

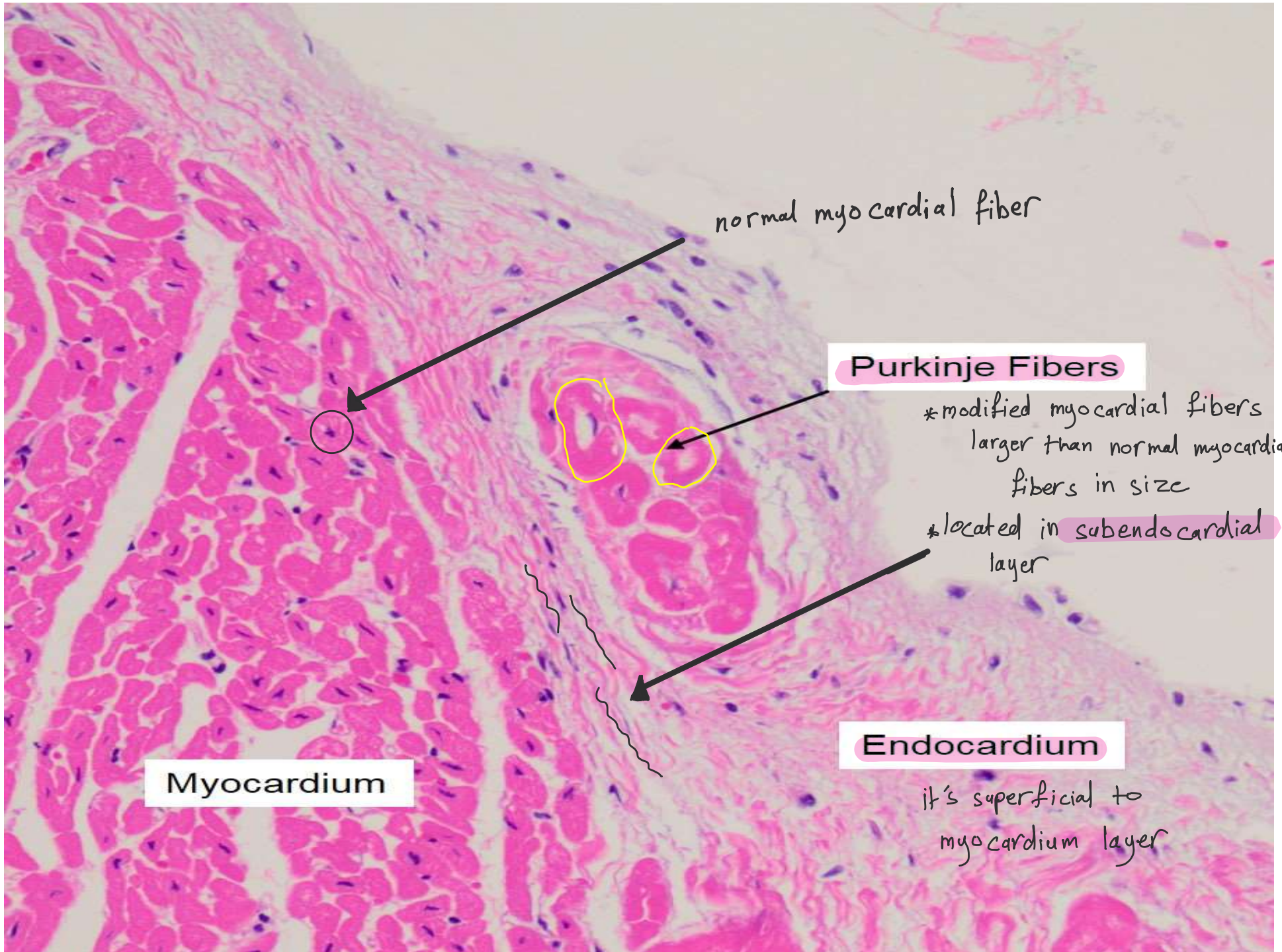
The University of Jordan  
Faculty Of Medicine



# Practical Histology of Cardiovascular system

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normal myocardial fiber

**Purkinje Fibers**

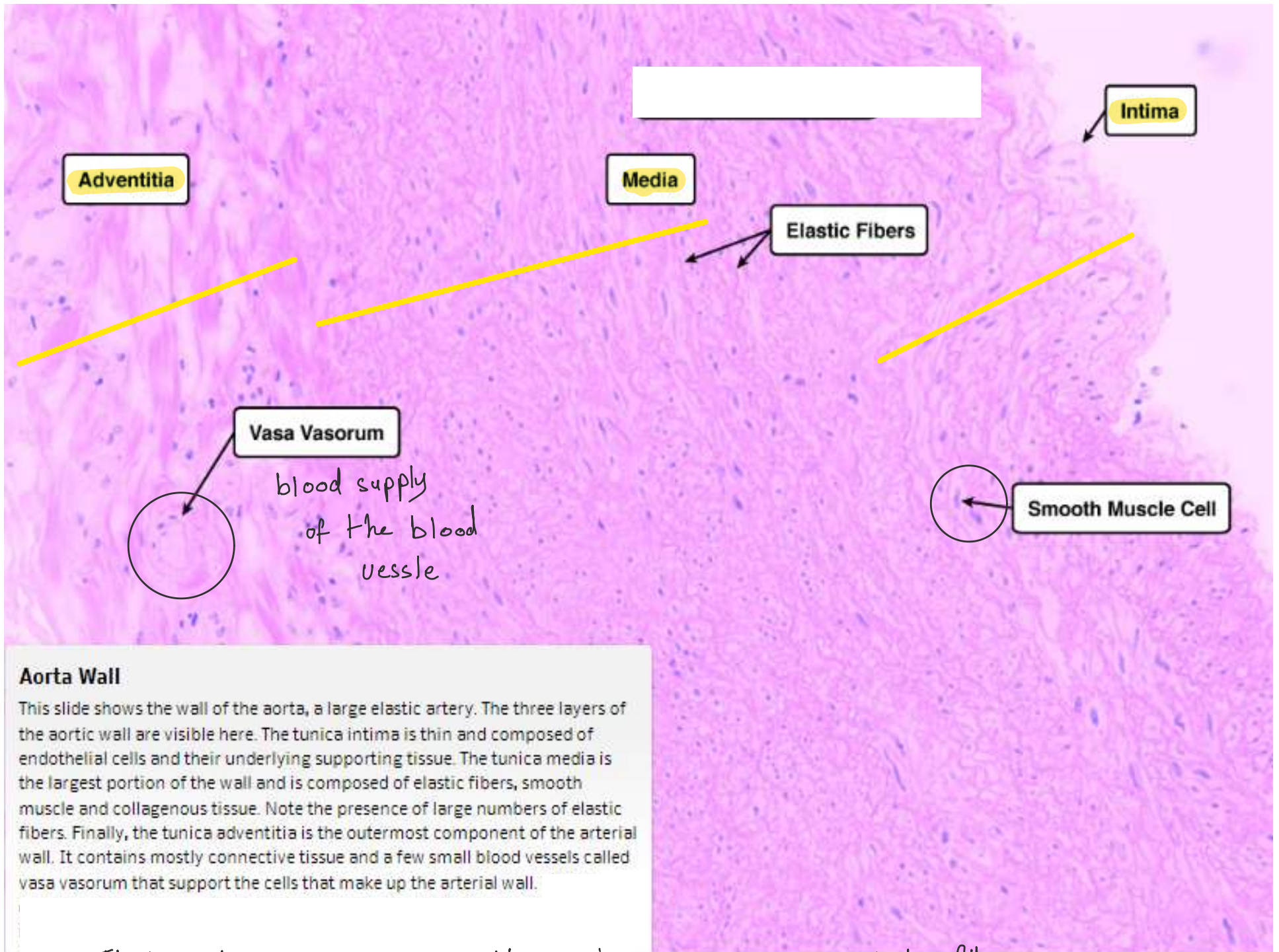
\*modified myocardial fibers  
larger than normal myocardial  
fibers in size  
\*located in subendocardial  
layer

**Myocardium**

**Endocardium**

it's superficial to  
myocardium layer



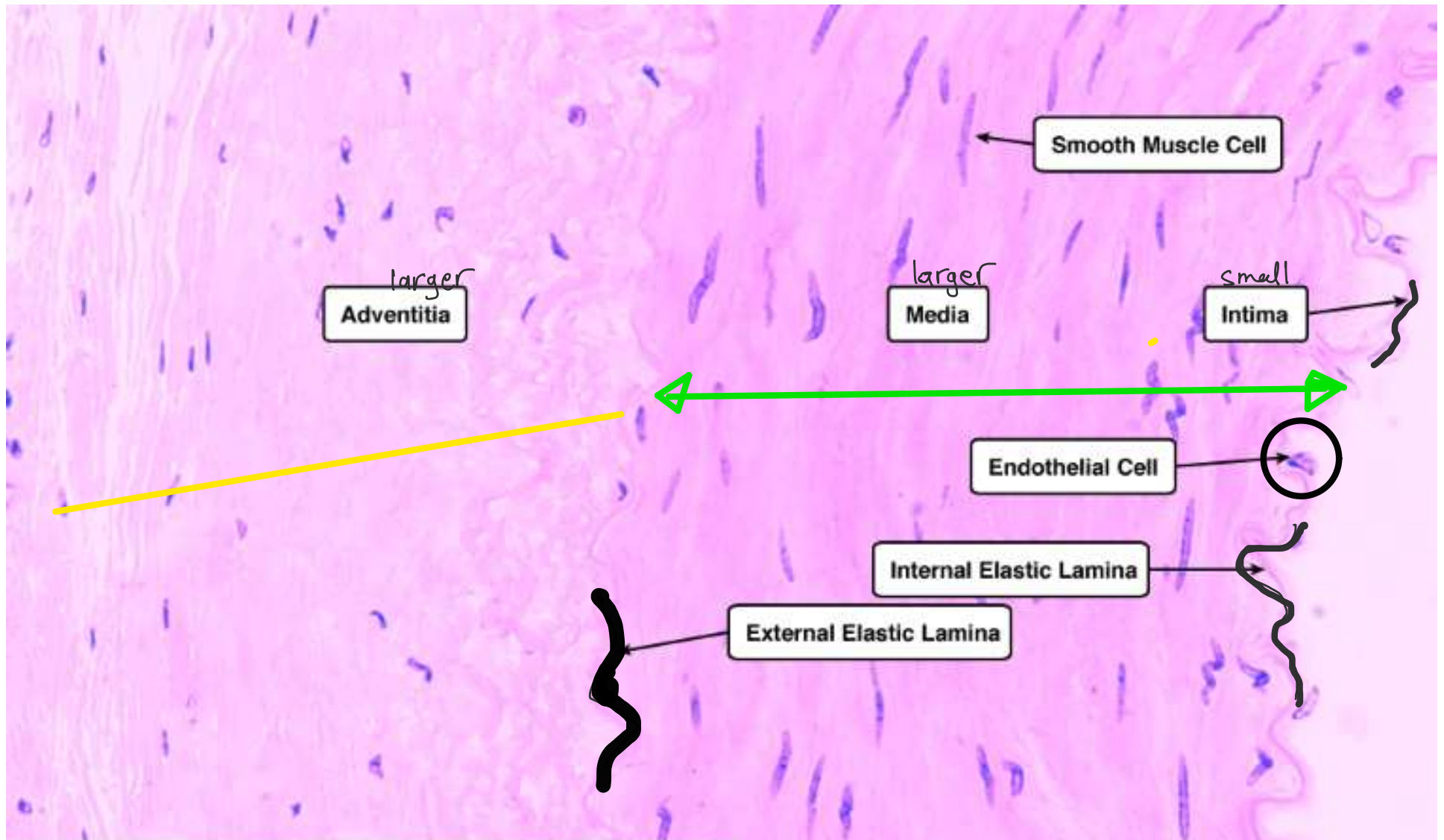


### Aorta Wall

This slide shows the wall of the aorta, a large elastic artery. The three layers of the aortic wall are visible here. The tunica intima is thin and composed of endothelial cells and their underlying supporting tissue. The tunica media is the largest portion of the wall and is composed of elastic fibers, smooth muscle and collagenous tissue. Note the presence of large numbers of elastic fibers. Finally, the tunica adventitia is the outermost component of the arterial wall. It contains mostly connective tissue and a few small blood vessels called vasa vasorum that support the cells that make up the arterial wall.

The largest layer is media so it's an artery  
(large elastic artery for example: Aorta)

rich in elastic fibers  
lower number of smooth muscle cell

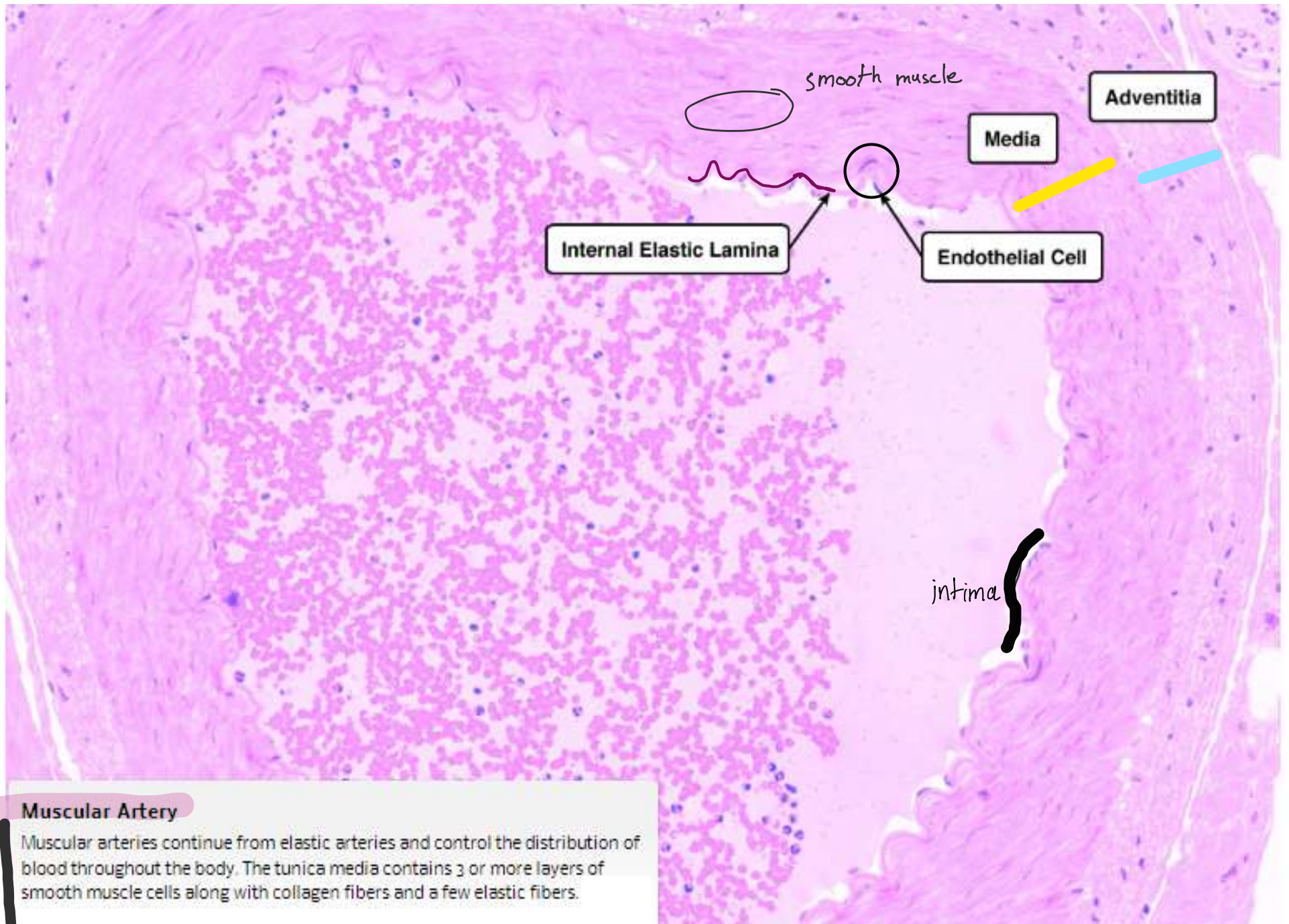


### Muscular Artery Wall

The tunica media of muscular arteries contains fewer elastic fibers and more smooth muscle cells than elastic arteries. Note the prominent internal elastic lamina, a layer of elastic tissue in the tunica intima. The external elastic lamina separates the tunica media from tunica adventitia

in media we have elastic fibers but  
the smooth muscles are more than elastic fibers





Internal Elastic Lamina

Endothelial Cell

Media

Adventitia

smooth muscle

intima

### Muscular Artery

Muscular arteries continue from elastic arteries and control the distribution of blood throughout the body. The tunica media contains 3 or more layers of smooth muscle cells along with collagen fibers and a few elastic fibers.

larger media + larger adventitia + very small internal elastic lamina + media is full of smooth muscles and they're more prominent than elastic fibers

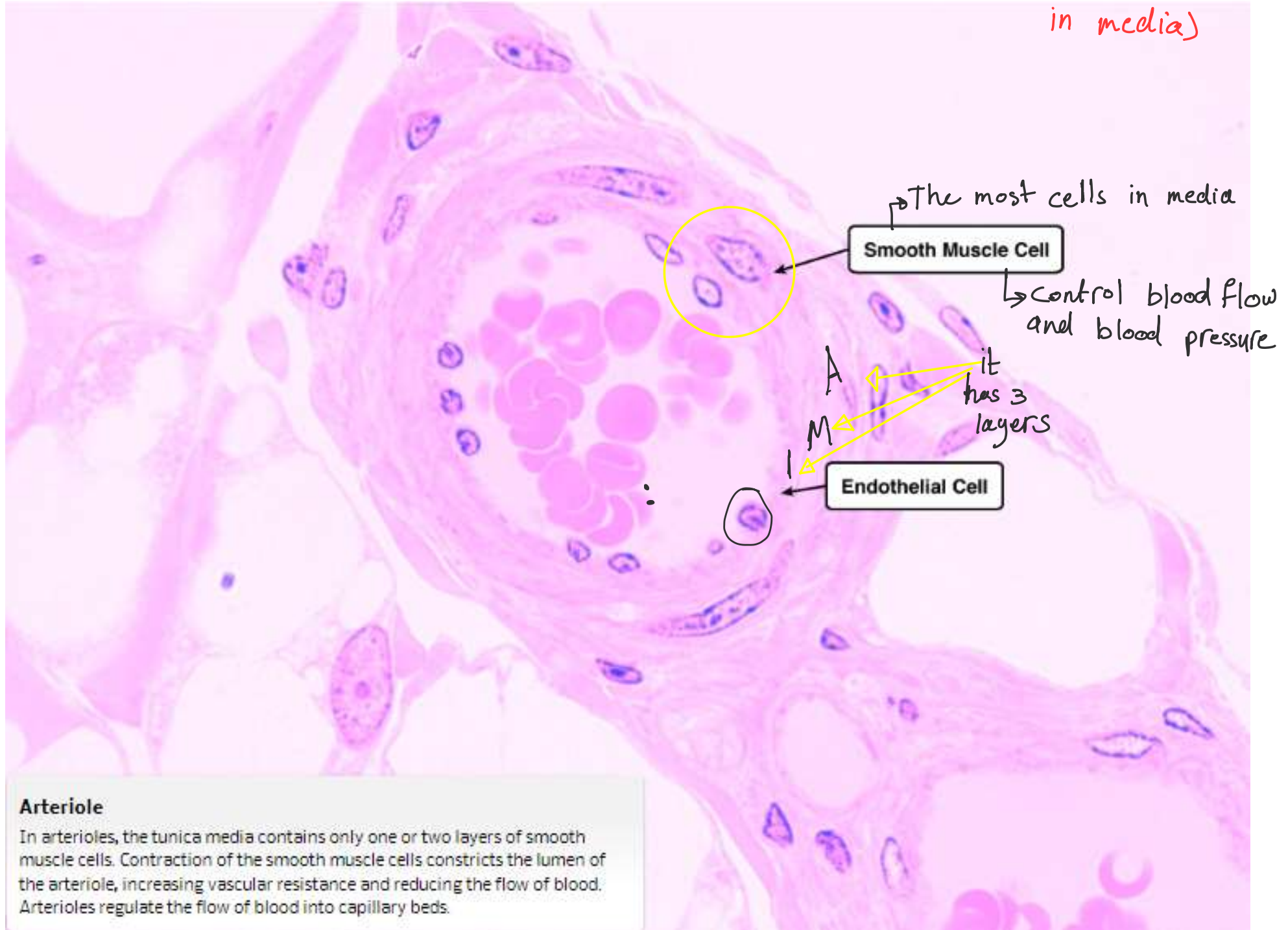


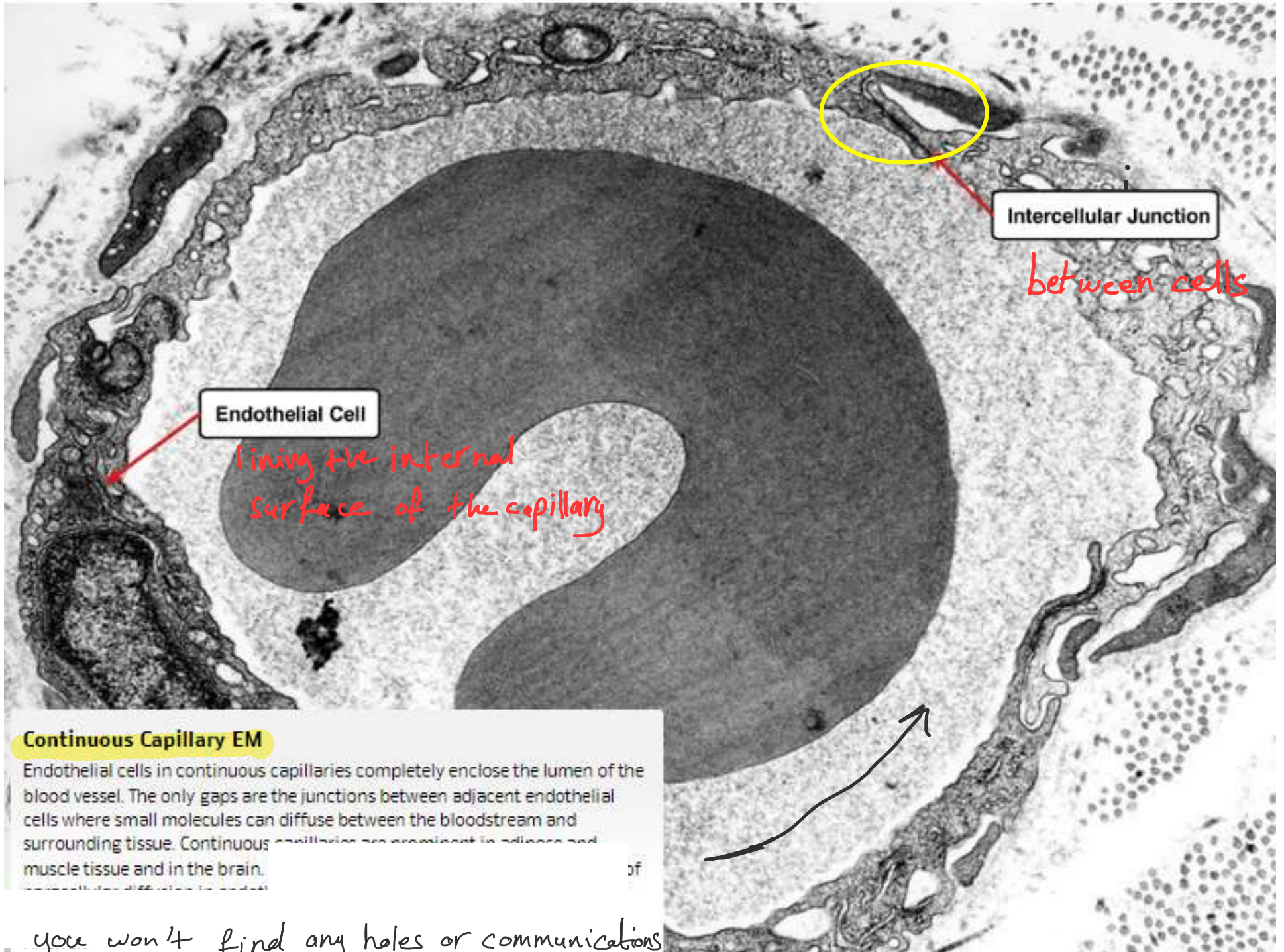
### Vena Cava

This image shows the wall of the vena cava, which is the largest vein in the body. Note the relatively thin media compared to the aorta.



(no elastic fibers  
in media)





Endothelial Cell

lining the internal surface of the capillary

Intercellular Junction

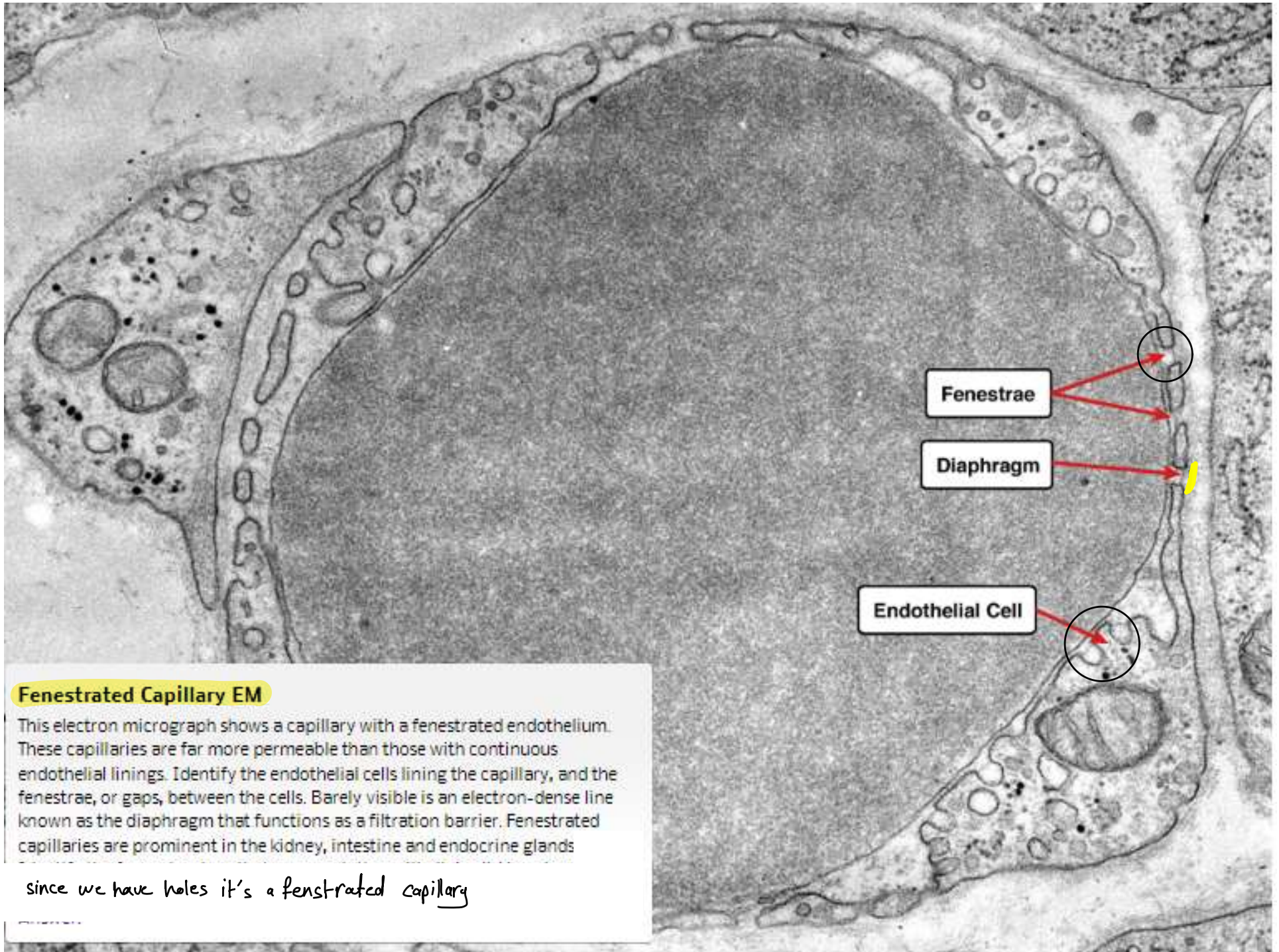
between cells

**Continuous Capillary EM**

Endothelial cells in continuous capillaries completely enclose the lumen of the blood vessel. The only gaps are the junctions between adjacent endothelial cells where small molecules can diffuse between the bloodstream and surrounding tissue. Continuous capillaries are prominent in adipose and muscle tissue and in the brain.

you won't find any holes or communications



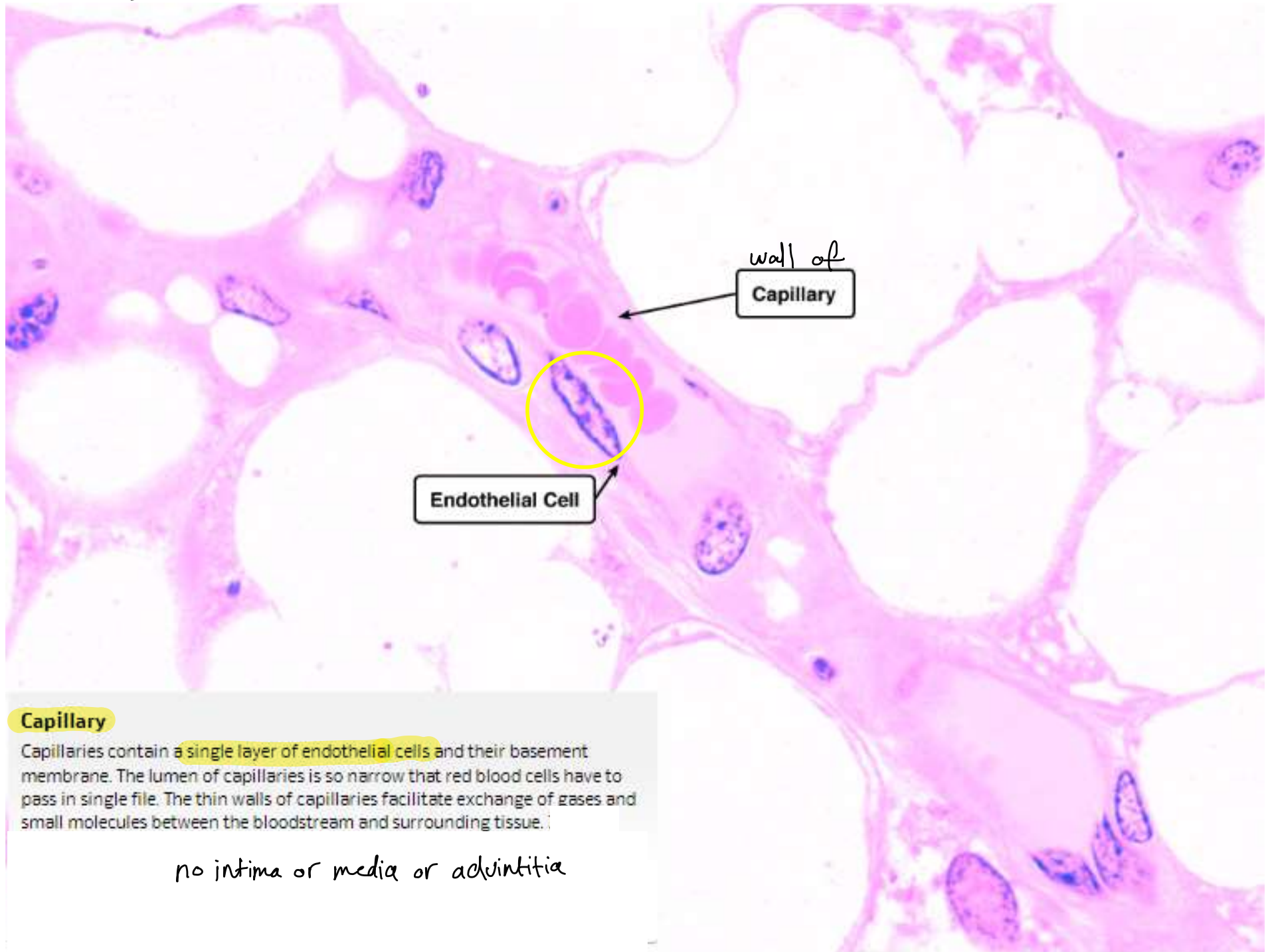


### Fenestrated Capillary EM

This electron micrograph shows a capillary with a fenestrated endothelium. These capillaries are far more permeable than those with continuous endothelial linings. Identify the endothelial cells lining the capillary, and the fenestrae, or gaps, between the cells. Barely visible is an electron-dense line known as the diaphragm that functions as a filtration barrier. Fenestrated capillaries are prominent in the kidney, intestine and endocrine glands

since we have holes it's a fenestrated capillary

light microscope

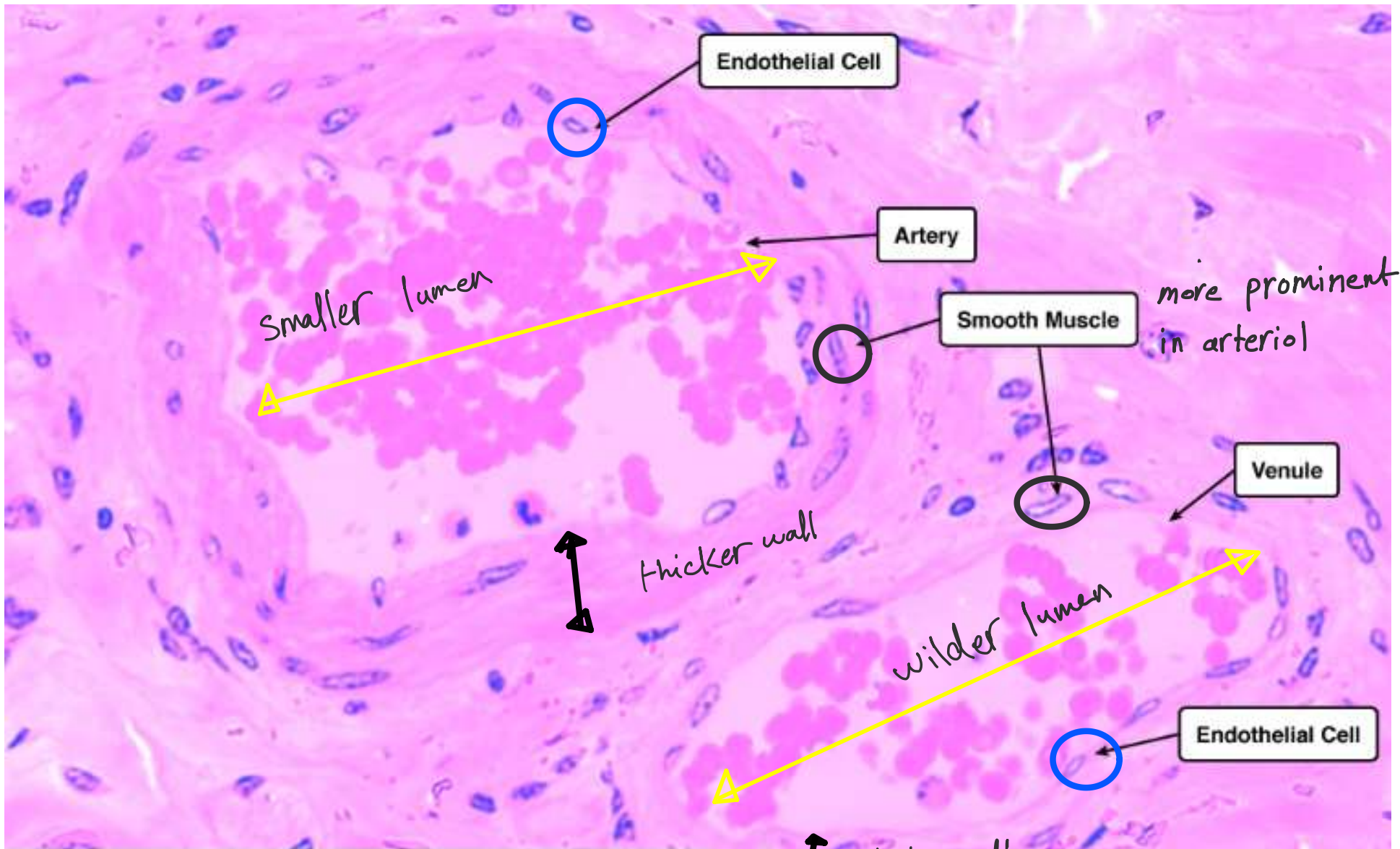


### Capillary

Capillaries contain a single layer of endothelial cells and their basement membrane. The lumen of capillaries is so narrow that red blood cells have to pass in single file. The thin walls of capillaries facilitate exchange of gases and small molecules between the bloodstream and surrounding tissue.

no intima or media or adventitia



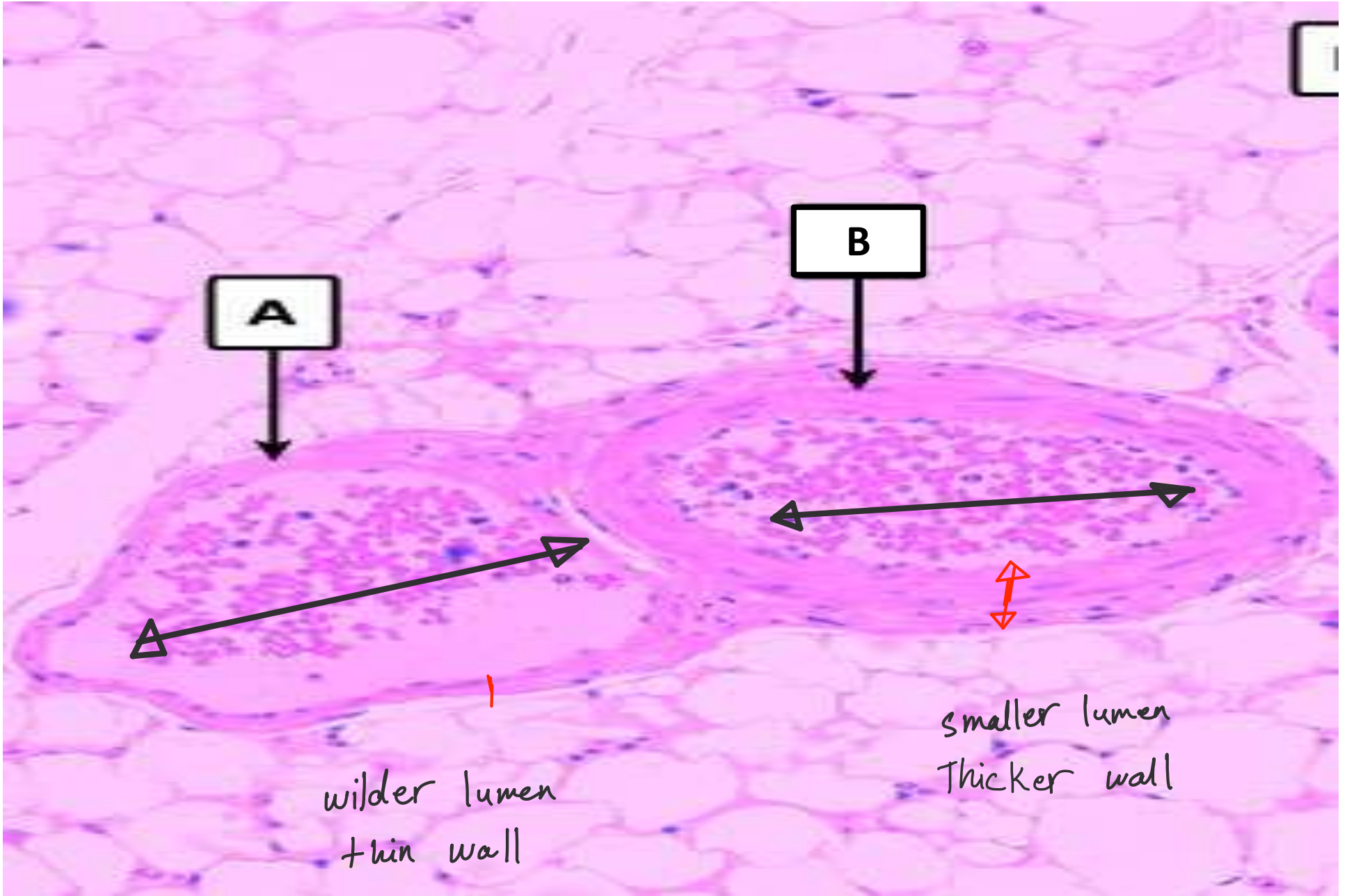


**Artery and Venule**

Compare the structure of the venule to that of the small artery. The lumens of the vessels are similar in size but the artery has a thicker medial layer with more smooth muscle. Veins, with thinner walls, are more compliant and capable of holding more blood. Consequently, arteries tend to maintain their shape better than veins in histological sections.

★ there are smooth muscles in venule but in lesser amount than the arteriole

★ both vessels have endothelial cells in the inner layer



A = vein, B = artery