

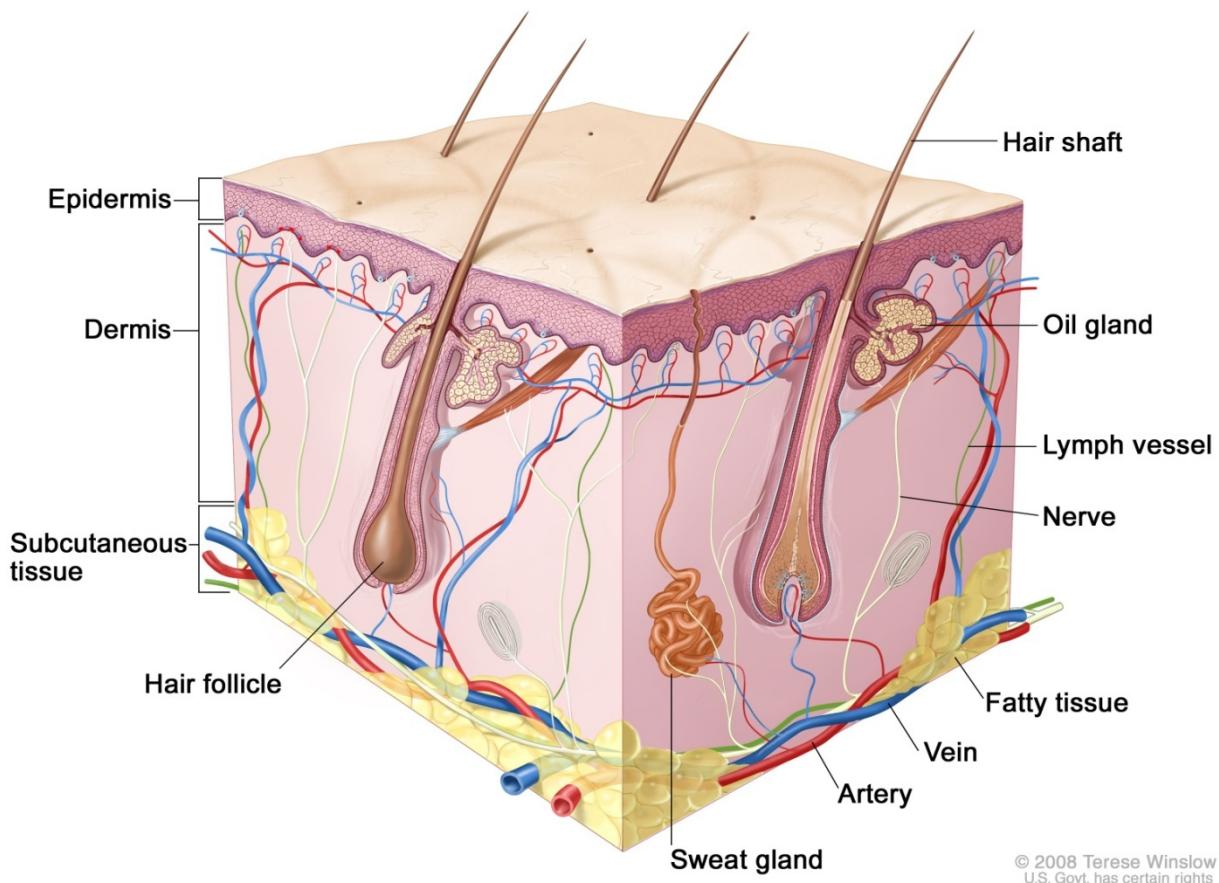
INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM

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The integumentary system is your body's outer layer, composed of the skin, hair, nails, and glands, forming a crucial protective barrier against infection, injury, and UV rays.

The skin and its derivatives (sweat and oil glands, hair and nails) serve a number of functions, mostly protective; together, these organs are called the integumentary system.

SKIN



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As the body's largest organ, skin protects against germs, regulates body temperature and enables touch (tactile) sensations. The skin's main layers include the epidermis, dermis and hypodermis

STRUCTURE OF THE SKIN

Three layers of tissue make up the skin:

1. Epidermis, the top layer.
2. Dermis, the middle layer.
3. Hypodermis, the bottom or fatty layer.

The skin is composed of two kinds of tissue: the outer epidermis and the underlying dermis.

Epidermis

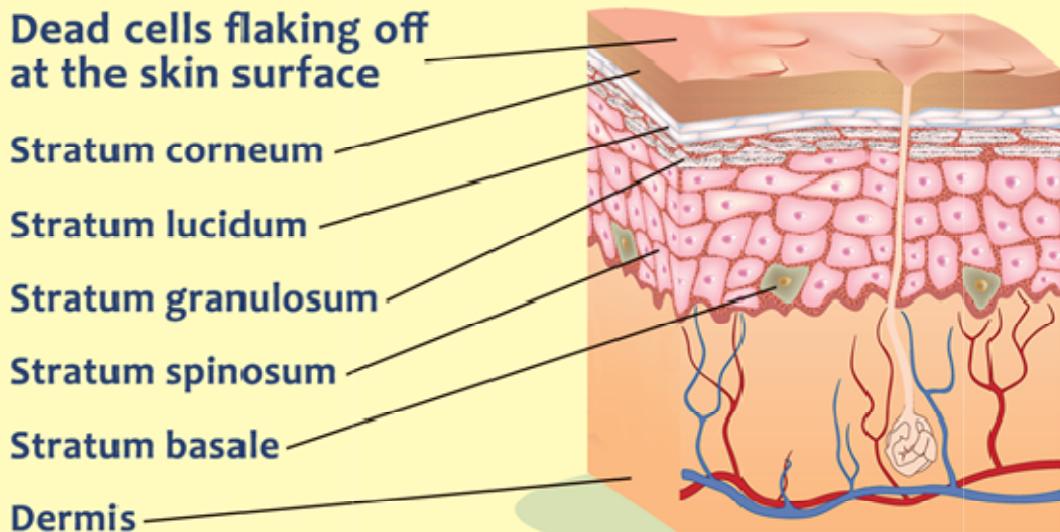
The outer epidermis composed of stratified squamous epithelium that is capable of keratinizing or becoming hard and tough.

Composition. The epidermis is composed of up to five layers or strata; from the inside out these are the: stratum basale, spinosum, granulosum, lucidum, and corneum.

Epithelial tissue: Like all other epithelial tissues, the epidermis is avascular; that is, it has no blood supply of its own.

Keratinocytes: Most cells of the epidermis are keratinocytes (keratin cells), which produce keratin, the fibrous protein that makes the epidermis a tough protective layer.

Anatomy of the Epidermis



- **Stratum basale**

1. The deepest layer of the epidermis, the stratum basale, lies closest to the dermis and is connected to it along a wavy a borderline.
2. This basal layer contains epidermal cells that receive the most adequate nourishment via diffusion of nutrients from the dermis.

- **Stratum spinosum:** As the epidermal layers move away from the dermis and become part of the more superficial layers, the stratum spinosum.
- **Stratum granulosum:** Cells flatten and start producing keratin and lipids, forming granules, marking the beginning of cell death.
- **Stratum lucidum:** Finally, they die, forming the clear stratum lucidum; this latter epidermal layer is not present in all skin regions, it occurs only where the skin is hairless and extra thick, that is, on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet.
- **Stratum corneum:** The outermost layer, the stratum corneum, is 20 to 30 cells layers thick but it accounts for about three-quarters of epidermal thickness; it rubs and flakes off slowly and steadily as the dandruff familiar to everyone; then, this layer is replaced by cells produced by the division of the deeper stratum basale cells.

Keratin

Keratin is an exceptionally tough protein; its abundance in the stratum corneum allows that layer to provide a durable “overcoat” for the body, which protects deeper cells from the hostile external environment.

Melanin: Melanin, a pigment that ranges in color from yellow to brown to black, is produced by special spider-shaped cells called melanocytes, found chiefly in the stratum basale.

DERMIS

The underlying dermis is mostly made up of dense connective tissue.

Major regions.

The dense (fibrous) connective tissue making up the dermis consists of two major regions- the papillary and reticular regions.

- **Papillary layer**

1. The papillary layer is the upper dermal region; it is uneven and has peg like projections from its superior surface called dermal papillae, which indent the epidermis above and contain capillary loops which furnish nutrients to the epidermis.
2. it also has papillary patterns that form looped and whorled ridges on the epidermal surface that increase friction and enhance the gripping ability of the fingers and feet.

- **Reticular layer**

- The reticular layer is the deepest skin layer; it contains blood vessels, sweat and oil glands, and deep pressure receptors called Pacinian corpuscles.
- **Collagen:** Collagen fibers are responsible for the toughness of the dermis; they also attract and bind water and thus help to keep the skin hydrated.
- **Elastic fibers:** Elastic fibers give the skin its elasticity when we are young, and as we age, the number of collagen and elastic fibers decreases and the subcutaneous tissue loses fat.
- **Blood vessels:** The dermis is abundantly supplied with blood vessels that play a role in maintaining body temperature homeostasis; when body temperature is high, the capillaries of the dermis becomes engorged, or swollen, with heated blood, and the skin becomes reddened and warm; if the environment is cool, blood bypasses the dermis capillaries temporarily, allowing internal body temperature to stay high.
- **Nerve supply:** The dermis also has a rich nerve supply; many of the nerve endings have specialized receptor end-organs that send messages to the central nervous system for interpretation when they are stimulated by environmental factors.

APPENDAGES OF THE SKIN

The skin appendages include cutaneous glands, hair and hair follicle, and nails.

Cutaneous Glands

As these glands are formed by the cells of the stratum basale, they push into deeper skin regions and ultimately reside almost entirely in the dermis.

1. **Exocrine glands.** The cutaneous glands are all exocrine glands that release their secretions to the skin surface via ducts and they fall into two groups: sebaceous glands and sweat glands.

1. Sebaceous (oil) glands

- a. The sebaceous, or oil, glands are found all over the skin, except on the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet; their ducts usually empty into a hair follicle; the product of the sebaceous glands.
- b. **Sebum**, is a mixture of oily substances and fragmented cells, and it is a lubricant that keeps the skin soft and moist and prevents the hair from becoming brittle.

2. Sweat glands

- a. Sweat glands, also called sudoriferous glands, are widely distributed in the skin, and there are two types: **eccrine and apocrine**.

Eccrine glands

- a. The eccrine glands are far more numerous and are found all over the body.
- b. It produce sweat, a clear secretion that is primarily water plus some salts, vitamin C, trace of metabolic wastes and lactic acid.
- c. The eccrine glands are also a part of the body's heat regulating equipment.

Apocrine glands

- a. Apocrine glands are largely confined to the axillary and genital areas of the body.
- b. They are usually larger than eccrine glands and their ducts empty into hair follicles.
- c. Their secretion contain fatty acids and proteins, as well as all substances present in eccrine secretion.
- d. They begin to function during puberty under the influence of androgens, and they also play a minimal role in thermoregulation.

Functions of the skin

1. **Protection:** against pathogens. Langerhans cells in the skin are part of the immune system.
2. **Storage:** stores lipids (fats) and water.
3. **Sensation:** nerve endings detect temperature, pressure, vibration, touch, and injury.
4. **Control water loss:** the skin prevents water from escaping by evaporation.
5. **Water resistance:** it prevents nutrients from being washed from the skin
6. **Thermoregulation:**
by producing sweat and dilating blood vessels, the skin helps keep the body cool. "Goosebumps" and blood vessel constriction, help us retain heat.

HAIR AND HAIR FOLLICLES

There are millions of hair scattered all over the body, but other than serving a few minor protective functions, our body hair has lost much of its usefulness.

- **Hairs**

A hair, produced by a hair follicle, is a flexible epithelial structure.

- **Root**

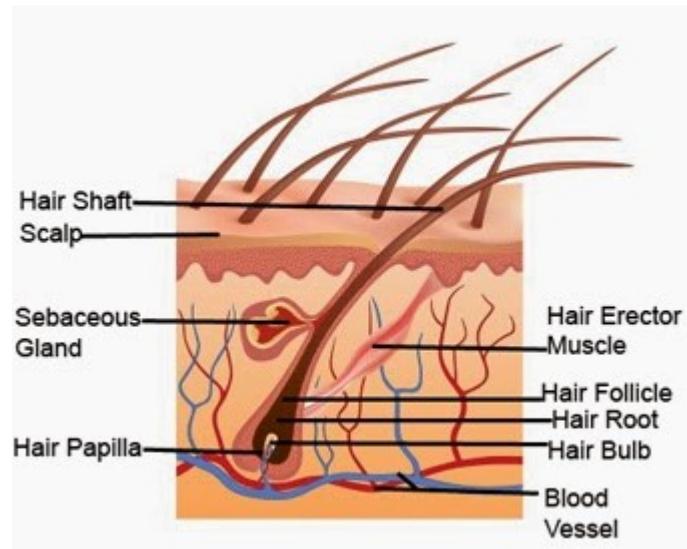
The part of the hair enclosed in the follicle is the root.

- **Shaft**

The part projecting from the surface of the scalp or skin is called shaft.

- **Formation**

The hair is formed by division of a well-nourished stratum basale epithelial cells in the matrix (growth zone) of the hair bulb at the inferior end of the follicle.



Composition

1. Each hair is made up of a central core called the medulla surrounded by a bulky cortex layer.
2. **Cuticle:** The cortex is enclosed by an outermost cuticle formed by a single layer of cells that overlap one another like shingles on the roof. cuticle is the most heavily keratinized region; it provides strength and helps keep the inner hair layers tightly compacted.

3. **Hair pigment**

Hair pigment is made by melanocytes in the hair bulb, and varying amounts of different types of melanin combine to produce all varieties of hair colour from pale blond to pitch black.

4. **Hair follicles:** Hair follicles are actually compound structures.

Epidermal sheath: The inner epidermal sheath is composed of epithelial tissue and forms the hair.

Dermal sheath: The outer dermal sheath is actually dermal connective tissue; this dermal region supplies blood vessels to the epidermal portion.

5. **Papilla:** Its nipple like that provides the blood supply to the matrix in the hair bulb.

6. **Arrector pili:** Small bands of smooth muscle cells -arrector pili- connect each side of the hair follicle to the dermal tissue.

When these muscles contract, the hair is pulled upright, dimpling the skin surface with “goosebumps”.

Hair Growth Cycle

At any given time, a random number of hairs will be in one of three stages of growth and shedding: anagen, catagen, and telogen.

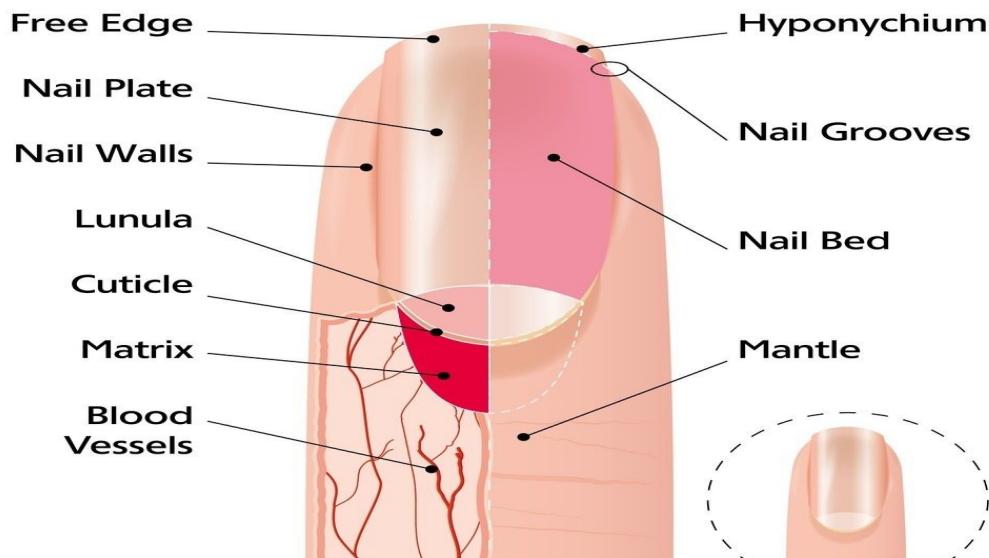
- **Anagen:**

- a. Anagen is the active phase of hair
- b. The cells in the root of the hair are dividing rapidly and a new hair is formed and pushes the club hair (a hair that has stopped growing or is no longer in the anagen phase) up the follicle and eventually out.

- **Catagen:** The catagen phase is a transitional stage in which growth stops and the outer root sheath shrinks and attaches to the root of the hair.

- **Telogen:** Telogen is the resting phase in which, the hair follicle is completely at rest and the club hair is completely formed.

NAILS



A nail is a scale like modification of the epidermis that corresponds to the hoof or claw of other animals.

Parts

Each nail has a free edge, a body (visible attached portion), and a root(embedded in the skin).

- **Cuticle:** The thick proximal nail fold is commonly called the cuticle.
- **Nail bed:** The stratum basale of the epidermis extends beneath the nail as the nail bed.
- **Nail matrix:** Its thickened proximal area, the nail matrix, is responsible for nail growth.
- **Color:** Nails are transparent and nearly colorless, but they look pink because of the rich blood supply in the underlying dermis.

- **Lunula:** The exception to the pinkish color of the nails is the region over the thickened nail matrix that appears as a white crescent and is called the lunula.”

Functions

1. **Protection:** Shields the delicate tips (distal phalanges) and surrounding soft tissues from trauma and infection.
2. **Tactile Sensation Enhancement:** The nail pushes back against the fingertip pulp, increasing sensitivity and allowing for more precise touch, even though the nail itself has no nerves.
3. **Tools for Precision:** Enables tasks like picking up tiny items, scratching itches, pulling out splinters, and separating objects (like pages in a book).
4. **Grasping & Support:** Provides a rigid back support for the fingertip, improving grip and delicate movements.
5. **Thermoregulation:** Helps regulate body temperature by diverting blood flow through glomus bodies in the nail bed.
6. **Indicator of Health:** Changes in nail color, texture, or shape can signal underlying systemic illnesses.