

**BIO 211:**  
**ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I**



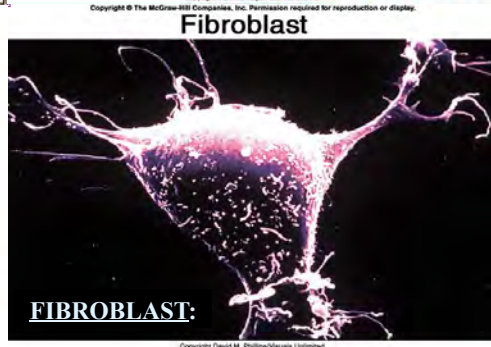
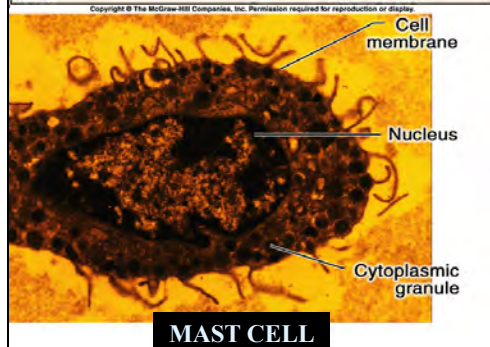
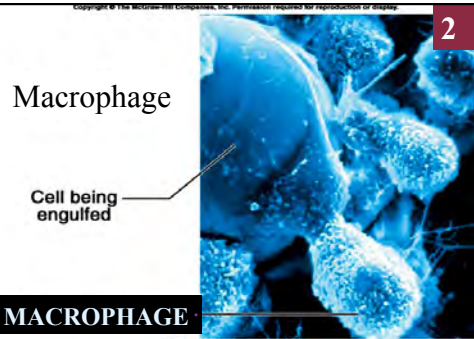
**CHAPTER 05**  
Histology:  
**CONNECTIVE**  
**TISSUE**

**Dr. Lawrence G. Altman**  
[www.lawrencegaltman.com](http://www.lawrencegaltman.com)  
*Some illustrations are courtesy of McGraw-Hill.*



**Table 5.6 Components of Connective Tissue**

Component	Characteristic	Function
Fibroblast	Widely distributed, large, starshaped cells	Secrete proteins that become fibers
Macrophages	Motile cells sometimes attached to fibers	Clear foreign particles from tissues by phagocytosis
Mast cells	Large cells, usually located near blood vessels Think <b>HISTAMINE !!</b>	Release substances that may help prevent blood clotting and promote inflammation
Collagenous fibers (white fibers)	Thick, threadlike fibers of collagen with great tensile strength	Hold structures together
Elastic fibers (yellow fibers)	Bundles of microfibrils embedded in elastin	Provide elastic quality to parts that stretch
Reticular fibers	Thin fibers of collagen	For supportive network within tissues



## OVERVIEW of CONNECTIVE TISSUE:

3

Functionally diverse, CONNECTIVE TISSUE:

- binds organs**
- provides support**
- facilitates movement**
- protects**
- provides immune defense**
- stores energy and minerals**
- helps to produce heat**
- transports within the bloodstream.**

Early embryonic tissue gives rise to mesenchyme, which in turn, produces most of the permanent connective tissue (+ muscle).

A *second* embryonic connective tissue is mucous connective tissue that is limited to Wharton's jelly that fills and supports tissues of the umbilical cord. It is a temporary tissue.

## OVERVIEW of CONNECTIVE TISSUE:

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Components of Fibroconnective Tissue:

### CELLS

- a. **Fibroblasts** are the most common cells of connective tissue. They are large, flat, branching cells that produce fibers and ground substance.
- b. **Histiocytes** are the macrophages of connective tissue.
- c. **Leukocytes**, esp. neutrophils, reside in connective tissue/react against bacteria, toxins, & foreign matter.
- d. **Plasma cells** produce antibodies and are only found in inflamed tissue and the wall of the digestive tract.
- e. **Mast cells**, found near blood vessels, produce heparin and histamine.
- f. **Adipocytes** (fat cells) appear in some types of fibroconnective tissues.

## OVERVIEW of CONNECTIVE TISSUE:

5

Components of **Fibroconnective** Tissue:

### FIBERS

Fibers are made of **protein**. **Three types** are found in CT:

1. **Collagenous fibers** are tough, flexible, and resist stretching. Collagen constitutes 25% of the body's protein. These are also called **white fibers**.
2. **Reticular fibers: thin collagen fibers** in reticular CT.
3. **Elastic fibers** are made of the stretchy protein **elastin**. These are also called **yellow fibers**.

### Ground Substance

*Components:* **tissue fluid, minerals, and proteoglycans**, the especially large colloidal particles that form a viscous tissue gel.

In **bone**, tissue gel is made up of **chondroitin sulfate**;

In **fibroconnective tissue**, **hyaluronic acid** comprises the gel tissue.

## OVERVIEW of CONNECTIVE TISSUE:

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There are **two** broad types of **FIBROCONNECTIVE Tissue**:

### 1. Loose Connective Tissue



- a. AREOLAR
- b. RETICULAR
- c. ADIPOSE

### 2. Dense Connective Tissue

- a. DENSE REGULAR
- b. DENSE IRREGULAR

## LOOSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: AREOLAR

7

"loose" = *relatively scarce fiber distribution.*

ATLAS: Figure 12b (Morton & Perry, 1998)

Gel – like matrix with *all 3 fiber types:*

**reticular** reticulin = non-banded form of collagen

**elastic** often referred to as **yellow fibers**

**collagen** often referred to as **white fibers**

<b>Cells:</b>	<b><u>fibroblasts</u></b>	production of connective tissue proper, matrix- i.e., all CT except cartilage, blood and bone
	<b><u>macrophages</u></b>	phagocytize bacteria
	<b><u>Mast cells</u></b>	histamine release; increased capillary permeability
	<b><u>WBCs</u></b>	a few

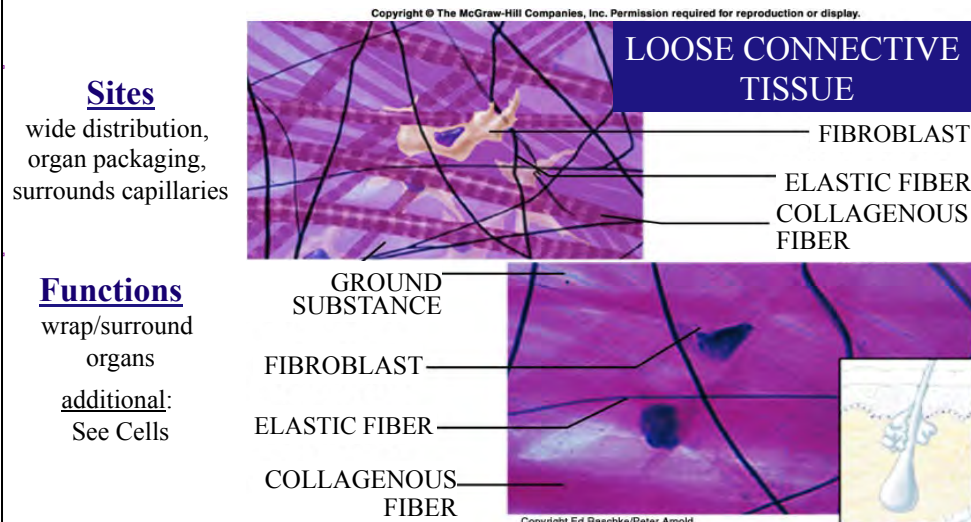
1. Loose Connective Tissue
  - a. AREOLAR
  - b. RETICULAR
  - c. ADIPOSE
2. Dense Connective Tissue
  - a. DENSE REGULAR
  - b. DENSE IRREGULAR

## LOOSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: AREOLAR

8

"loose" = *relatively scarce fiber distribution.*

ATLAS: Figure 12b (Morton & Perry, 1998)



## LOOSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: AREOLAR

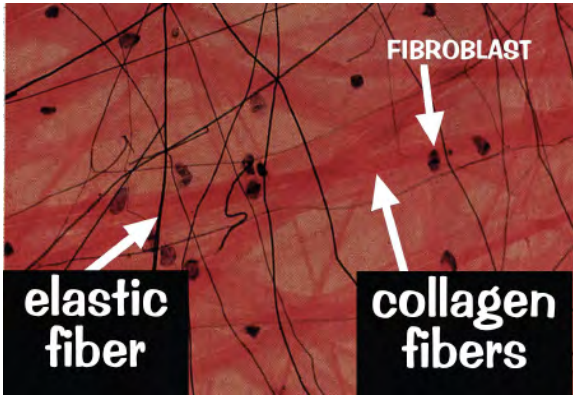
*“loose” = relatively scarce fiber distribution.*

**ATLAS:** Figure 12b (Morton & Perry, 1998)

**Bands of collagen and elastic fibers run in all directions through intercellular spaces of subcutaneous tissue; permit flexible resistance to mechanical stress. (x100)**

Lab Atlas of A&P  
Eder et al.  
Mosby, 1994

*Another View:*



The micrograph shows a network of fibers. A white arrow points to a thick, dark fiber labeled 'elastic fiber'. Another white arrow points to a bundle of fibers labeled 'collagen fibers'. A black arrow points to a cell labeled 'FIBROBLAST'.

## LOOSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: RETICULAR

*“loose” = relatively scarce fiber distribution.*

**ATLAS:** Figures 14 b, c and d (Morton & Perry, 1998)

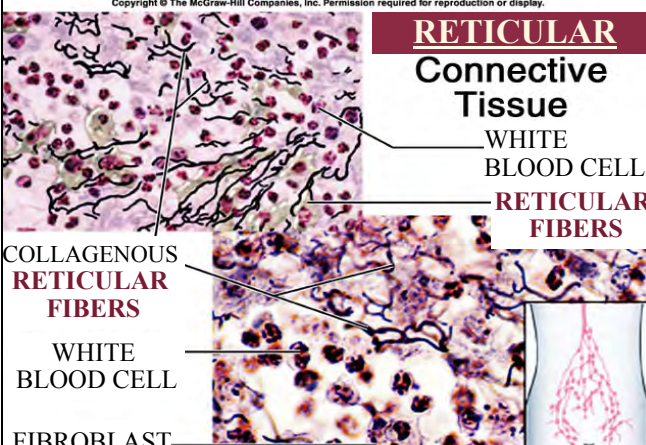
**Distinctive fiber type:** reticular **NOTE:** fibers may branch!  
reticulin = non-banded form of collagen; sometimes called “fine collagen.”

**1. Loose Connective Tissue**

- a. AREOLAR
- b. RETICULAR
- c. ADIPOSE

**2. Dense Connective Tissue**

- a. DENSE REGULAR
- b. DENSE IRREGULAR



**RETICULAR Connective Tissue**

WHITE BLOOD CELL

RETICULAR FIBERS

COLLAGENOUS RETICULAR FIBERS

WHITE BLOOD CELL

FIBROBLAST

**Cells:** *reticular* predominate

**Functions:**  
fibers form a soft, internal skeleton that support other cell types.

**Sites:**  
**hematopoietic;** lymphoid tissues:  
spleen, lymph nodes, and bone marrow.

## LOOSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: RETICULAR

11

"loose" = *relatively scarce fiber distribution.*

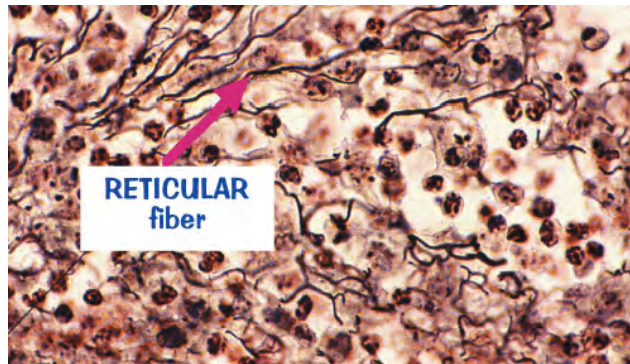
ATLAS: Figures 14 b, c and d (Morton & Perry, 1998)

1. Loose Connective Tissue
  - a. AREOLAR
  - b. RETICULAR
  - c. ADIPOSE
2. Dense Connective Tissue
  - a. DENSE REGULAR
  - b. DENSE IRREGULAR

### Another View:

Mesh of reticular fibers appear as dark lines; provides scaffold for cellular organization.

From lymph node (X250)



Lab Atlas of A&P  
Edet. et al.  
Mosby, 1994

## LOOSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: ADIPOSE

12

"loose" = *relatively scarce fiber distribution.*

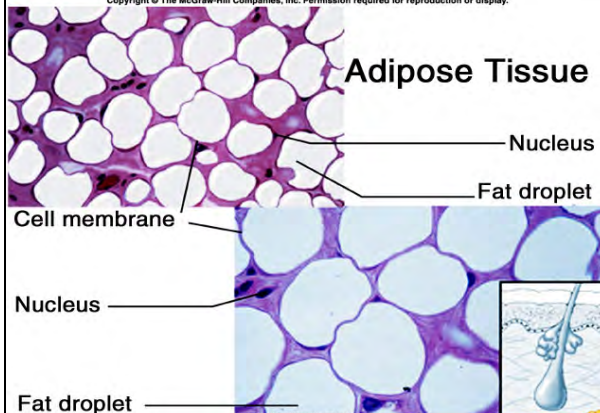
ATLAS: Figures 13 c, d and e (Morton & Perry, 1998)

Brown adipose + description: Figure 14 a

1. Loose Connective Tissue
  - a. AREOLAR
  - b. RETICULAR
  - c. ADIPOSE
2. Dense Connective Tissue
  - a. DENSE REGULAR
  - b. DENSE IRREGULAR

**Adipocytes:** matrix as in areolar but sparse; Cells **tightly packed** fat cells (adipocytes) show **nuclei pushed to side of a large fat droplet!**

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### Functions:

Reserve fuel  
Organ support/protection  
Insulation against heat loss

### Sites:

under skin  
around kidneys/eyeballs  
in bones  
within abdomen  
in breasts

## LOOSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: ADIPOSE

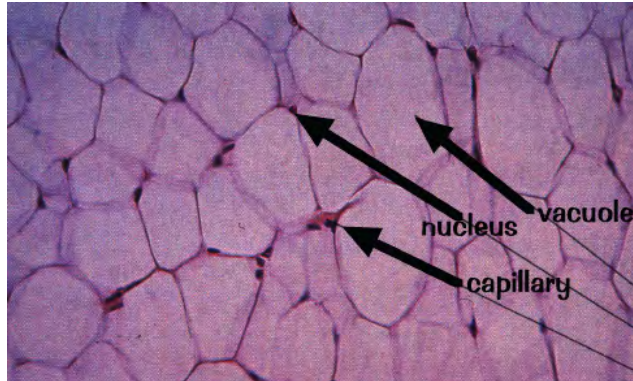
13

“loose” = *relatively scarce fiber distribution.*

ATLAS: Figures 13 c, d and e (Morton & Perry, 1998)  
Brown adipose + description: Figure 14 a

### Another View:

Large, polyhedral vacuoles dominate  
small, displaced nuclei of  
**adipocytes.**  
Fine capillaries run through tissue  
(x100)



Lab Atlas of A&P  
Eder et al.  
Mosby, 1994

## DENSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: REGULAR

14

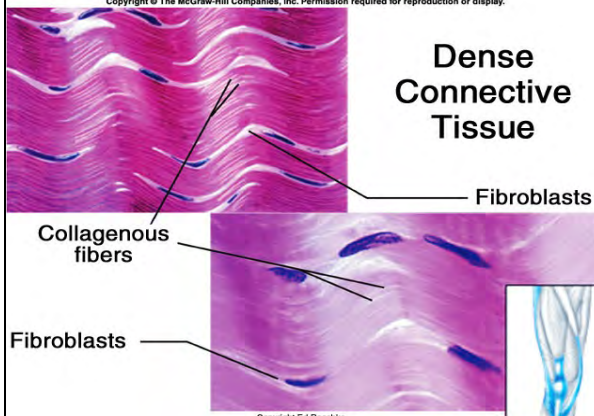
**DENSE** = *high fiber distribution;*  
*dense connective tissues are also known as “fibrous”*  
*fibrous usually denotes mostly collagen fibers*

1. Loose Connective Tissue
  - a. AREOLAR
  - b. RETICULAR
  - c. ADIPOSE
2. Dense Connective Tissue
  - a. DENSE REGULAR
  - b. DENSE IRREGULAR

ATLAS: Dense Regular White: Figure 12 d (Morton & Perry, 1998)  
Dense Regular Elastic: Figure 13 a (Morton & Perry, 1998)

Major Arrangement: **parallel collagen fibers**, some elastic; **many fibroblasts**

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### Dense Connective Tissue

#### Functions:

increased tensile strength when force applied in one direction.

#### Sites:

**Tendon:** muscle to bone

**Aponeuroses:** muscle to muscle

**Ligaments:** bone to bone  
across a joint (most)

#### NOTE: *dense regular elastic:*

same arrangement but elastic fibers predominate:  
some ligaments, arterial wall  
and the larynx (voicebox).

## DENSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: REGULAR

15

**DENSE** = *high fiber distribution;*  
*dense connective tissues are also known as "fibrous"*  
*fibrous usually denotes mostly collagen fibers*

**ATLAS:** ▶ Dense Regular White: Figure 12 d (Morton & Perry, 1998)  
 Dense Regular Elastic: Figure 13 a (Morton & Perry, 1998)

**1. Loose Connective Tissue**

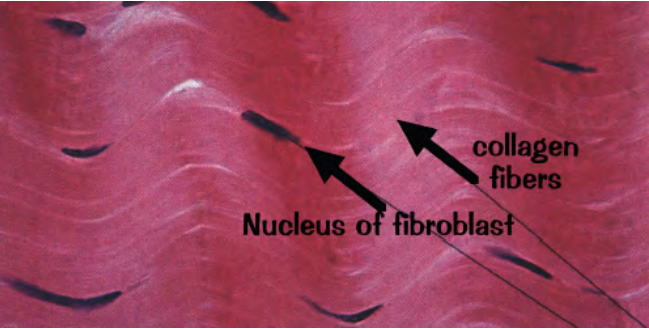
- a. AREOLAR
- b. RETICULAR
- c. ADIPOSE

**2. Dense Connective Tissue**

- ▶ a. DENSE REGULAR
- b. DENSE IRREGULAR

Another View:

Thicker bands of collagen running in **regular, parallel rows** resist mechanical stress mainly along course of fibers. Monkey tendon (x250)



**collagen fibers**

**Nucleus of fibroblast**

**NEXT 2 Slides: Dense Regular ELASTIC >>>**

Lab Atlas of A&P  
Eder et al.  
Mosby, 1994

## DENSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: REGULAR

16

**DENSE** = *high fiber distribution;*  
*dense connective tissues are also known as "fibrous"*  
*fibrous usually denotes mostly collagen fibers*

**ATLAS:** ▶ Dense Regular White: Figure 12 d (Morton & Perry, 1998)  
 Dense Regular Elastic: Figure 13 a (Morton & Perry, 1998)

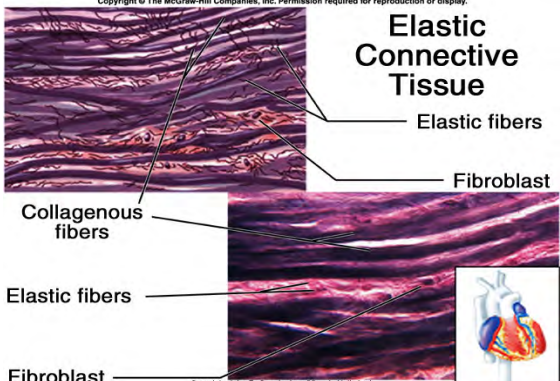
**1. Loose Connective Tissue**

- a. AREOLAR
- b. RETICULAR
- c. ADIPOSE

**2. Dense Connective Tissue**

- ▶ a. DENSE REGULAR
- b. DENSE IRREGULAR

**NOTE:** *dense regular ELASTIC: same arrangement but elastic fibers predominate*  
**SITES:** some **ligaments**, **arterial wall** and the **larynx** (voicebox).



**Elastic Connective Tissue**

Elastic fibers

Fibroblast

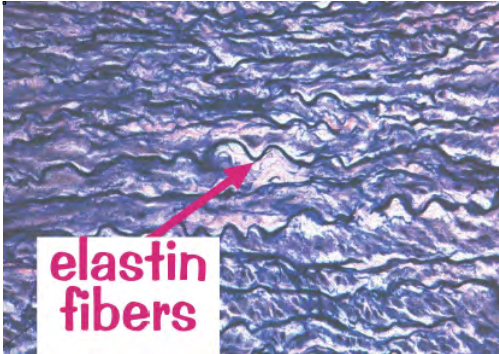
Collagenous fibers

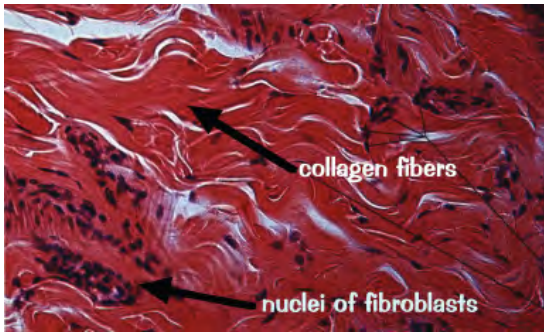
Elastic fibers

Fibroblast

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<b>DENSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: REGULAR</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>DENSE = <i>high fiber distribution;</i></b> <i>dense connective tissues are also known as "fibrous"</i> <i>fibrous usually denotes mostly collagen fibers</i>		<b>1. Loose Connective Tissue</b> a. AREOLAR b. RETICULAR c. ADIPOSE  <b>2. Dense Connective Tissue</b> a. DENSE REGULAR b. DENSE IRREGULAR
<b>ATLAS:</b>	Dense Regular White: Figure 12 d (Morton & Perry, 1998) Dense Regular Elastic: Figure 13 a (Morton & Perry, 1998)	
<b>NOTE:</b>	<i>dense regular ELASTIC:</i> same arrangement but <b>elastic fibers</b> predominate <b>SITES:</b> some <b>ligaments, arterial wall</b> and the <b>larynx</b> (voicebox).	
<p>Another View:</p> <p>Extracellular elastin fibers running parallel in a plane. Structure permits tissue elasticity and recoil.</p> <p>From aorta (X100)</p>		

<b>DENSE CONNECTIVE TISSUE: IRREGULAR</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>DENSE = <i>high fiber distribution;</i></b> <i>dense connective tissues are also known as "fibrous"</i> <i>fibrous usually denotes mostly collagen fibers</i>		<b>1. Loose Connective Tissue</b> a. AREOLAR b. RETICULAR c. ADIPOSE  <b>2. Dense Connective Tissue</b> a. DENSE REGULAR b. DENSE IRREGULAR
<b>ATLAS:</b>	Dense Irregular: Figure 12 c (Morton & Perry, 1998)	
Major Arrangement: <i>non - parallel collagen fibers</i> , many fibroblasts		
<p>Thicker bands of collagen running in <b>irregular rows</b> give multidirectional tensile strength. Collagen - secreting fibroblasts appear throughout. from Aponeurosis (x100)</p> <p>Lab Atlas of A&amp;P Eder et al. Mosby, 1994</p>		<p><b>Functions:</b> structural strength able to withstand tension from <u>many</u> directions</p> <p><b>Sites:</b> fibrous capsules: organs/joints dermis of the skin submucosa of the digestive tract</p>

## CONNECTIVE TISSUE: CARTILAGE

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There are **three** major types of **CARTILAGE**:



1. **HYALINE CARTILAGE**
2. **ELASTIC CARTILAGE**
3. **FIBROCARTILAGE** (one word)

## CARTILAGE: **HYALINE** (smooth, glassy)

20

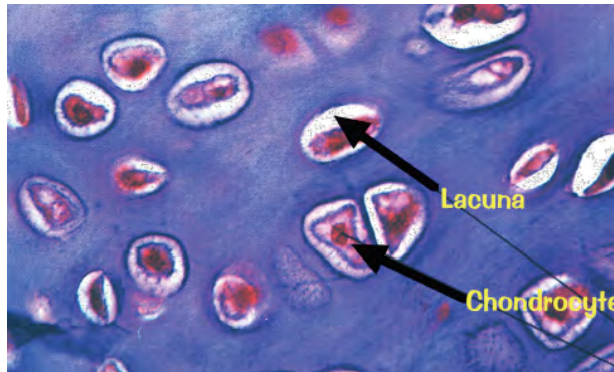
*unlike the connective tissue proper (fibroblast - derived), cartilage matrix is formed by **chondroblasts***

1. **HYALINE CARTILAGE**
2. **ELASTIC CARTILAGE**
3. **FIBROCARTILAGE** (one word)

**ATLAS:** Hyaline cartilage: Figure 15 a and b (Morton & Perry, 1998)

collagen fiber network, while present, is *often imperceptible*  
firm but amorphous matrix

**chondroblasts** ----> **chondrocytes (found in lacunae)**  
**secrete the matrix**



### **Functions:**

resilient cushioning properties  
resists compressive stress  
support

### **Sites:**

most of the embryonic skeleton  
ends of long bones  
in joint cavities  
costal cartilage of the ribs  
(between sternum and bony rib)

### **Cartilage of the:**

Nose, Trachea (windpipe)  
Larynx (voicebox)

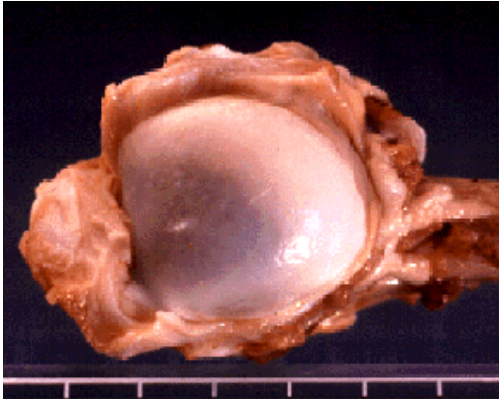
## CARTILAGE: HYALINE

(smooth, glassy) ▶ **1. HYALINE CARTILAGE**  
**2. ELASTIC CARTILAGE**  
**3. FIBROCARTILAGE** (one word)

*unlike the connective tissue proper (fibroblast - derived), cartilage matrix is formed by **chondroblasts***

21

**ATLAS:** Hyaline cartilage: Figure 15 a and b (Morton & Perry, 1998)



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Image donated by: Dr Peter Brown  
 Donor organisation: University of Bristol, Department of Pathology & Microbiology  
 Identifier: BRISBIO-CLV00184  
 Summary: Fibrillation, finely granular articular surface

Speciality (UMLS): Pathology, Veterinary  
 Body system (UMLS): Musculoskeletal System  
 Disease (UMLS): Osteoarthritis Joint Diseases  
 Body part (UMLS): Cartilage, Articular

## CARTILAGE: ELASTIC

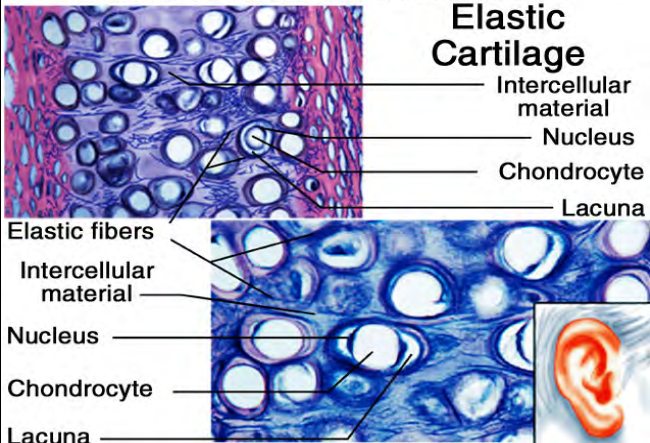
*unlike the connective tissue proper (fibroblast - derived), cartilage matrix is formed by **chondroblasts***

22

**ATLAS:** Elastic cartilage: Figure 15 c (Morton & Perry, 1998)

Similar to hyaline cartilage but with a **higher amount of elastic fibers** in the matrix

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Elastic Cartilage

- Intercellular material
- Nucleus
- Chondrocyte
- Lacuna

- Elastic fibers
- Intercellular material
- Nucleus
- Chondrocyte
- Lacuna

Functions:

shape maintenance while allowing great flexibility

Sites:

supports the **PINNA:** (external ear)  
**EPIGLOTIS:** (flap over the trachea)

**CARTILAGE: ELASTIC**

unlike the connective tissue proper (fibroblast - derived), cartilage matrix is formed by *chondroblasts*

ATLAS: Elastic cartilage: Figure 15 c (Morton & Perry, 1998)

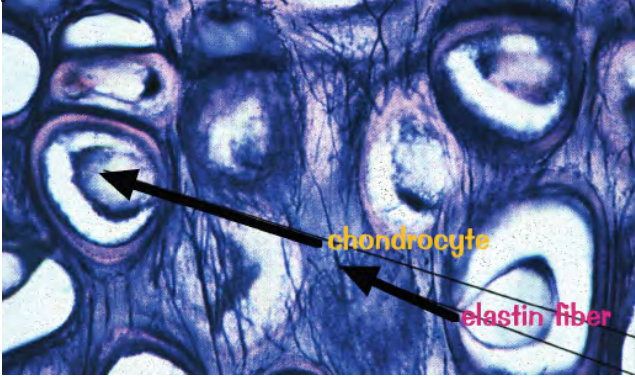
23

1. **HYALINE CARTILAGE**
2. **ELASTIC CARTILAGE**
3. **FIBROCARTILAGE** (one word)

Another View:

Extracellular matrix contains **elastic fibers** that confer elastic recoil to the tissue. (x250)

Lab Atlas of A&P  
Eder et al.  
Mosby, 1994



The micrograph shows several chondrocytes, each housed within a lacuna. The cells are stained purple, and their nuclei are visible. The surrounding matrix is stained blue and contains numerous dark, branching structures labeled as elastin fibers. Arrows point from the labels 'chondrocyte' and 'elastin fiber' to their respective structures in the image.

**CARTILAGE: FIBROCARTILAGE**

unlike the connective tissue proper (fibroblast - derived), cartilage matrix is formed by *chondroblasts*

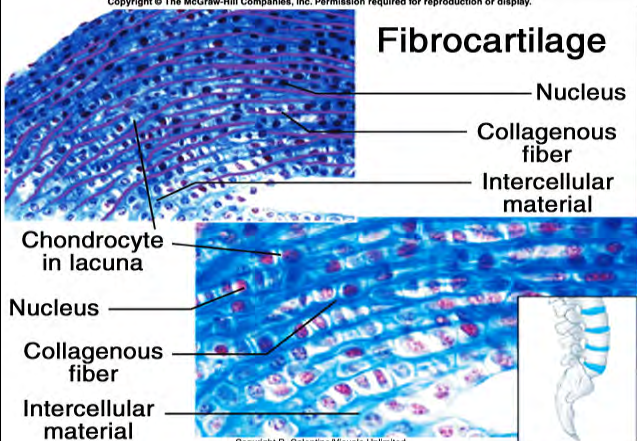
ATLAS: Fibrocartilage: Figure 15 d (Morton & Perry, 1998)

24

1. **HYALINE CARTILAGE**
2. **ELASTIC CARTILAGE**
3. **FIBROCARTILAGE** (one word)

Similar to hyaline cartilage but matrix is less firm thick collagen fibers predominate

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The micrograph shows a dense matrix of collagenous fibers stained blue. Chondrocytes are visible, each in a lacuna. Labels with arrows point to the Nucleus, Collagenous fiber, Intercellular material, and Chondrocyte in lacuna. A small inset diagram shows a cross-section of an intervertebral disc, with a label pointing to the fibrocartilage core.

**Functions:**  
shape maintenance  
while allowing great flexibility

**Sites:**  
intervertebral discs  
pubis symphysis  
discs of the knee joint

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## **CARTILAGE: FIBROCARILAGE**

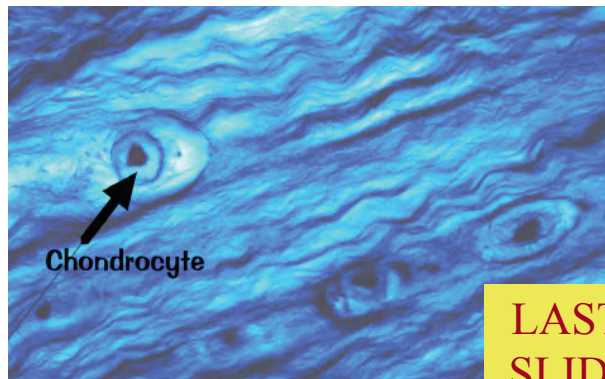
*unlike the connective tissue proper (fibroblast - derived), cartilage matrix is formed by chondroblasts*

1. **HYALINE CARTILAGE**
2. **ELASTIC CARTILAGE**
- ▶ 3. **FIBROCARILAGE** (one word)

**ATLAS:** Fibrocartilage: Figure 15 d (Morton & Perry, 1998)

Another View:

Cell nest of chondrocytes in territorial matrix surrounded by coarse extracellular fibers. (x250)



Lab Atlas of A&P  
Eder et al.  
Mosby, 1994

**LAST  
SLIDE**