# Cellular Adaptations and accumulations



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## **Cellular** adaptation

- Cellular adaptation is the ability of cells to respond to various types of stimuli and adverse environmental changes.
- Tissues adapt differently depending on the replicative characteristics of the cells that make up the tissue.
- These changes usually make it easier for cells to tolerate adverse environments.
- Persistent stress can lead to cell injury.

- Changes experienced by cells in response to <u>physiological</u> stimuli such as:
- increased muscular mass after exercising.
- increased number of epithelial breast cells during pregnancy.







Barett esophagus due to chronic gastric acid exposure stimuli





# 1. Hypertrophy

 Increased tissue size via enlargement of cells (due to an increase in organelles and structural proteins).

- Physiological hypertrophy
- / Increased muscle mass through sport
- Uterus enlargement due to hormonal changes
- Pathological hypertrophy:
- hypertrophic cardiomyopathy due to arterial hypertension

•Uterus enlargement due to hormonal changes



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Physiologic hypertrophy of the uterus during pregnancy. A, Gross appearance of a normal uterus (right) and a gravid uterus (left). B, Small spindle-shaped uterine smooth muscle cells from a normal uterus (left) compared with large plump cells in gravid uterus (right).

#### hypertrophic cardiomyopathy due to arterial hypertension



# 2. Hyperplasia

- Controlled proliferation in form of elevated reproduction rate of stem cells and differentiated cells → increased cell number → increased tissue mass.
- Hyperplasia takes place if the tissue contains cell populations capable of replication.
- may occur concurrently with hypertrophy
- Hyperplasia can be physiologic or pathologic; in both situations, cellular proliferation is stimulated by growth factors that are produced by a variety of cell types.

#### Types of physiologic hyperplasia are

#### (1) Hormonal hyperplasia:

the proliferation of the glandular epithelium of the female breast at puberty & during pregnancy.

#### (2) Compensatory hyperplasia:

residual tissue grows after damage or resection of part of an organ. (part of a liver is resected  $\rightarrow$  mitotic activity in the remaining cells begins as early as 12 hours later, eventually restoring the liver to its normal size.

This process is stimulated by growth factors produced by uninjured hepatocytes After restoration of the liver mass, various growth inhibitors turn off cell proliferation.

#### Pathologic hyperplasia

Caused by excessive hormonal or growth factor stimulation.

E.g. Normally, after a normal menstrual period there is a burst of uterine epithelial proliferation (tightly regulated by the stimulatory effects of pituitary hormones and ovarian estrogen and the inhibitory effects of progesterone)

A **disturbance** in this balance  $\rightarrow$  increased estrogenic stimulation  $\rightarrow$  endometrial hyperplasia, (a common cause of abnormal menstrual bleeding).

# 3. Atrophy

- Atrophy is shrinkage in the size of cells by the loss of cell substance, at which survival is still possible.
- If a sufficient number of cells are involved, the entire tissue or organ is reduced in size (atrophic).
  - Atrophic cells may have diminished function, they are not dead.

# 3. Atrophy

- Atrophy may be caused by <u>physiological stimuli</u>:
- loss of hormone stimulation in menopause:

- OR pathologic :
- denervation.
- decreased workload during immobilization of a limb to permit healing of a fracture.
- diminished blood supply
- inadequate nutrition
- but the fundamental cellular changes are similar.

- The process of cellular atrophy results from a combination of:
- (1) decreased protein synthesis: reduced metabolic activity.
- (2) increased protein degradation.

#### 4. Metaplasia

- As a response to chronic stress, stem cells get reprogrammed into another type of epithelium (e.g., squamous metaplasia) that is more tolerable to the adverse environment.
- May completely regress or lead to a persistent insult and malignant transformation (dysplasia; considered precancerous)



- In the respiratory epithelium of cigarette smokers the normal ciliated columnar epithelial cells of the trachea and bronchi → metaplasia → stratified squamous epithelial cells.
- The rugged stratified squamous epithelium can survive the noxious chemicals in cigarette smoke that columnar epithelium would not tolerate.
- Metaplasia here has survival advantages, but important protective mechanisms are lost, such as mucus secretion and ciliary clearance.



## 5. Dysplasia

- Dysplasia is an unequivocal neoplastic transformation of the epithelial cells that is confined within the basement membrane of the metaplastic glandular tissue within which it arises.
- Dysplasia is a precursor lesion to invasive carcinoma



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#### Intracellular Accumulations

Accumulation of abnormal amounts of various substances under some circumstances, can be harmless or cause varying degrees of injury.

Synthesized by the affected cells or it may be produced elsewhere





## 1. Fatty liver

- Caused by different causes like starvation or alcohol.
- Grossly: Greasy appearance.
- Microscopic: fat vacuoles accumulation.



#### 2. Atherosclerosis

Accumulation of cholesterol plaques in intimal layers of aorta and large vessels.





#### 3. Xanthoma

Accumulation of fat in macrophages in the skin





# Pigments: I. Exogenous pigment:

- Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis:
- CWP is defined as parenchymal lung disease secondary to the inhalation of coal dust, which includes both carbonaceous (coal) and noncarbonaceous minerals such as silica and silicates.



#### II. Endogenous : 1. Lipofuscin "wear-and-tear pigment"

- An insoluble brownish-yellow granular intracellular material that accumulates in a variety of tissues (heart, liver, and brain) with aging or atrophy.
- Lipofuscin represents complexes of lipid & protein that are produced by the free radical-catalyzed peroxidation of polyunsaturated lipids of subcellular membranes.



## 2. Hemosiderin.

- A hemoglobin-derived granular pigment that is golden yellow to brown.
- Accumulates in tissues when there is a local or systemic excess of iron.
- Iron is normally stored within cells in association with the protein apoferritin, forming ferritin micelles.
- Hemosiderin pigment represents large aggregates of these ferritin micelles, readily visualized by light and electron microscopy.



## 3. Melanin.

- An endogenous, brown-black pigment that is synthesized by melanocytes located in the epidermis.
- Acts as a screen against harmful UV radiation.
- Although melanocytes are the only source of melanin, adjacent basal keratinocytes in the skin can accumulate the pigment (e.g., in freckles), as can dermal macrophages.

