

Chapter 1:

Histological reminder of the structure of human skin



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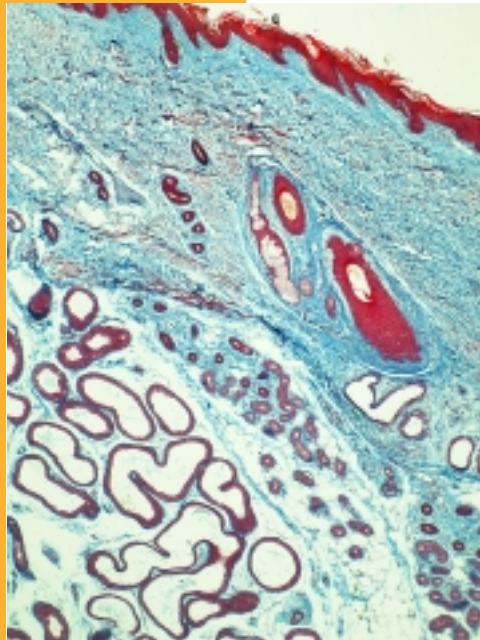
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Skin from the axillary region

The three constituents are, from top to bottom, the epidermis (coloured in red), the dermis (coloured in blue) and the hypodermis (or subcutaneous adipocytic tissue) packed with sudoriparous glands which are either small (eccrine glands) or large (apocrine glands). Hairs and small sebaceous glands are identifiable in the dermis (coloration : Masson blue trichromatic; enlargement : x 25).



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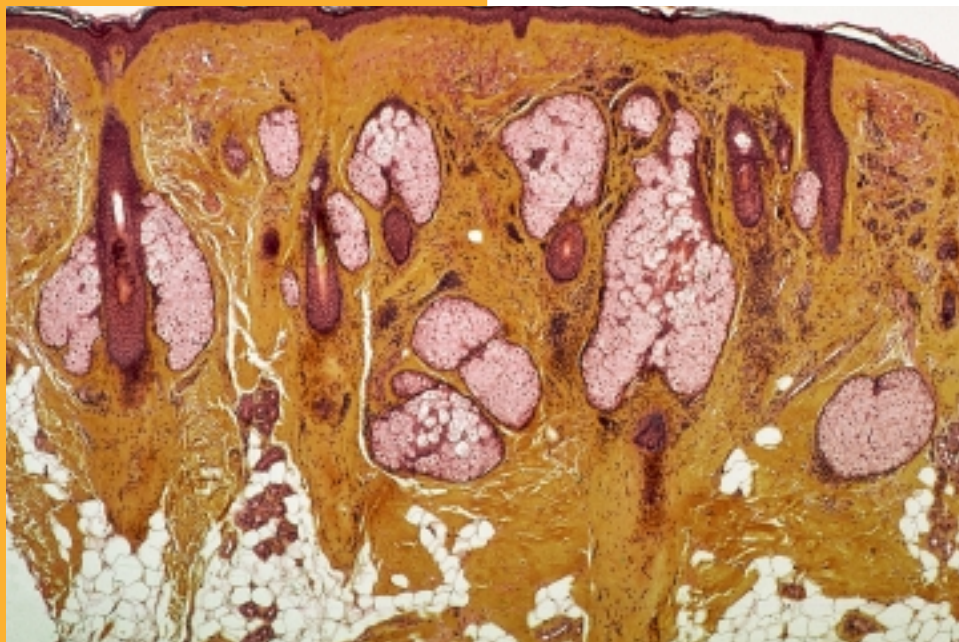
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Skin from the forehead region

It nicely illustrates the regional varieties of the integument, compared to the axillary skin.

The three constituents are clearly recognisable from top to bottom : the epidermis (thin red border), the dermis (coloured in orange) and the subcutaneous adipocytic tissue. The fine hairs and the sebaceous glands are very numerous in the dermis, but one finds only a small number of sudoriparous glands (coloration : haemalun-eosine-safran; enlargement : x 25).



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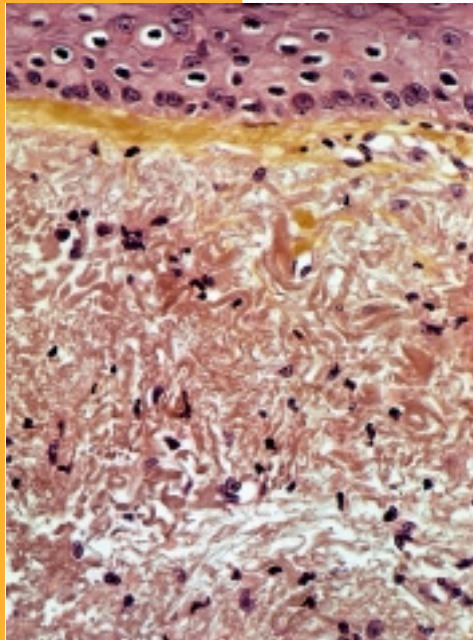
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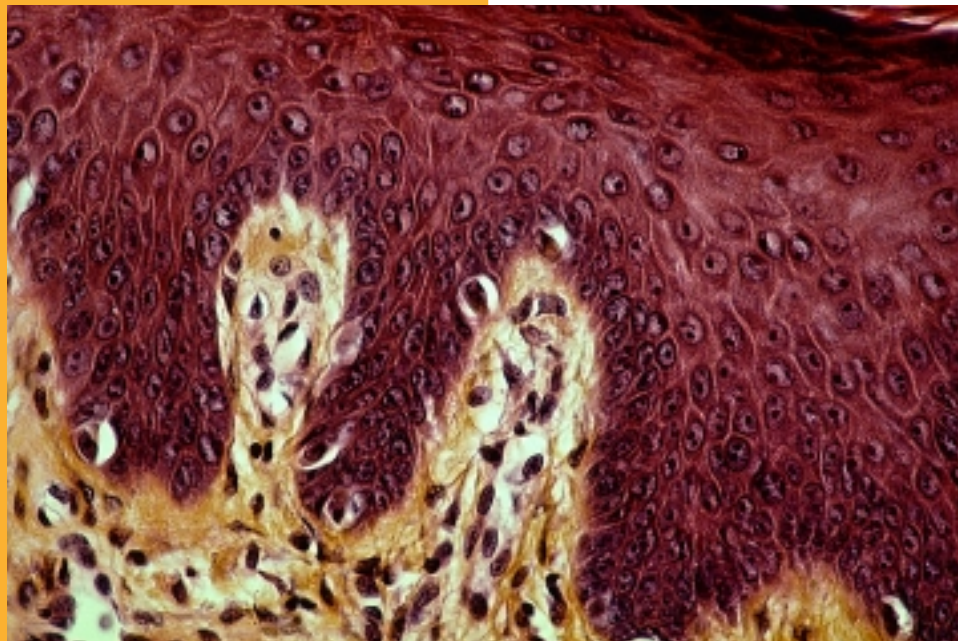
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Skin from the face of an elderly subject

All the signs of physiological light-ageing are present : disorganised epidermis, elastic transformation of the collagen fibres of the dermis. Under a thin strip of normal sub-epidermal collagen tissue (coloured in yellow) there appear large degenerated elastic collagen fibres (coloured in red), (coloration : haemalun-eosine-safran; enlargement : x 100).

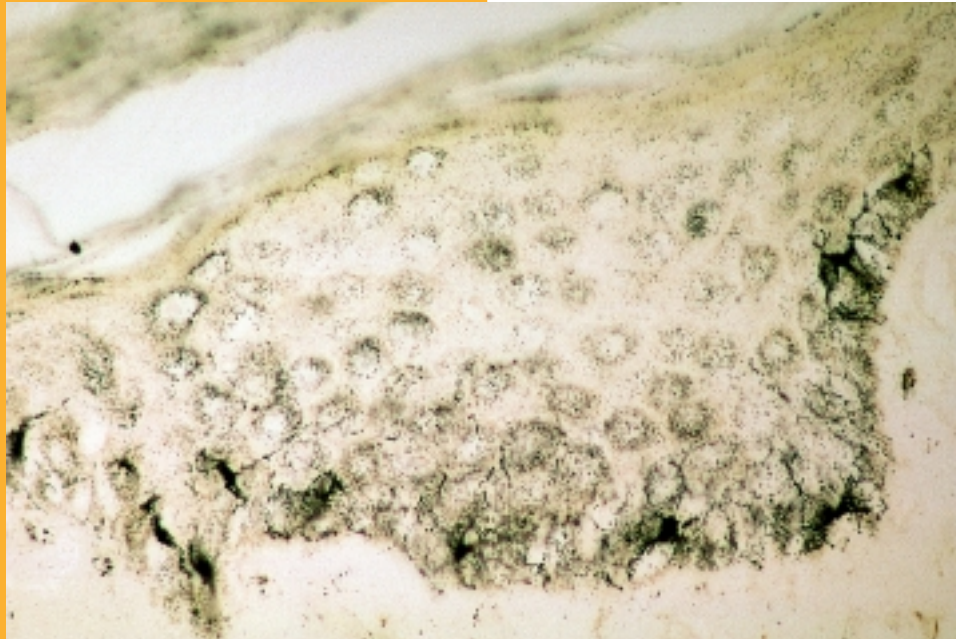
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Structure of the epidermis

Close-up of the epidermis. This includes three cell types : the keratinocytes, the melanocytes and the cells of Langerhans. Two are recognisable on this photo : the keratinocytes very coherent among one another, and in the basal stratum several melanocytes surrounded by a light halo (coloration : haemalun-eosine-safran; enlargement : x 250).

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Structure of the epidermis

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Close-up of the epidermis. Melanin coloured by the Fontana method. The melanocytes appear like crazed, dendritic cells in the basal stratum of the epidermis. They transfer the melanin to the keratinocytes, which are diffusely tattooed with it (enlargement: x 250).



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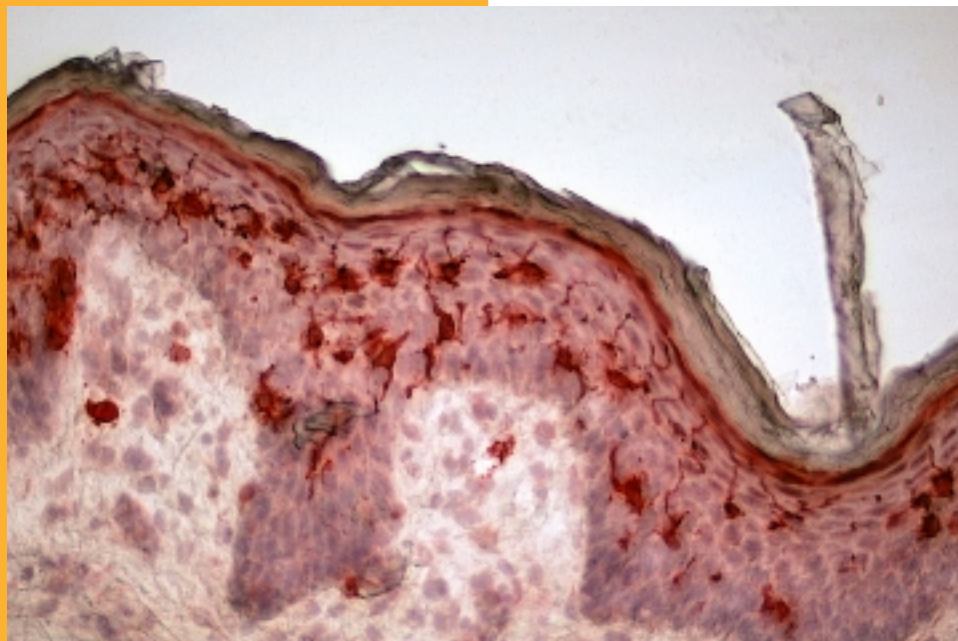
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Structure of the epidermis

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Close-up of the epidermis. Highlighting of the cells of Langerhans, which appear like dendritic cells covering all of the living epidermis. These cells belong to the line of histiocytic cells and play the immunological role of antigen-presenting cells (immunomarking OKT6 in peroxidase; enlargement : x 250).



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