



THYROID & PARATHYROID GLANDS

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وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ

Objectives:

- By the end of this lecture, the student should be able to:
 - ✓ Describe the histological structure of thyroid & parathyroid glands.
 - ✓ Identify and correlate between the different endocrine cells in thyroid gland and their functions.
 - ✓ Describe the functional structure of parathyroid cells

THYROID GLAND

Parenchyma

Are the structural and functional units of the thyroid gland. (synthesis of protein)

L/M:

1- Simple cuboidal epithelium:

a- Follicular cells. (Major . Small)

b- Parafollicular cells.(Minor, larger)

2- Colloid: central colloid-filled lumen. (gel like material - highly vascular - without blood capillaries nor cells)

N.B. Each follicle is surrounded by thin basal lamina. To separate the epithelium from the C.T.

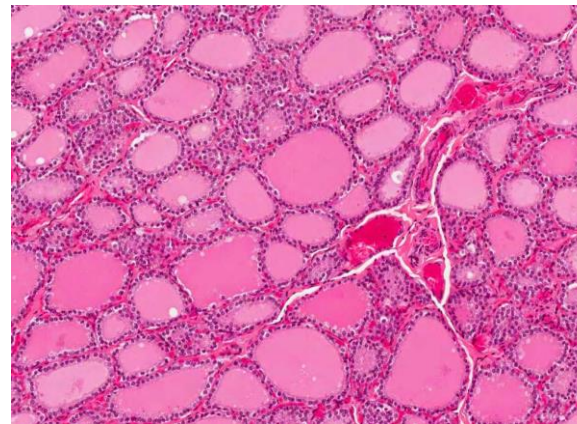
Stroma

1- Capsule: dense irregular collagenous C.T.

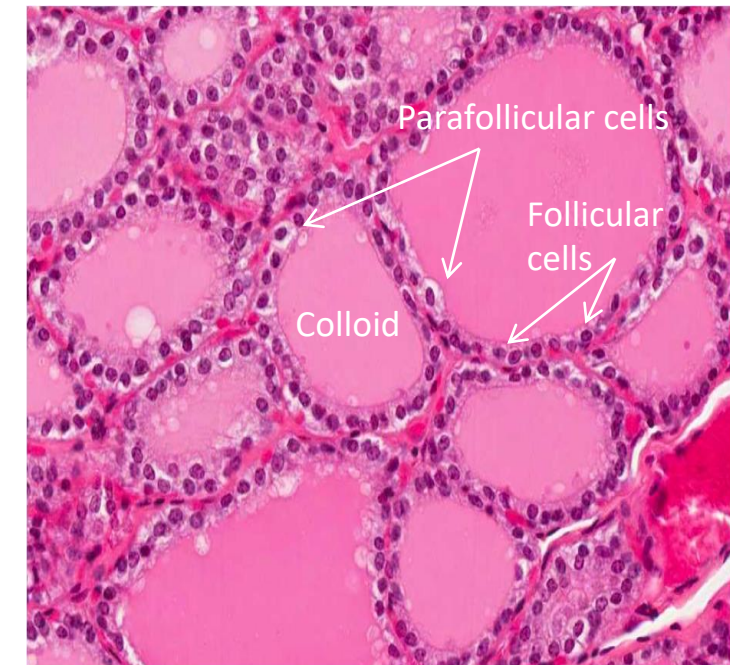
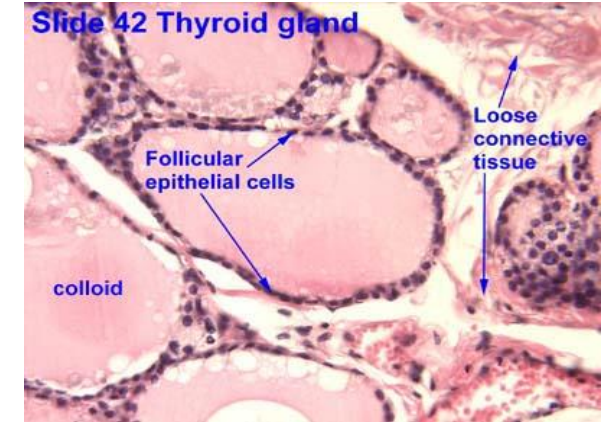
2- Septa: (Interlobular septa)

3- Reticular fibers:

Thin C.T., composed mostly of reticular fibers with rich capillary plexus* surrounds each thyroid follicle (separation)

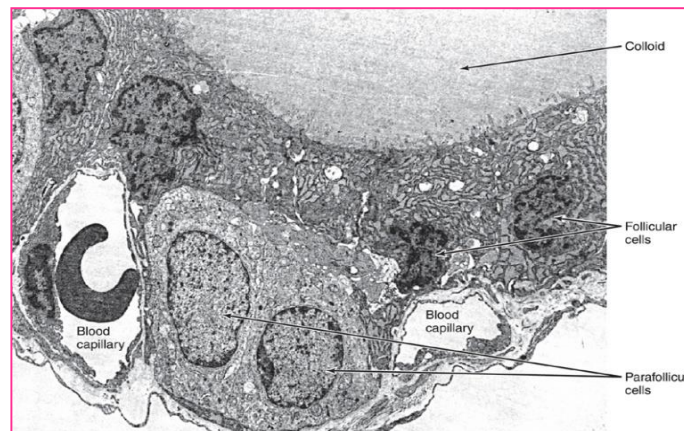
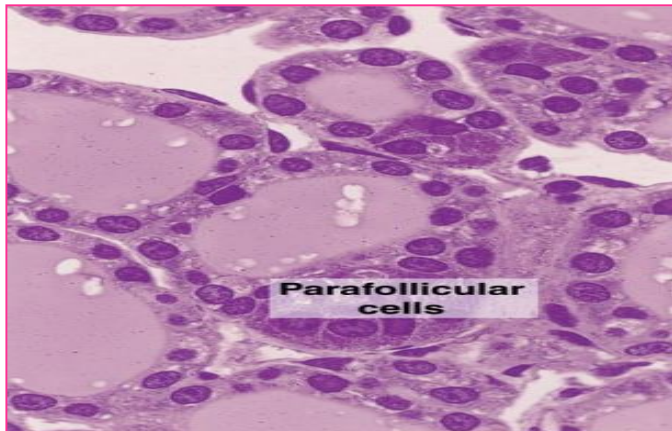


*They are fenestrated blood capillaries



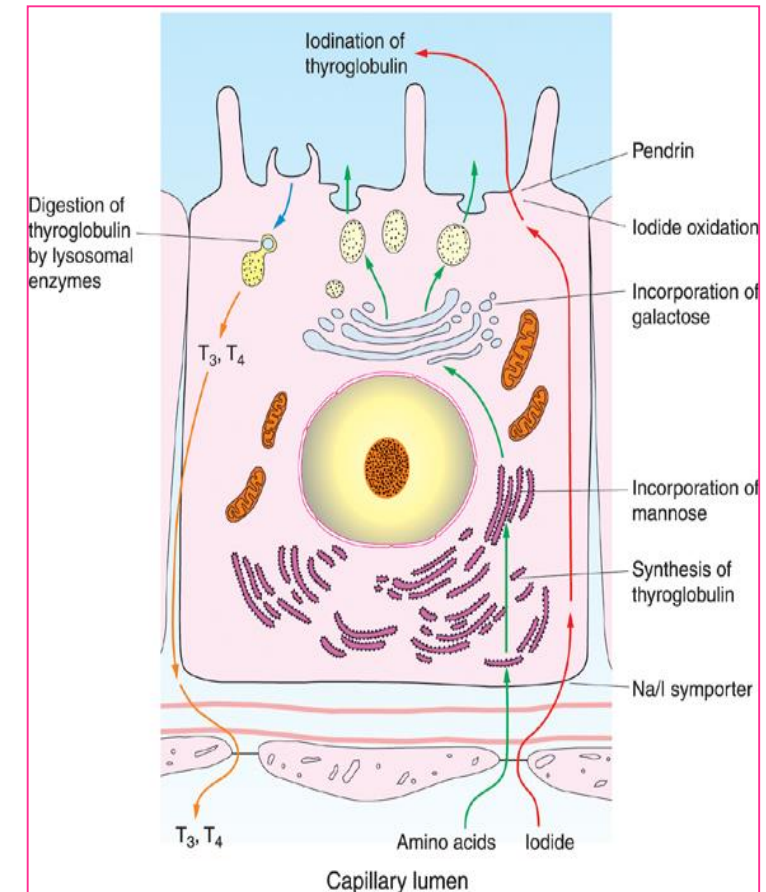
1- FOLLICULAR (PRINCIPAL) CELLS

Light microscope	Electron microscope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple cuboidal cells • Round nucleus with prominent nucleoli. • Basophilic cytoplasm. • Apical surface reaches the lumen of the thyroid follicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitochondria. • RER • Supranuclear Golgi Complex. • Numerous apically-located lysosomes. (lysosomes are needed to free the T3&T4 from thyroglobulin) • Numerous dispersed small vesicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contain newly formed thyroglobulin. - Numerous apical short microvilli. (for the endocytosis of colloid)



Function:

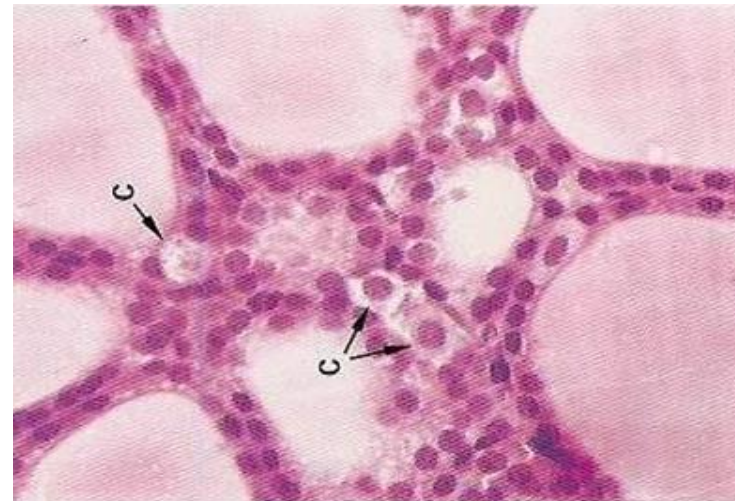
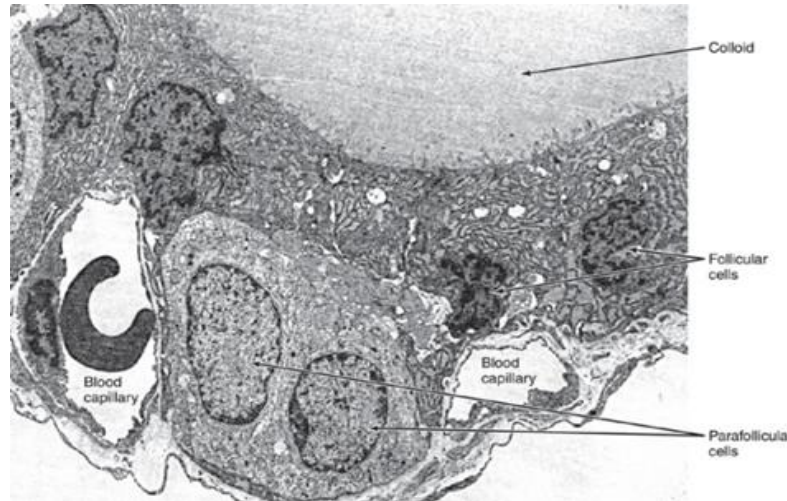
Synthesis of thyroid hormones (T4 & T3).



2- PARAFOLLICULAR CELLS (CLEAR CELLS) (C-CELLS)

Light microscope	Electron microscope
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pale-stained cells (Clear Cells). Clear cytoplasm.• Found singly or in clusters in between the follicular cells.• Unlike follicular cells, their <u>apices do not reach the lumen</u> of the lumen of the follicle.• Are <u>larger</u> than follicular cells (2-3 times).• Represent <u>only 0.1%</u> of the epithelial follicular cells.• Have a round nucleus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mitochondria.• Rough endoplasmic reticulum (RER) (moderate).• Well-developed Golgi. <p>Moderate as in less than follicular cells.</p>

Function: Secrete calcitonin. it works with parathyroid hormone to balance the level of Ca^{++} in the blood



PARATHYROID GLANDS

They are 4 glands on the posterior surface of the thyroid gland.

A. Stroma of parathyroid gland:

B. Parenchyma of Parathyroid gland:

1. Capsule:

Each gland has its thin capsule.

Formed of cords or clusters of epithelial cells (chief cells & oxyphil cell) with blood capillaries in between. These cells are surrounded by reticular fibers.

2. Septa:

Thin

1. Chief cells: Main functioning cells

- Are **slightly eosinophilic**.
- Rich in rER.
- They secrete parathyroid hormone (increase blood calcium level) *The only type of cell in newborn*

3. Reticular C.T.

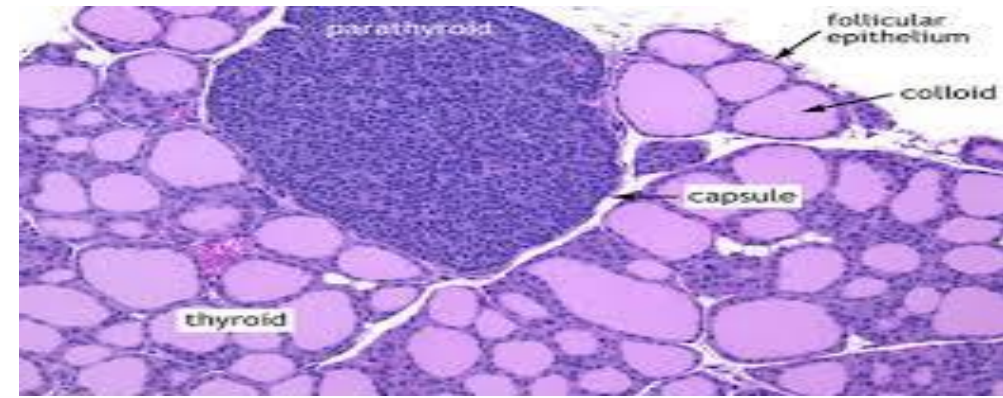
C.T. stroma in older adults often contains many **adipose cells**.

Adipose cells may increase as you get older

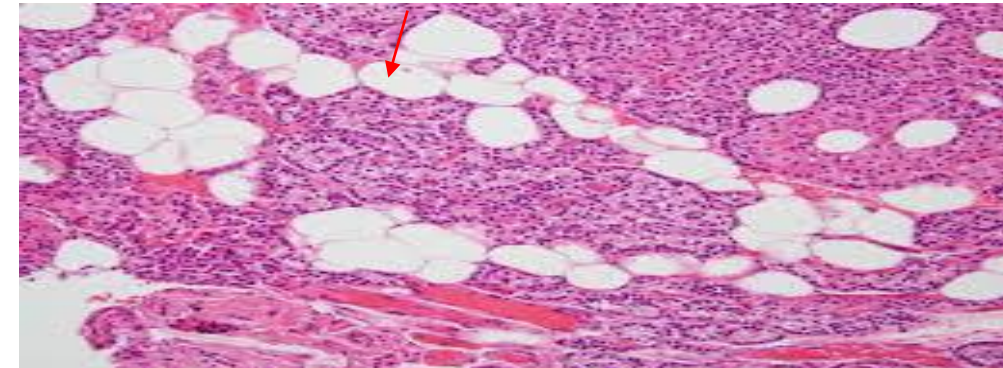
2. Oxyphil cells: Oxy: pink or red

- They are arranged in groups or clusters or as isolated cells.
- They are **deep eosinophilic** (acidophilic).
- They have more numerous mitochondria.
- They are less numerous but larger than chief cells.
- They are of unknown function.
- N.B. They may be inactivated chief cells.

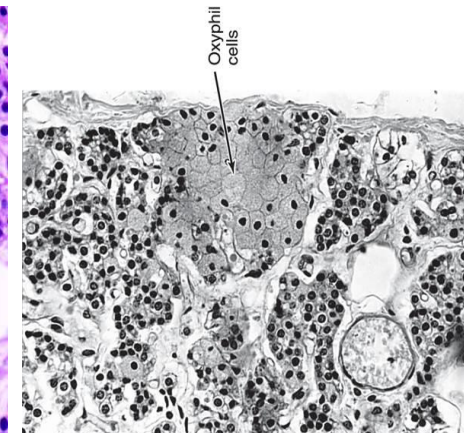
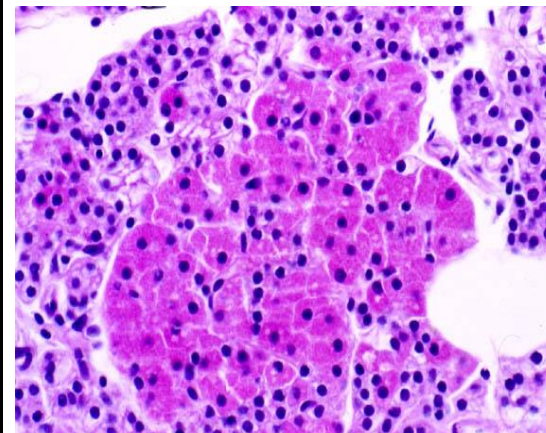
Appear at puberty and it is claimed as the degenerative form of chief cell

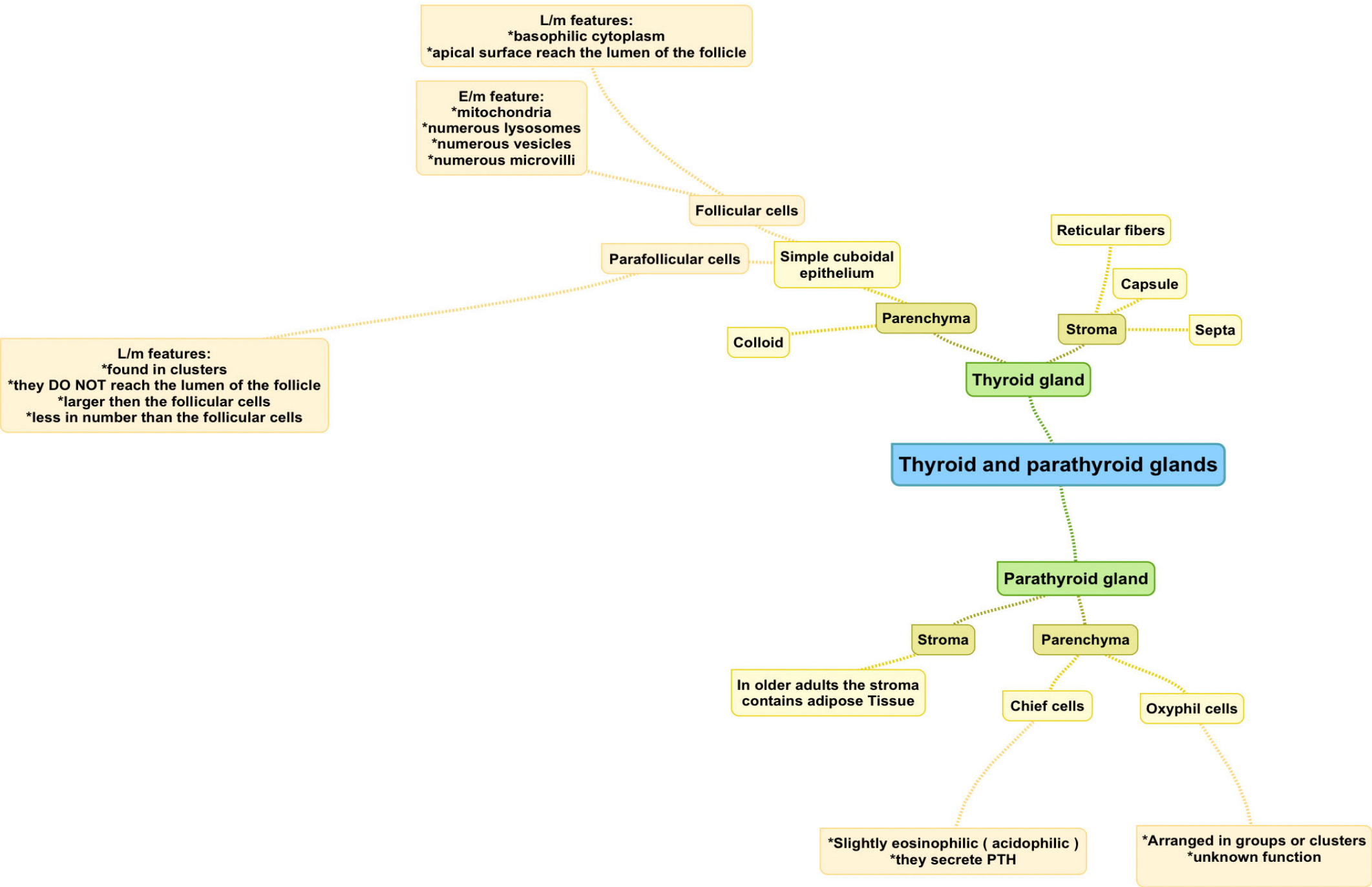


Adipose cells:



Parenchyma of Parathyroid gland:





MCQs

1) T4&T3 are synthesized by which cell?

A-Follicular cell B-Para follicular cell

C-Chief cell D-Oxyphil cell

2) C-cells (clear cells) secrete which hormone?

A-TSH B-T4

C-Calcitonin D-ADH

3) Parathyroid hormone is synthesized from?

A-Oxyphil cells B-Chief cells

C-Follicular cells D-Parafollicular cells

4) Which cells of the following their apical surface reach the lumen of the thyroid follicle?

A-Parafollicular cells B-Chief cells

C-Oxyphil cells D-Follicular cells

5) Oxyphil cell is deep eosinophilic?

A- true B-False

6) Calcitonin increases blood calcium level?

A-true b-False

8-9
7-5
4-D
3-B
2-C
1-A



Thank you & good luck

- Histology team

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References:

- ✓ Females' and Males' slides.
- ✓ Doctors' notes

