

# Microscopic structure of the organ of vision

(sense organ)

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# Sense system

It serves to convey stimuli that influence organism from inside and outside

## **Sensitive nerve endings**

(with simple structure)

- Simple sensory endings
- Intraepithelial sensory endings
- Sensory bodies

## **Complex organs**

- Photosensitive organ - Eye
- Organ of hearing and equilibrium - Ear

# Photoreceptor organ - Eye

Analyzes the form, light intensity and colour reflected from objects

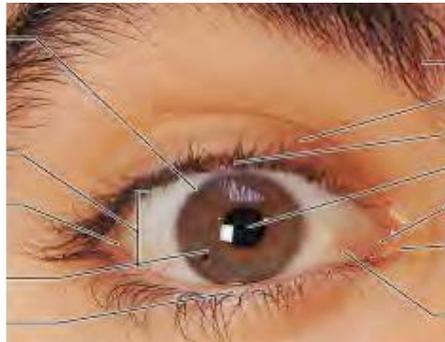
## Eye ball

(three-layered structure)

- tunica externa = fibrosa
- tunica media = vasculosa
- tunica interna = nervosa

## Accessory structures

- eye lids
- conjunctiva
- lacrimal apparatus
- muscles



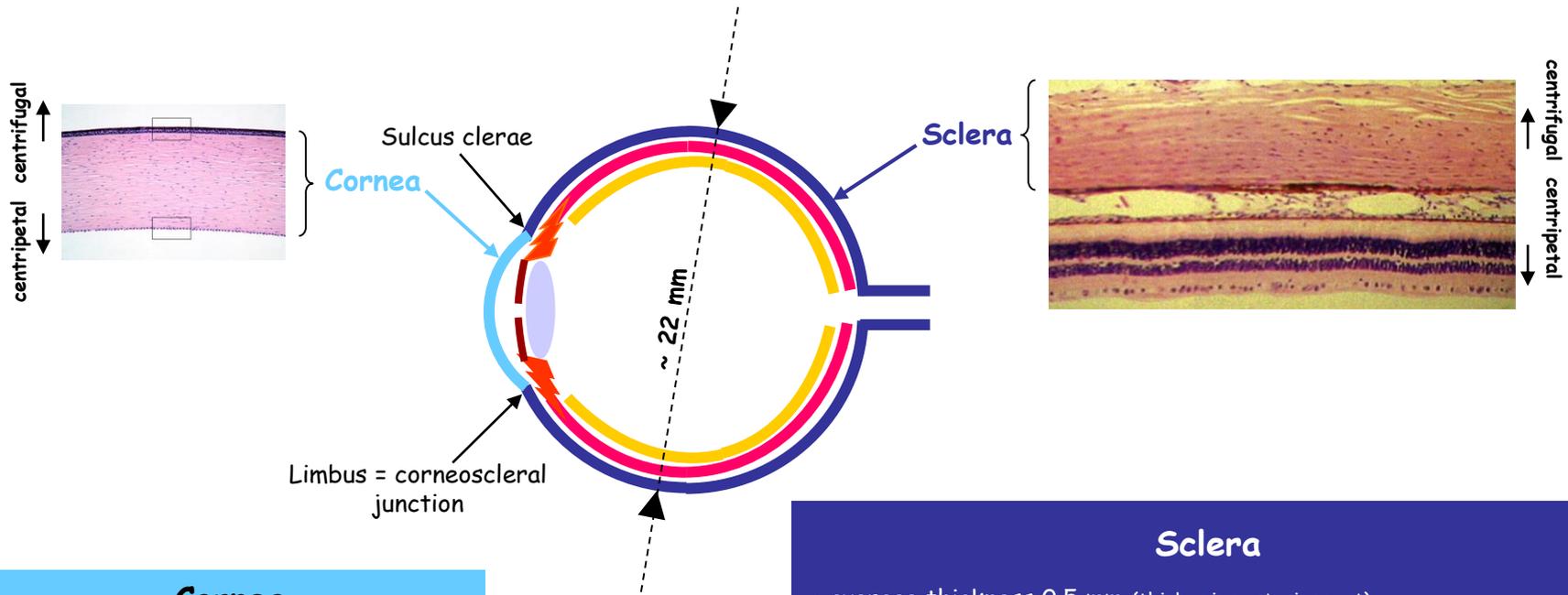
# What do we expect from the eye ?

- Ability to sense signals and transfer them to CNS
- Ability to focus on objects
- Enough strength
- Ability to regenerate
- Ability to move with a minimal friction

# Enough strength

Eyes sit in the protective environment of the skull, in orbits, surrounded by the fat cushions..

<b>Cornea</b>	+	<b>Sclera</b>	=	<b>Tunica externa oculi</b>
1/6	+	5/6	=	6/6 of the surface



## Cornea

- average thickness 0.9-1.0 mm
- colorless
- transparent
- thoroughly avascular
- 5 distinct layers

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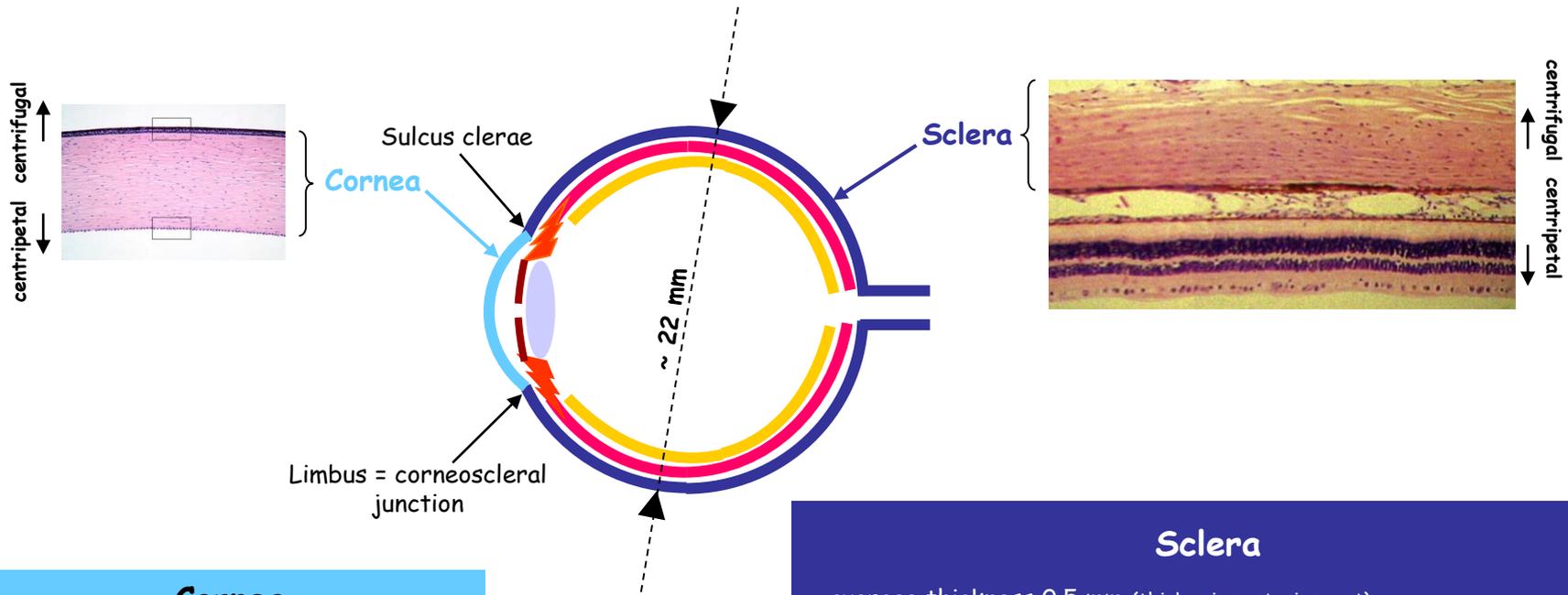
## Sclera

- average thickness 0.5 mm (thicker in posterior part)
  - bundles of flat collagen I fibers (intertwining in all directions)
  - few fibroblasts, minimum ground substance
  - relatively avascular
  - connected by loose system of collagen fibers with **Tenon's capsule** - **Tenon's space** - allows for free movement of the eye
  - **lamina suprachoroidea** - connection to choroid
- (loose connective tissue with melanocytes, fibroblasts and elastic fibers)

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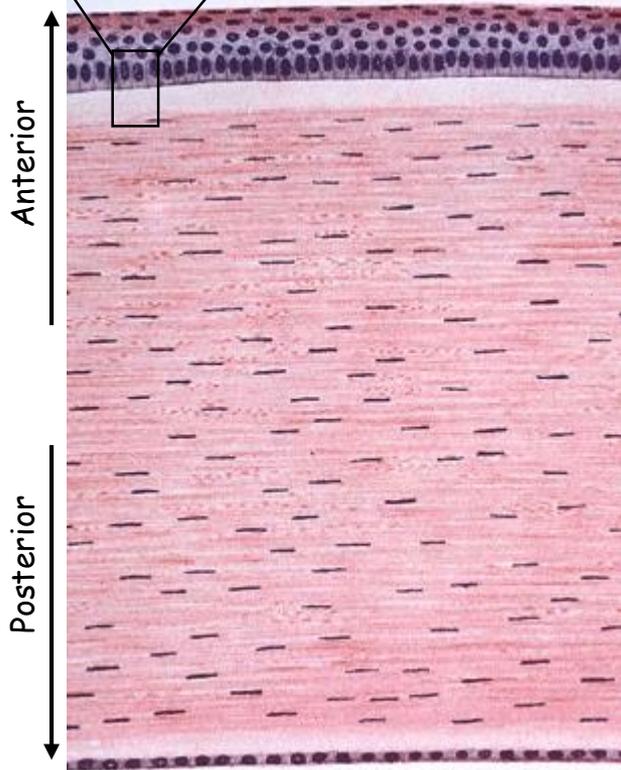
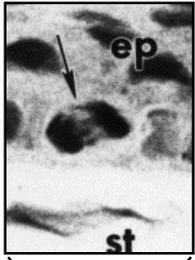
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# Cornea

(transversal section)



- stratified + squamous (5-6 layers)
- nonkeratizing
- rich in nerve endings
- surface cells equipped with microvilli (protrude into the space with the film of tears)

Corneal epithelium

Bowman's membrane

- = **Lamina limitans anterior**
- thickness about 7 - 12  $\mu\text{m}$
- fine collagen fibers (intersecting in all directions)
- no cells
- provides strength

Substantia propria corneae = STROMA

- many layers of collagen fibers (in right angles)
  - flat keratocytes in between the collagen lamellae (fibroblast-like cells)
  - contains mucoïd substance rich in chondroitinsulphate
  - properly hydrated
- KEY to the TRANSPARENCY**

- = **Lamina limitans posterior**
- fine collagen fibers
- fibers are organized to 3D network

Descemet's membrane  
Corneal endothelium

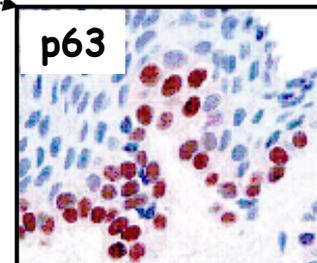
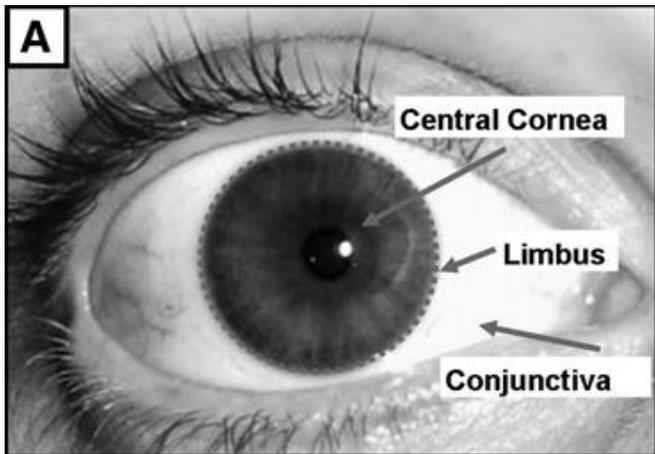
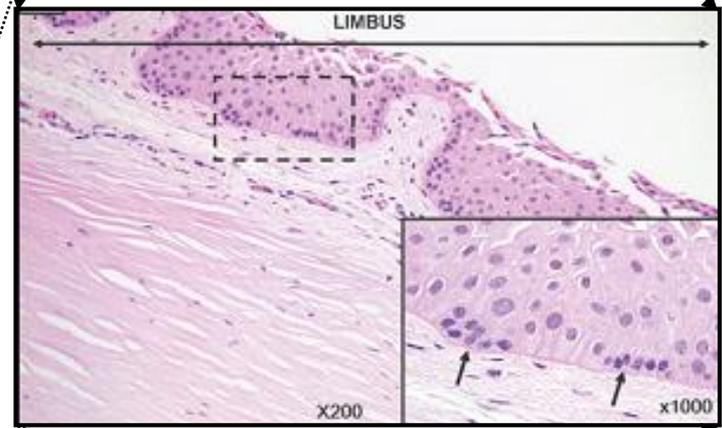
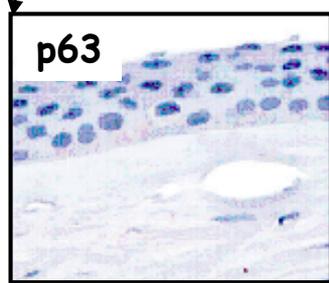
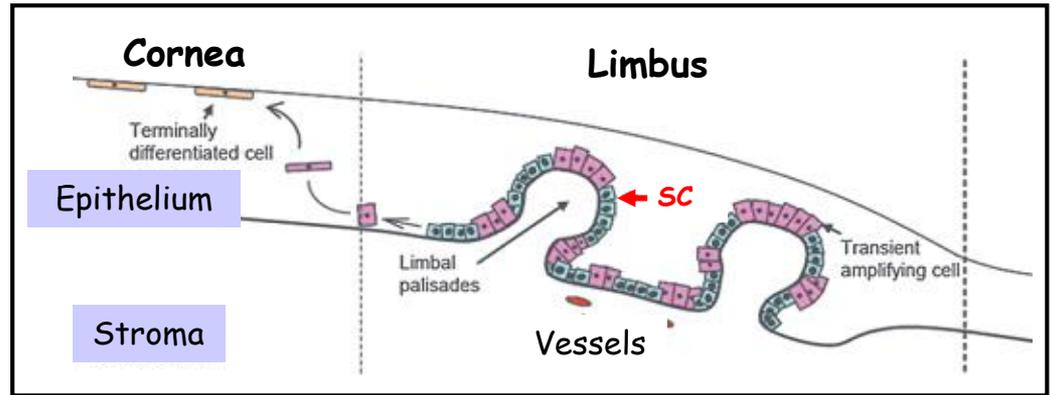
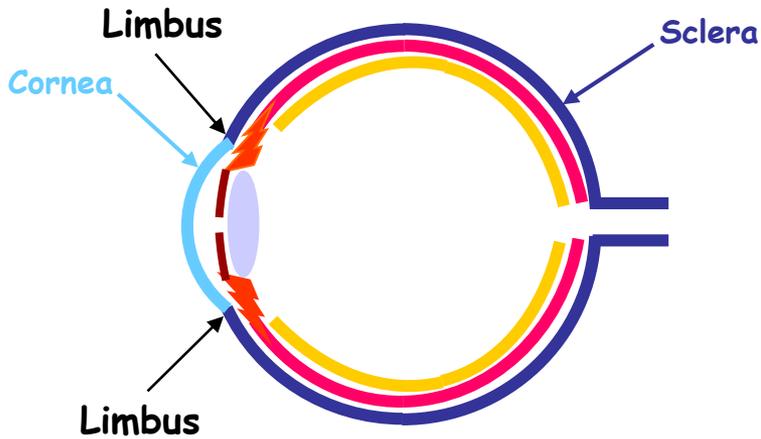
- simple + squamous
- active in transport to maintain cornea in a proper state
- continues on the frontal part of iris (via spongium anguli iridocornealis)

# Ability to regenerate

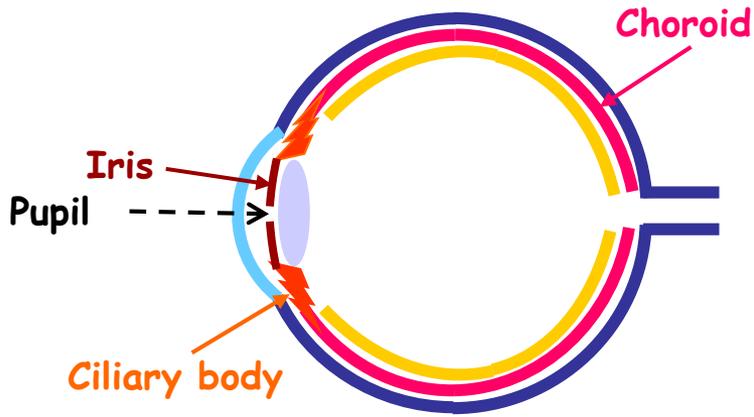
## Limbus - corneoscleral junction

The area of transition of the transparent collagen bundles of cornea into the opaque collagen bundles of sclera.

Highly vascularized - feeds avascular cornea



# Enough supply of resources



<b>Choroid</b>	+	<b>Ciliary body</b>	+	<b>Iris</b>	=	<b>Tunica media</b>
Choroidea		Corpus ciliare		Iris		T. vasculosa

## Choroid = 4-layered structure

### Lamina suprachoroidea

- loose connective tissue
- rich for pigment cells - melanocytes

### Lamina vasculosa

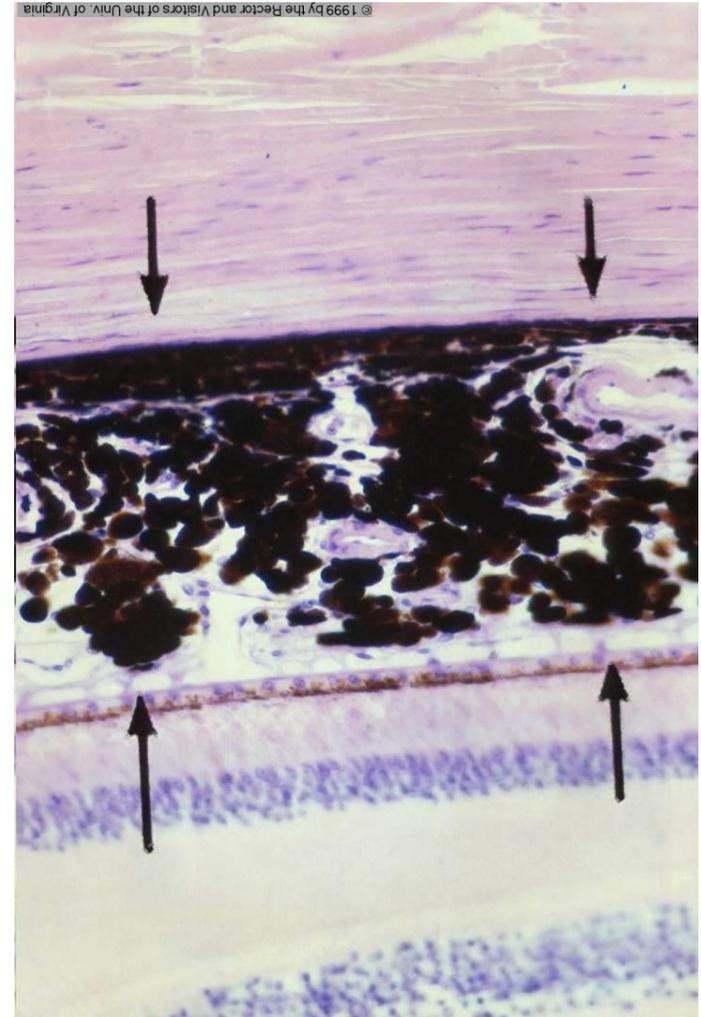
- loose connective tissue
- rich for pigment cells - melanocytes
- contains larger vessels and nerves

### Lamina choriocapillaris

- loose connective tissue
- network of small vessels

### Lamina vitrea = L. basalis = Bruch's membrane

- fibers of collagen and elastin
- overall thickness about 3-4  $\mu\text{m}$
- links together basal laminae of Lamina choriocapillaris of choroid and pigmented epithelium of retina



Choroid

Sclera

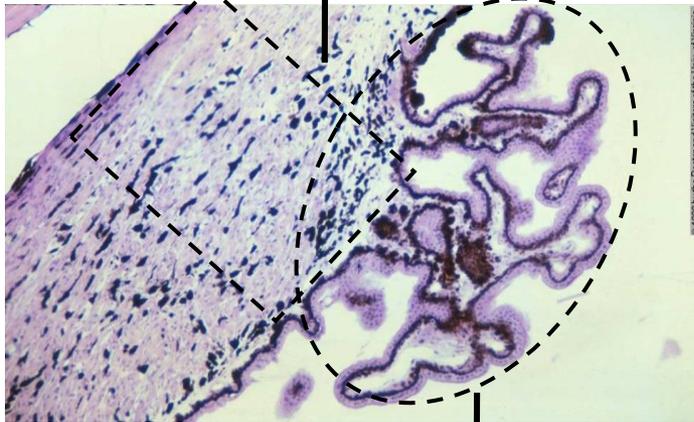
Retina

# Ability to focus on objects

## Ciliary body - anterior extension of the choroid

### Stroma of ciliary body

- loose connective tissue
- contains elastic fibers, vessels and melanocytes
- rich for capillaries (chamber fluid)
- bundles of smooth muscle fibers (anchored to sclera and protrude to the processes of ciliary body - *m. ciliaris*)



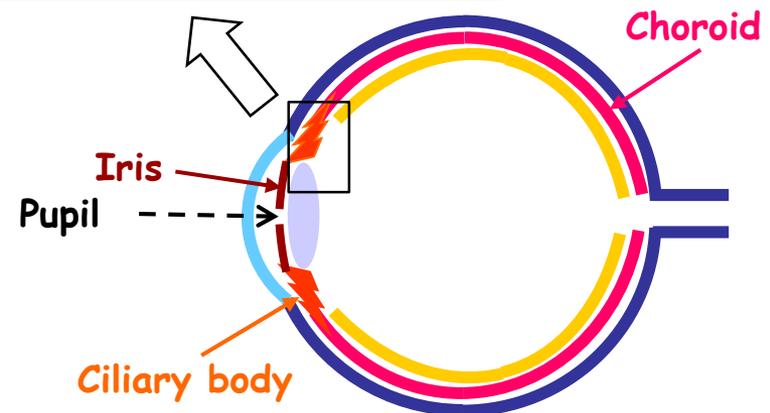
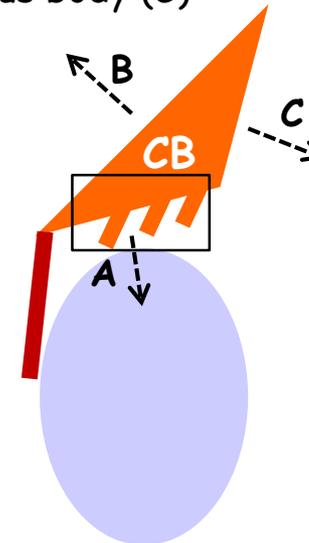
### Processes of CB (Processus ciliares)

- protrude into posterior chamber
- total number of about 70-80
- rich for capillaries (chamber fluid)
- covered by two-layered epithelium (from the retina - *pars ciliaris retinae*)
- linked to the lens capsula *fibrae suspensoriae lentis* (zonulae)

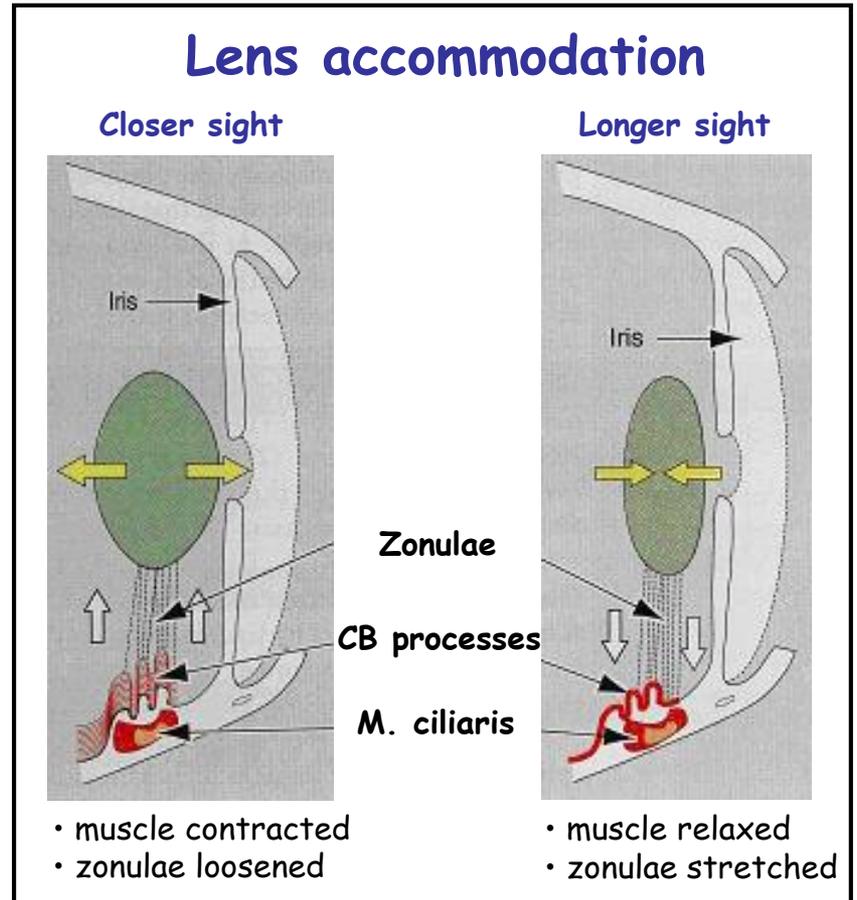
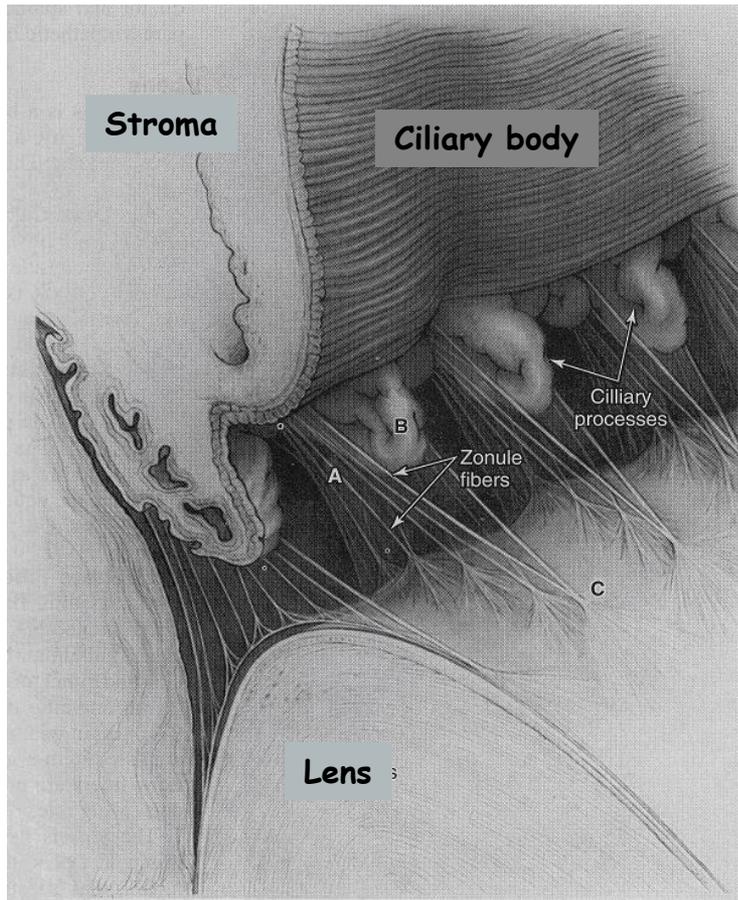
### Triangular on crosssection

Connects to:

- lens + posterior chamber (A)
- sclera (B)
- vitreous body (C)

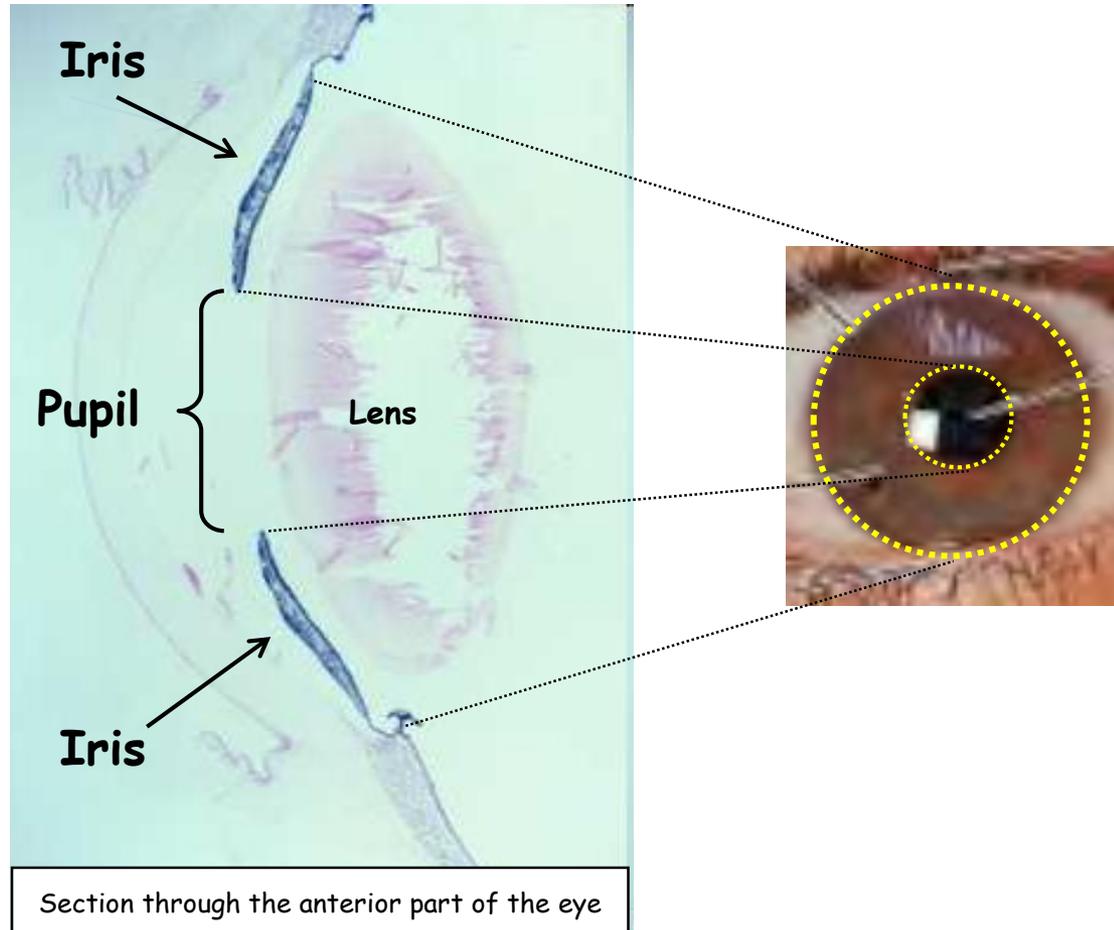


# Ciliary body

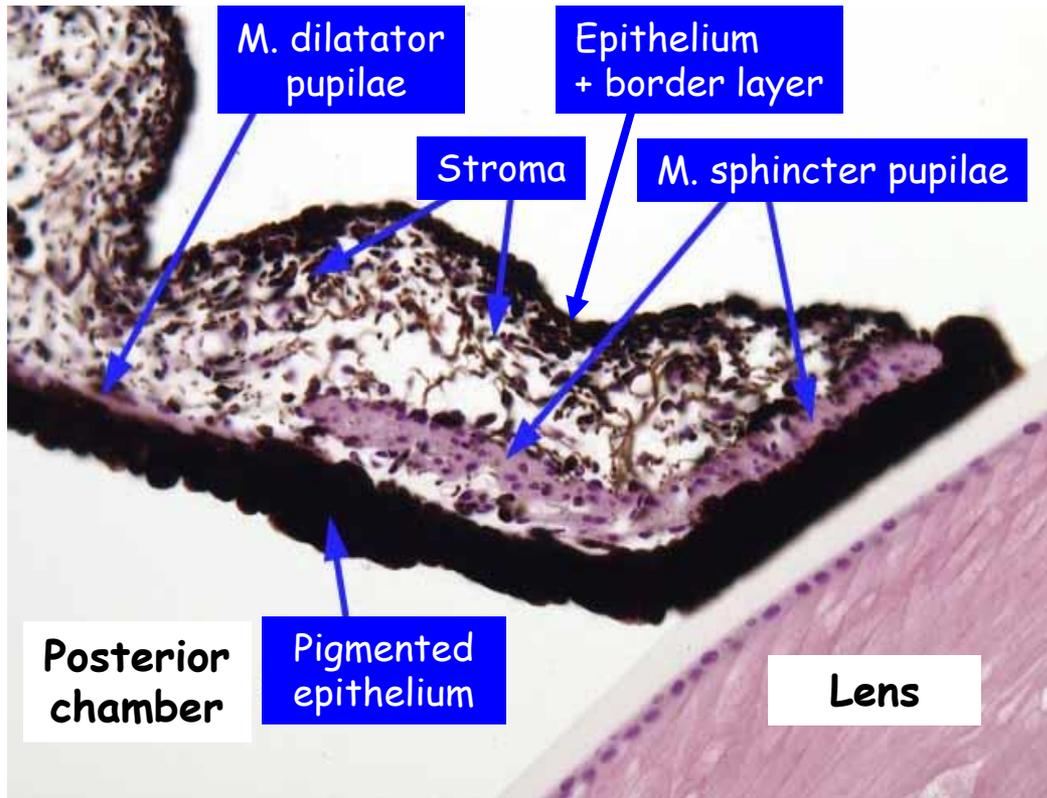


# Iris - 1

Anterior continuation of the choroid.  
Partially covers the lens.



# Iris - 2



## Iris = 4-layered structure

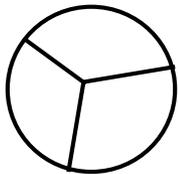
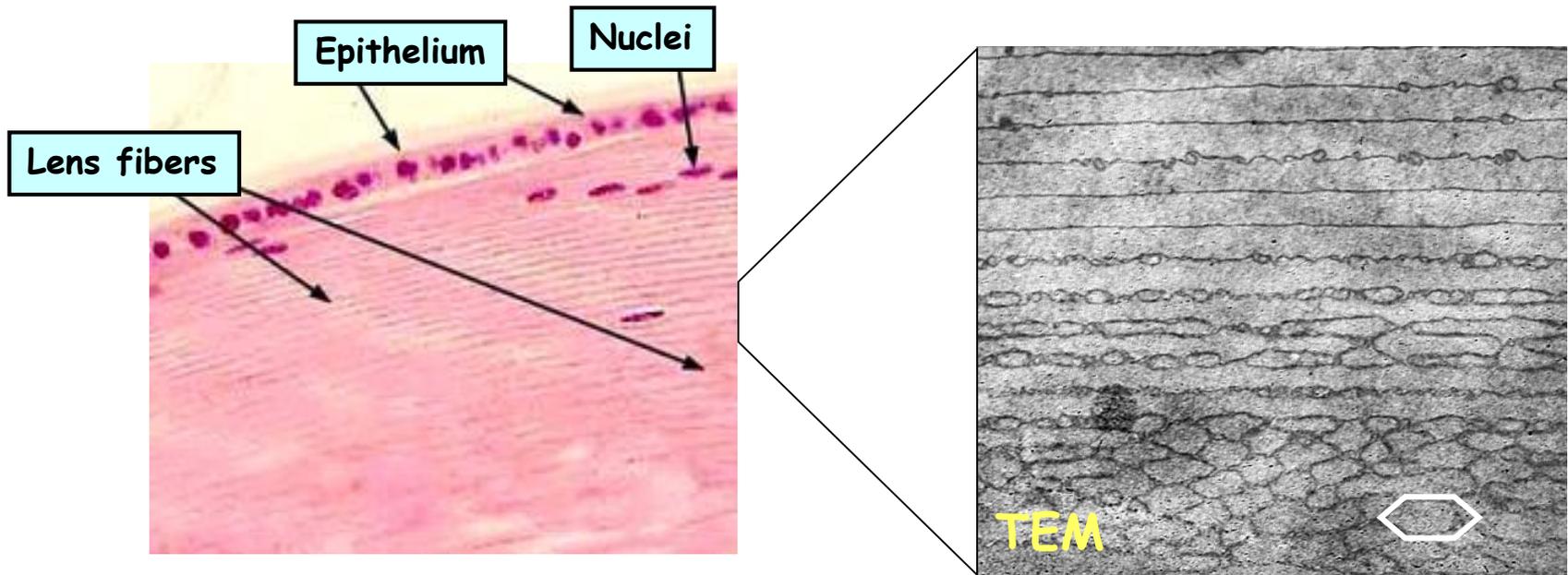
Layers from outside:

- 1. Anterior epithelium**
  - continuation of the posterior ep. of the cornea
  - discontinuous layer of flat epithelial cells, fibroblasts a melanocytes
- 2. Anterior border layer**
  - thin layer of connective tissue
  - rich for pigmented cells - melanocytes
  - **decides about eye colour**
- 3. Stroma**
  - loose connective tissue
  - large number of radially running vessels
  - concentrically ordered smooth muscle fibers (=musculus sphincter pupillae)
- 4. Pars iridica retinae**
  - 2-layered
  - continues form ciliar body
  - layer facing the stroma contains smooth muscle fibers (=musculus dilatator pupillae)

# Lens

## Capsule + Epithelium + Fibers

- 10-20  $\mu\text{m}$
- Collagen IV



Epithelium (cuboidal + low cylindrical) only on the anterior surface.

Fibrae suspensorie lentis are anchored to the equator of the lens.

# Ability to sense signals and transfer them to CNS for processing

Retina = Tunica aculi interna - Tunica nervosa

## Posterior part

- photosensitive
- multilayered

## Anterior part

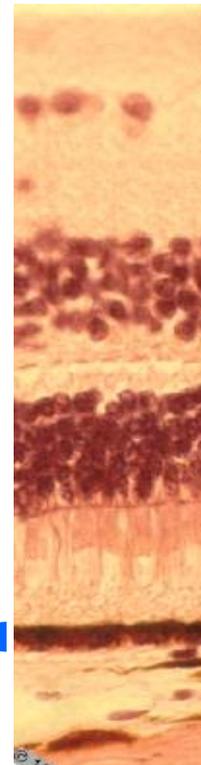
- non-photosensitive
- two-layered
- covers ciliary body and posterior part of the iris

Invagination of prosencephalon creates two-layered **optic cup**.

## Outer layer

### Stratum pigmenti retinae

- columnar cells
- basally located nucleus
- firm connection with lamina vitrea/basalis of choroid
- zonulae occludentes and adherentes
- rich for smooth ER (esterification of vit A)
- rich for melanin granula
- apical extensions (microvili and sheets)
- vesicles in apical parts



~ 0.2 mm

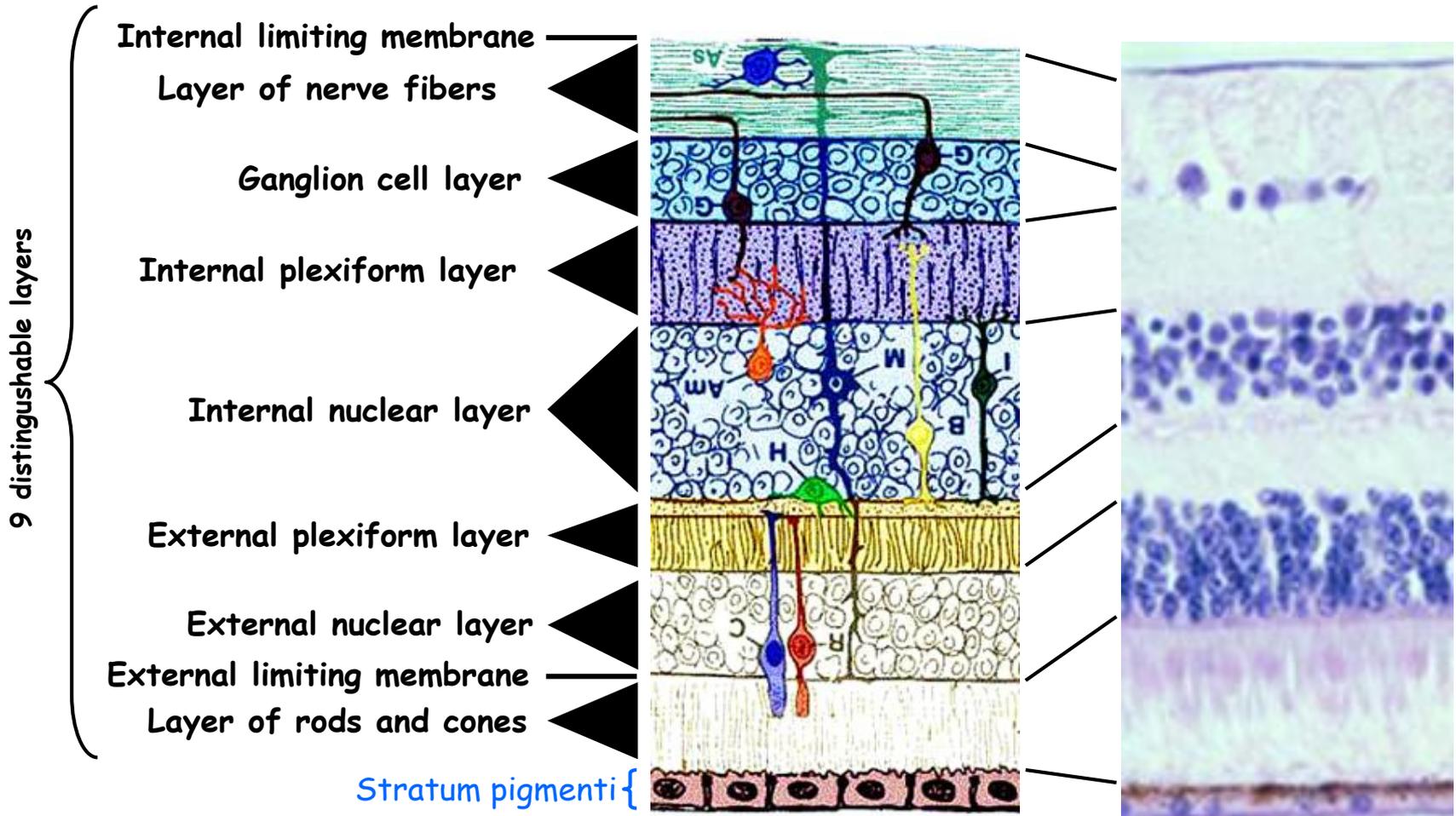
} Choroid

## Inner layer

### Neural retina

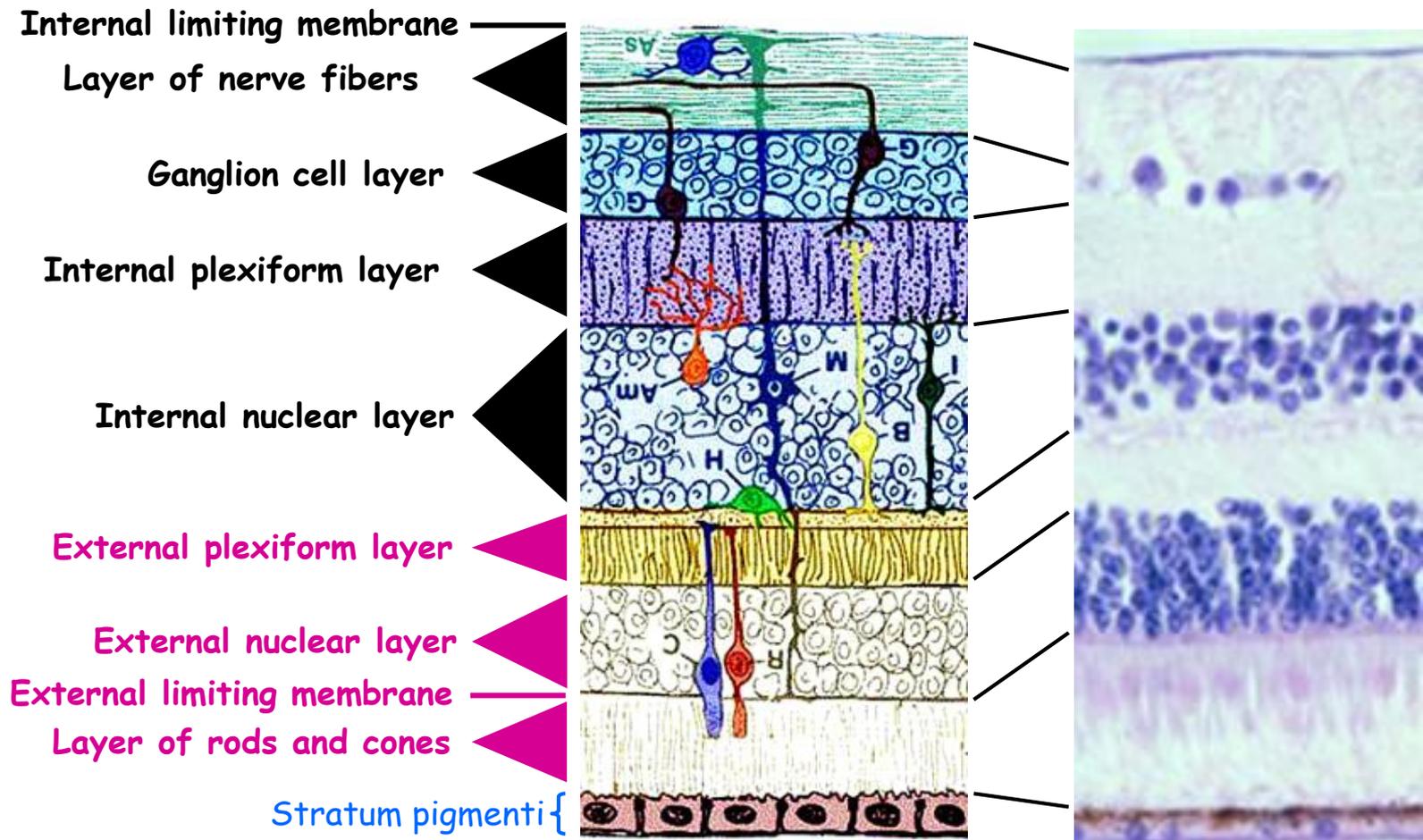
# Neural (optical) retina

minimum 15 different types of neurons with tens of interactions (synapses)



# Photoreceptors = Rod and cone cells 1

## I. Neurones of the optical path



# Photoreceptors = Rod and cone cells 2

## I. Neurones of the optical path

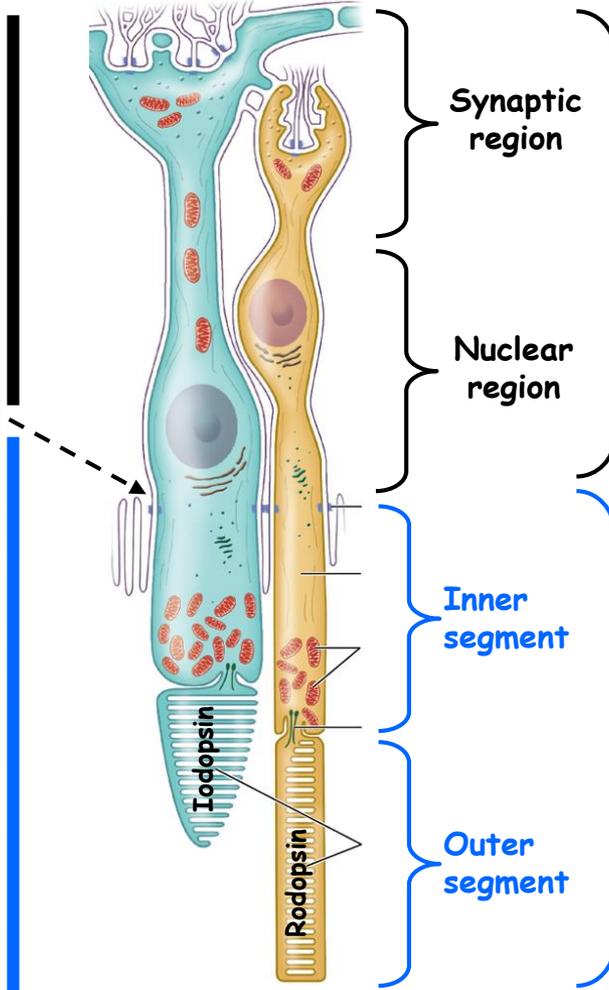
**External plexiform layer**

**External nuclear layer**

**Membrana limitans externa**  
(series of junctional complexes between photoreceptors and glial Muller cells)

**Layer of rods and cones**

**SEM**



**Synaptic region**

**Nuclear region**

**Inner segment**

**Outer segment**

**Central part**

**Peripheral part**

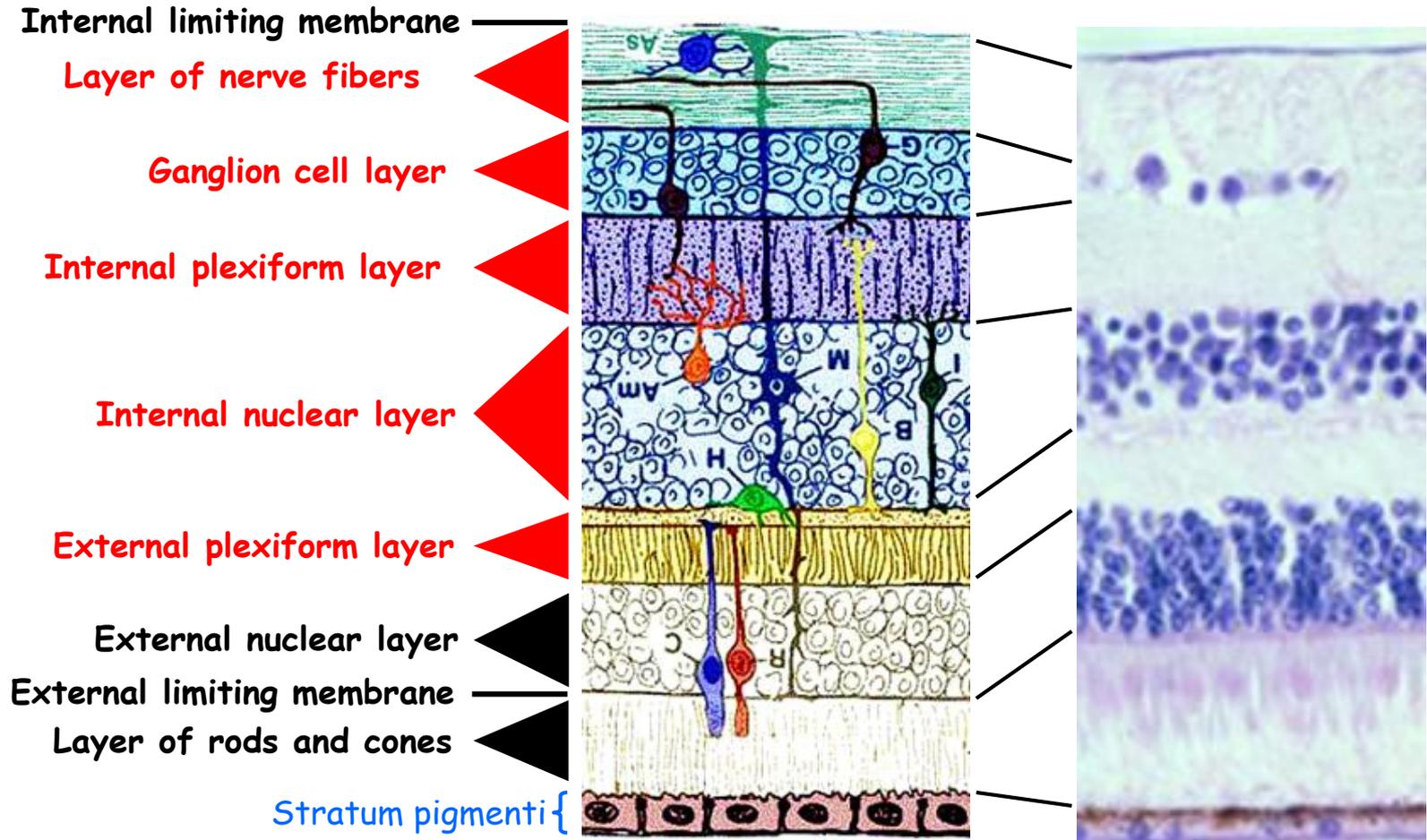
**Rodopsin**

**Rhodopsin**

Rod cells: 100-150 mil.  
Cone cells: 7 mil. (méně citlivé)



# Other neurons of the optical path 1



# Other neurons of the optical path 2

## II. neuron Bipolar cells

### Diffuse

- Synapses with two or more receptors

### Monosynaptic

- Synapses with only one receptor
- Direct transfer of impulses from some rods

## III. neuron Ganglion cells (multipolar)

- Large cells
- Nuclei mainly in one layer
- Dendrites connect to neurites of bipolar and amakrine cells
- Neurites run in 9. layer of the retina and come together to form optic nerve

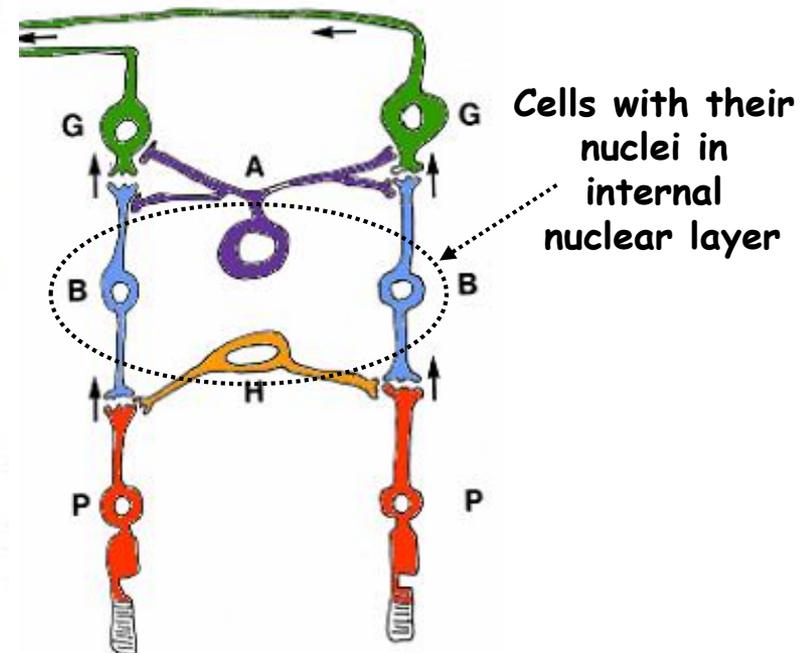
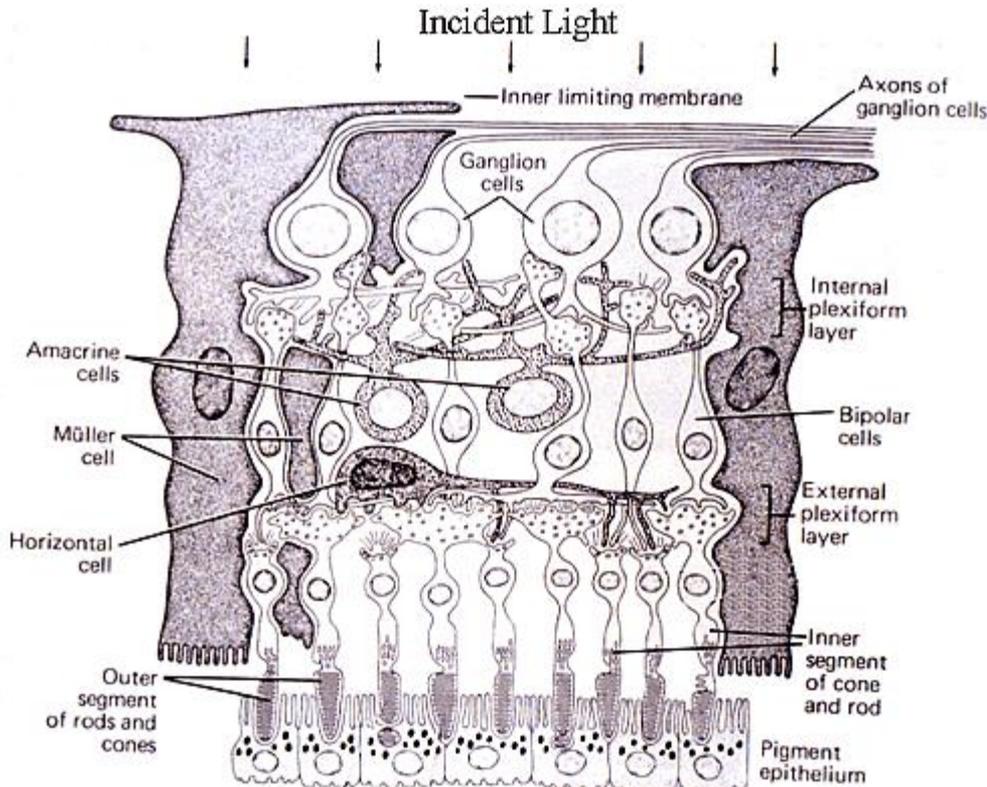
## Asociating + integrating neurons

### Horizontal cells

- Small
- Multipolar

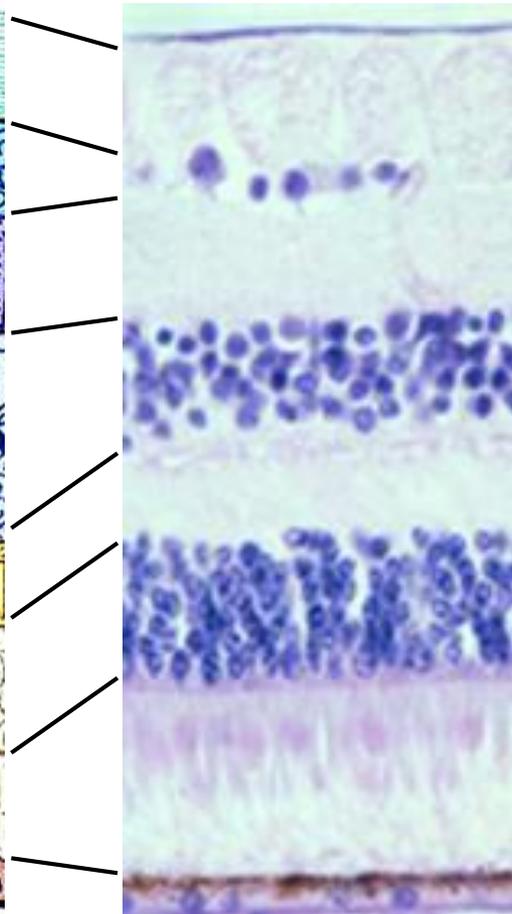
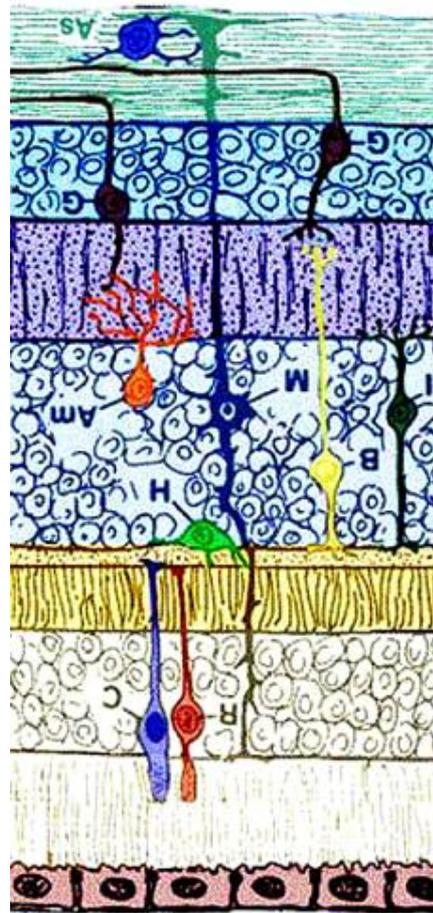
### Amacrine cells

- They don't have neurite



# Supporting cells of the retina 1

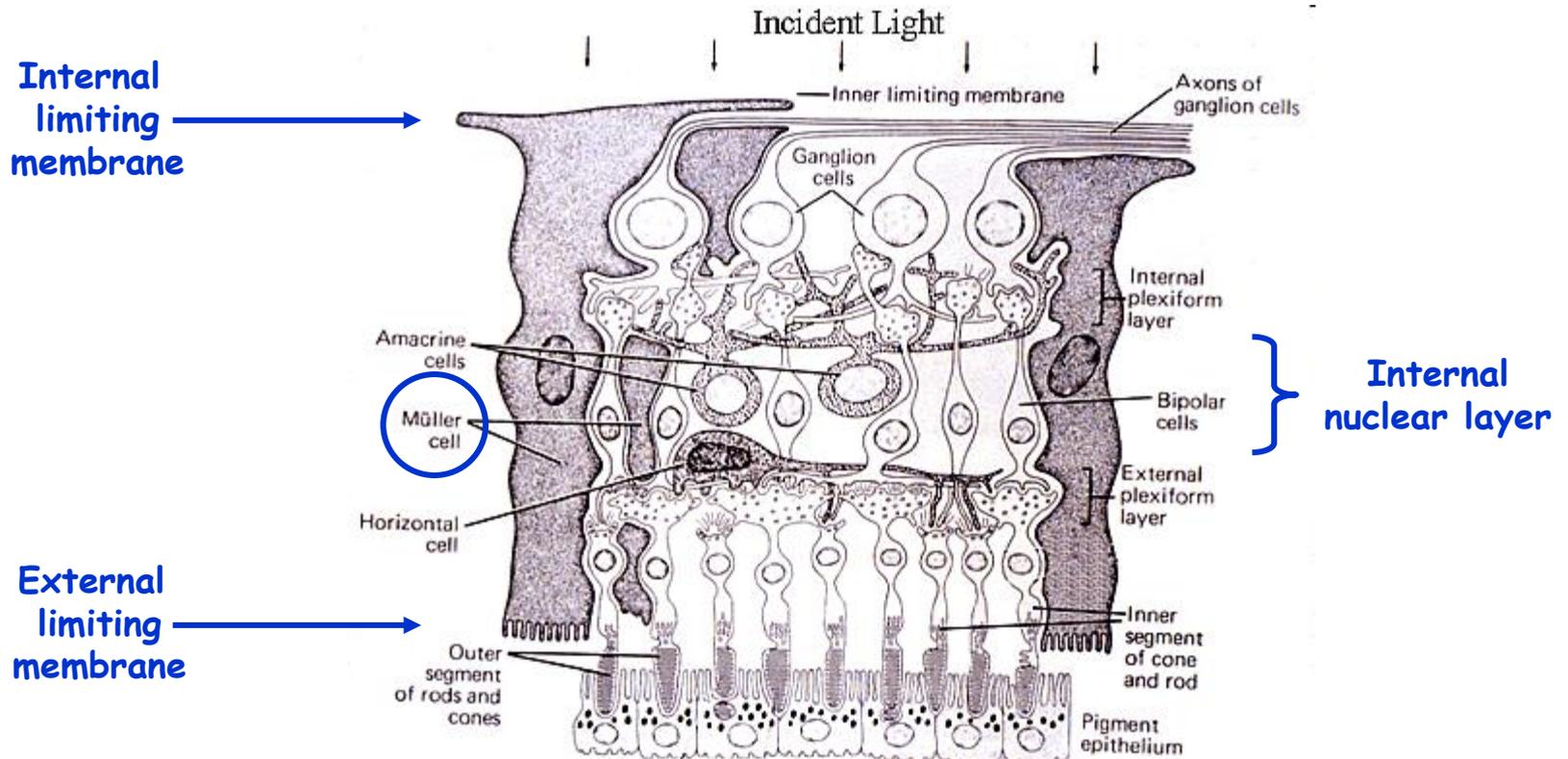
- Internal limiting membrane
- Layer of nerve fibers
- Ganglion cell layer
- Internal plexiform layer
- Internal nuclear layer
- External plexiform layer
- External nuclear layer
- External limiting membrane
- Layer of rods and cones
- Stratum pigmenti {



# Supporting cells of the retina 1

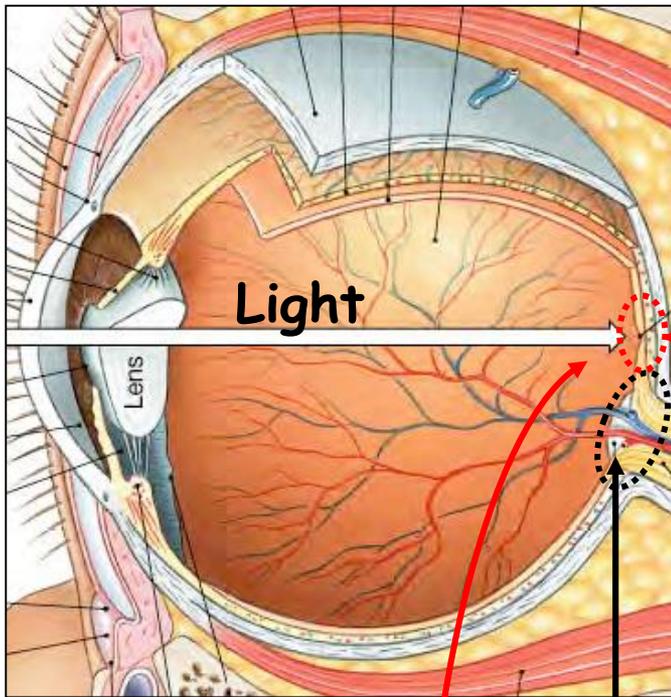
## Müller cells

= modified glial cells of the CNS

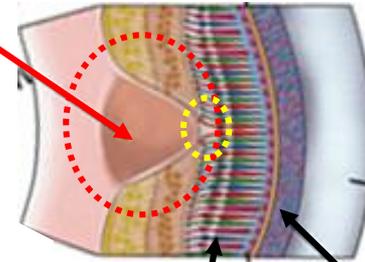


„Does the retina see the same in all its areas“

Central x Peripheral vision



Macula lutea

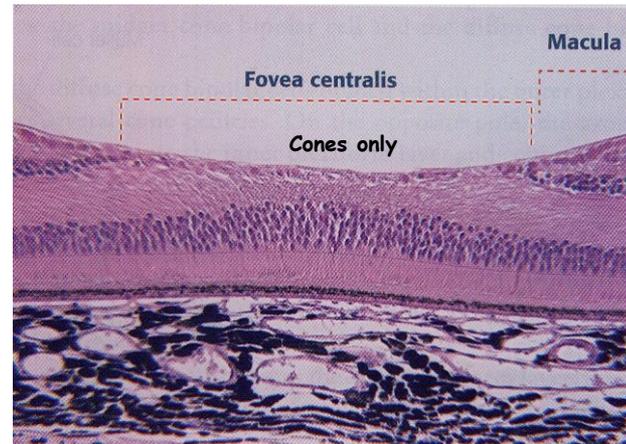
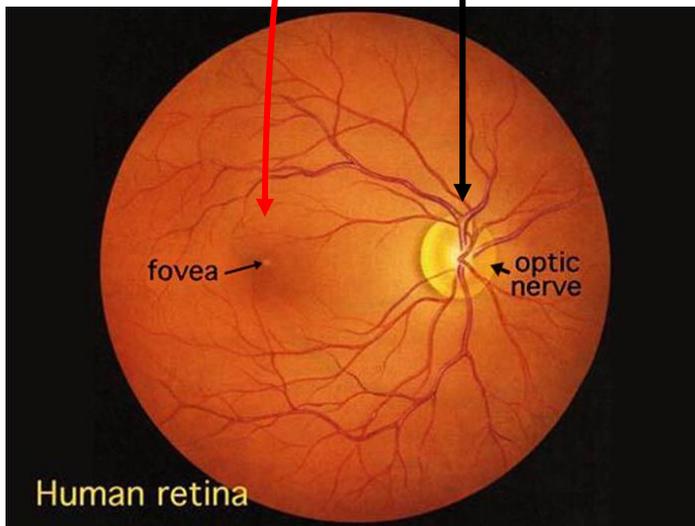


Retina

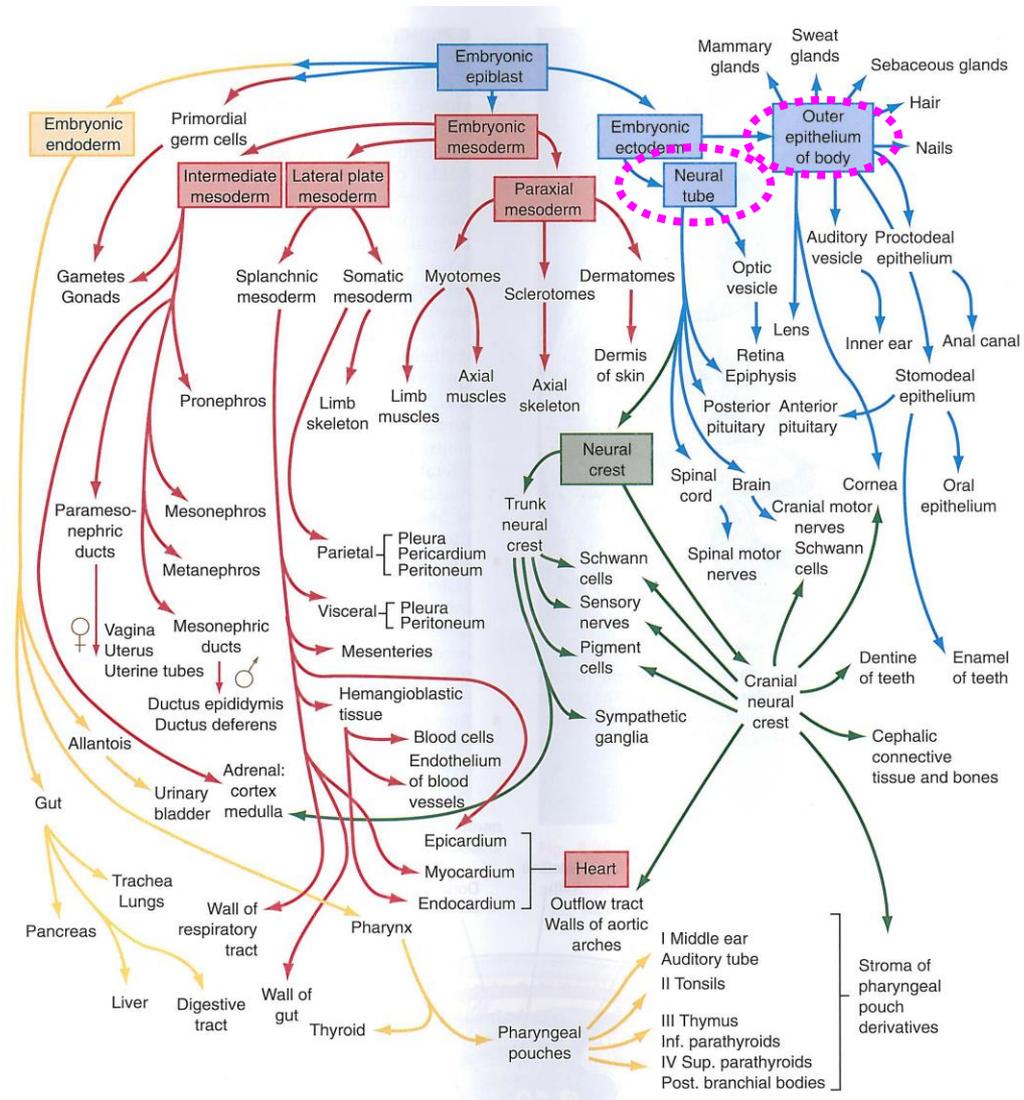
Choroid

Papilla of the optic nerve

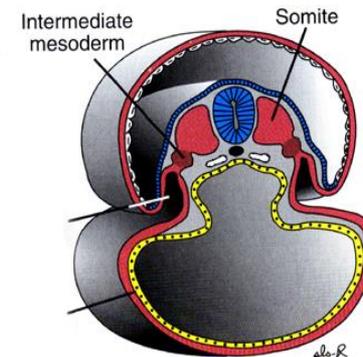
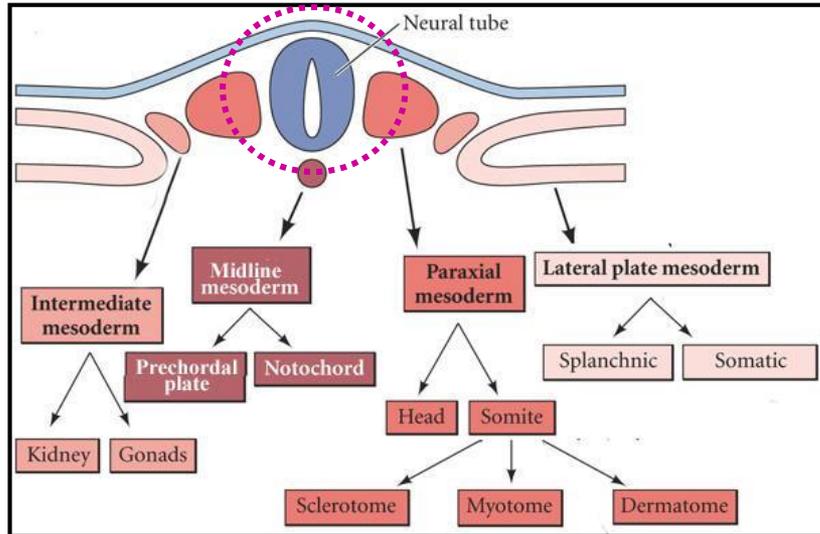
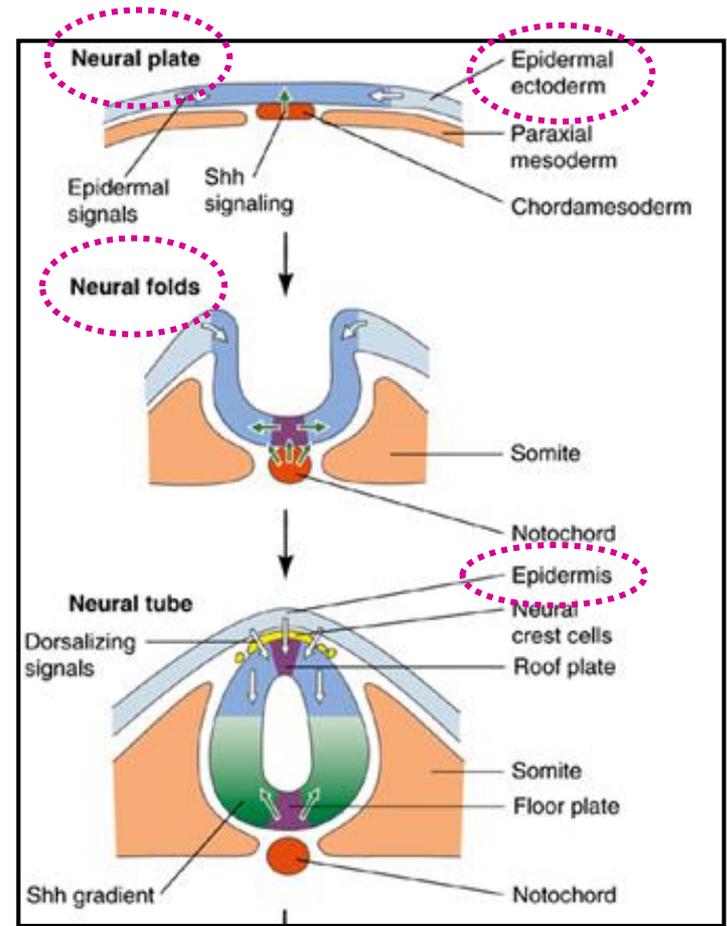
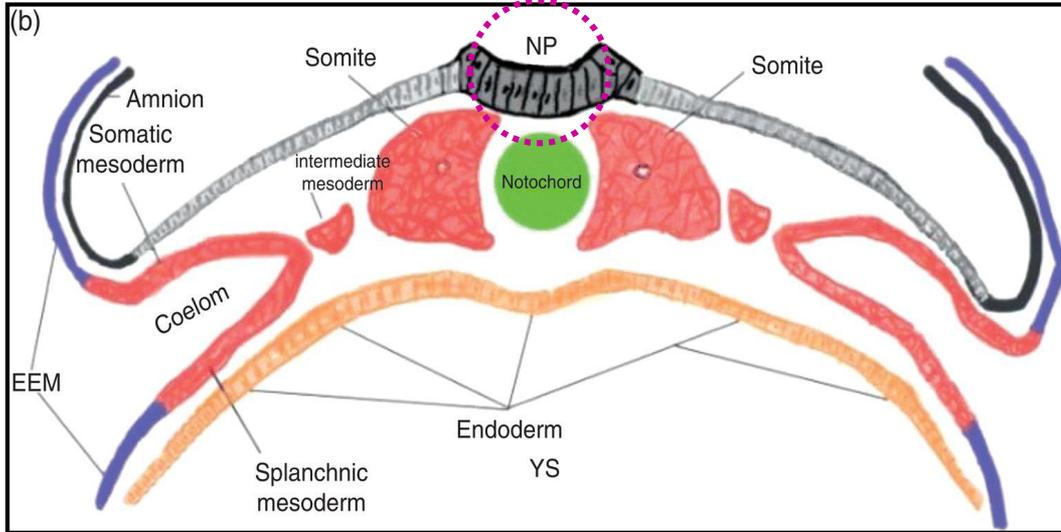
Fovea centralis of the macula lutea = the sharpest vision



# Development of sense organs - Overall picture

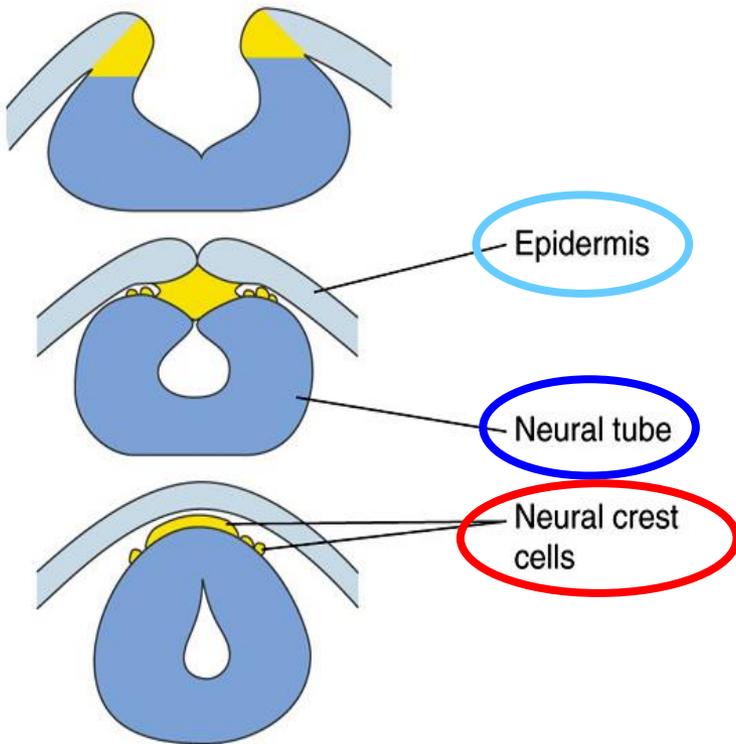


# Sense organs - Reminder - Neural tube

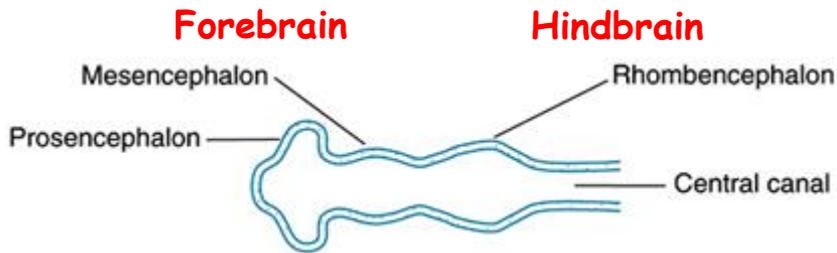


# Sense organs - Reminder - Neural crest

Arise from both  
dorsal epidermis and neural plate

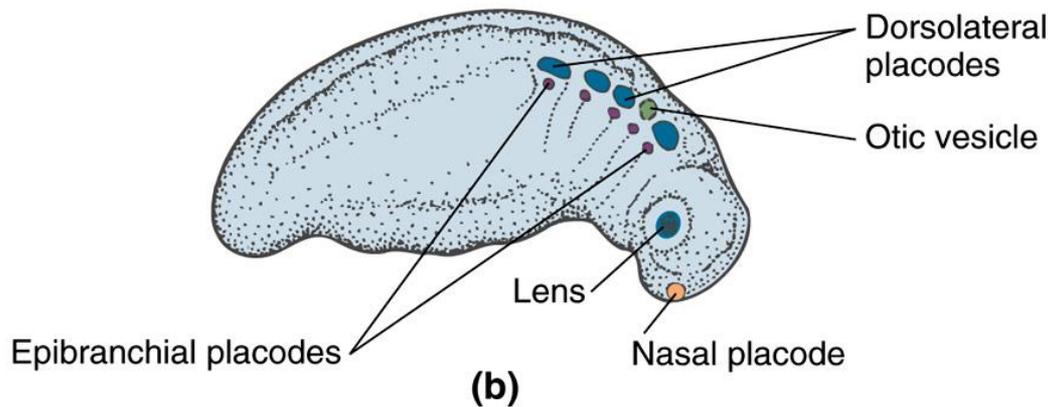
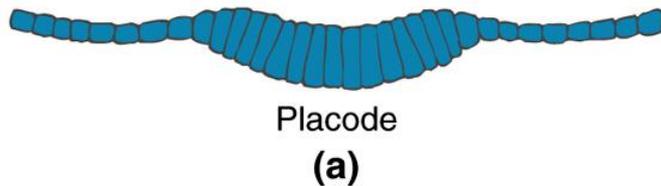


# Sense organs - Cranial neural tube + Placodes



Brain after 4 weeks of development

**Placodes:** patches of dense columnar epithelium in the epidermis covering the head - their formation is induced by underlying brain and mesenchymal tissue - **develop in week 4**



## Dorsolateral placodes

Contribute to:

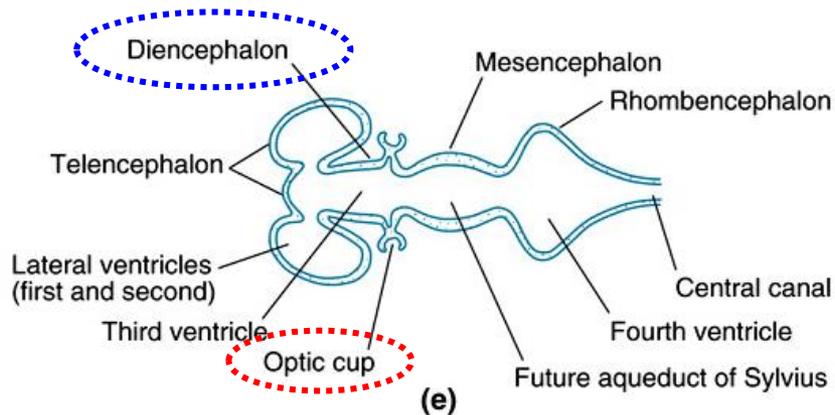
- eye - lens placode
- ear - otic placode
- nose - nasal placode
- sensory ganglia

## Epibranchial placodes

Develop into:

- sensory ganglia of cranial nerves (V, VII, IX, X)

# Sense organs - Eye development 1



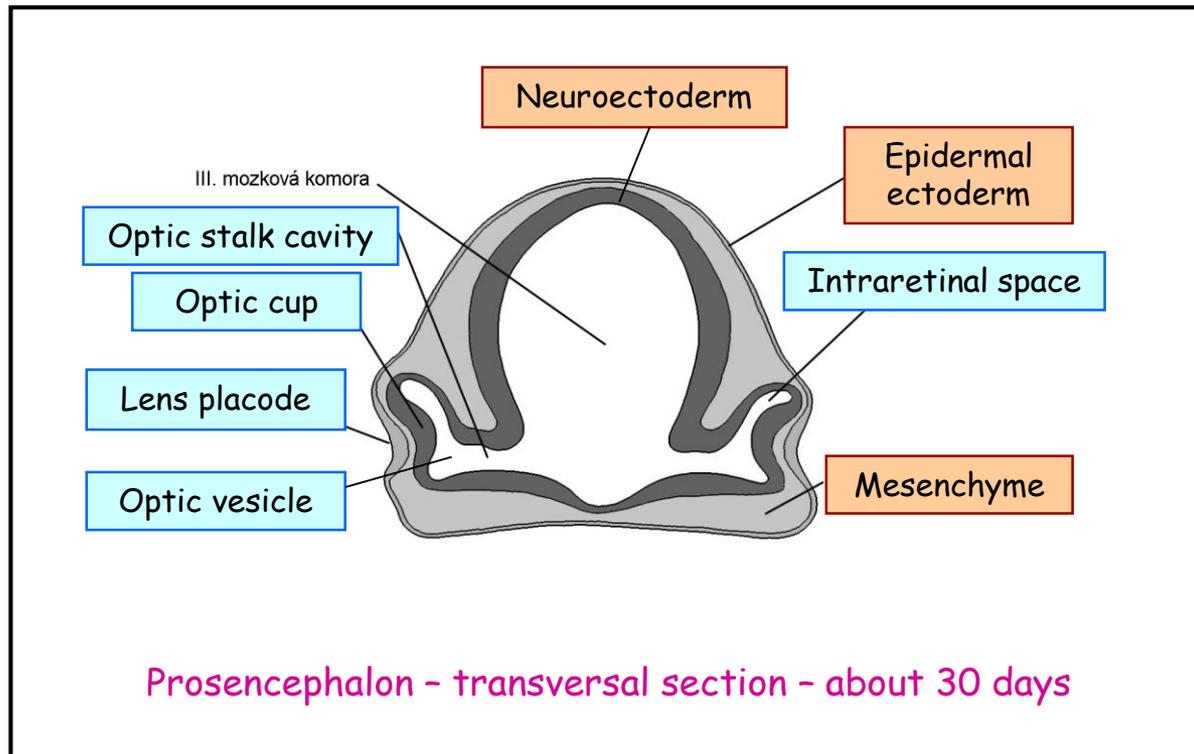
Brain after 5 weeks of development

Neural plate ectoderm → prosencephalon (forebrain) **eye fields** →

→ neural plate growth carries eye field region forward →

→ eye field invaginates forming **optic grooves (sulci)**

## Sense organs - Eye development 2



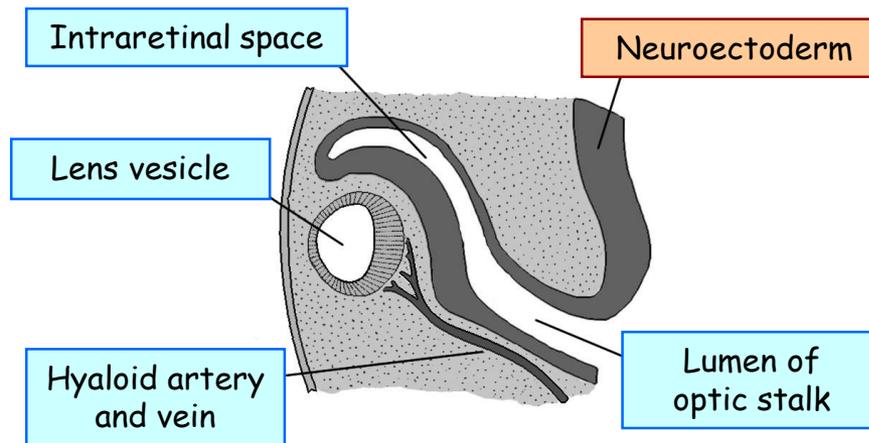
**Lens placode:** the ectoderm invaginates in response to signals from the optic cup underneath. It then pinches off as a lens vesicle. Cells elongate to fill the vesicle and start to synthesize crystallins.

**Optic cup:** forms from the neural tube by invagination. The opening (choroid fissure) closes forming a round optic cup, an extension of the brain.

**Optic stalk:** connection to the brain that is filled with neurons to form the optic nerve.

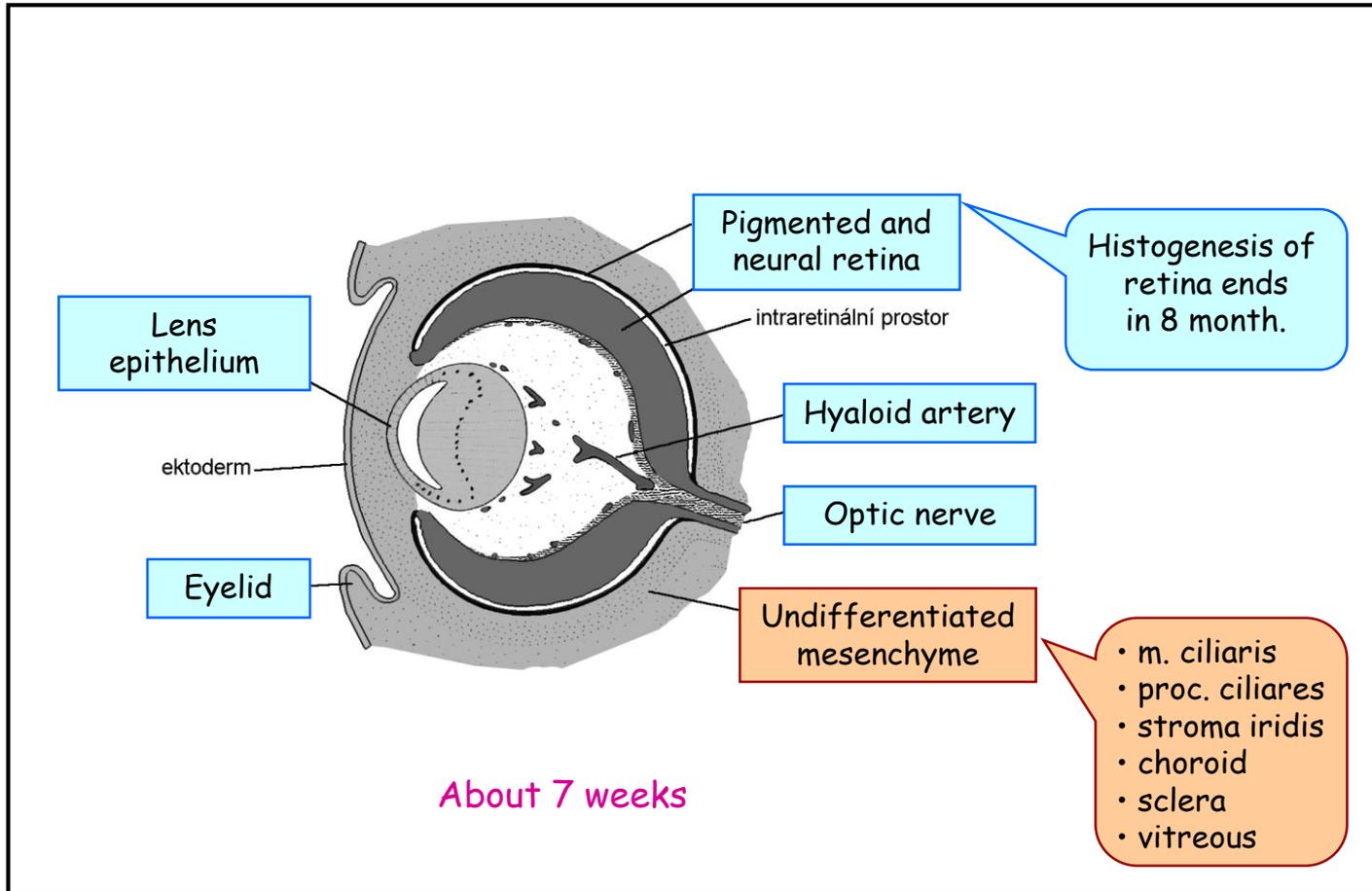
**Reciprocal interaction:** the lens induces the formation of the optic cup and the cup regulates formation of the lens.

# Sense organs - Eye development 3



Diencephalon - transversal section - 6 weeks

# Sense organs - Eye development 4



Thank you for your attention !