

Integumentary System

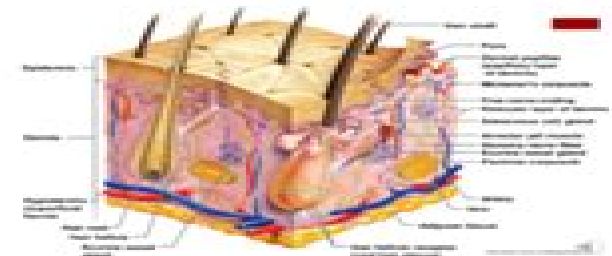
Skin: First line of defense

- Largest organ in the body
- Surface area of 1.3-2.2m² & weighs 9-11 lbs. (~7% total body weight)
- Varies in thickness from 1.5-4mm.
 - o Thickness helps withstand the excess pressure

Three major regions: Epidermis, Dermis, Hypodermis

Epidermis

- outermost layer, made mostly of epithelial cells
- Cells of the epidermis and their function: protective shield
- **Keratinocytes**: proteins that exert water protective effect
 - o Produce keratin, the protein that helps give the skin its protective property
 - Made by stratum basale
 - Pushed upward as more cells are made beneath them
 - The outer most layer is scale like and dead cells
 - Shed at a rate of millions/day
- **Melanocytes**: produce melanosomes (vesicles containing the pigment) and melanin, that protects cells from UV radiation
 - o Melanin is synthesis from tyrosine via tyrosinase which is activated by UV light
 - 2 types of melanin: **Eumelanin** (browning) & **Pheomelanin** (found mostly on lips)
 - The melanin gets exocytosed, the pigment/melanin get picked up by other cells and the melanin help surround the nucleus, essentially creating a shield so the genetic material is not effected by UV radiation
- **Langerhans' cells** (aka dendritic cells)
 - o Epidermal macrophages, whenever a pathogen penetrates our skin, these cells can phagocytize the pathogens
 - Made in bone marrow and migrate to the epidermis
 - The immune system for the skin
- **Merkel Cells**: Found at the epidermal-dermal junction.
 - o Function as touch receptors in association with sensory nerve endings
 - o Sensory nerve endings found in the dermis
 - o The merkel cell is found in epidermis side
 - o High amount found in fingertips



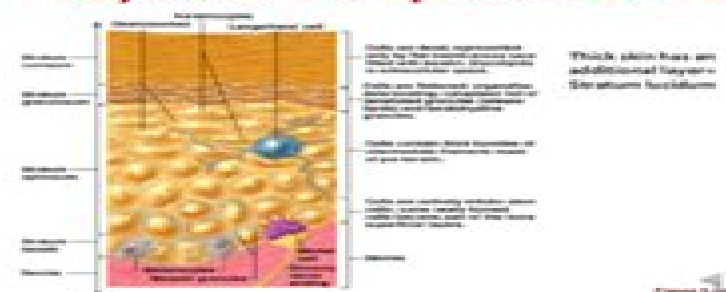
Layers of the epidermis

- Stratum corneum (outer most)
- Stratum lucidum (only in thick skin)
- Stratum granulosum
- Stratum spinosum
- Stratum basale (inner most)
- Fast dividing cells, mitotic cells, as they divide, they get pushed up into the next layer, etc. by the time they reach the stratum corneum, the cells are dead.

Dermis: Middle layer, thickest layer

- Strong and flexible connective tissue
- Full of fibrous connective tissue and additional structures
 - o Blood vessels, lymph vessels, roots of hair, 70% collagen, sebaceous glands (moisturizes the skin and antibacterial properties (no overgrowth of bacterial cells on skin)), **Merkel** cells/receptors that allow us to feel sensation (touch, temperature)
- Richly supplied with nerve fibers & lymph vessels as well
- Cell types: Fibroblasts, Mast cells, Immune cells (dendritic cells, macrophages, T cells)
- **Nociceptors**: receptors that allow you to feel dangerous sensations like pain
- **Thermoreceptors**: feel temperature changes
- **Painless corpuscles**: mechanoreceptors: allow feeling of vibration and pressure
- **Muscle corpuscles**: tactile receptors: allows feeling of light touch

Layers of the Epidermis



Skin And Integumentary System Study Guide

Nadia R. Singh



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