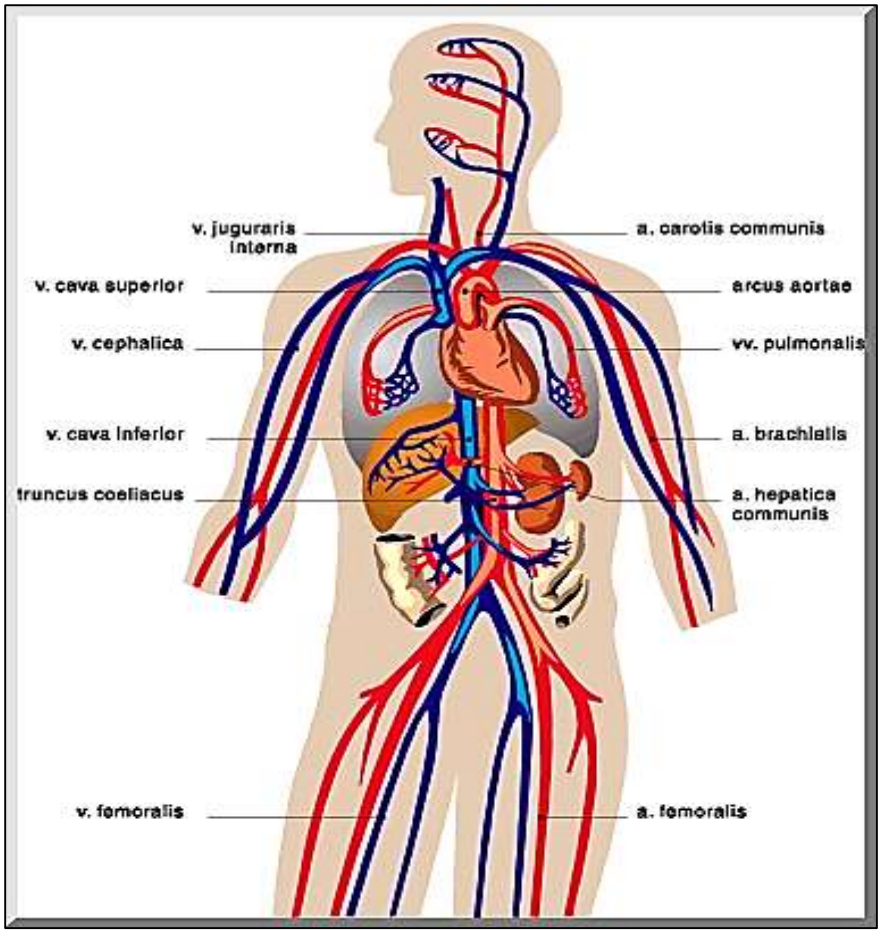
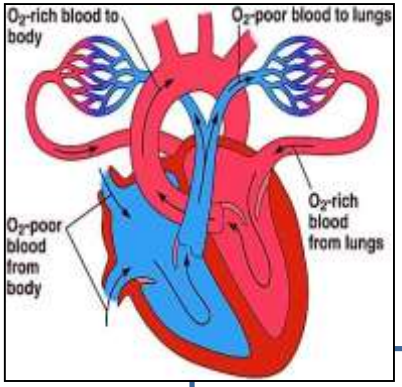
The vascular system Part I

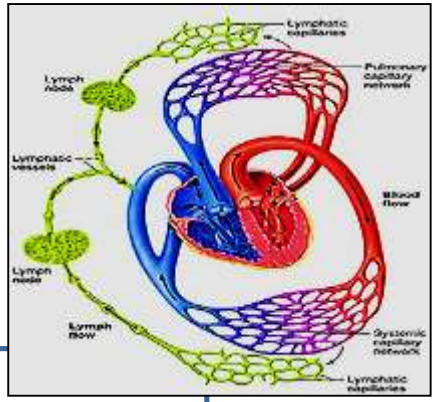
Medical students / First Year

Professor Dr. Hala El-mazar



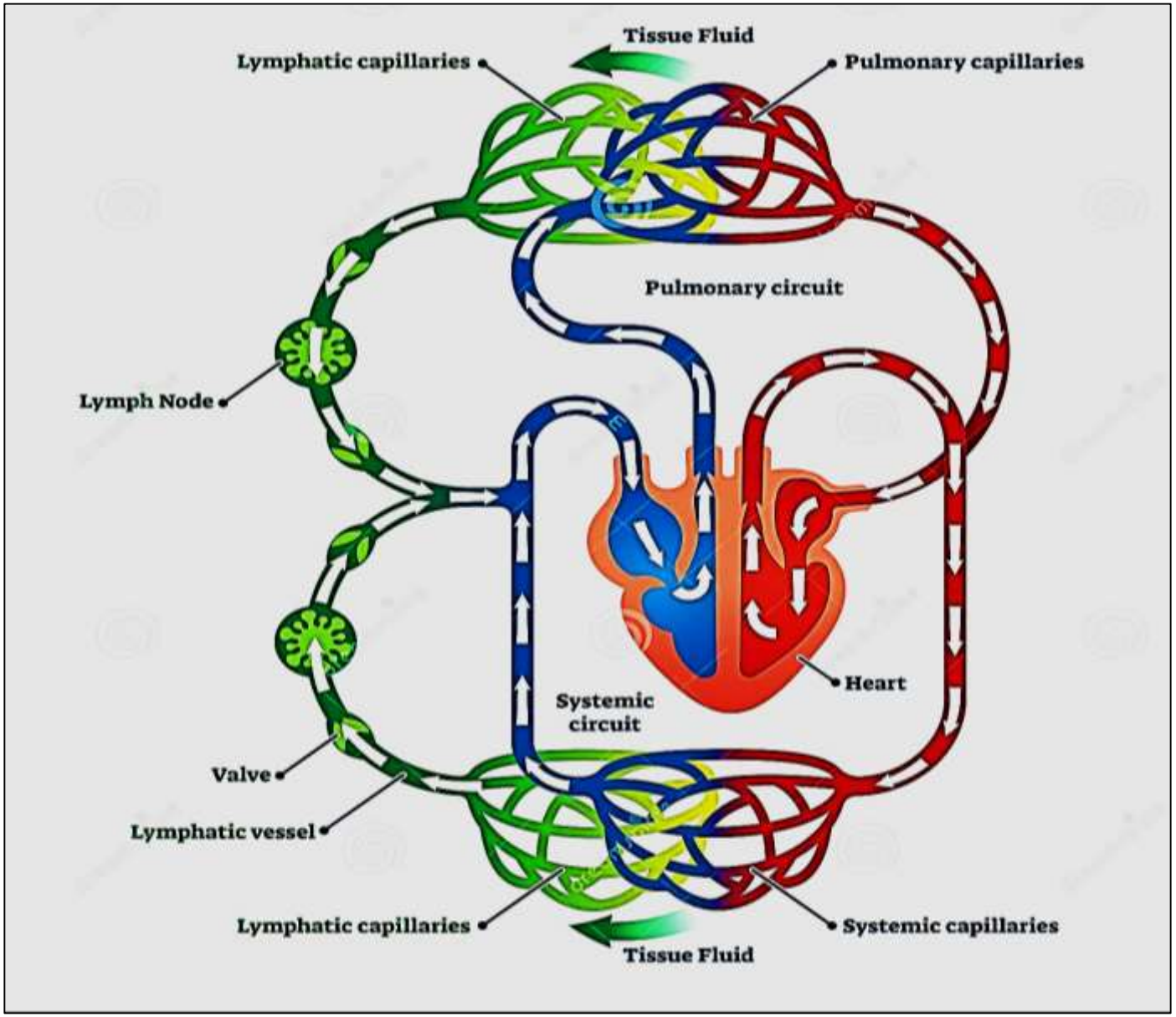
Circulatory system





I. Blood - vascular

II. Lymphatic vascular


Tissue Fluid
Lymphatic capillaries
Pulmonary capillaries
Pulmonary circuit
Lymph Node
Heart
Systemic
circuit
Valve
Lymphatic vessel
Lymphatic capillaries
Systemic capillaries
Tissue Fluid

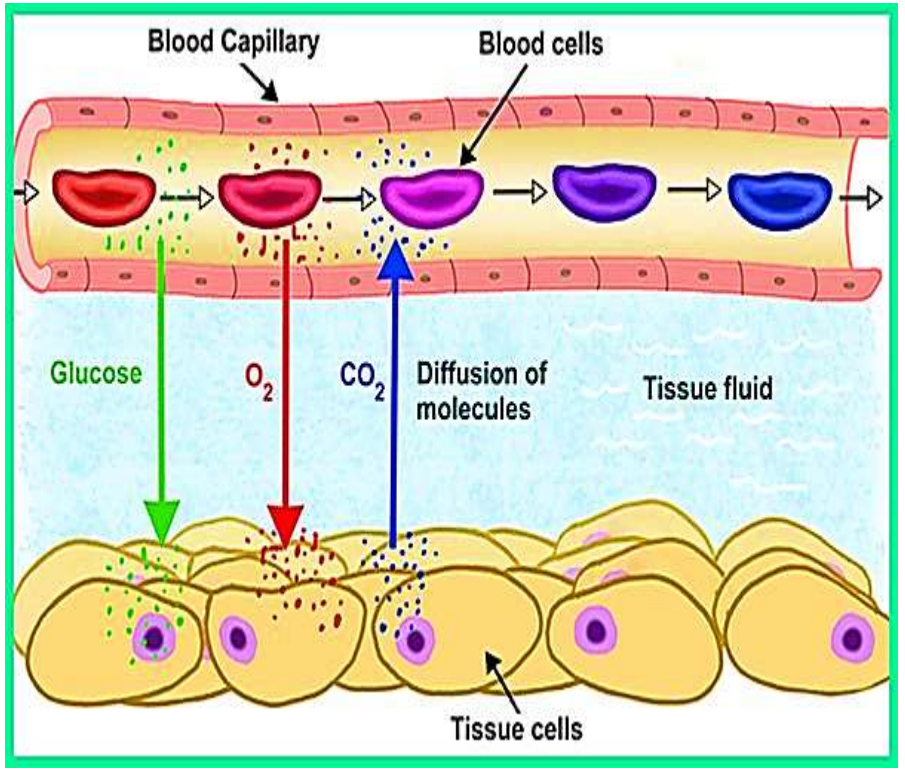
Cardio-vascular system

- Includes: The heart + blood vessels + blood
- Humans have a closed circulatory system

(***blood circulates within vessels & is different from interstitial fluid***)

The heart pumps the blood into **large vessels** which branch into **smaller ones** that end in body organs in the form of **capillaries**

Substances are exchanged between the blood and the interstitial fluid around the cells through a process called **diffusion**



Main functions of the Vascular system

- Transport of oxygen, carbon dioxide, nutrients, hormones, metabolic products, cells of immune defense system and many other essential products

- Gaseous exchange: blood / air in lung

- Temperature control

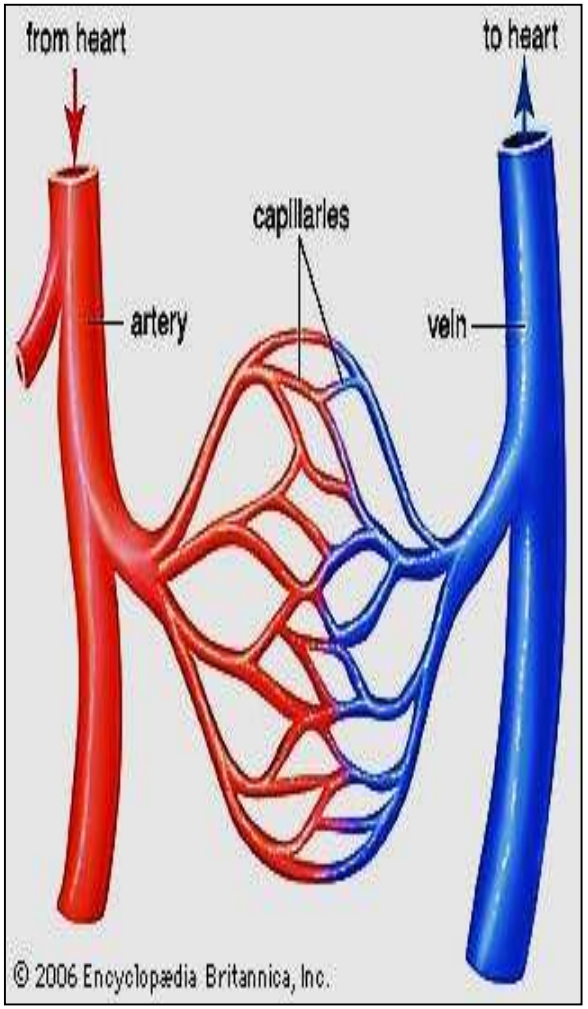
The blood vessels

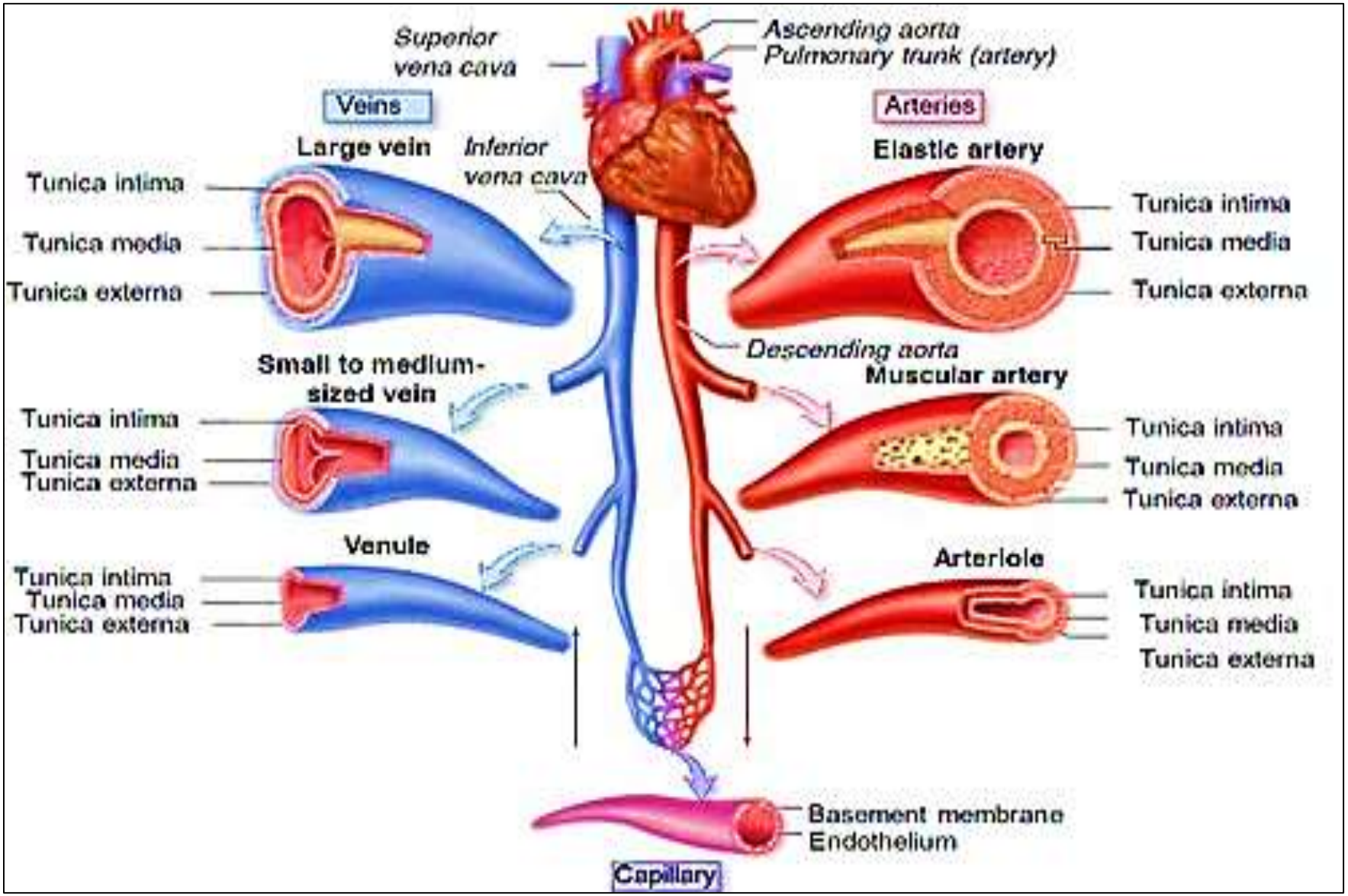
Include:

- Arteries: Large (**elastic)** arteries
  Medium (**muscular**) arteries
  Arterioles

- Veins: Large veins
  Medium sized veins
  Venules

- Microcirulation:
  Capillaries
  Arterio –venous anastomosis





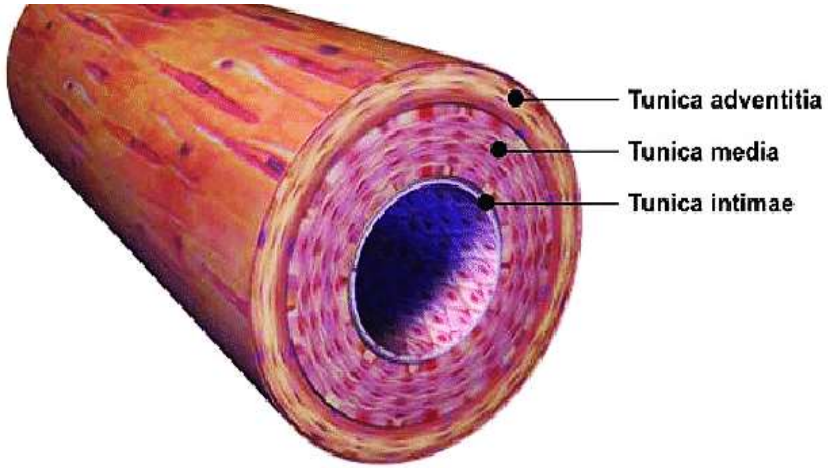
The vascular system

The transition from one type of vessels to another is gradual

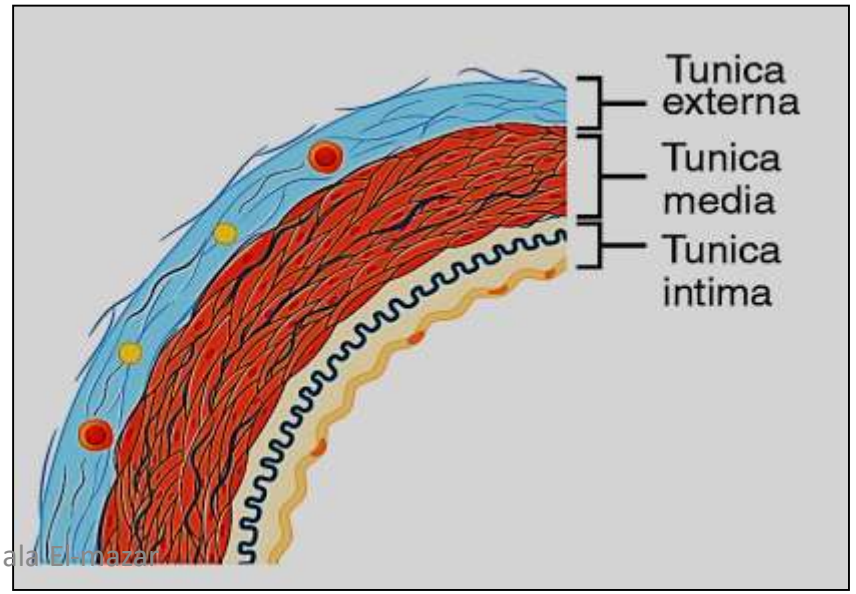
General structure of the wall of a blood vessel

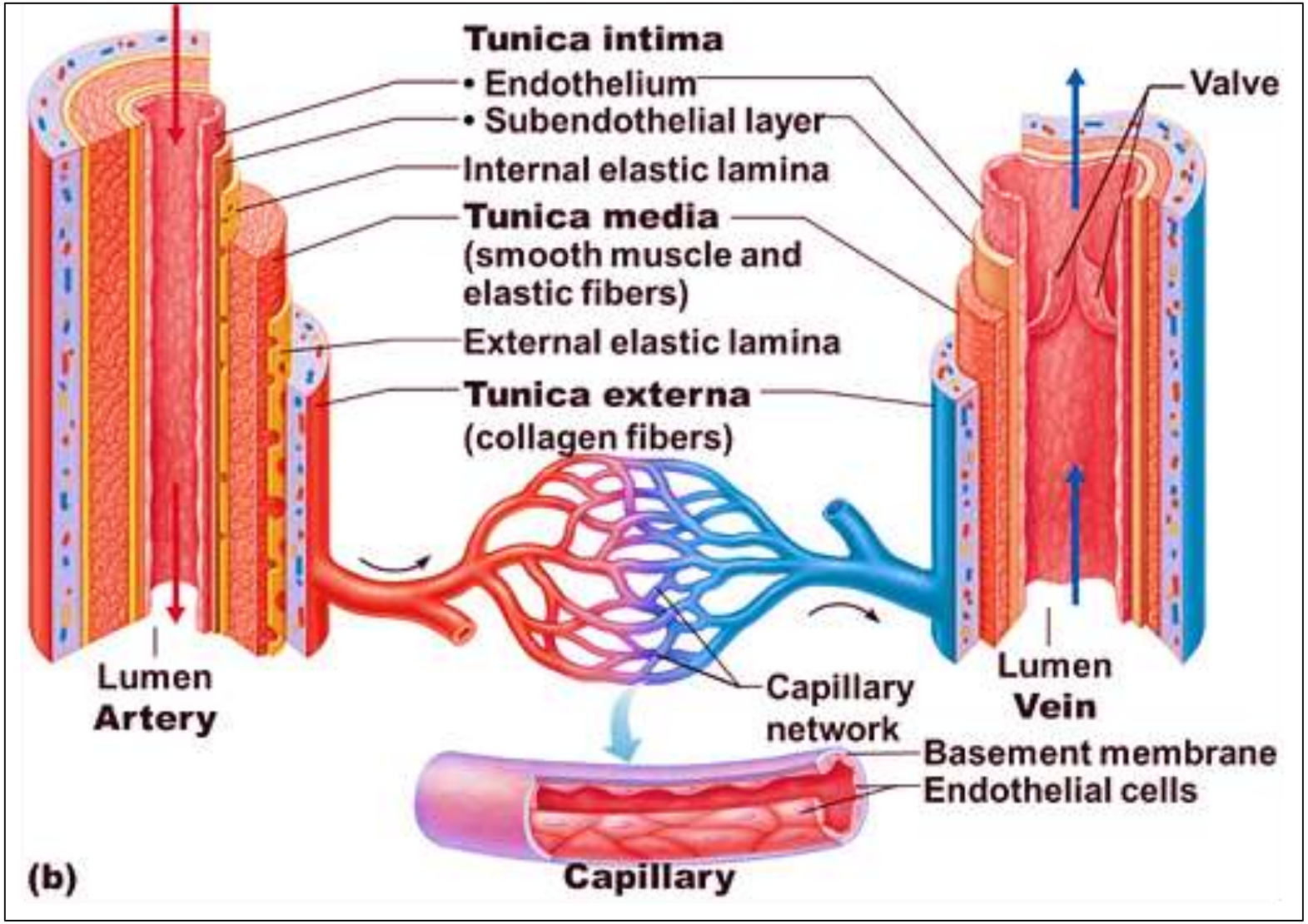
Formed of 3 layers or tunics (Except for capillaries)

(inside → outside)

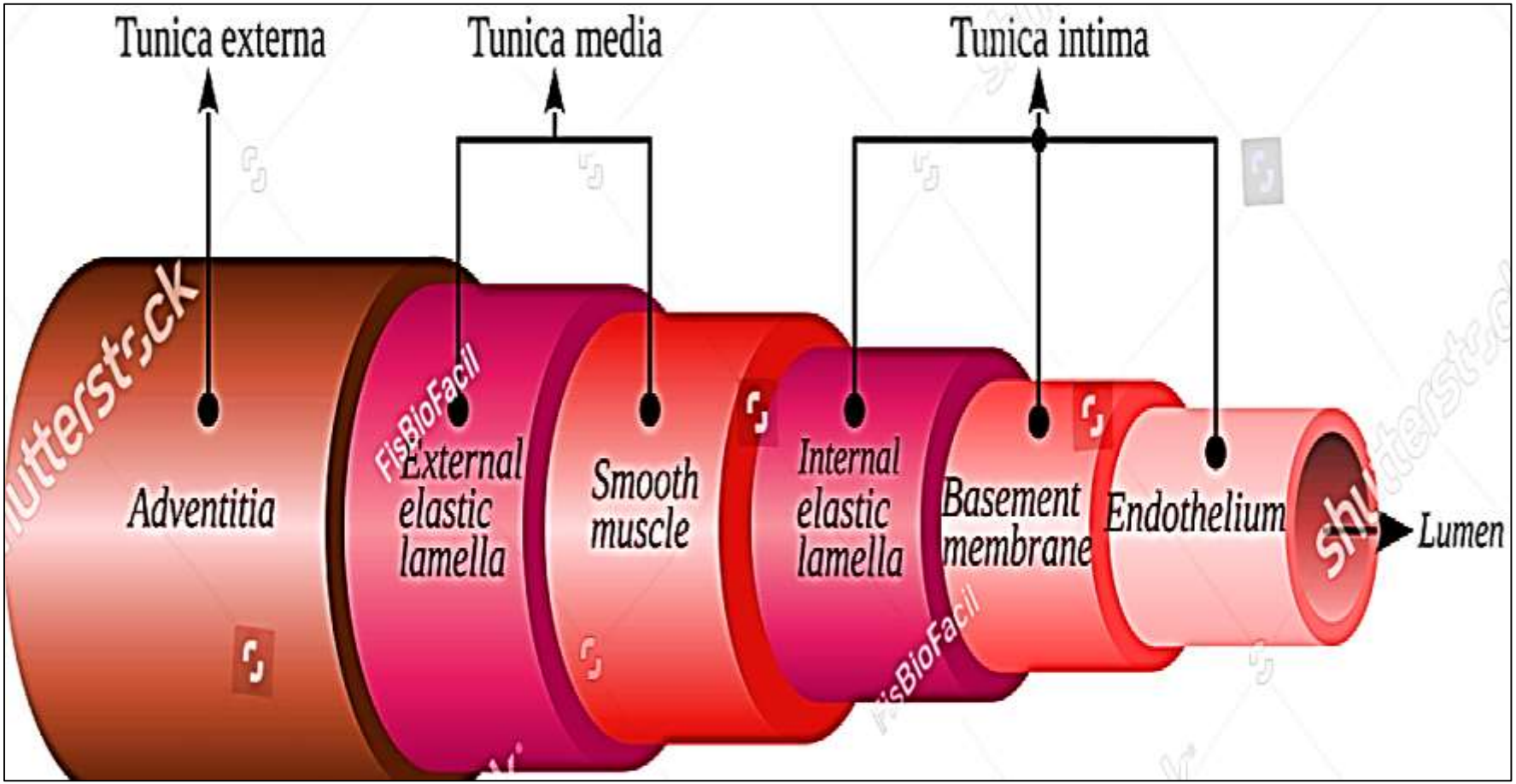


- Tunica intima
- Tunica media
- Tunica adventitia (C.T.)





L.S showing the wall, of the Blood Vessel



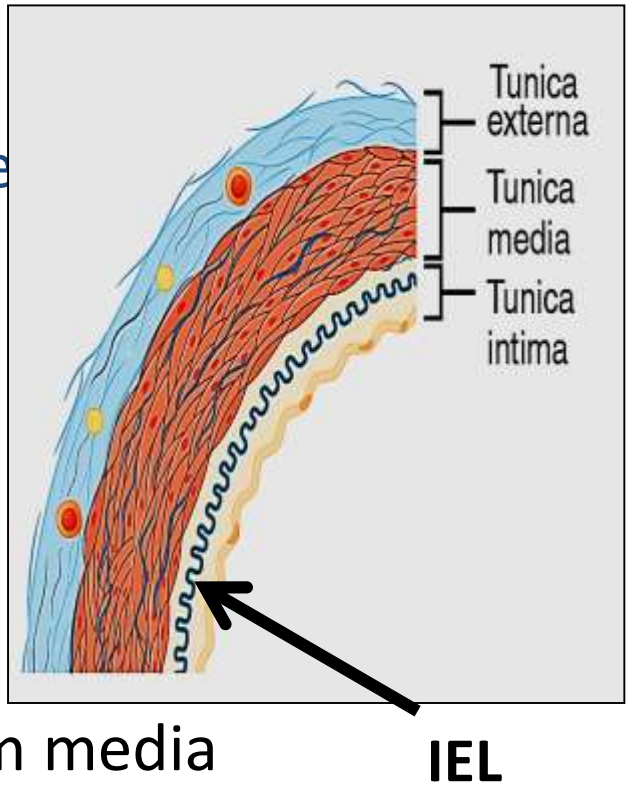
Structure of the wall of the bold vessel

Tunica intima

1- Endothelium:

simple squamous epith - basal lamina

(smooth surface , easy diffusion /exchange



2- Sub-endothelium:

contains **macrophages** and smooth muscle like-cells called **Myointimal Cells**

3- Internal elastic lamina (IEL):

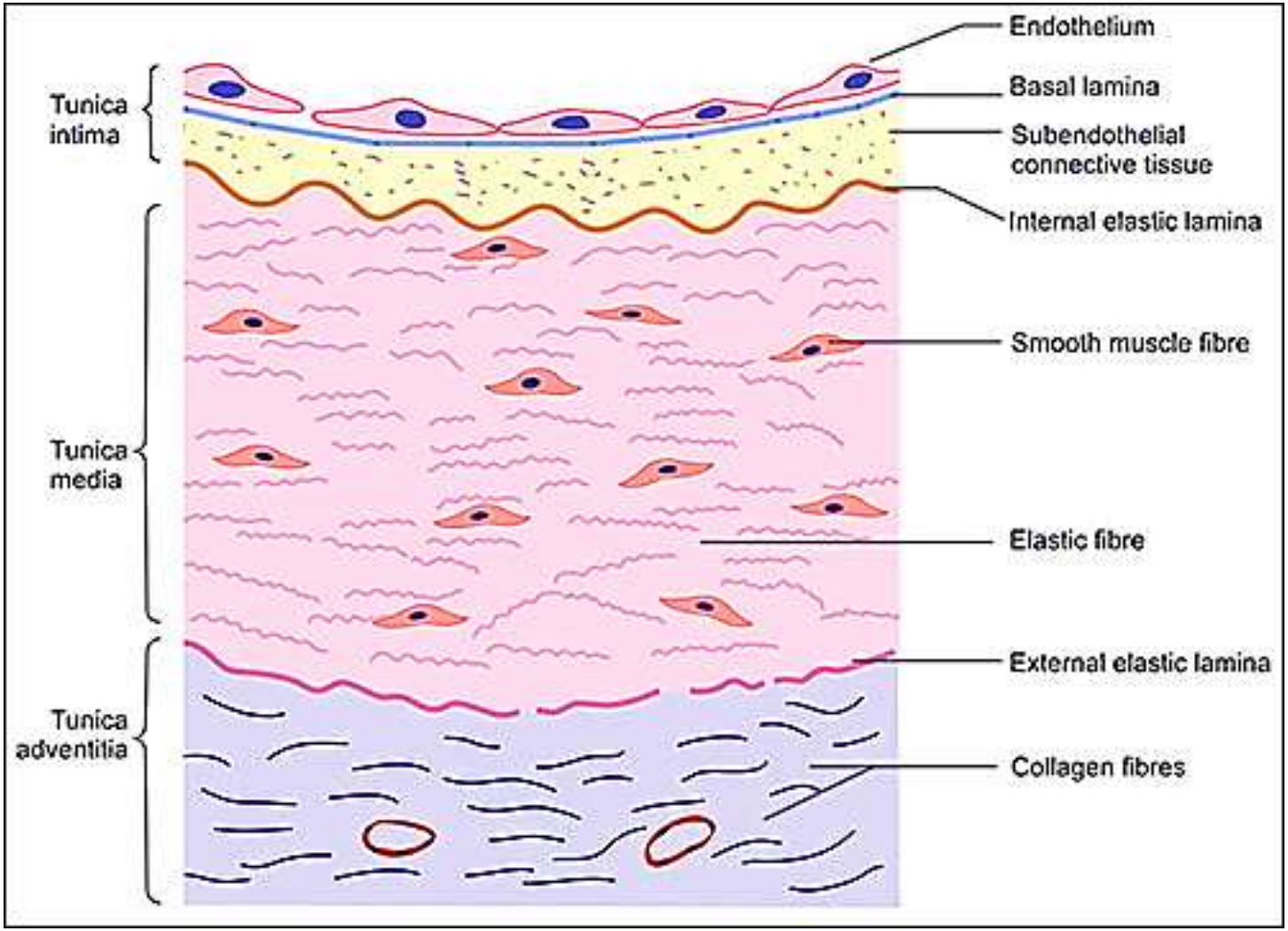
Layer of elastic fibers separates intima from media

Present ONLY in arteries , very clear in muscular arteries,

absent in veins & small arterioles

(for elasticity & prevent complete occlusion of arteries)

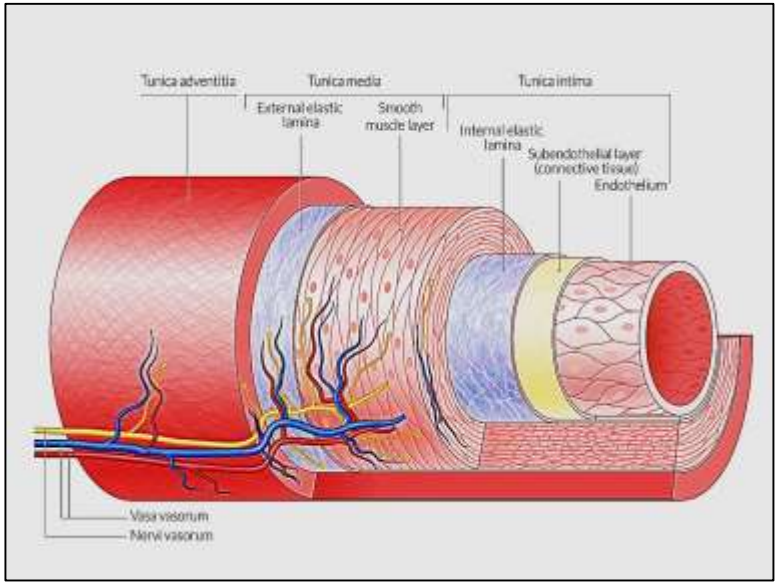
The IEL composed of elastin , has holes that allow the diffusion of substances to nourish cells deep in the vessel wall



Structure of the wall of the blood vessels

Tunica media

- Middle layer of circularly arranged smooth muscle cells
- Contains collagen & elastic fibers



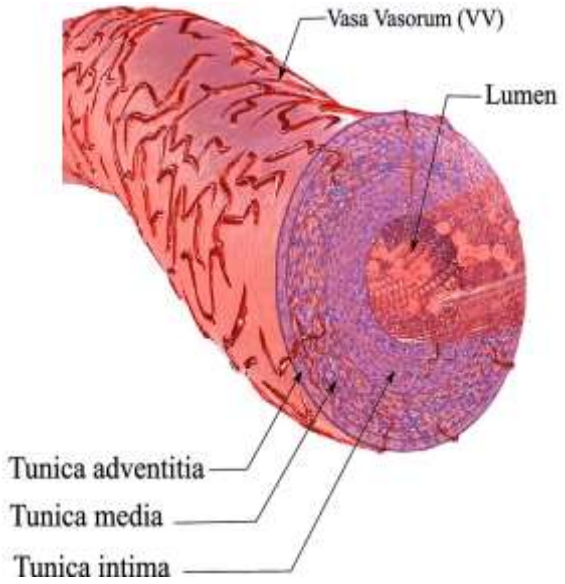
- **External elastic lamina (EEL)** separates The tunica media from adventitia

- Elastic fibers help expansion in systole & its recoil helps maintain blood flow in diastole

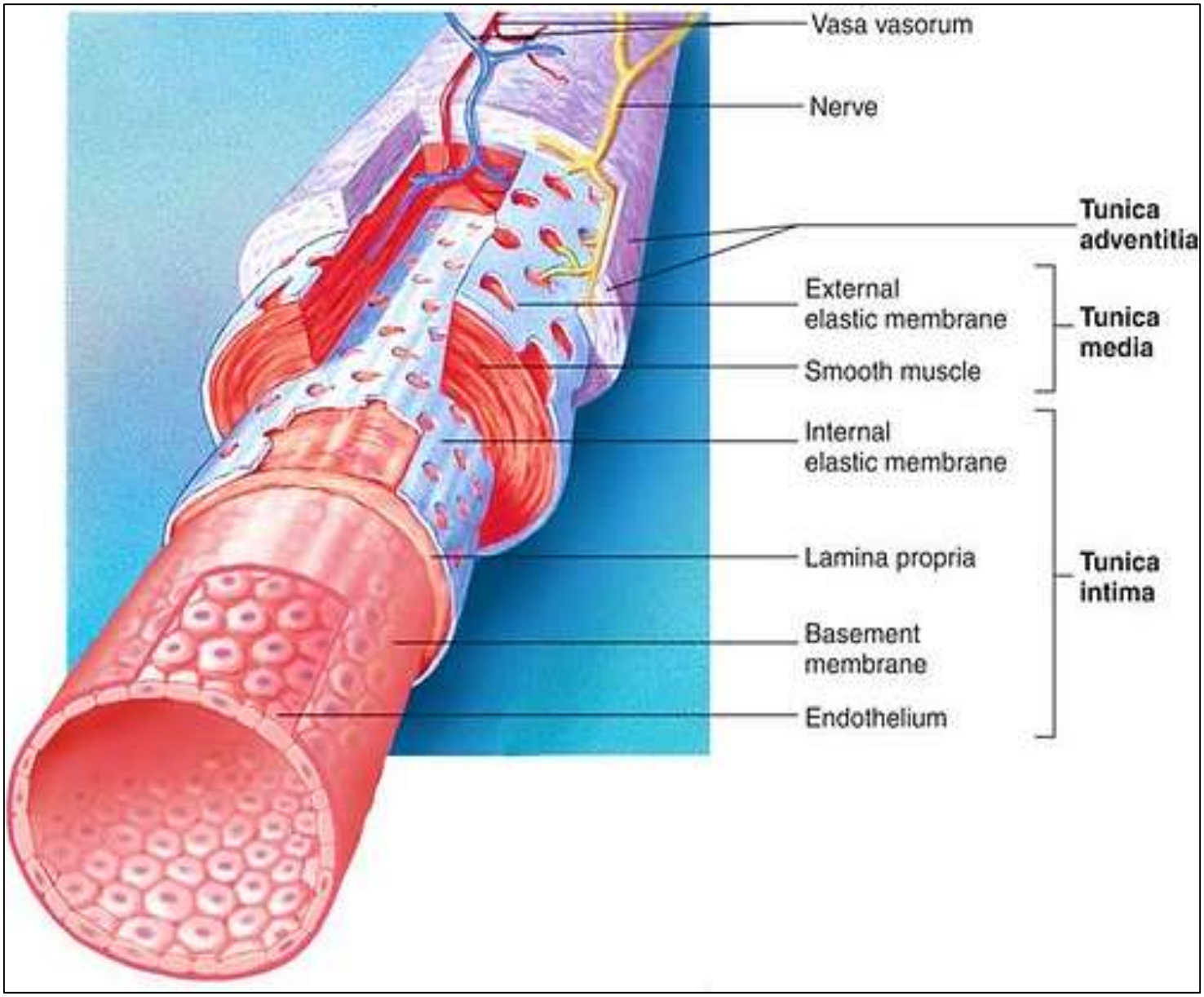
- The activity of smooth ms. Fibers is regulated by vasomotor autonomic supply

Tunica adventitia

- Outermost C.T. layer, contains collagen fibers more than elastic fibers
- Contains nerves, lymphatics & vasa vasorum (VV) are common *in large vessels since their wall is too thick to be nourished only by diffusion from blood in lumen*



- It prevents over distension of vessel
- Anchor the blood vessel to the surroundings organs and tissues
- Tunica adventitia prevents shortening if vessel is cut
- Since veins carry deoxygenated blood they have vasa vasorum More than arteries


Vasa vasorum
Nerve
Tunica adventitia
External elastic membrane
Tunica media
Smooth muscle
Internal elastic membrane
Lamina propria
Tunica intima
Basement membrane
Endothelium

Large (Elastic) arteries/ Aorta

- Large branches e.g. pulmonary, subclavian, innominate a.
- Wide lumen + very thick wall (mainly elastic fibers)
- Tunica intima:

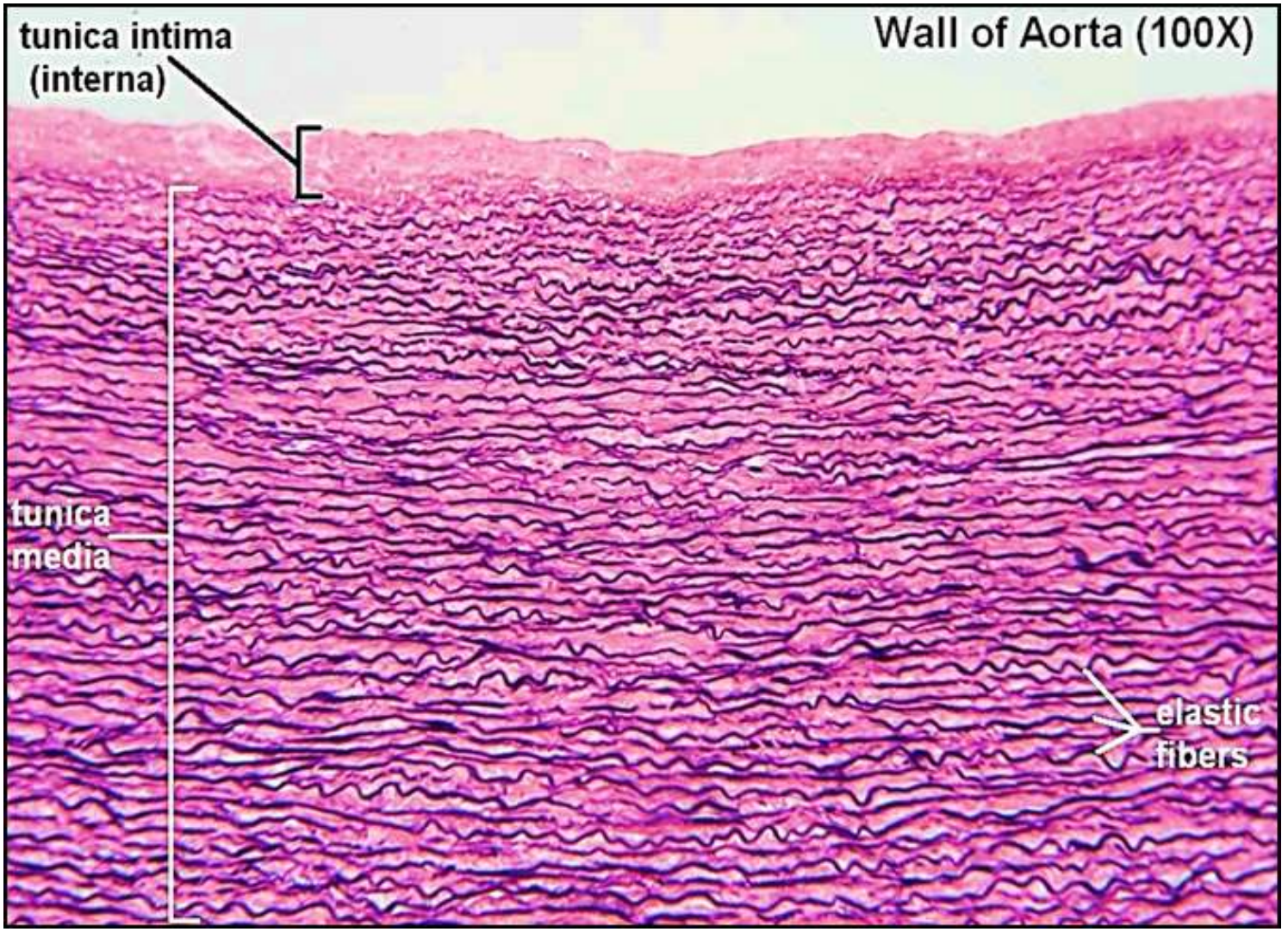
  Thick, sub-endothelium rich in elastic fibers, **IEL present but not clear**

- Tunica media (70%):

- **very thick** mostly fenestrated elastic membranes (elasticity) + smooth muscle cells ,
- **EEL present but not clear**

- Tunica adventitia:

CT contains collagen + elastic fibers + **vasa vasorum**



Section in the wall of aorta

Medium sized (Muscular) arteries

- They deliver blood to muscles & organs (**renal , coronary**)
- Their wall is formed mainly of **smooth muscles**
- The transition from elastic to muscular arteries **is gradual**

(Gradual ↓in elastic fibers & ↑in smooth ms cells)

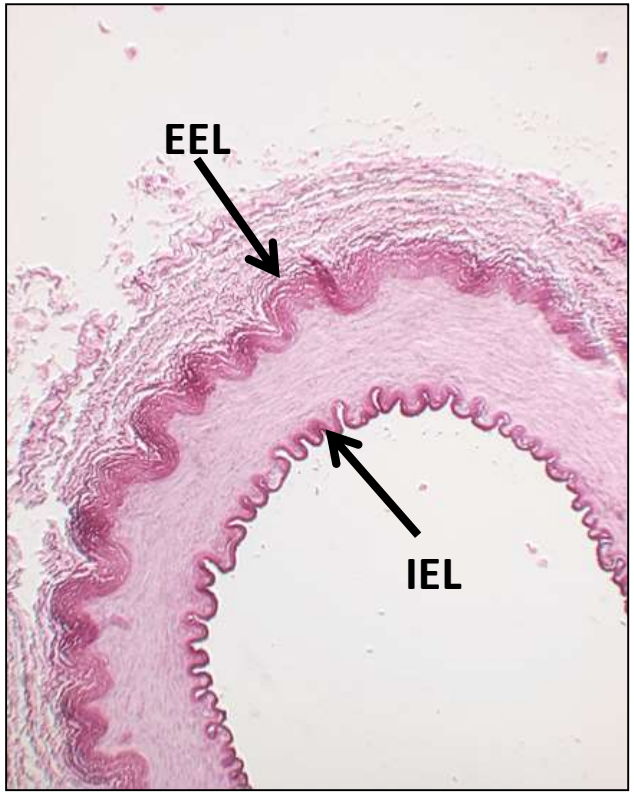
Tunica Intima: thinner, No subendothelial layer + **clear IEL**

Tunica media: mainly smooth muscles (40 layers) + **EEL is clear**

Tunica adventitia:

Thick CT layer contains collagen & elastic fibers + V.V.

(Adventitia = Media 50/50 in thickness)



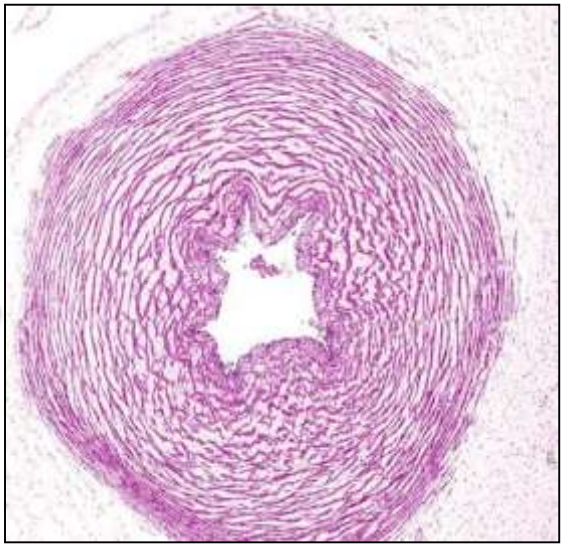
Special types of medium sized arteries

1- Basilar artery: protected by the skull.

Tunica intima : has **prominent thick IEL**

2- Umbilical artery: in the umbilical cord,

Tunica adventitia: made by Mucoid CT

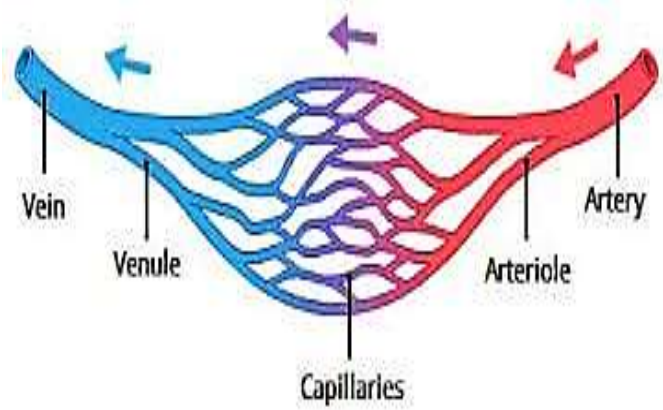


Umbilical artery

Arterioles (10- 100 µm)

Responsible for **peripheral resistance** of blood vessels

Control blood flow into capillaries



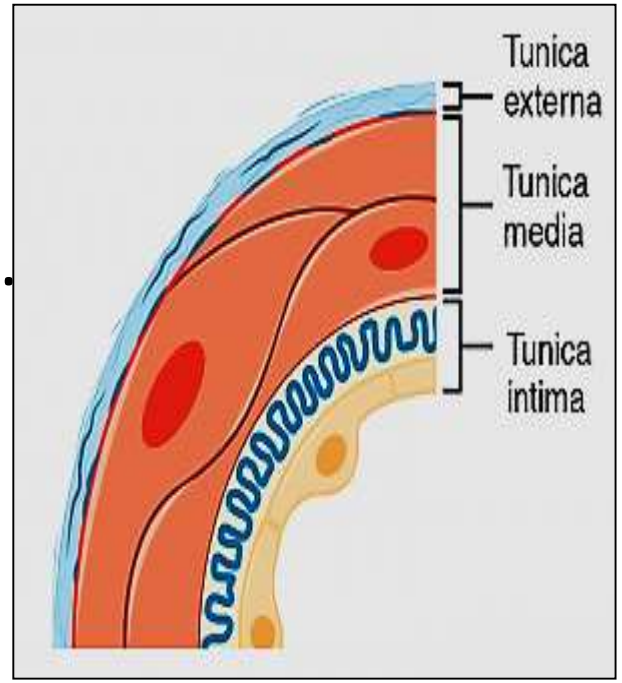
Tunica intima: thin with thin IEL

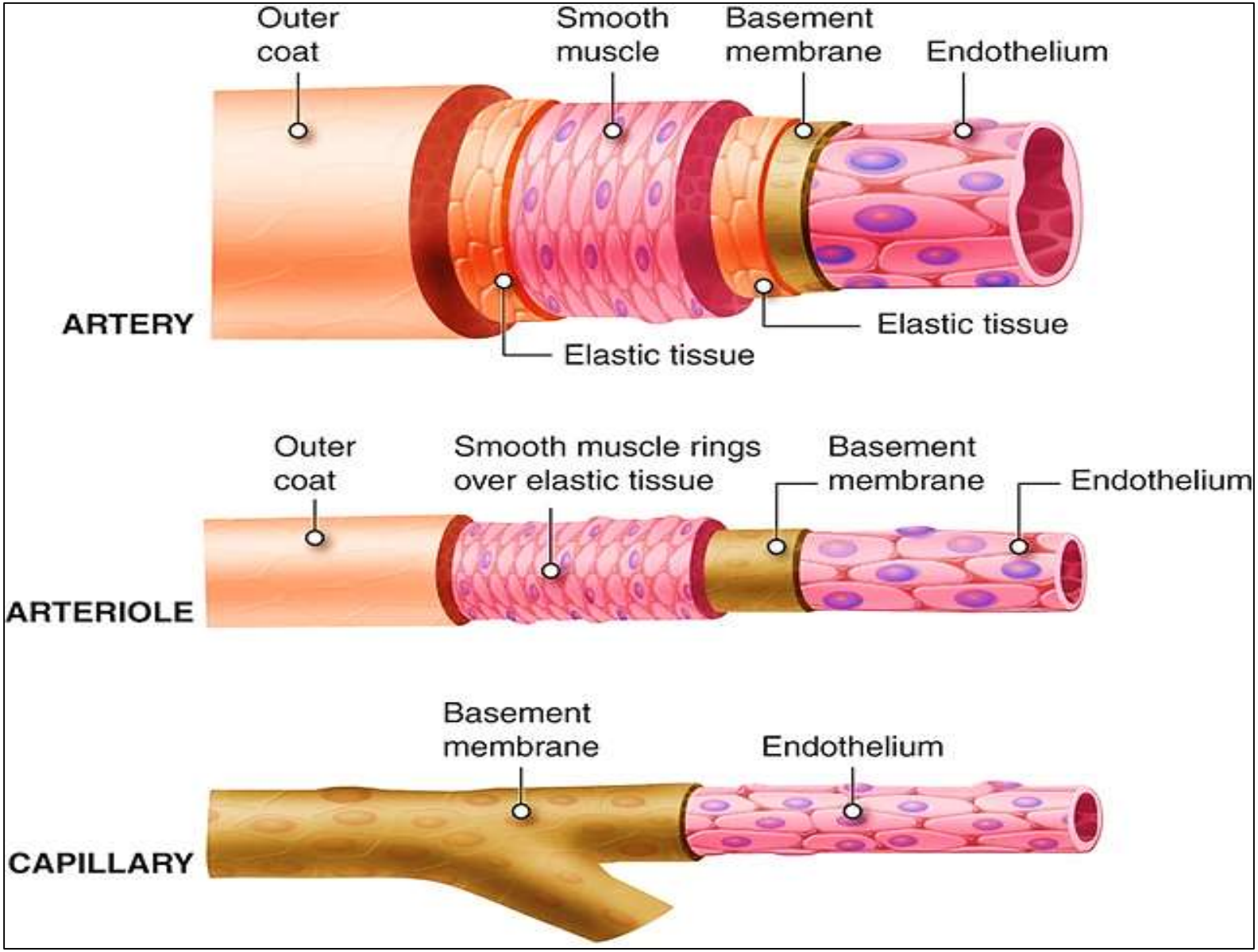
(IEL gradually disappear in small arterioles)

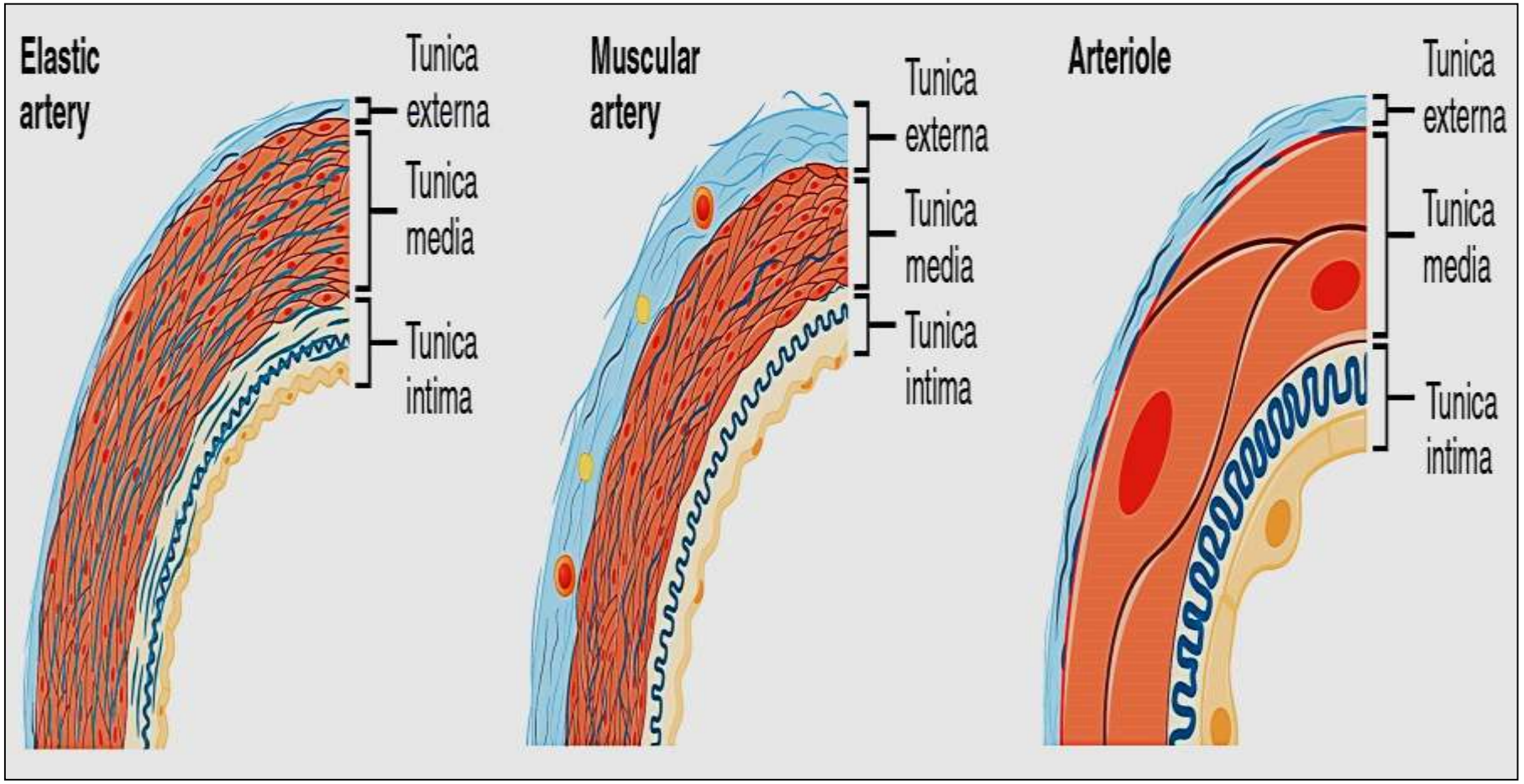
Tunica media: 1 or 2 layers of smooth m.

(gradually disappear & replaced by pericytes in capillaries

Tunica adventitia : very thin




Outer coat
Smooth muscle
Basement membrane
Endothelium
ARTERY
Elastic tissue
Elastic tissue
Outer coat
Smooth muscle rings over elastic tissue
Basement membrane
Endothelium
ARTERIOLE
Basement membrane
Endothelium
CAPILLARY



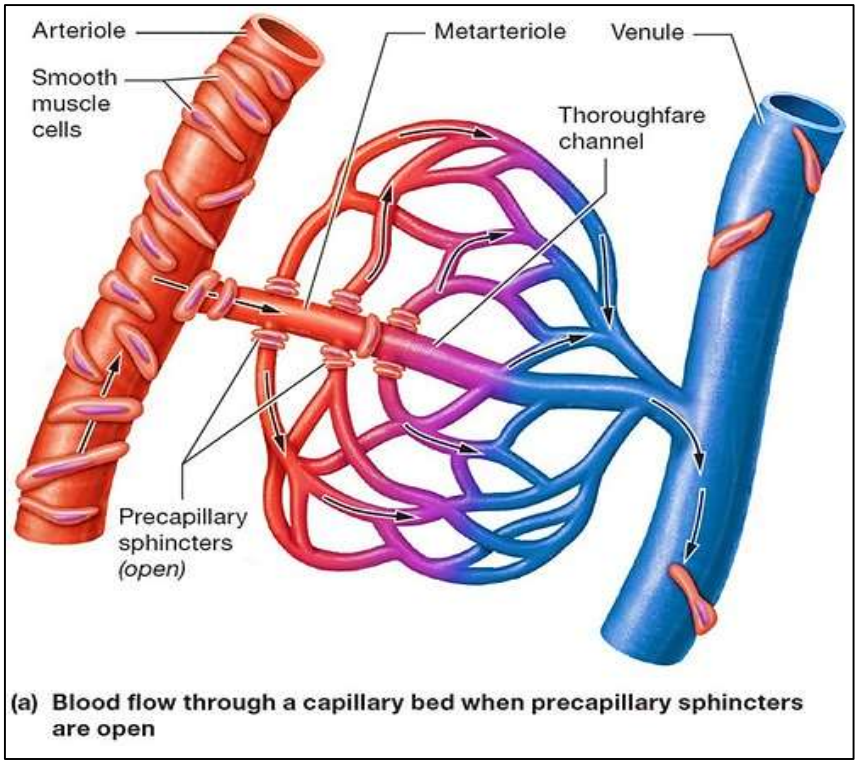
the difference in the wall between elastic , muscular arteries and arterioles

Metarterioles (arterial capillaries)

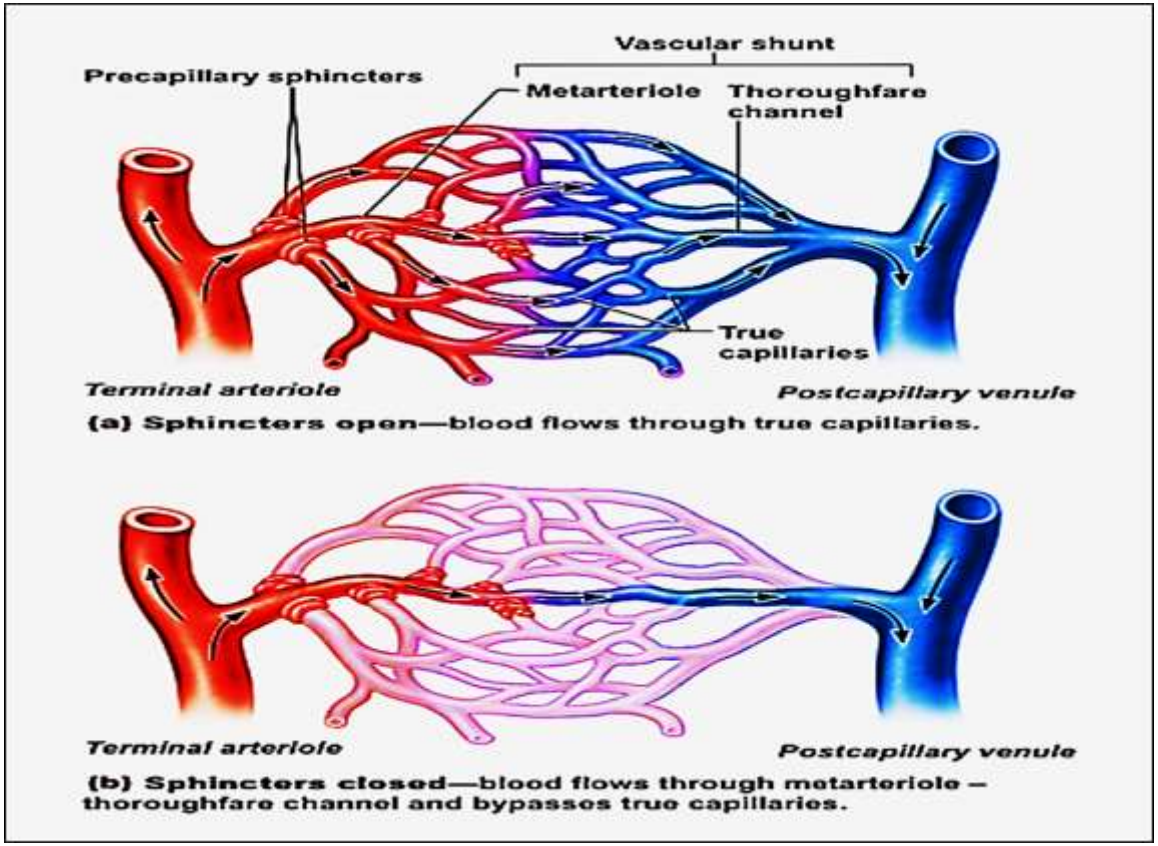
- short micro vessels (8- 10 µm) that links terminal arterioles to capillaries

- Tunica media they have individual muscle cells placed short distance apart.

- There are rings of smooth ms at the entrance to capillaries called **pre-capillary sphincters** act as a valve to regulate blood flow into the capillaries

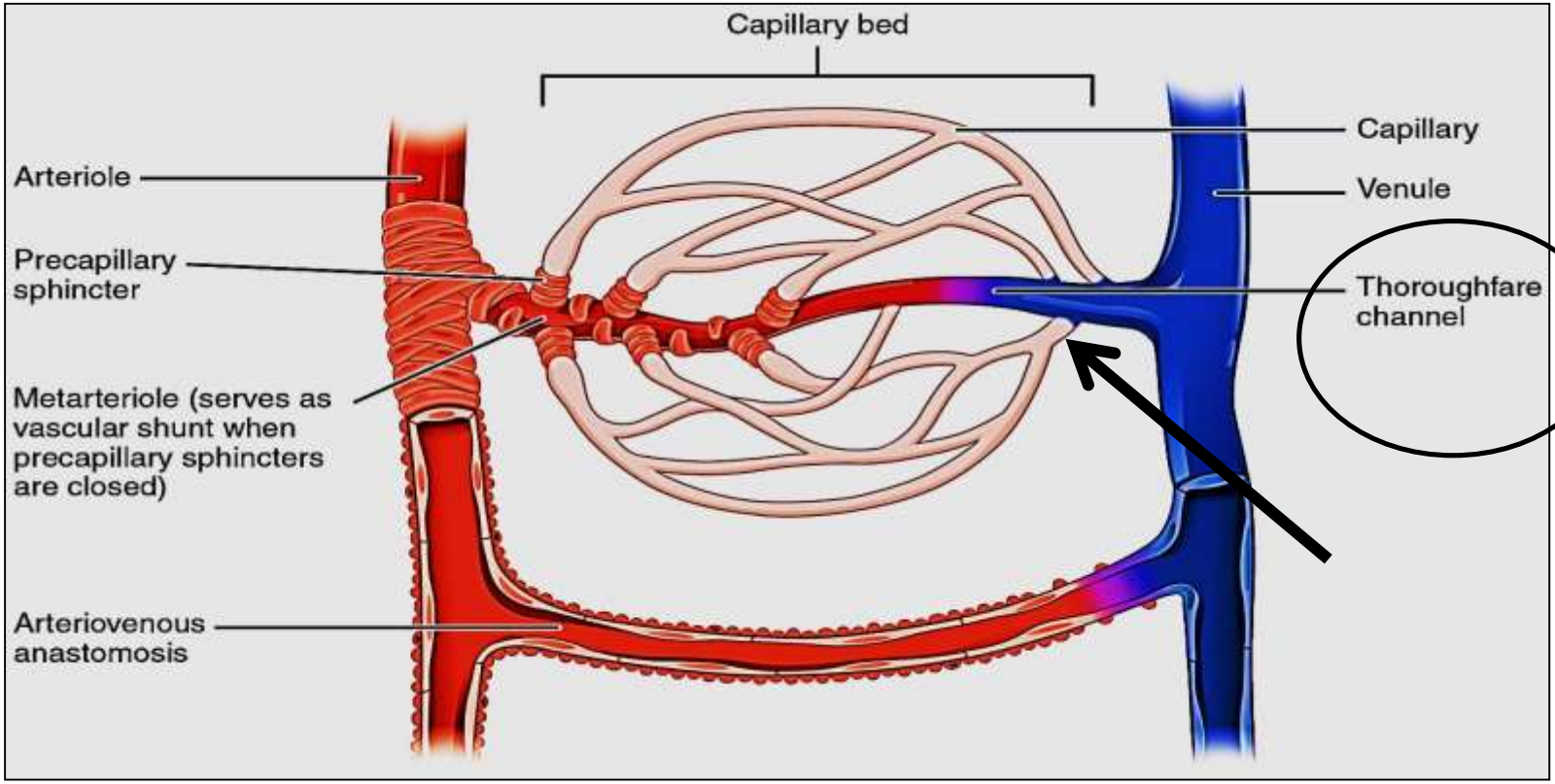


(a) Blood flow through a capillary bed when precapillary sphincters are open



- When pre- capillary sphincter **relaxed** →blood flow through true capillaries → exchange with tissue

- When pre- capillary sphincter **contracted** blood flows through shunts and bypasses tissue cells



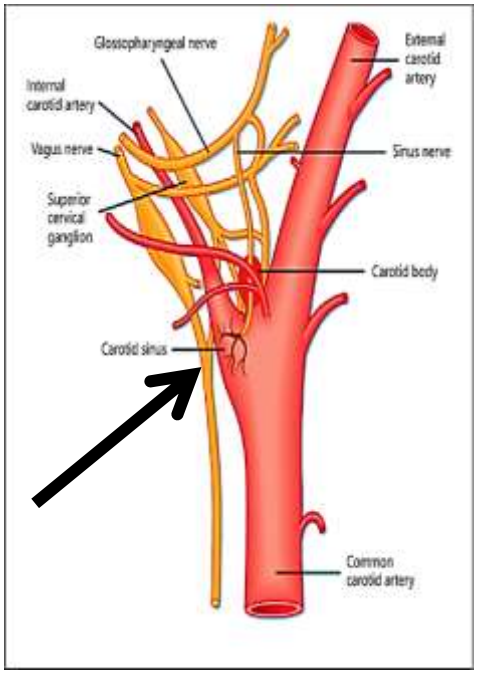
The smooth muscle of metarterioles and the precapillary sphincters contract and relax causing intermittent flow of blood in capillaries this is known as vasomotion. The osmotic pressure (OP) of plasma proteins plays a role in that process

Thoroughfare channel = the distal half of the metarteriole is called thoroughfare Channel which has no sphincters (No smooth muscles) and receives blood from the capillary bed , becoming more like a venule

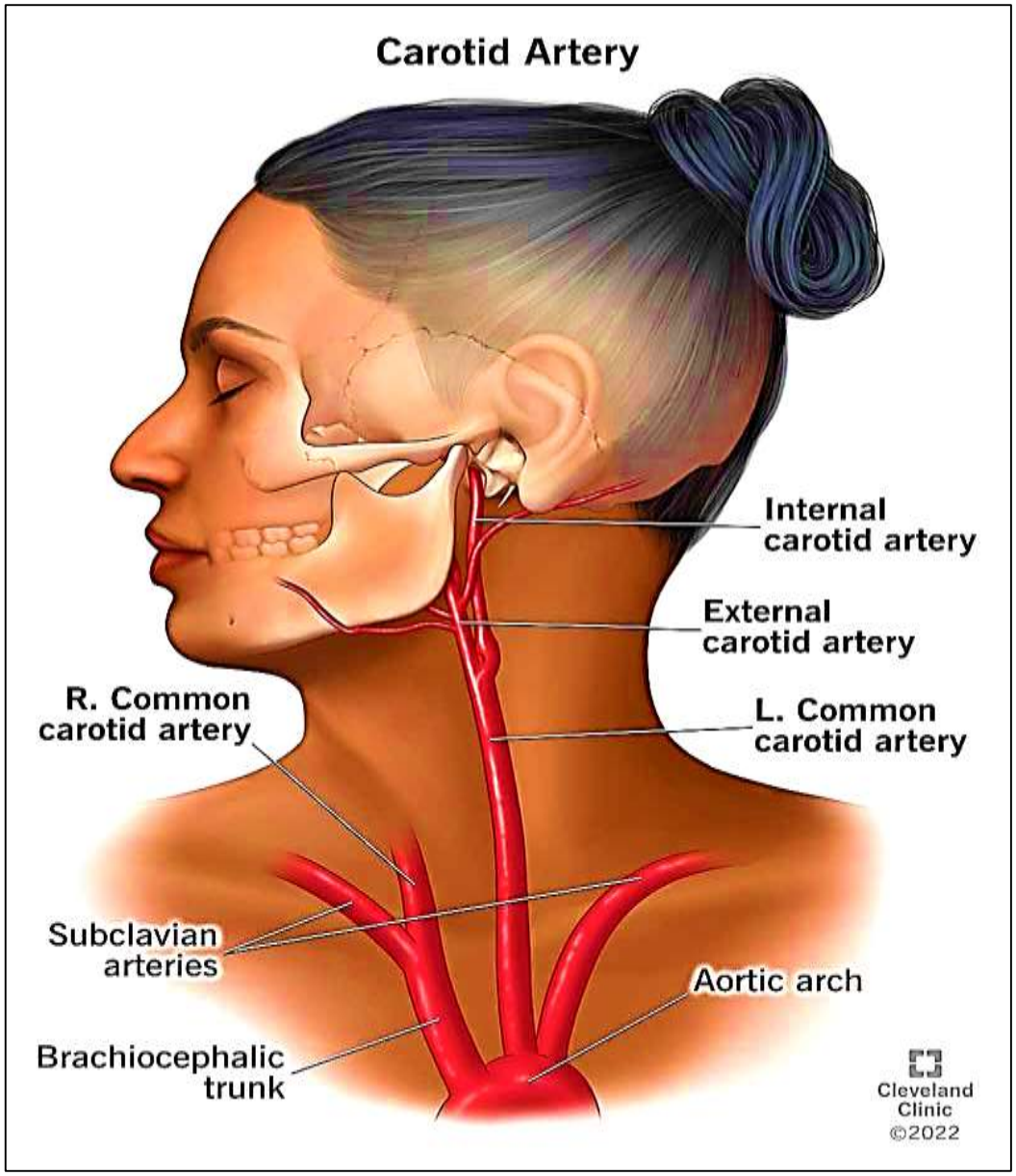
Arterial sensory structures

1- Carotid sinuses:

- Dilatation in the wall internal carotid arteries and in Aortic arch
- Contains baroreceptors which monitor Changes in blood pressure.
- The tunica media of each carotid sinus is thinner allowing greater distension when bl. pressure rises

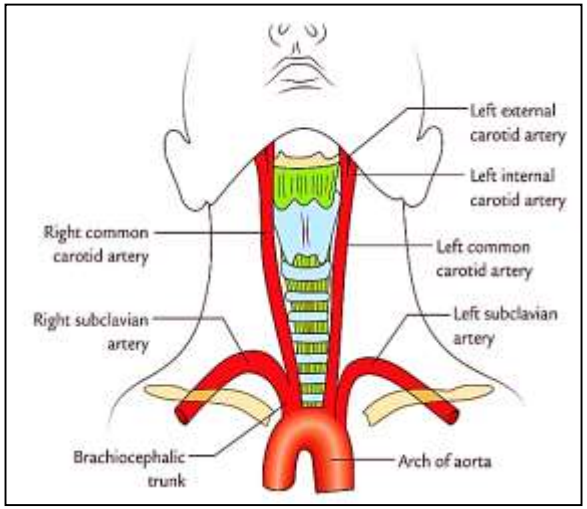


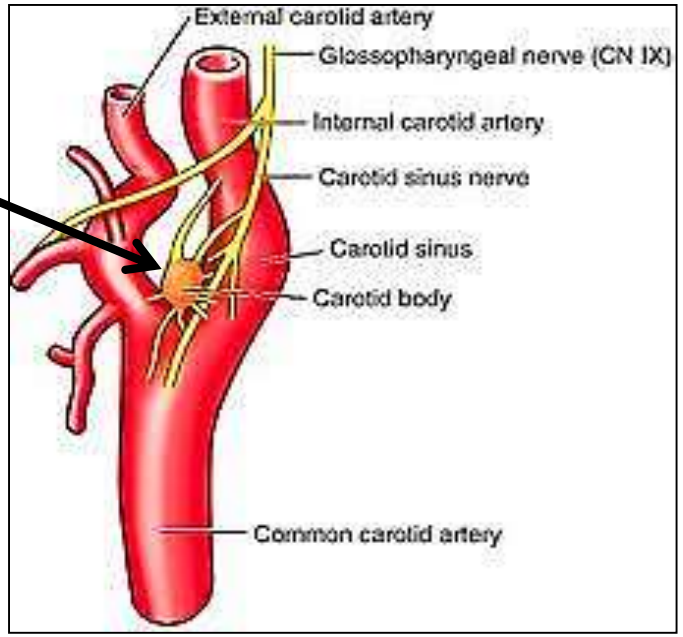
- Sensory nerve endings from cranial n. IX glossopharyngeal nerve are embedded in the wall of the artery
- Afferent n impulse → brain → trigger adjustment in vasoconstriction → blood pressure return to normal


Carotid Artery
Internal carotid artery
External carotid artery
R. Common carotid artery
L. Common carotid artery
Subclavian arteries
Aortic arch
Brachiocephalic trunk
Cleveland Clinic ©2022

2- Carotid bodies:

- Small , ganglion like structures
- Found in the adventitia near the bifurcation of common Carotid arteries

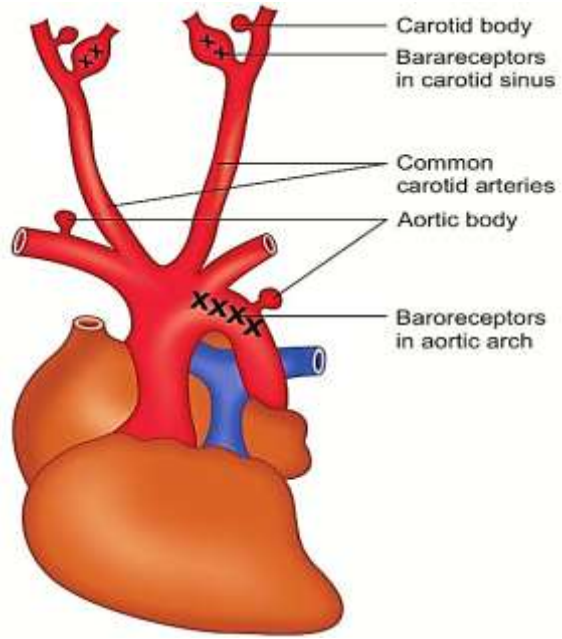


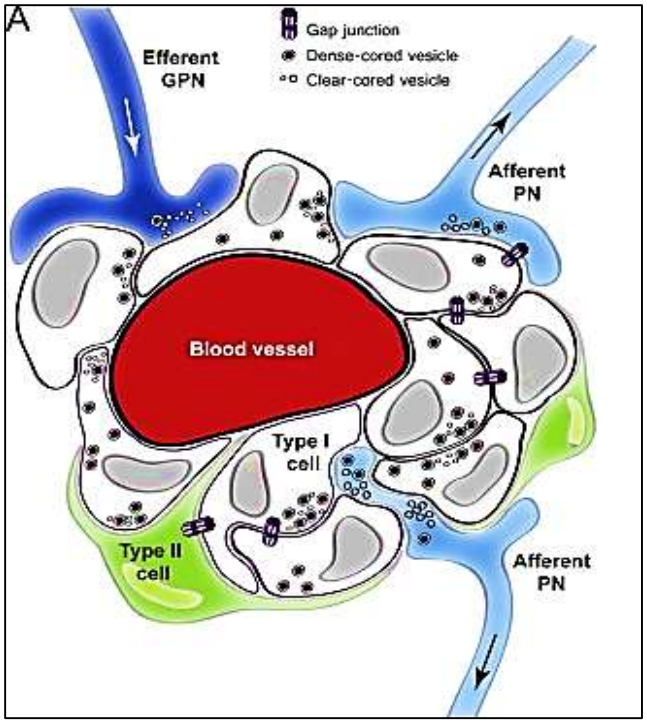


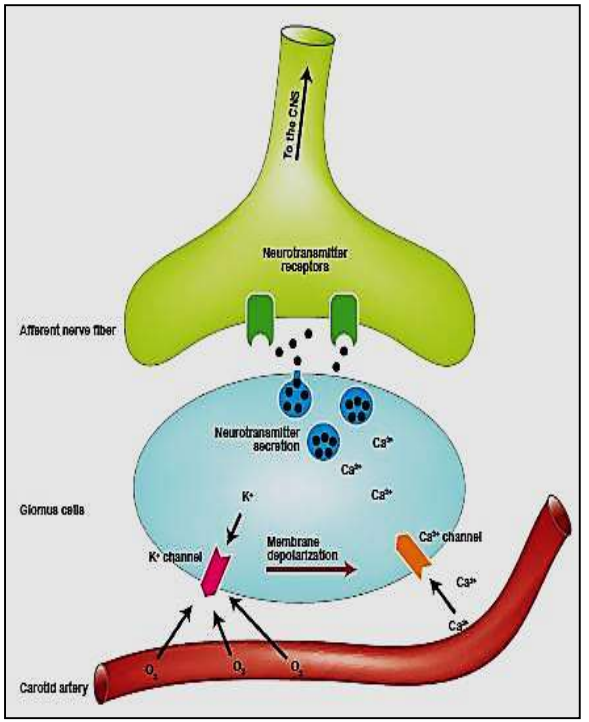
- Contain **chemoreceptors** sensitive to blood Co_2 & O_2 & H^+ concentrations
- These structures contains **sinusoidal capillaries** that - intermingled with clusters of cells called **Glomus cells**

- Glomus cells cytoplasm contain neurotransmitters e.g. dopamine, serotonin , adrenaline,

- Glomus cells form synaptic connection with afferent fibers of glossopharyngeal nerve. the sensory nerve is activated by neurotransmitters released from glomus cells in response to changes in the composition of the sinusoidal blood

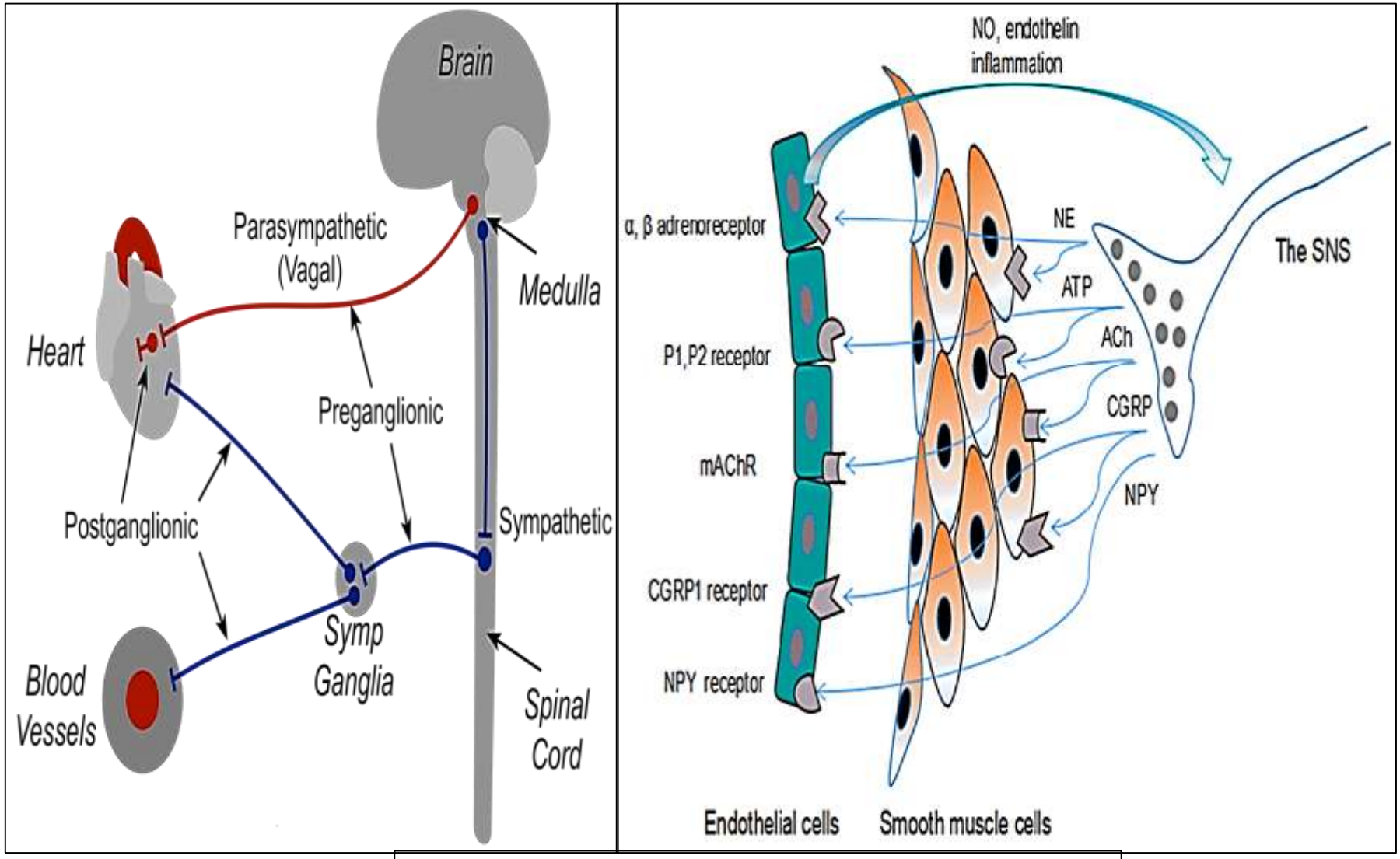






3- Aortic bodies

Located on the arch of aorta similar to carotid bodies



Innervation of blood vessels

- Large vessels are supplied with network of sympathetic nerve fibers (vasomotor) whose neurotransmitter is norepinephrine .

- Discharge of epinephrine produce vasoconstriction . These efferent nerve fibers generally do not enter the media of arteries, instead they discharge the neurotransmitters which diffuse through the wall to affect the smooth muscle cells of the media

- the gap junction between the smooth muscle cells propagate the response

- Sympathetic nerve fibers innervate all vessels EXCEPT capillaries ,precapillary sphincters & metarterioles

- The density of innervation of veins is less than that of arteries

- sympathetic Innervation of small arteries & arterioles → vasoconstriction → cause the peripheral resistance

- Vascular smooth muscles are **not innervated** by parasympathetic nervous system

  (except salivary glands, gastrointestinal glands, genital erectile tissue in male penis)

- **Vasodilation**: is caused through muscarinic receptors on endothelial cells → release relaxing factor : nitric oxide → diffuse to muscle cells in media → relaxation

- However smooth muscles in tunica media posses muscarinic receptors, which when activated cause vasodilation… (medications can work on them)

- The arterioles including terminal are well innervated because they contain smooth muscle cells

- The capillaries are not innervated cuz they don’t have smooth muscles

- **Hormones** circulate in the blood (catecholamine, renin-angiotensin, vasopressin can affect the microcirculation causing vasodilation or vasoconstriction

Thank you