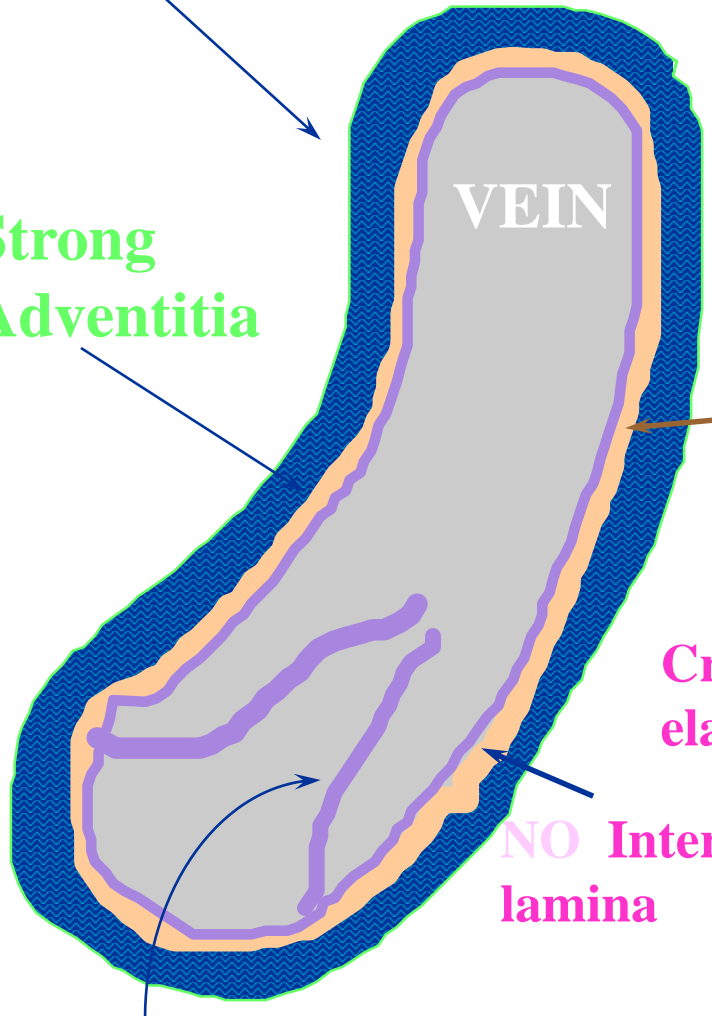


VEIN & COMPANION ARTERY Comparison

Flattened

Thin WALL

Strong Adventitia



VEIN

Weak or no MEDIA

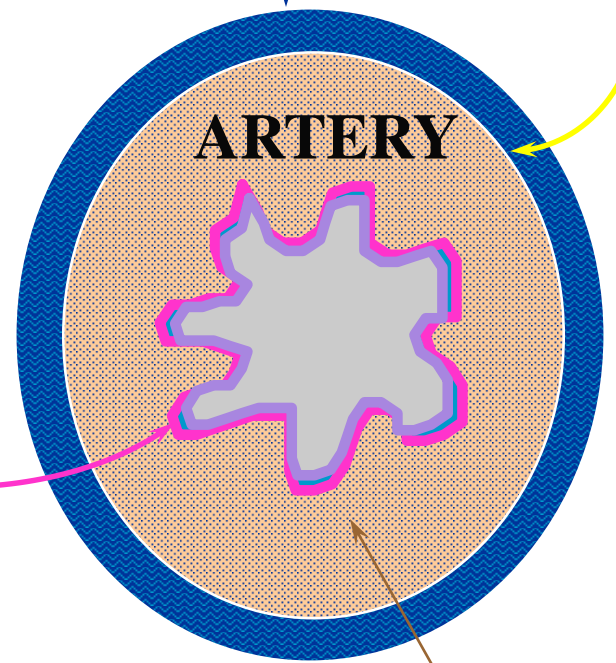
Crinkled Internal elastic lamina

NO Internal elastic lamina

Valves - seldom seen in a cross-section

Rounder SHAPE

Thick WALL



ARTERY

Strong MEDIA



muscular
artery

nerve

vein

The walls of high pressure vessels are thicker than the walls of low pressures vessels.

Vessel tunics

Tunica intima:

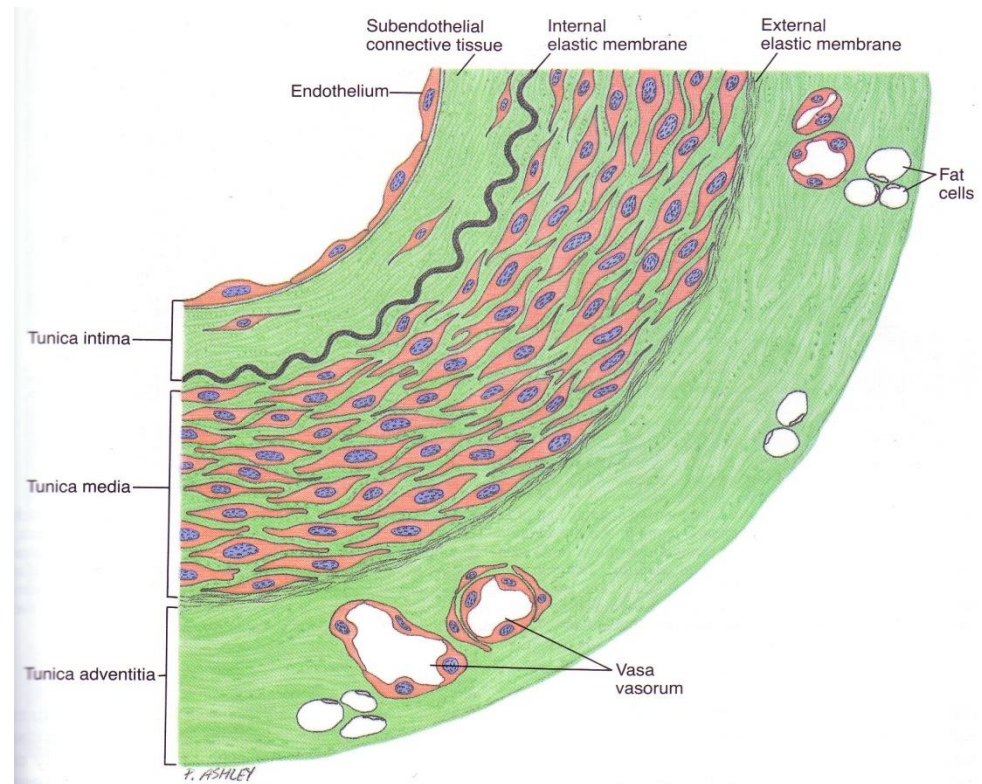
- Endothelium
- Subendothelial connective tissue
- Internal elastic lamina (membrane)

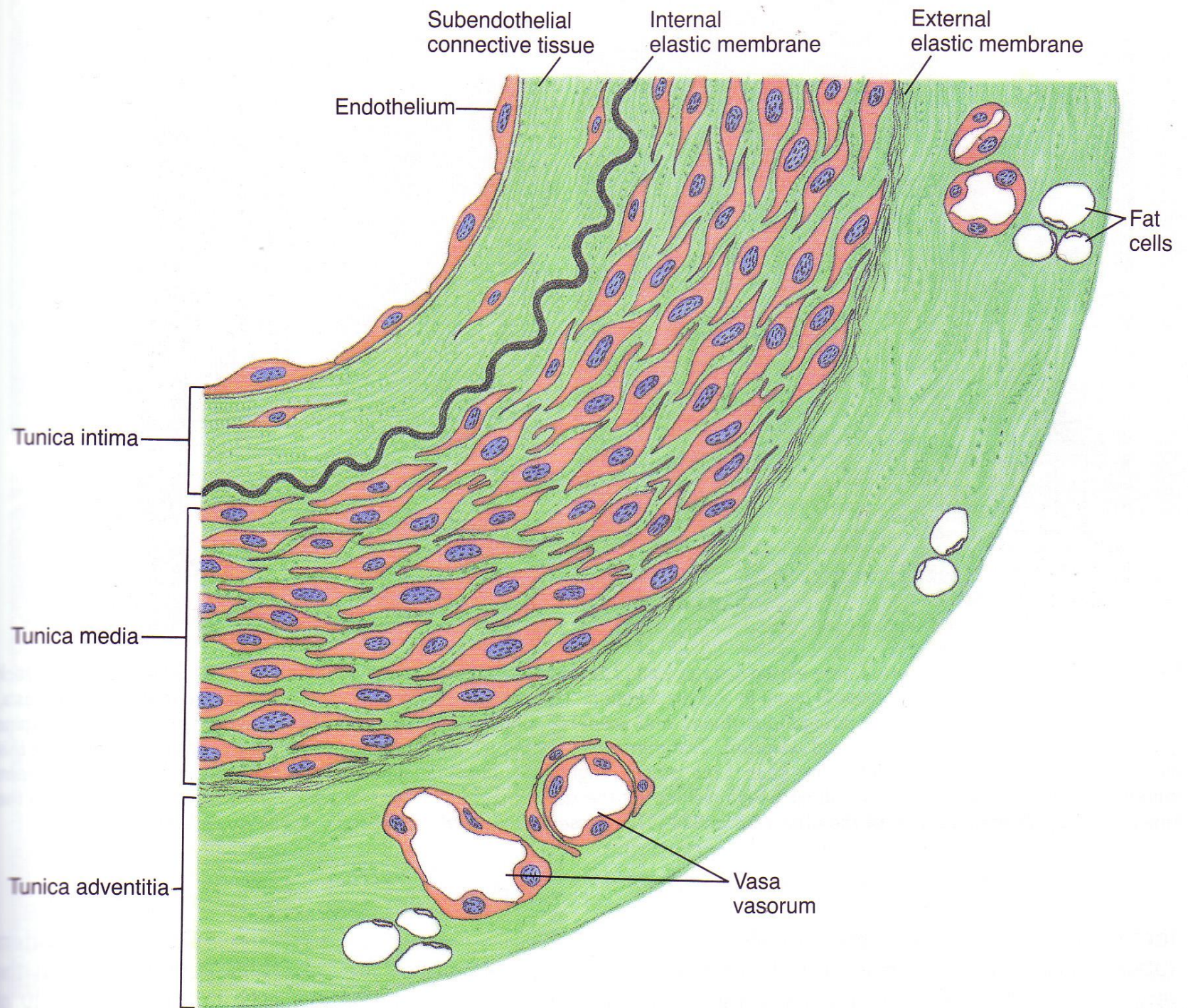
Tunica media

- Smooth muscle
- Elastic fibres
- External elastic lamina (membrane)

Tunica adventitia

- Connective tissue
- Vasa vasora





Tunica Intima

The innermost layer of the vessel consists of three components:

- (A) Endothelium
- (B) Basal lamina of the endothelial cells
- (C) Subendothelial layer

The subendothelial layer of the intima in *arteries and arterioles* contains a sheet like layer or lamella of fenestrated elastic material called

The internal elastic membrane.

Endothelium

In the adult human body, a circulatory system consists of about **60,000 miles of different-sized vessels** that are lined by a simple squamous epithelium called **endothelium**

The endothelium is formed by a continuous layer of flattened, elongated, and polygonally shaped endothelial cells

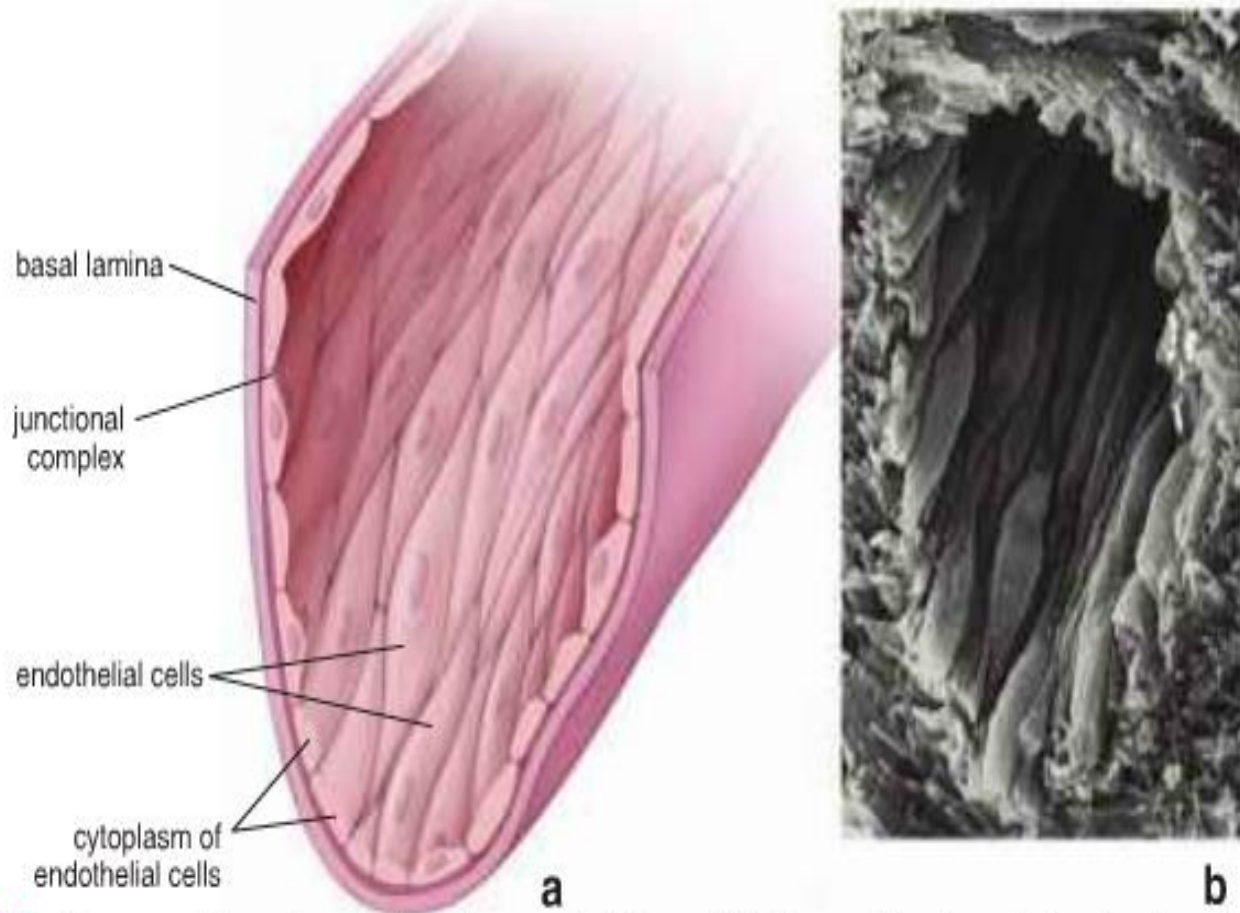


FIGURE 13.15 • Diagram and scanning electron micrograph of the endothelium. **a.** This schematic drawing shows the luminal surface of the endothelium. The cells are elongated with their long axis parallel to the direction of blood flow. Nuclei of endothelial cells are also elongated in the direction of blood flow. **b.** Scanning electron micrograph of a small vein, showing the cells of the endothelial lining. Note the spindle shape with the long axis of the cells running parallel to the vessel. $\times 1,100$.

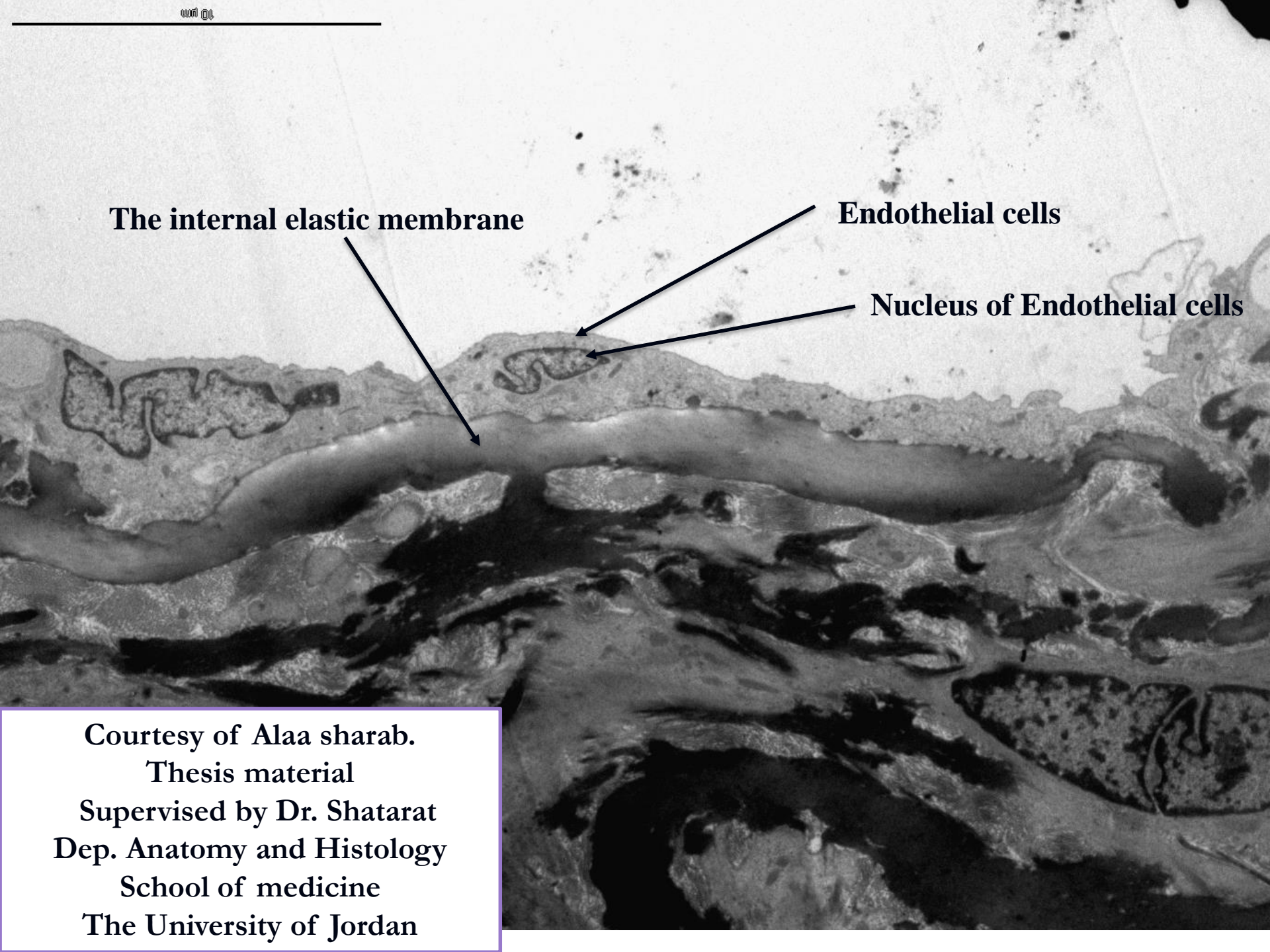
Endothelial injury

**Virchow's
Traid**

Hypercoagulability

Venous stasis



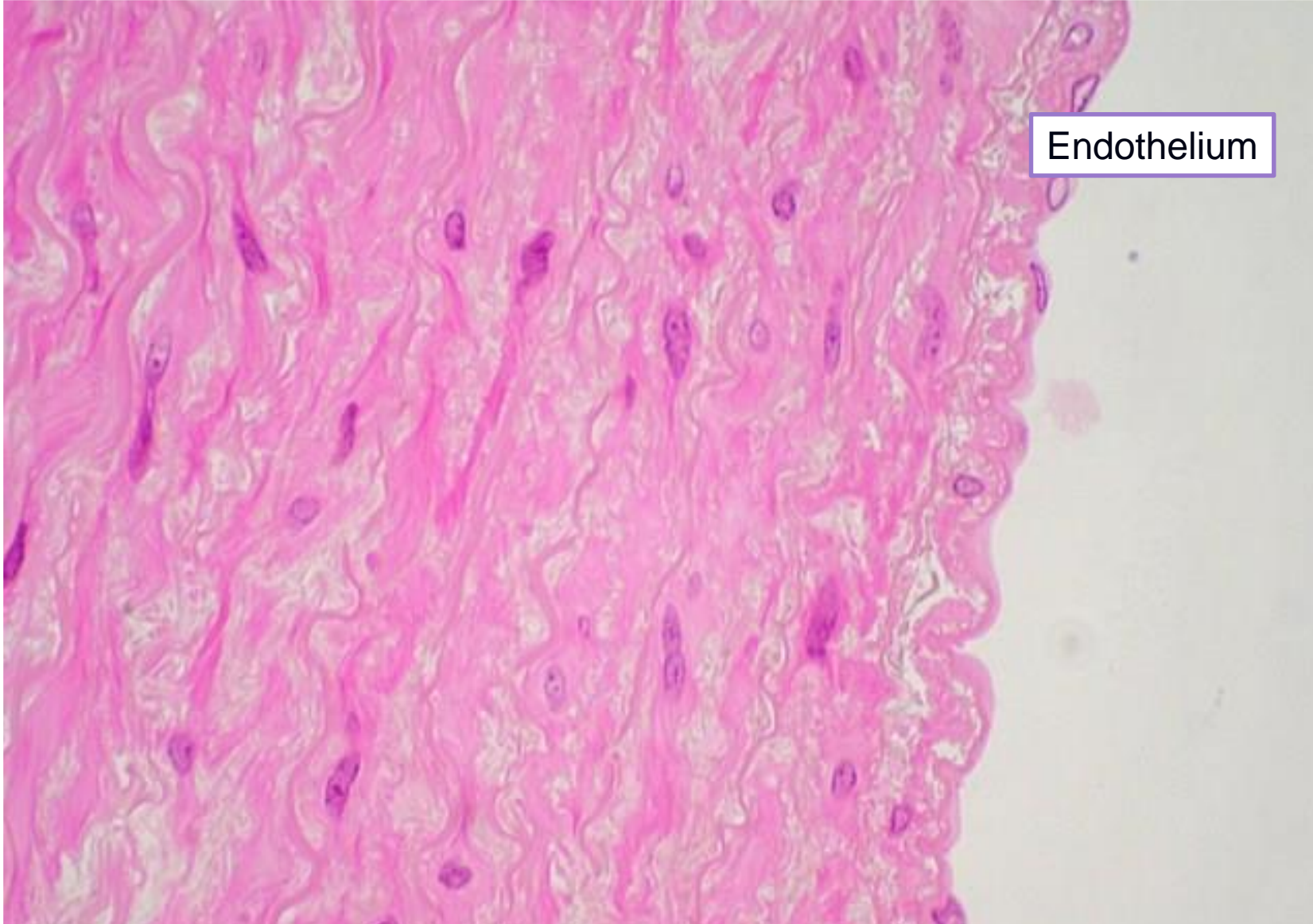


The internal elastic membrane

Endothelial cells

Nucleus of Endothelial cells

Courtesy of Alaa sharab.
Thesis material
Supervised by Dr. Shatarat
Dep. Anatomy and Histology
School of medicine
The University of Jordan



Endothelium

Endothelial cells possess rod like inclusions called **Weibel Palade bodies** that are present in the cytoplasm.



Contain von Willebrand factor and P-selectin

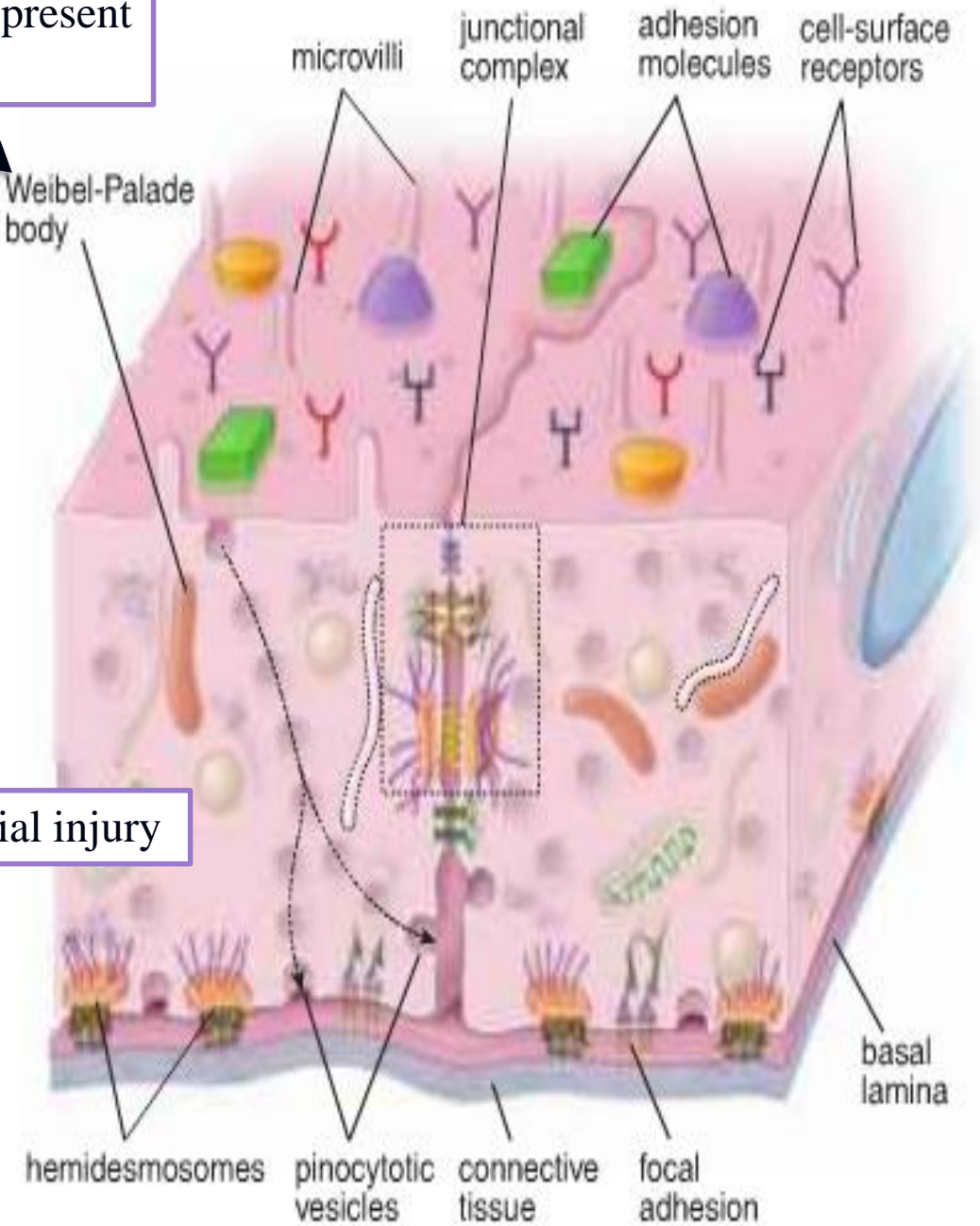
Von Willebrand factor is a glycoprotein synthesized by arterial endothelial cells

It binds coagulating factor VIII



Platelets adhesion to the site of endothelial injury

The antibody to **von Willebrand** factor is commonly used as an immunohistochemical **marker** for identification of **endothelium-derived tumors**



Functions of Endothelium (tunica intima...2)

| Major Properties | Associated Functions | Active Molecules Involved |
|---|--|--|
| Maintenance of selective permeability barrier important | Simple diffusion Active transport Pinocytosis Receptor-mediated endocytosis | Oxygen, carbon dioxide Glucose, amino acids, electrolytes Water, small molecules, soluble proteins LDL, cholesterol, transferrin, growth factors, antibodies, MHC complexes |
| Maintenance of nonthrombogenic barrier | Secretion of anticoagulants Secretion of antithrombogenic agents Secretion of prothrombogenic agents | Thrombomodulin Prostacyclin (PGI ₂), tissue plasminogen activator (TPA), antithrombin III, heparin Tissue thromboplastin, von Willebrand factor, plasminogen-activator inhibitor |
| Modulation of blood flow and vascular resistance important | Secretion of vasoconstrictors Secretion of vasodilators | Endothelin, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) Endothelial-derived relaxation factor (EDRF)/nitric oxide (NO), prostacyclin |
| Regulation of cell growth | Secretion of growth-stimulating factors Secretion of growth-inhibiting factors | Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), hemopoietic colony-stimulating factors (GM-CSF, G-CSF, M-CSF) Heparin, transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) |
| Regulation of immune responses | Regulation of leukocyte migration by expression of adhesion molecules Regulation of immune functions | Selectins, integrins, CD marker molecules Interleukin molecules (IL-1, IL-6, IL-8), MHC molecules |
| Maintenance of extracellular matrix | Synthesis of basal lamina Synthesis of glycocalyx | Type IV collagen, laminin Proteoglycans |
| Involvement in lipoprotein, cholesterol, metabolism | Production of free radicals Oxidation of LDL | Reactive oxygen species (ROS), LDL, VLDL |

Shear stress (dragging force generated by the blood flow) produced between **erythrocytes and endothelial cells**

Activate eNOS

Increasing the production of NO

It diffuses to the underlying smooth muscles and activates **guanylatecyclase** production of **cGMP**

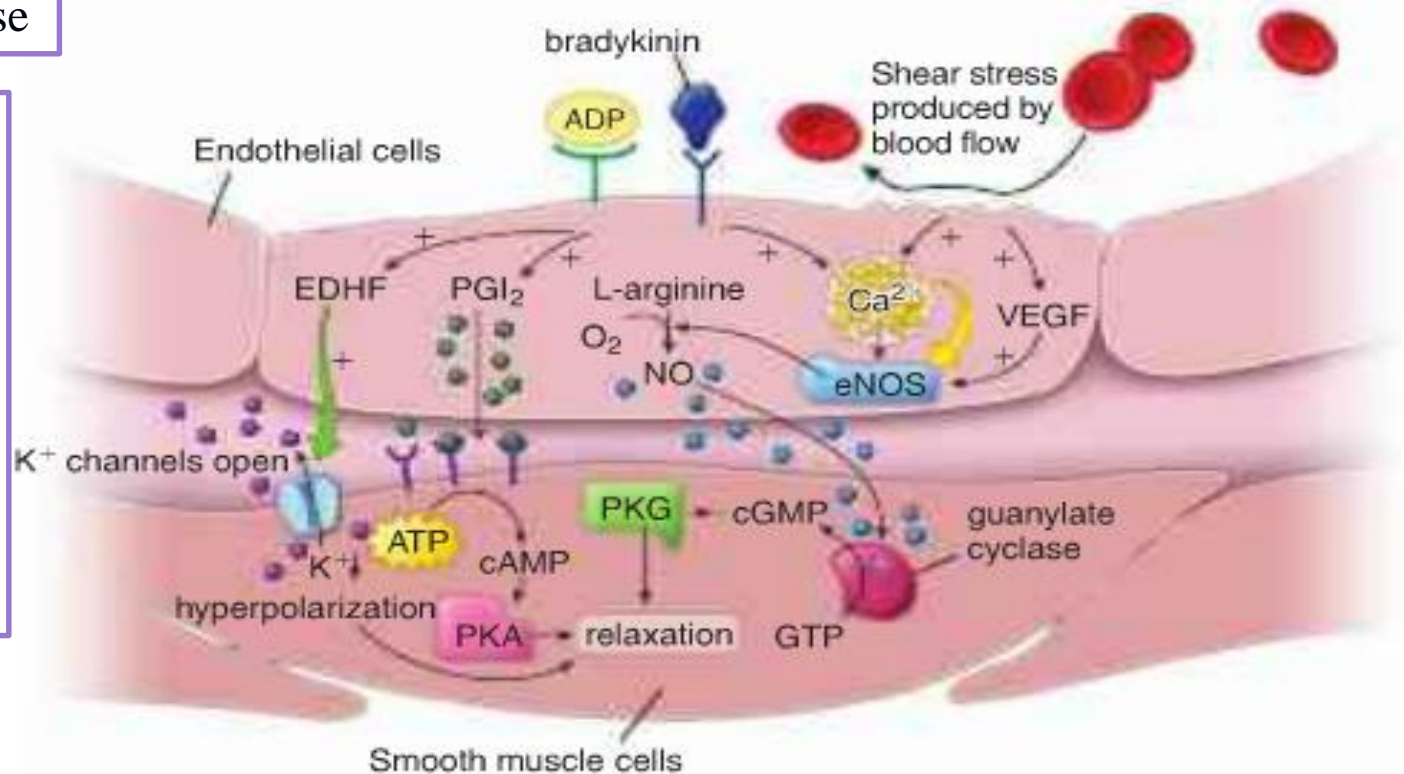
which in turn activates

c GMP-dependent protein kinase G (PKG) metabolic pathways

Causing **Smooth Muscle relaxation**.

➤ (eNOS):endothelial nitric oxide synthase

➤ NO: is an endogenous vasodilatory gas continuously synthesized in endothelial cells by endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS).



Subendothelial Connective Tissue

Composed of:

- Loose connective tissue.
- Few scattered longitudinally arranged smooth muscle cells

Internal Elastic Lamina

Well developed in muscular arteries.

Composed of fenestrated sheet of elastin.

Permits diffusion of substances into deeper layers.

Tunica Media

Tunica Media ...1

The largest layer in arteries.

Contains smooth muscle fibres, elastic fibres, collage type III and proteoglycans.

In capillaries and post capillary venules this layer is replace by pericytes.

The fibres and ground substance are secreted by smooth muscle cells.

There are **NO** fibroblasts in this layer.

Fibroblasts are not present in the tunica media
Smooth muscle cells synthesize
The collagen
Elastin
and other molecules of the extracellular matrix

In addition, in response to growth factors
(i.e., PDGF, FGF) produced by endothelial cells

smooth muscle cells **may Proliferate and Migrate to the**
adjacent intima.

This characteristic is important in normal *repair of the vascular wall* and in pathologic processes similar to those occurring in *atherosclerosis*

External Elastic Lamina (tunica media...2)

Present in large muscular arteries.

More delicate than the internal lamina.

It is also fenestrated.

Tunica Adventitia

Tunica Adventitia

Thickest layer in veins.

Composed mainly of *fibroblasts, type I collagen and few elastic fibres.*

It is continuous with the surrounding connective tissue.

Contains **Vasa Vasorum**

They are small arteries.

Supply the wall of large vessels (more in veins than in arteries).

Branch profusely.

Contains Nerve supply to vessels

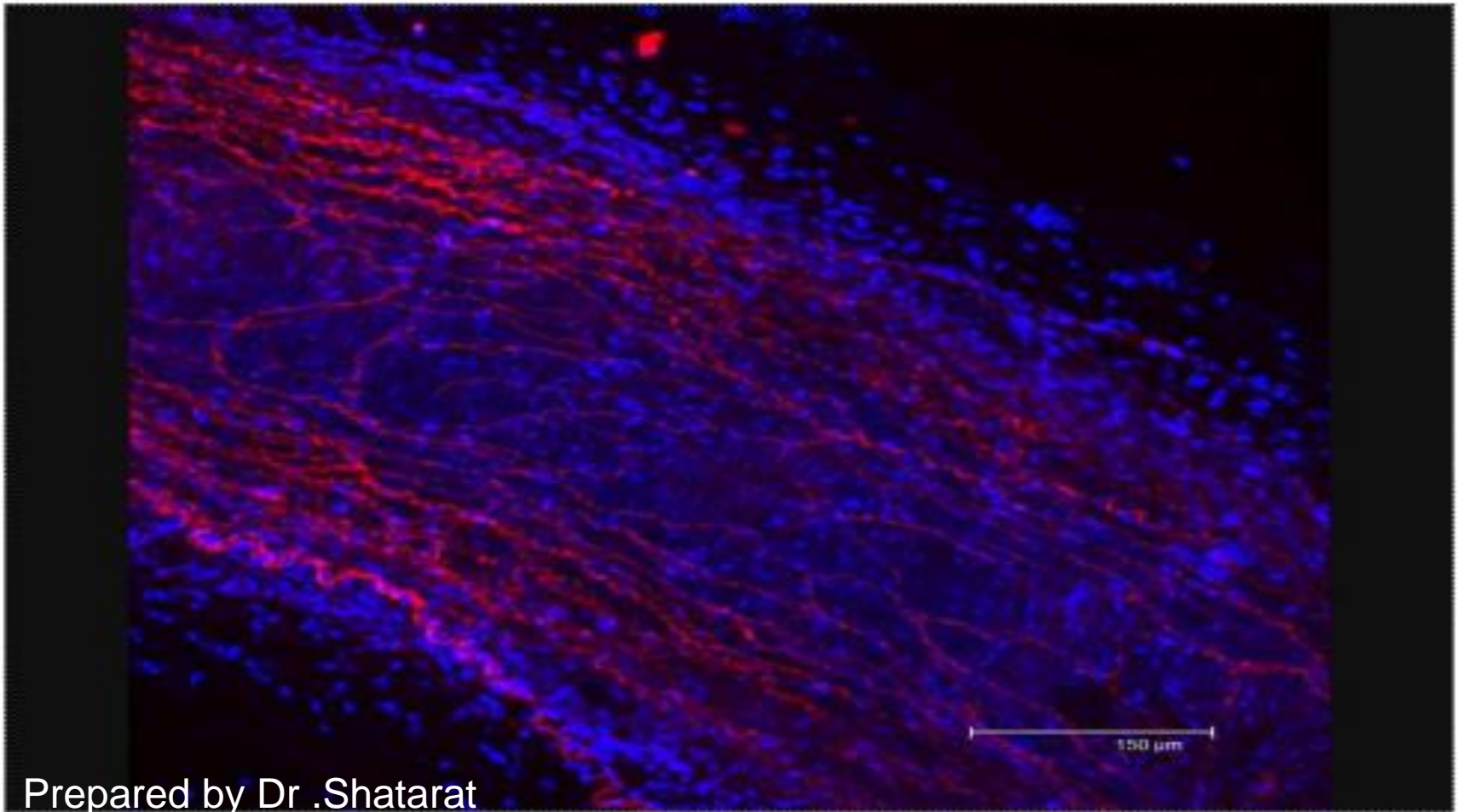
Vessels receive unmyelinated sympathetic vasomotor (vasoconstrictor) fibres.

Nerves enter the adventitia, release **Norepinephrine (NA)**, **ATP** and **NPY** as neurotransmitters which diffuse into the media, and stimulates smooth muscles.

Read and enjoy

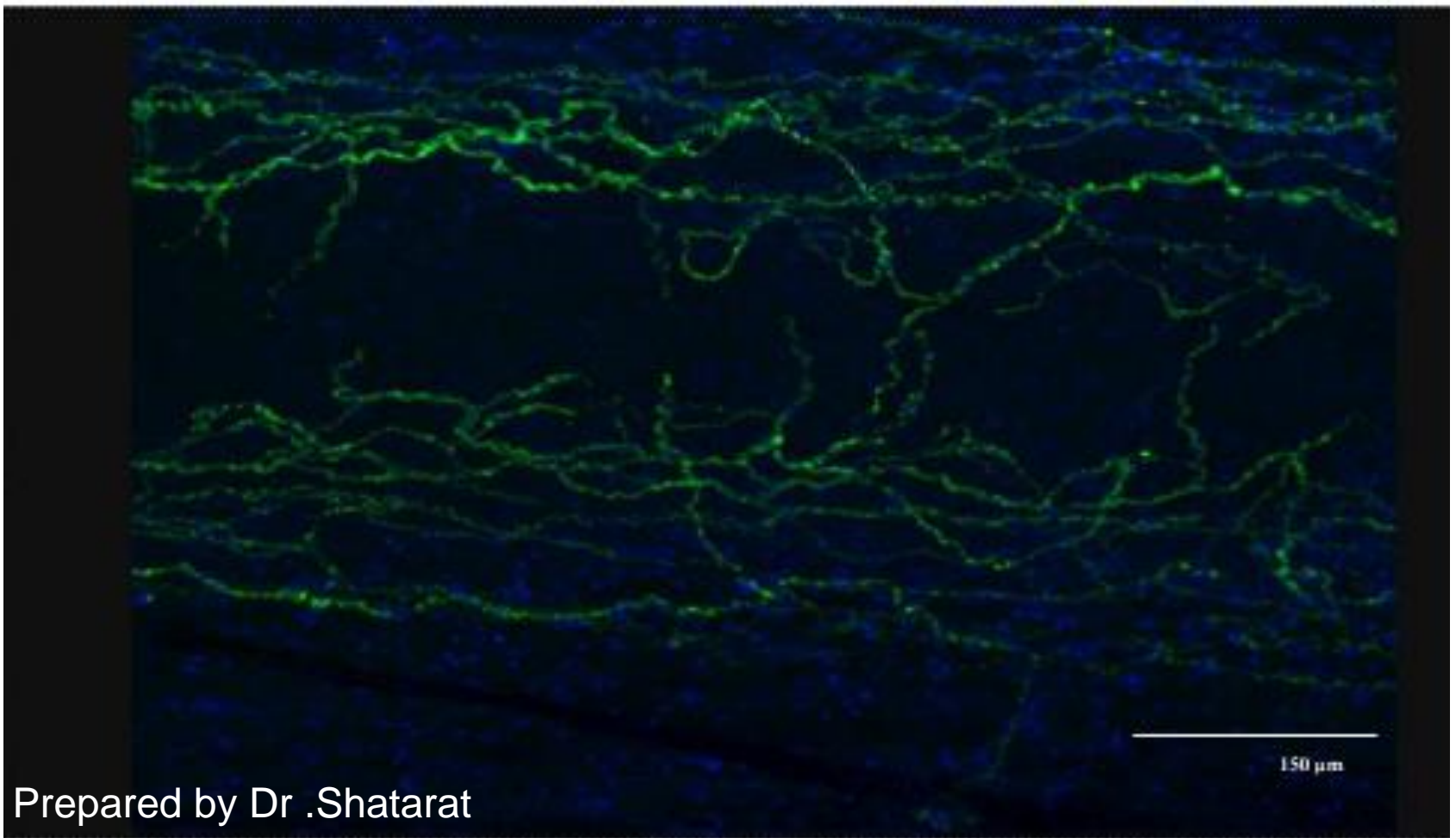
Raised tone reveals ATP as a sympathetic neurotransmitter in the porcine mesenteric arterial bed

Amjad shatarat, William Dunn, Vera Ralevic



Prepared by Dr .Shatarat

A representative of maximum projection confocal images of whole-mount preparations of porcine mesenteric small arteries. A) Immunoreactive perivascular nerves stained for PGP9.5 (red) can be seen. Scale bar = 150 μm



Prepared by Dr .Shatarat

A representative of maximum projection confocal images of whole-mount preparations of porcine mesenteric small arteries. A) Immunoreactive perivascular nerves stained for TH (green) can be seen. Scale bar = 150 μm .



An increase in
sympathetic stimulation
typically stimulates the smooth muscle to
contract and narrowing the lumen.
Such a decrease *in the diameter* of the
lumen of a blood vessel is called
vasoconstriction

Blood vessels Control

In contrast, decreases, or in
the presence of certain chemicals
(such as nitric oxide) or in response to blood pressure,
smooth muscle fibers
relax.

The resulting increase in lumen diameter is called

vasodilatation

ROLE OF BLOOD VESSELS IN THE REGULATION OF SYSTEMIC BLOOD PRESSURE

Read and enjoy

Systemic blood pressure is the product of the cardiac output and systemic peripheral vascular resistance. The homeostatic systems that influence blood pressure are neural regulation, arterial baroreceptors and chemoreceptors, regulation of fluid volume, and humoral regulation (Guyton, 2005). Apart from the regulation of fluid volume, which is mainly controlled by the action of the kidneys, other factors that regulate systemic blood pressure mainly target blood vessels, with small arteries being crucial in the control of peripheral resistance and hence in regulating blood pressure. Blood vessels diameter is controlled by the three layers that compose the blood vessels. The innermost layer of blood vessels, which is called the endothelium, can actively contribute to the contractile status of blood vessels by releasing several biologically active substances including nitric oxide (NO) (Furchgott et al., 1984), prostacyclin (Moncada et al., 1979), as well as endothelium derived hyperpolarizing factor (EDHF) (Taylor and Weston, 1988).

The outermost layer of blood vessels, called the adventitia, contains perivascular nerves which are usually of two types; sympathetic and sensory (also called sensory-motor or capsaicin-sensitive sensory nerves). Both mediate their functions by releasing different neurotransmitters.

Between the endothelial and adventitial layers is a layer of smooth muscle cells which responds to the different signals released from endothelium and perivascular nerves in the adventitia to enable the blood vessel to alter its diameter.

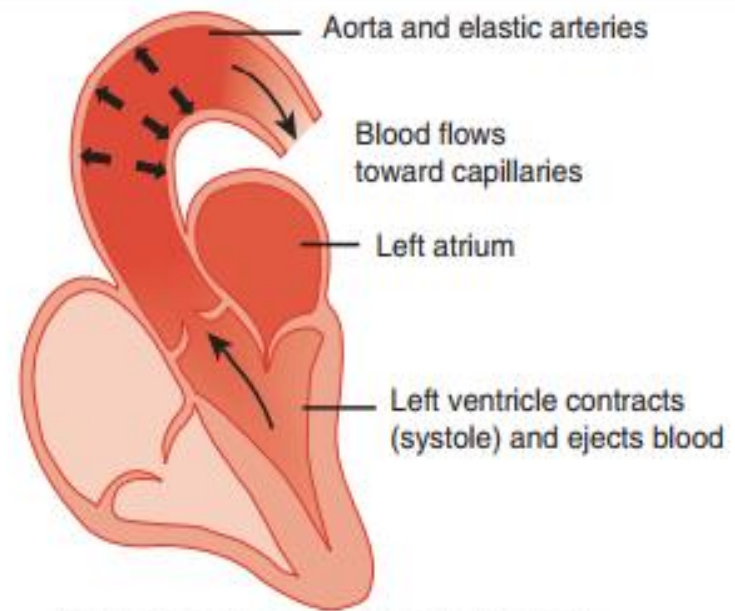
Thus the function of blood vessels is under a dual regulation of endothelium and perivascular nerves (Burnstock, 1990). Furthermore, blood vessels are also regulated by hormones within the blood and formed elements of blood such as red blood cells (RBC). RBC act as a sensor for hypoxia thus when O₂ levels become low RBC release adenosine triphosphate (ATP) which stimulates vasodilatation (Dietrich et al., 2000). Therefore, blood vessel contractility is orchestrated by endothelium, blood borne factors and perivascular nerves. However, another mechanism which has been shown to be involved in the regulation of blood flow is the ability of small arteries, especially arterioles, to develop myogenic tone (MT) (Johnson, 1981). MT is the ability of small blood vessels to constrict in response to increases in intraluminal pressure or to relax in response to decreases in blood pressure regardless of the neuronal, hormonal and metabolic influences (Davis and Hill, 1999).

From a functional stand point, elastic arteries serve primarily as conduction tubes; however, they also facilitate the continuous and uniform movement of blood along the tube Blood flow occurs as follows: The ventricles of the heart pump blood into the elastic arteries during systole (the contraction phase of the cardiac cycle).

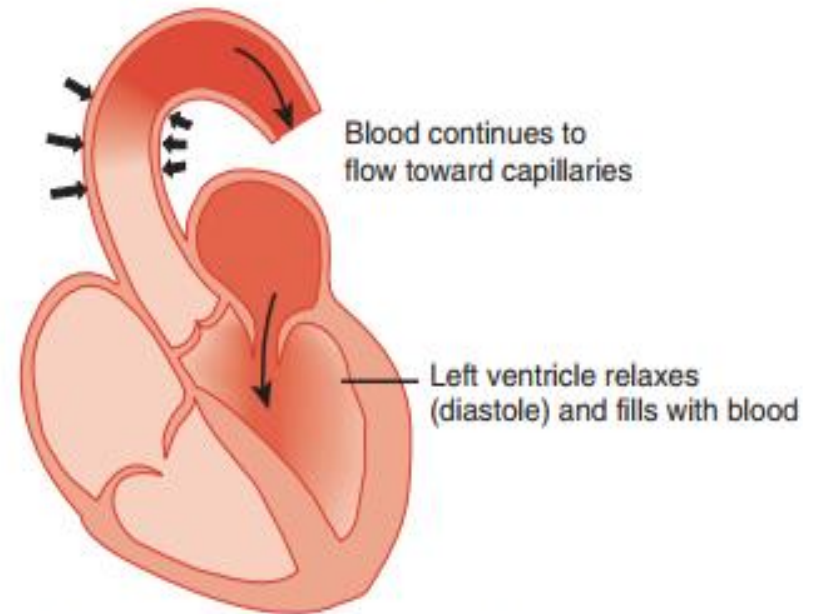
The pressure generated by contraction of the ventricles moves the blood through the elastic arteries and along the arterial tree.

Simultaneously, it also causes the wall of the large elastic arteries to distend

The distension is limited by the network of collagenous fibers in the tunica media and tunica adventitia During diastole (the relaxation phase of the cardiac cycle when no pressure is generated by the heart, the recoil of the distended elastic arteries serves to maintain arterial blood pressure and the flow of blood within the vessels Initial elastic recoil forces blood both away from and back toward the heart. T



(a) Elastic aorta and arteries stretch during ventricular contraction



(b) Elastic aorta and arteries recoil during ventricular relaxation

The thickness of the tunica intima varies with age and other factors. In young children, it is very thin. In muscular arteries of young adults, the tunica intima accounts for about one-sixth of the total wall thickness. In older adults, the tunica intima may be expanded by lipid deposits, often in the form of irregular “fatty streaks.”