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Dear colleagues , the texts that are written in black indicate to a doctor but in purple indicate to an extra information that I added it to more understanding.

# Main topics:

- Collagen
- Ground substance
- The classification of connective tissues

## Collagen

Collagen fibers are a big family and most abundant and widely distributed collagen, it's the most type of fibrous we usually see it in the connective tissue The most type of collagen that we can see it everywhere is type I

, it's non-extensible (can't stretch it) , it's usually stained with H&E , we have 28 types of collagen could be farther grouped into 3 families

subfamilies which they are:

**Fibrillar collagen** (it has type I,II and III which we will see it until the last concept of connective tissue)

## Network or sheet forming (it's a 3D

structure and we usually see it in the basal lamina especially type IV(4)

**Linking/anchoring** (doctor mentioned it in the previous lecture but remember that collagens are short and small proteins (type VII). As their name shows they link or connect different other proteins together

## **Collagen fibers in TEM**



In cross section the cut ends of individual collagen molecules appear as dots

It shows the striation of the collagen fibers due to the presence of the gap between procollagens ( the term striation more less usually designated for the skeletal muscle for different colors and consistent throughout the structure). Circle ones are cross section of collagen fibers. (Gapping lighter, no gapping darker).



After synthesizing procollagens in (RER) which they are the building blocks or subunits performing collagen type 1, these procollagens will be assembled in a specific fashion, in a way that there will be a gap left before and after each procollagen (there's a gap between each subunit ) and these gaps they don't overlap immediately with the next gap, The areas where there's more gaps overlapping will appear lighter in color particularly under the EM Procollagens subunits assembly to a certain number of them will give us the next larger structure which is collagen fibrils(first level of organization), These fibrils have an obvious striation so the intensity or density is quite clear in EM

A number of collagen fibrils(smaller) will later be incorporated into a larger structure which is collagen fibers(bigger) (number of collagen fibrils) to form structures such as tendons)

collagen is further assembled in bigger structures called collagen bundles(biggest)(number of collagen fibers). You will see collagen bundles quite clear in the dense connective tissue running in one direction wavy.



#### **Reticular fibers**

They are found in delicate connective tissue of many organs such as bone marrow ,liver( hematoxylin), lymph nodes and spleen which they are structures associated with blood cells formation and maturation , Reticular is mainly a collagen type III with some modifications it's a stretchy extensible fibers (could be increased in length and recall back without any issues), Reticular fibers are synthesized by reticular cells whereas collagen and elastic are synthesized by fibroblasts. Reticular cells is a modified fibroblast only specialized in making reticular fibers.

It has many sugars attach to it , (Many of these types of collagen have been combined with <u>carbohydrate</u>) //Reticular fibers contain up to 10% carbohydrate and it's PAS positive)//\*loves silver \*

And the section of lymph node stained with silver( argyrophilia )



 ✓ rarely visible in H&E but are stained black after impregnation with silver salts. (argyrophilia)
✓ Surround adipocytes, smooth muscle and nerve

fibers, and small blood vessels.

Serve as the supportive stroma for the parenchymal secretory cells, liver, and endocrine glands.

### Elastic fibers

## In the dermis,

you need collagen to resist tension and

## elastic fibers for recoiling.

Red:collagen.



A-Hematoxylin and orecein(reddish color)

B-Aldehyde(collagen and elastic but elastic is much higher affinity than collagen)

C-H&E(section has seen in aorta)

 Thinner than the type I collagen fibers and form sparse networks interspersed with collagen bundles in many organs Have rubberlike properties that allow tissue containing to be stretched(and it's almost look like a ball so the applied force will flattening them , when the forces removed they return to the original shape) distended (lungs) أمَّا نتنفَّس ايش بصير بالرئة؟
Structure of the large , in the middle of heart

فِي القلب تحديدًا في المُنتَصنف يوجَد الأورتا (oarta) يلي هيّ ( artery) بيطلع منَّه دمّ غَنِي بالأُكسِجين وبوزعُه على بقيّة جَسمنا وبنفس الوقت بيجيه دمّ فقير بالأكسجين عن طَرِيق نوعان من الأوعية الدَمَويّة وهُما : superior vein cava and inferior vein cava تمام بس بيجي الدم بده يطلع من القلب بيجي على oarta بضغط كثير وحجم كبير فسبب بتوسُّعه لإنه ال wall بيحتوي على elastic fiber

بعدين لمّا يجي بدّه يروح على next segment ويلي هي: next blood vessel that is called muscular, the contraction and relaxation in this level are not controlled by elastic fibers but it is controlled by a smooth muscles

- ✓ Where can you find it ? In the wall of large blood vessels, especially arteries, elastin also occurs as fenestrated sheets called elastic lamellae.
- ✓ Elastic fibers and lamellae are not strongly acidophilic and stain poorly with H&E(you can't visualize it, so you have to use other stains, نخيطًا مسكت خيطًا صغيرًا جدًا وسَأَلتُكَ عَمَّا إِذَا كُنتَ تراهُ سَتُجيبُني ب لا ولكن لو أضفتُ العديدَ من الخيوطِ من نَفسِ النوع وسألتُك السؤالَ ذاتِه سَتُجيبُني بِنَعَمْ و هُنا الفكرةُ الَّتي أرادت طرحِها الدكتورة بإنَّه:

If you have a single elastic fiber you won't see in H&E but if you add more elastic that tightly together you will visualize it in H&E

 Stained more darkly than collagen with other stains such as orcein and aldehyde fuchsin.

# ✓ □ Ground substance □

- ( حشوة .)√
- ✓ •A semi- fluid gel (highly hydrated) and transparent material.
- Function: medium for passage/exchange of molecules and metabolites
  - Composed of:
- Glycosaminoglycans (GAGs)
- ✓ Glycose: contains sugar.
- ✓ Aminoglycans: sugar that contains amine
- Proteoglycans: Responsible for the gel state of the extracellular matrix.
- ✓ Major component: glycan
- ✓ Minor component: proteo
- Responsible for gel state of the ECM because of its ability to hold water.
- ✓ ☑ Adhesive glycoproteins
- Major component:proteins
- ✓ Minor component:sugar



### Glycosaminoglycans (GAGs)

a repeated disaccharide, these two subunits repeatedly connected give us GAGs

#### **GAGS THAT FORM PROTEOGLYCANS**

In the figure there's two components of ground substance (GAGs and proteoglycans)

- Hyaluronic acid
- Chondroitin 4-sulfate
- Chondroitin 6-sulfate
- Dermantan sulfate
- Heparan sulfate
- Heparin
- Keratan sulfate



hyaluronic acid (hyaluronan ) : the longest GAG and the biggest in terms of molecular weight, also it's almost

## present everywhere, most of a ground substance in the connective tissue has hyaluronic acid

proteoglycans , a core protein attached to other members of GAG's family , the type depends on the location , because different tissue have different types of GAGs. The proteoglycans are connected to the long backbone hyaluronic acid by linking proteins

| Glycosaminoglycan     | Repeating Disaccharides                  |                     | Distribution                                                 |  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                       | Hexuronic Acid                           | Hexosamine          | Distribution                                                 |  |
| Hyaluronic acid       | D-glucuronic acid                        | D-glucosamine       | Umbilical cord, synovial fluid,<br>vitreous humor, cartilage |  |
| Chondroitin 4-sulfate | D-glucuronic acid                        | D-<br>galactosamine | Cartilage, bone, cornea, skin,<br>notochord, aorta           |  |
| Chondroitin 6-sulfate | D-glucuronic acid                        | D-<br>galactosamine | Cartilage, umbilical cord, skin,<br>aorta (media)            |  |
| Dermatan sulfate      | L-iduronic acid or D-<br>glucuronic acid | D-<br>galactosamine | Skin, tendon, aorta (adventitia)                             |  |
| Heparan sulfate       | D-glucuronic acid or L-<br>iduronic acid | D-<br>galactosamine | Aorta, lung, liver, basal laminae                            |  |
| Keratan sulfate       | D-galactose                              | D-glucosamine       | Cartilage, nucleus pulposus,<br>annulus fibrosus             |  |

Only the red boxes are included

| Thec | lassifica | tion of | conne  | ctive | tissue |
|------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|--------|
|      | iassiita  |         | COILIE | CUVE  | แรรนต  |



# The types in the purple highlight that the doctor only mentioned it at the end of the lecture .

### Embryonic connective tissue:

### -Mesenchyme:

The embryo develop and these mesenchymal cells will be located in the future connective tissue (future bone or cartilage), bone or cartilage at some step in the embryo will start developing and there will be mesenchymal stem cells, all start from mesenchymal cells and start to differentiate into specific types(mast cells,micropgage, osteoclasts and adipose)of connective tissue in the adult.



#### -Mucus:

We consider it embryonic because it is formed in embryo umbilical cord (حبل سرّي) it attaches to the mother placenta (مَشِيمة) that's mean this cord is a link between the

#### fetus (جنين )and mother's ( food and oxygen pass through it)

• It provide some sort of a support for the supported structures inside (arteries and veins and blood vessels)



What's inside is lots of fibroblasts, ground substance, and mesenchymal stem cells (not as much as you would see in the mesenchymal connective tissue because they are there just to provide some protection to the blood vessels and after the delivery of the umbilical cord will be taken by certain companies, mesenchymal stem cells will extract them and store( in liquid nitrogen with Low temp below 120) them for any future complication this baby might encounter Stem cells therapy is very promising treatment modality and it's

#### growing very fast( مريض عنده نسيج تلف بدل ما يجيله انسجة رح يستعمل يلي ) خزَّنُه

#### ✓ Adult connective tissue

Connective tissue Proper(everywhere without specific name like epithelial, tendons and ligaments unlike specialize they have name as reticular, bones and cartilage)

The connective tissue proper divided into loose or dense)

-the major difference between them the proportion of cells, fibers and ground substance that's mean that it depends on the contents of connective tissue

- Loose (areolar) connective tissue: it has more ground substance
- Dense connective tissue:regular or irregular, without ground substance but more fibers that tightly backed together.
  Doctor doesn't mention the connective tissue of adult in detail.

The end  $\Box$ 

Q1) The collagen type that encoring the basal lamina with underlying reticular lamina?

A) Collagen type

B) Collagen type VI

C)Collagen type VII

D) Collagen type II E)B and C are correct

Answer is : C

Q2) The functions of collagen type IV:

A) Resisting pressure

**B)Anchoring Fibrils** C)Meshwork of the lamina densa D) Resisting tension E) B and C are correct Answer is: C Q3) Reticular fibers are: A)Thin structures B) Estebsive network of collagen type III C)Formed in osteoblasts D)Found in lymph nodes E)All of the above are correct except c Answer is: E Q4) Ground substance is: A)Tranparent structure B) Highly hydrated structure C) Viscous Structure D)Complex mixture of 3 kinds of macromolecules E)All of the above are correct Answer is: E Q5) The structure that is responsible for the gel state of ECM is: A)GAGS B) Proteoglycan C)glycoprotiens D) Fibers Answer is: B

هذهِ الأُمَّةُ تحتاجُ لطاقةِ كُلَّ فردٍ مِنَّا ، اليومُ نَحن ، لِتَكُنْ انت غدًا ، بَرَكةُ الوقتِ فِي إنْجازِ التفريغ رائِعة ، جَرّبها ، لِتكُن انتَ التّالِي! عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رضي الله تعالى عنه: أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللهِ ع قَالَ: إِذَا مَاتَ ابنُ آدم انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلْهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثٍ: مَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ، أو عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ، أَوْ وَلَدٍ مَنَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ. رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ