill, New York, 2005. p. 216.

Open fenestrae are visible in the endothelial cell cytoplasm of the liver sinusoid.

Cormack, D.H. Ham's Histology, 9th ed., Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1987, p. 531.

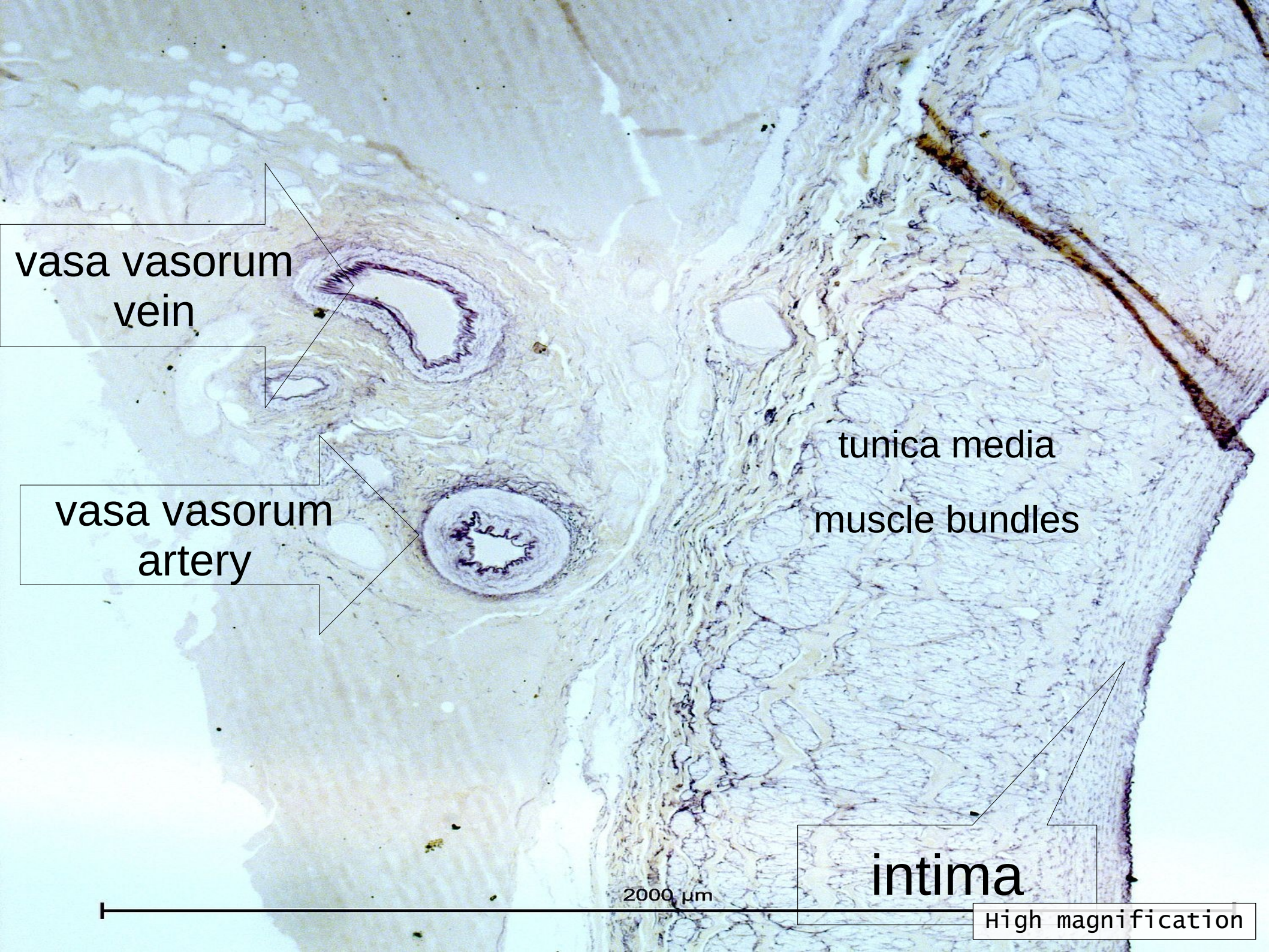


Large Vein

Slides 92 & 109



very low magnification



vasa vasorum  
vein

vasa vasorum  
artery

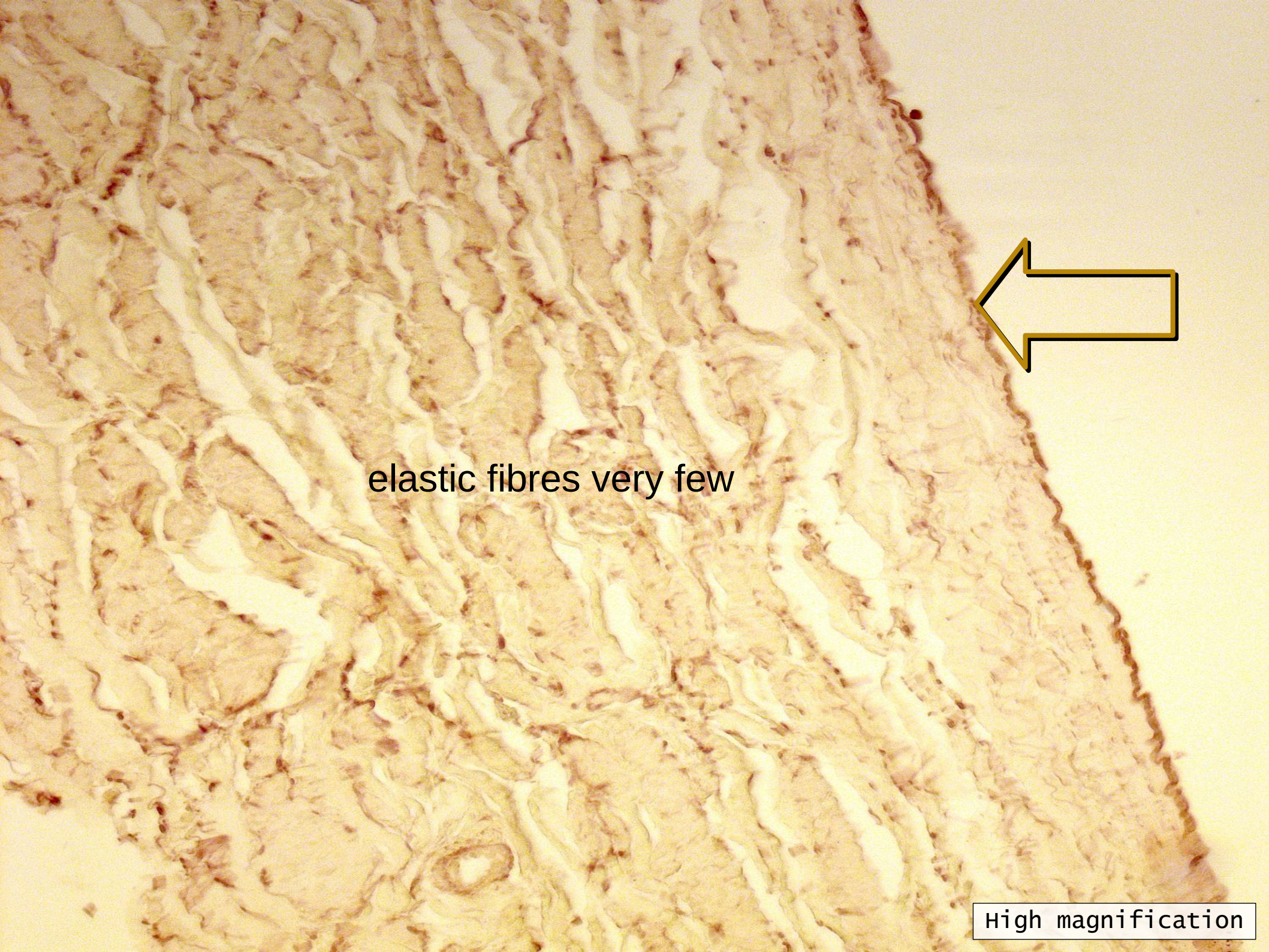
tunica media  
muscle bundles

intima

2000  $\mu$ m

High magnification





elastic fibres very few

High magnification

Ductus thoracicus

slide 65 & 75

# Lymphatic Capillaries

- Lined with endothelium
- BM incomplete or absent
- Allows macromolecules to enter
- No associated pericytes
- wider than blood capillaries
  - Collagen anchors in surrounding tissue
  - Keep vessels open with oedema

# Lymphatic Vessels

- No blood cells in lumen
- Similar to small and medium veins
- Endothelium
- Thin external coat of loose CT
- Medium and large lymphatics 3 coats
- Difficult to distinguish layers
- Intima
  - Endothelium and elastic fibres
- Media and Adventitia
  - Smooth muscle cells and CT fibres

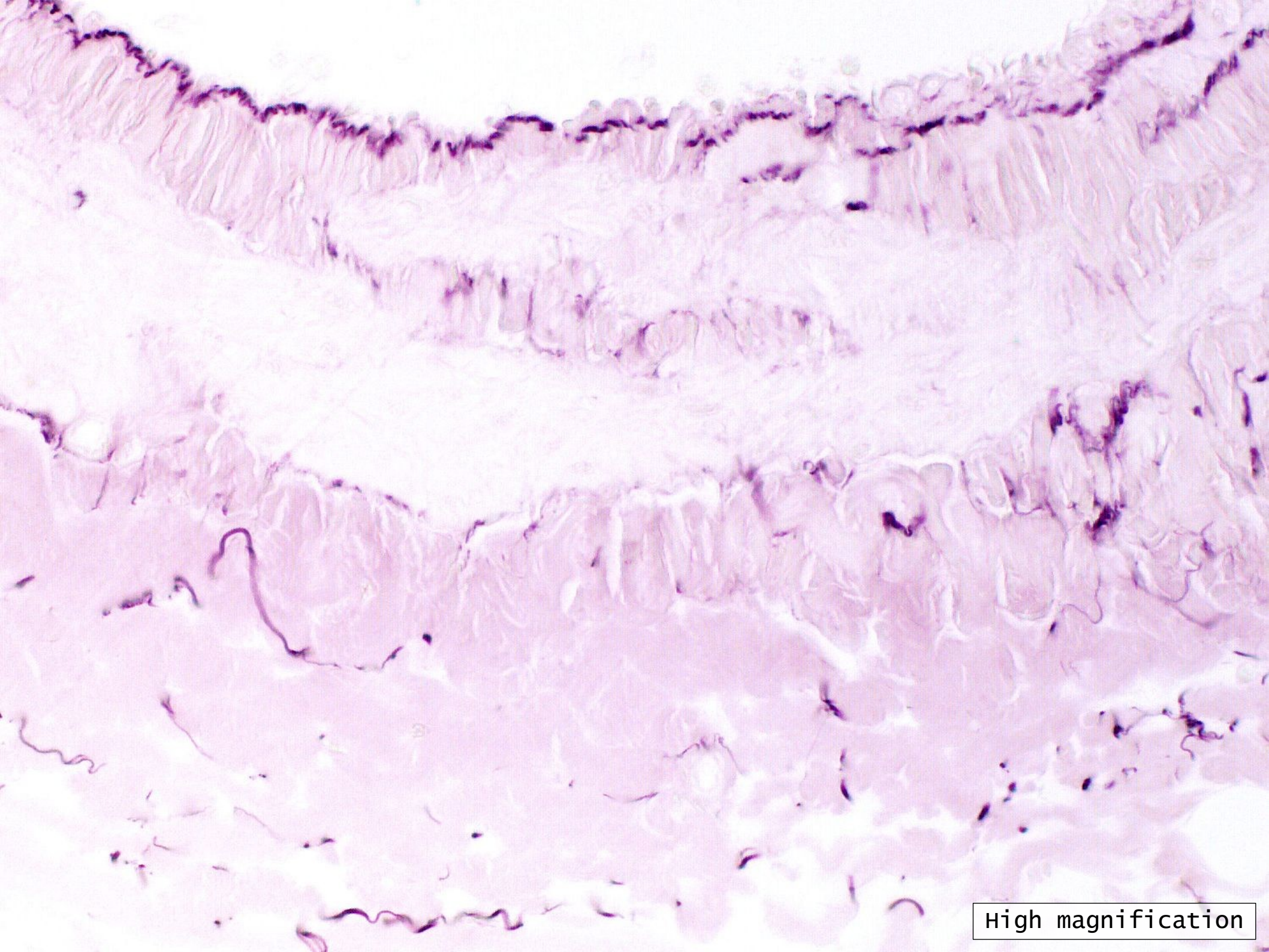


very low magnification

A histological micrograph of smooth muscle tissue. The image shows numerous elongated, spindle-shaped cells with a pinkish hue. These cells are arranged in a disorganized, interwoven pattern, which is characteristic of smooth muscle. The nuclei are small, dark, and often located near the periphery of the cells. The overall appearance is dense and lacks the regular, parallel arrangement seen in skeletal muscle.

Smooth muscle fibres – irregular arrangement

High magnification



High magnification

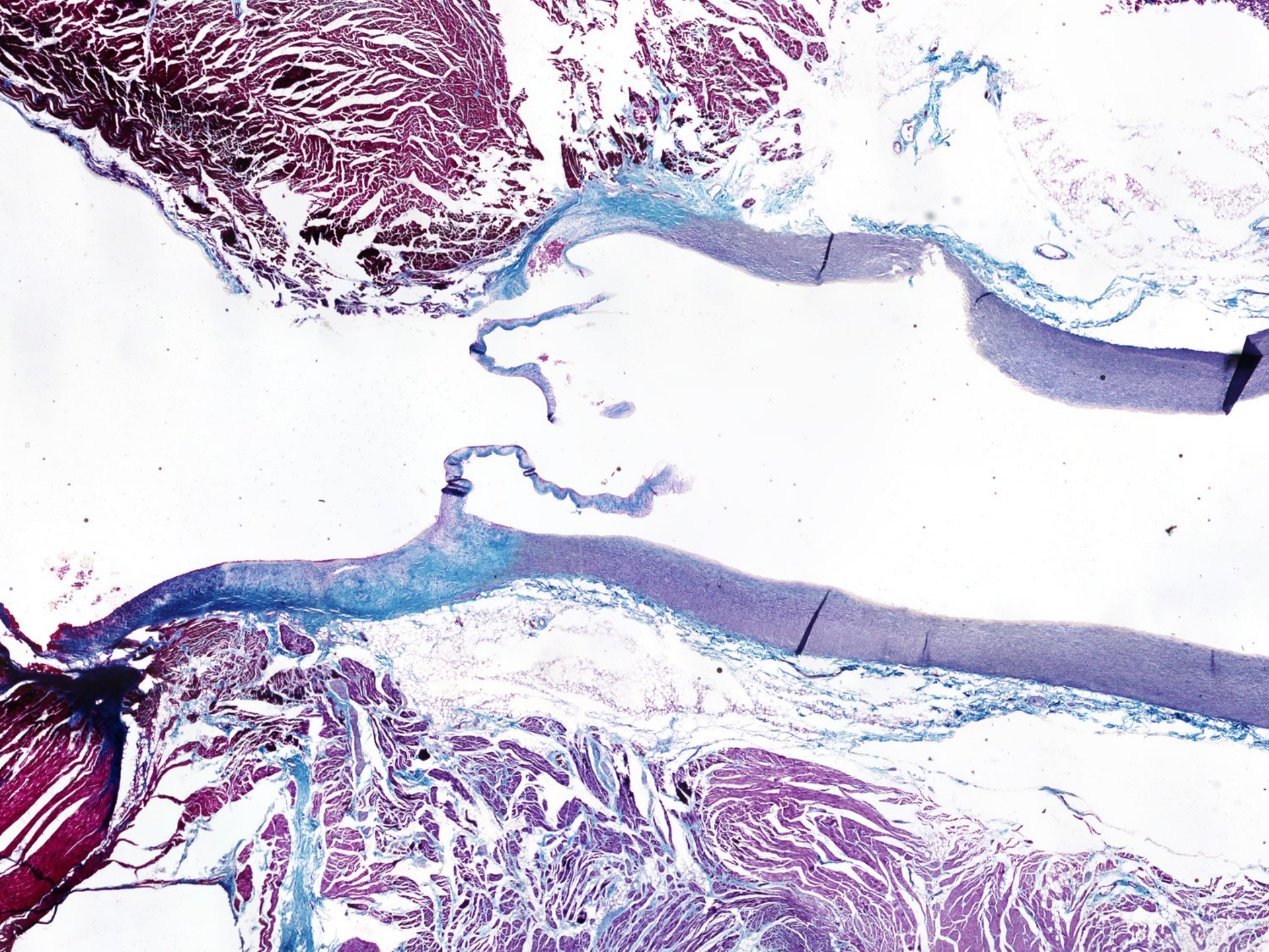
valve

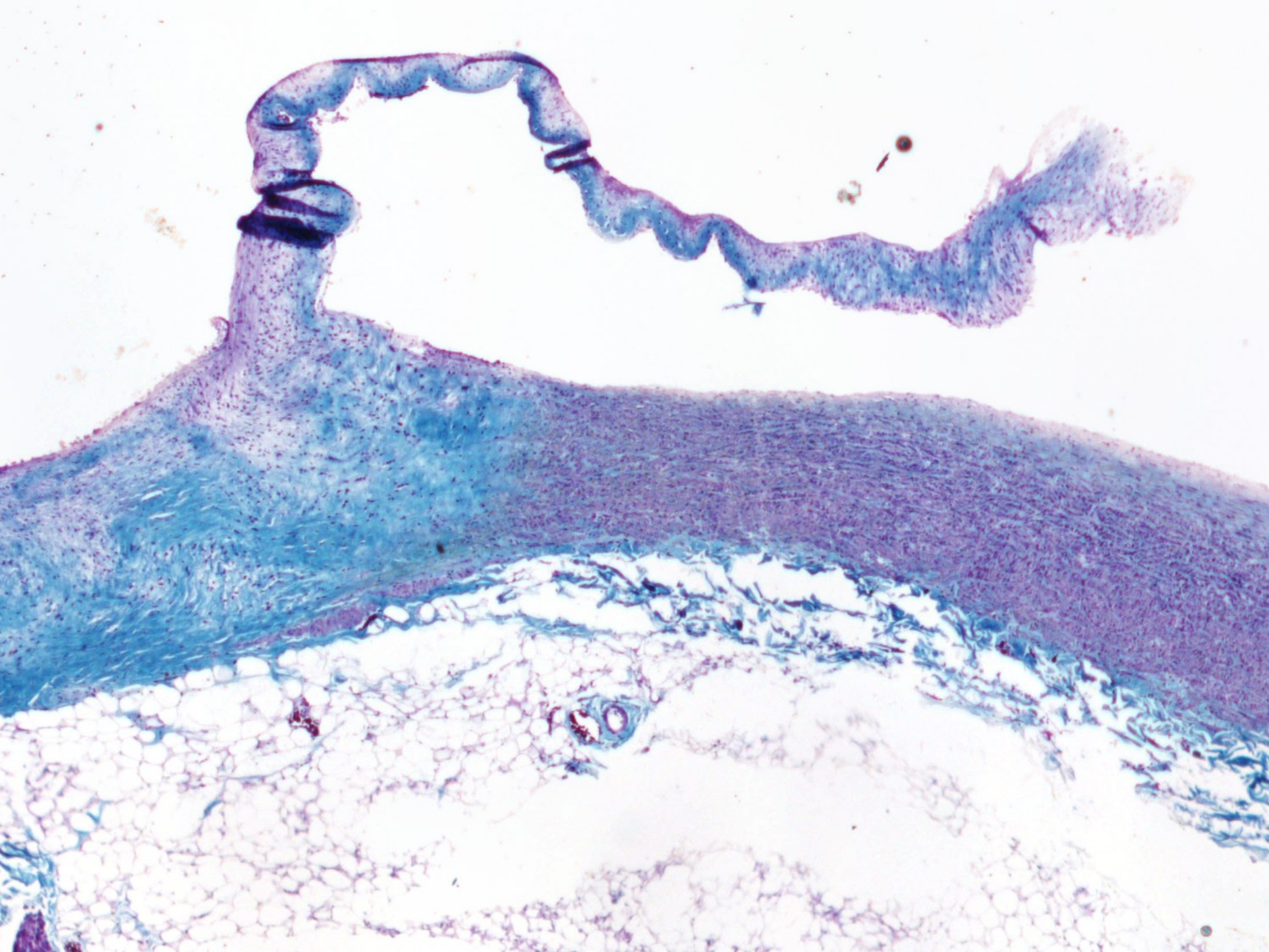
slide 47



# valves

- Flap of intima
- Core
- Irregular dense CT
- without blood vessels
- Some elastic fibers
- Covered with endothelium





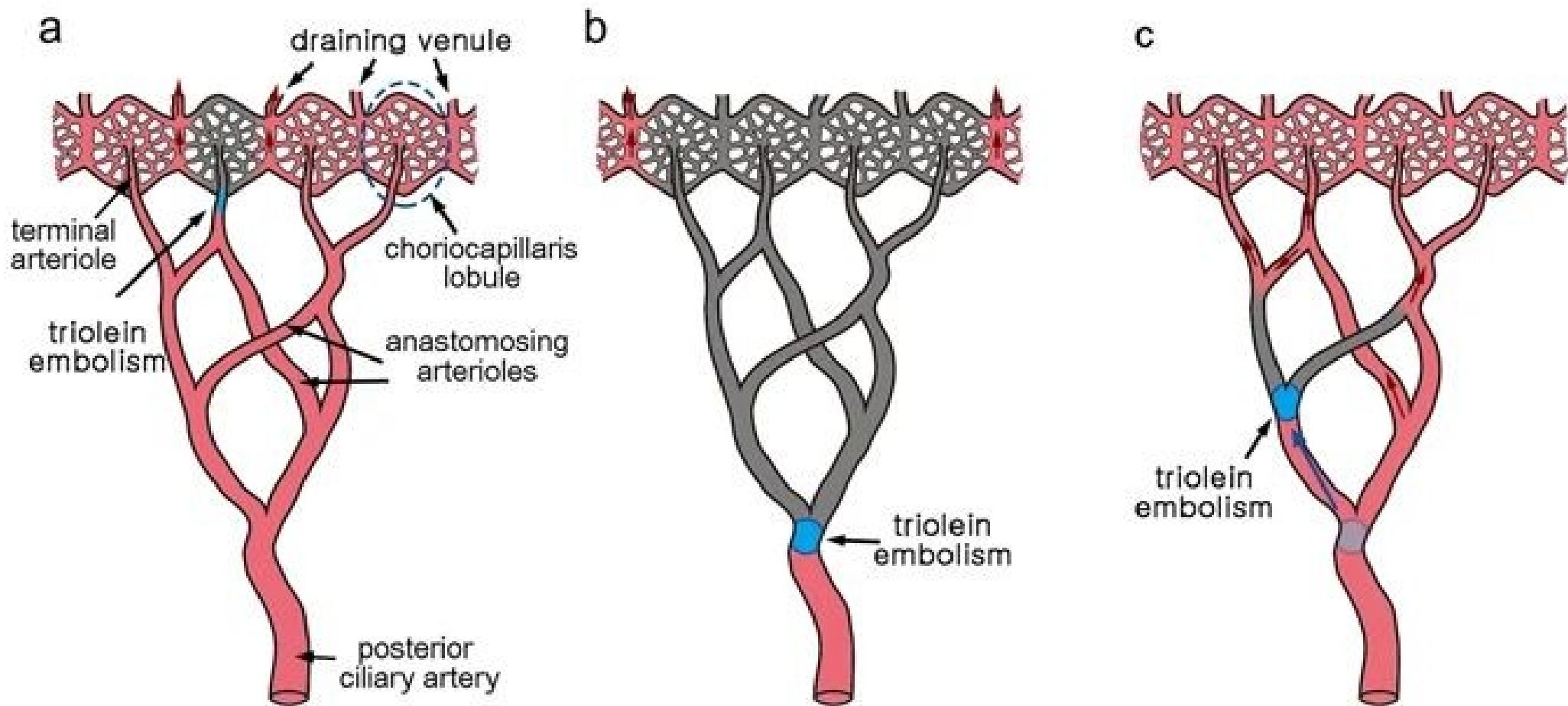
what are end arteries?

## End-arteries

- Single small artery
- Sole source of blood supply
- To a specific tissue or organ
- Do not anastomose
- Exclusive supplier of blood to a defined vascular area
- Obstruction compromise blood supply
- Damage – ischaemia

A functional end-arterial model of the choroidal circulation.

From Lee, J.E., Ahn, K.S., Park, K.H. et al. Functional end-arterial circulation of the choroid assessed by using fat embolism and electric circuit simulation. *Sci Rep* 7, 2490 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-02695-z> CC-A 4.0



## End arteries

- Heart
- Brain
- Eye
- Kidney

## End artery

- Heart - Heart attack
- Brain - Stroke
- Eye - Blindness
- Kidney - Kidney ~~attack~~ failure

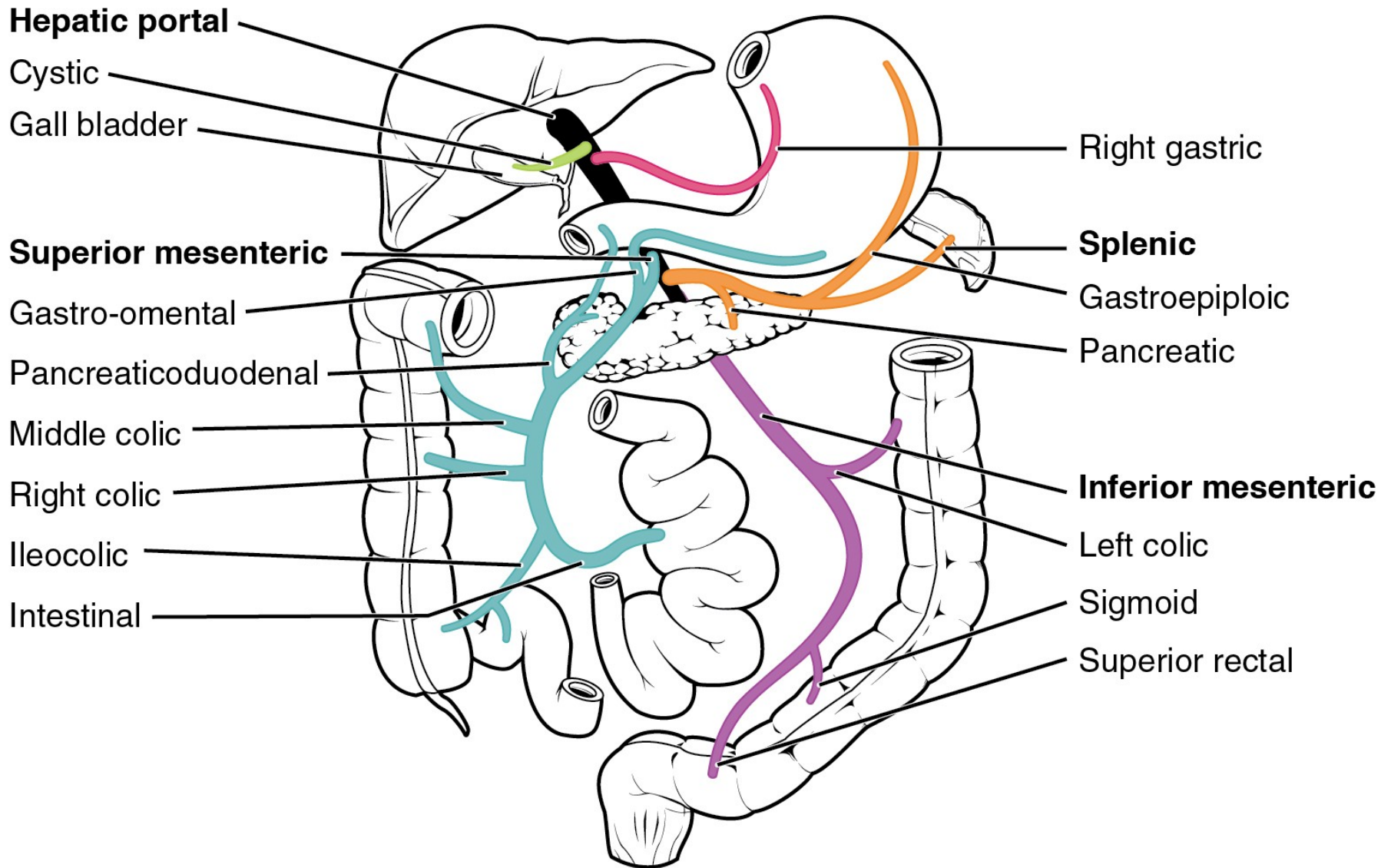


Portal System

Begin and Ends  
In capillaries

Figure 20.43 Hepatic Portal System. The liver receives blood from the normal systemic circulation via the hepatic artery. It also receives and processes blood from other organs, delivered via the veins of the hepatic portal system.

Anatomy and Physiology 25 April 2013; OpenStax; Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0;  
<https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology/pages/20-5-circulatory-pathways>



# Portal system

- Hepatic portal system
- Hypophyseal portal system

# Cardiovascular System

Complete the Tasks

Tasks are in Red Blocks

Arteries + Veins + Lymph vessels

Cardiac muscle - revision

# workbook

- You
  - Complete the tasks for each slide
  - Upload as PDF to clickUP
  - Attend next session
- Me
  - Review your submissions
  - Clarify and expand in next session
  - Compulsory

# Contact Sessions

- 15 January 2024
  - Lecture - Prof N Oberholzer
- 17 & 17 January 2024
- OR
- 23 & 24 January 2024
  - Slides review Room 6-30 BMS Building

# Respiratory System

