

# Female genital system

Miloš Grim

Institute of Anatomy, First Faculty of Medicine,  
Summer semester 2017 / 2018

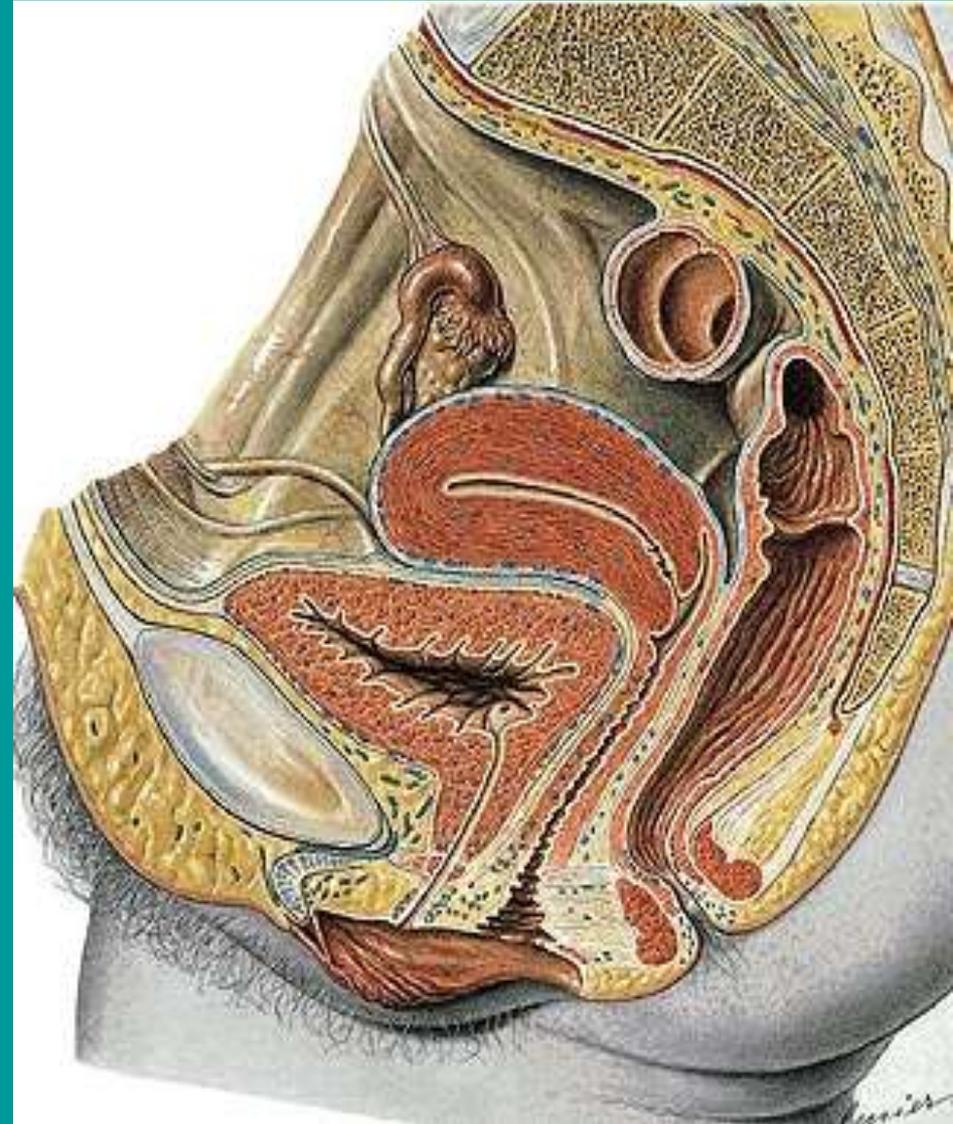
# Female genital system

## Internal genital organs

Ovary, Uterine tube-  
Salpinx, Fallopian tube,  
Uterus - Metra, Hystera,  
Vagina, colpos

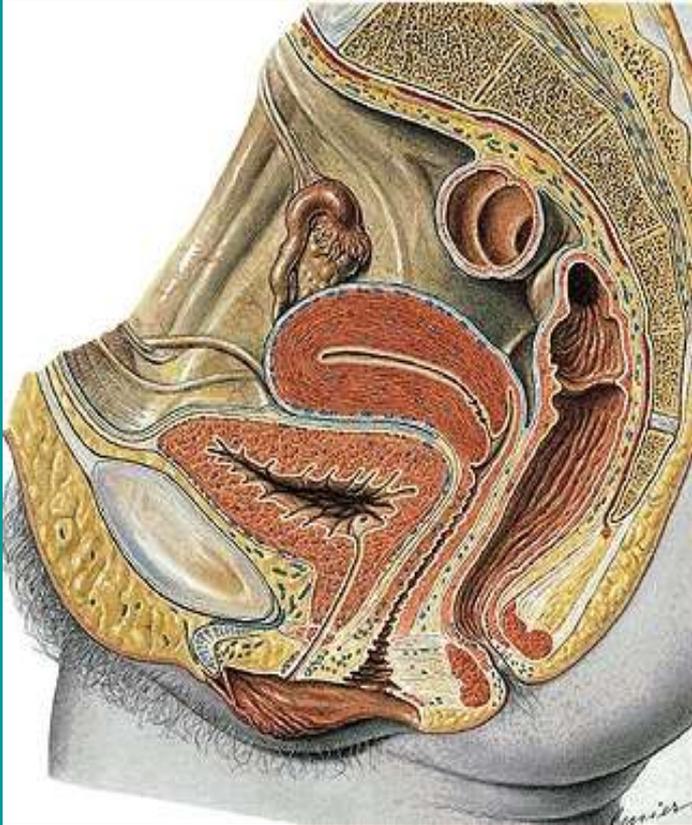
## External genital organs

Pudendum- vulva, cunnus  
Mons pubis  
Labium majus  
Pudental cleft  
Labium minus  
Vestibule  
Bulb of vestibule  
Clitoris



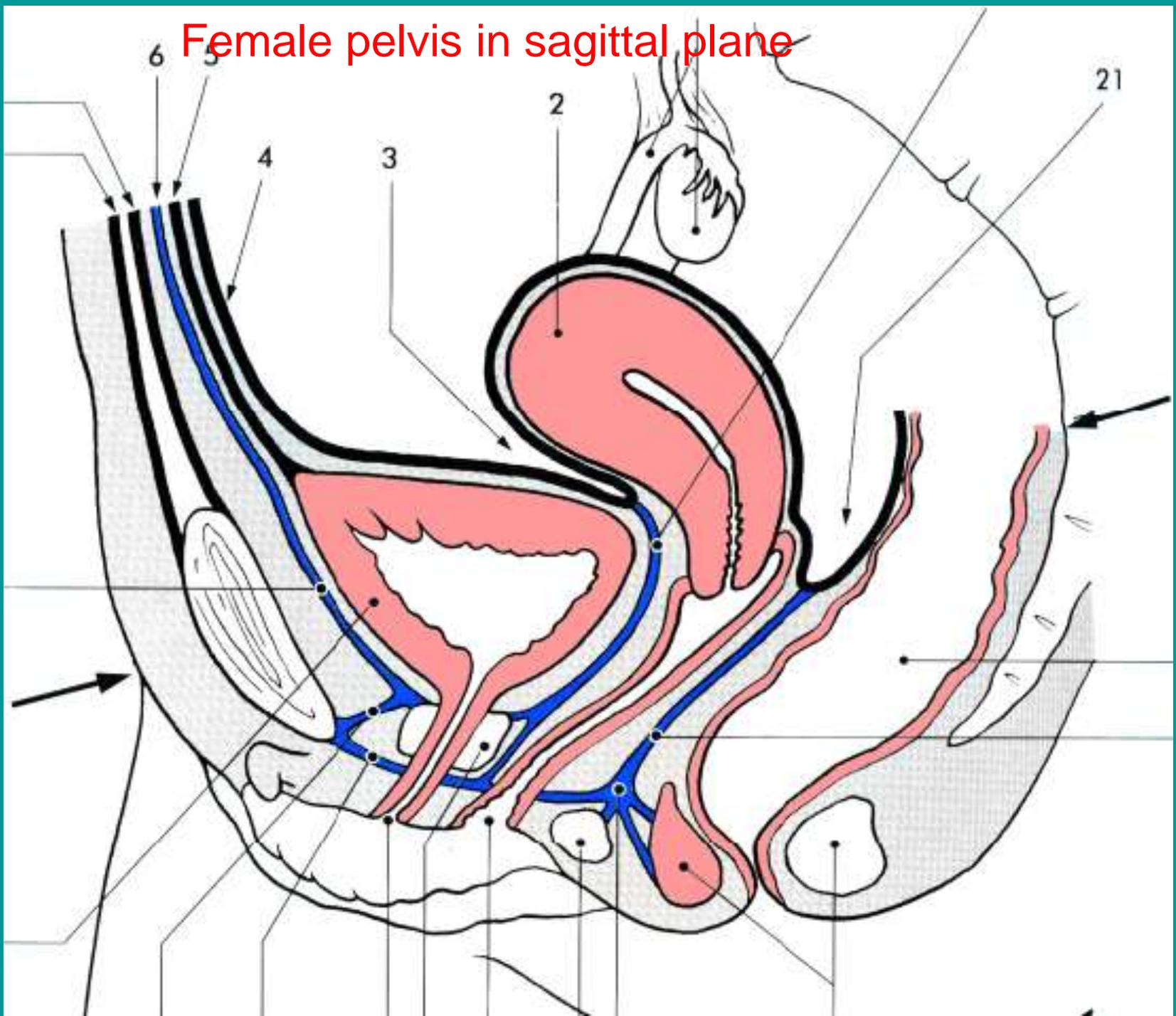


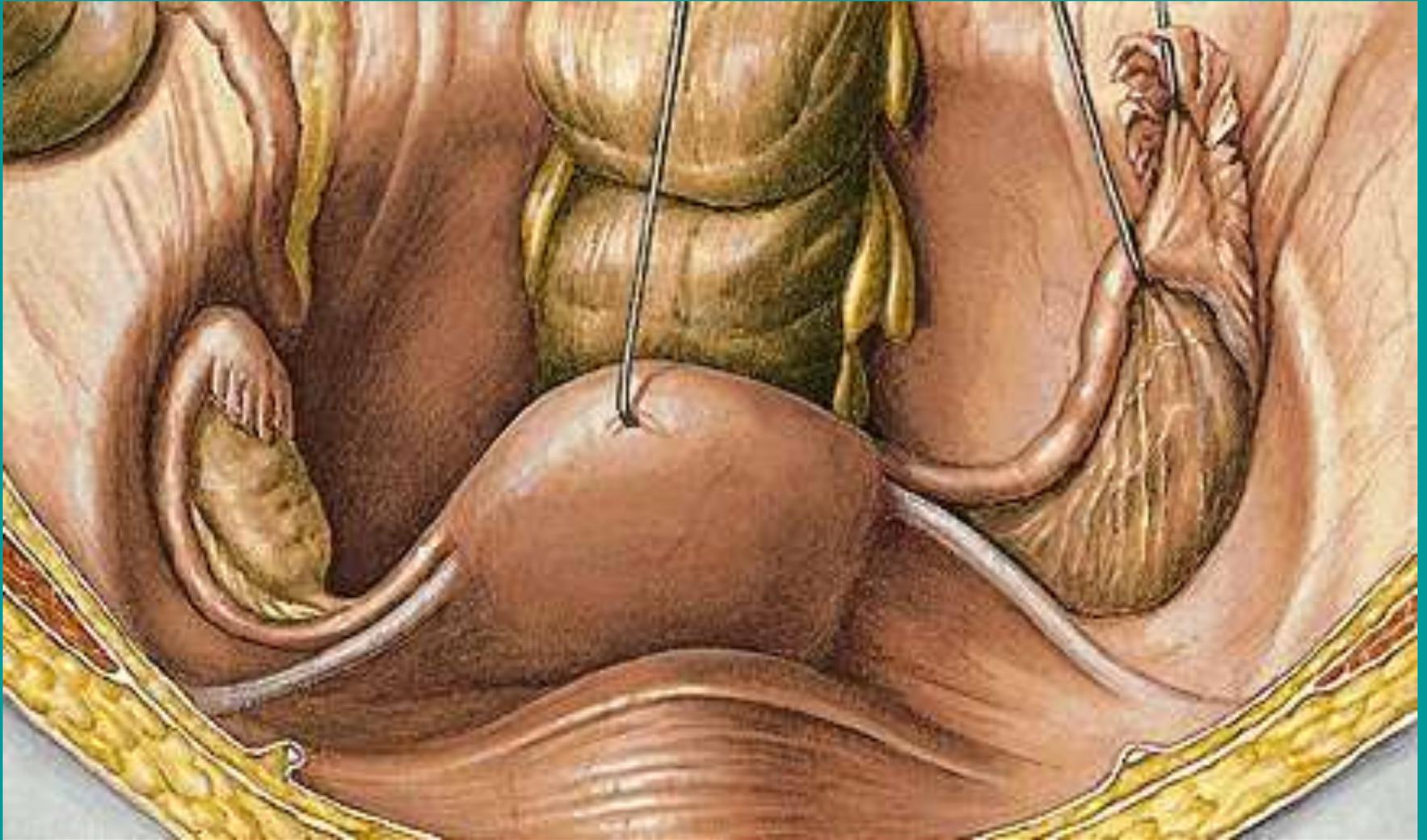
© Švabik, Mašata, Martan, Vojtas pl



**MRI of female pelvis in sagittal plane**

# Female pelvis in sagittal plane

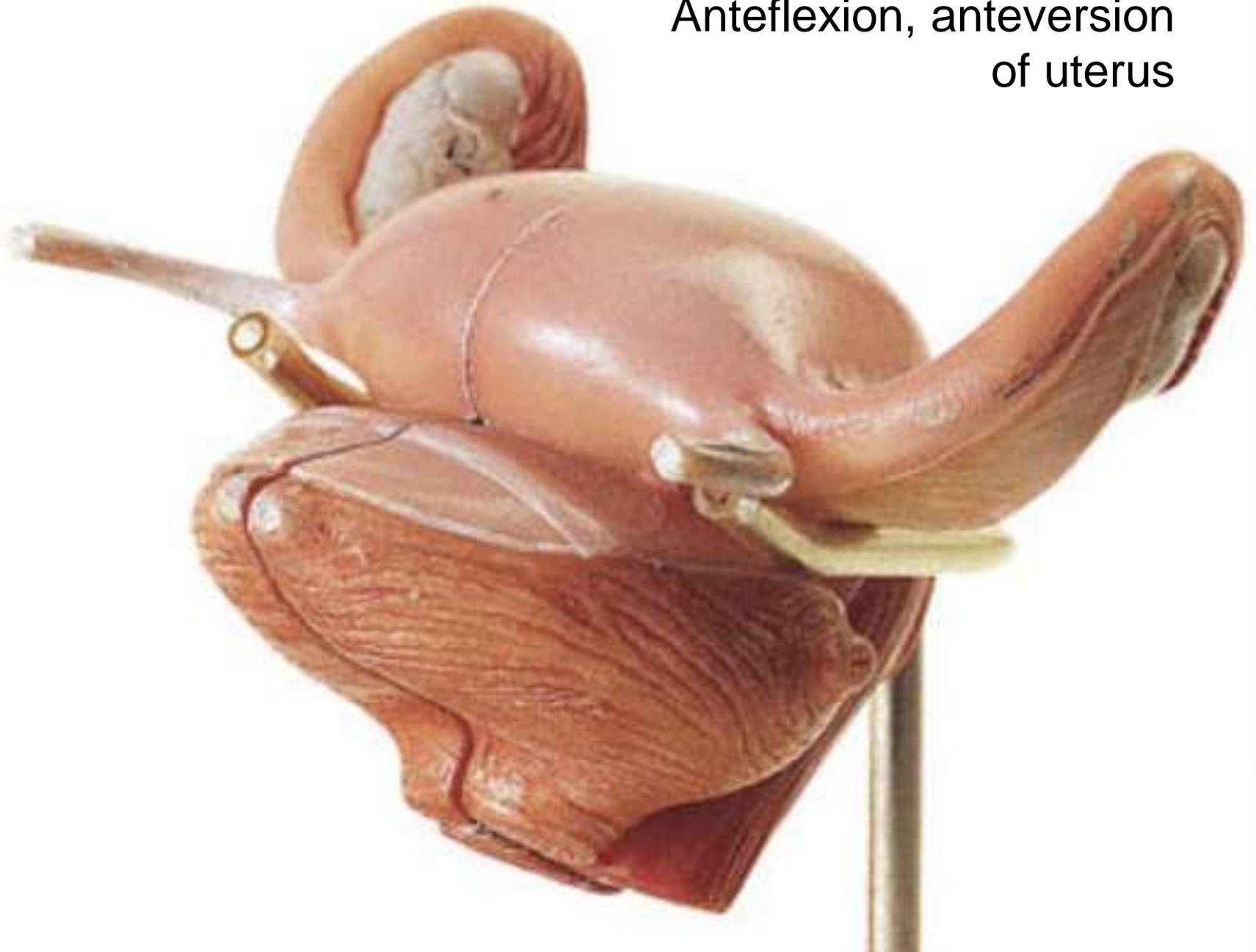




## **Internal genital organs of female genital system**

**Ovary, Uterine tube, Uterus, Broad ligament of uterus,  
Round lig. of uterus**

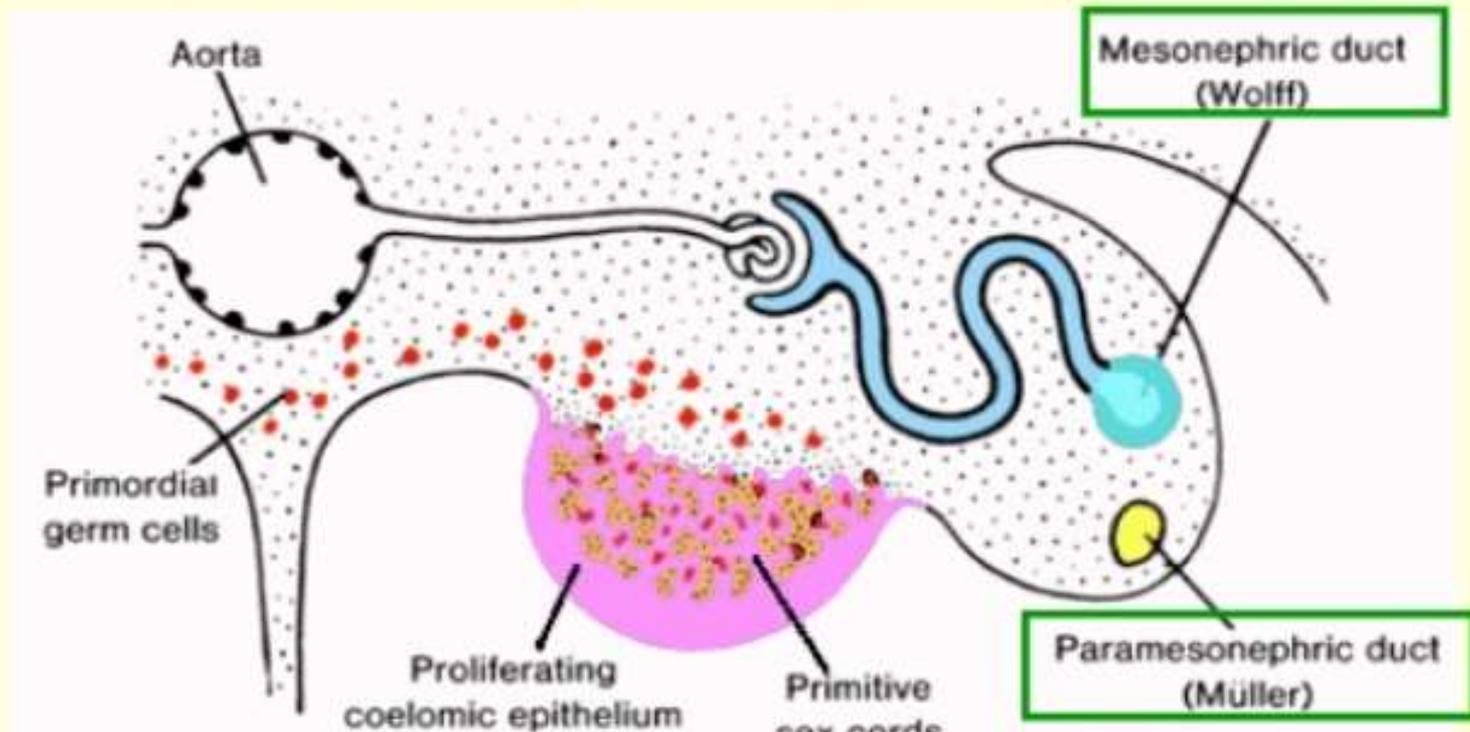
Anteflexion, anteversion  
of uterus



# Development of reproductive passages

Transverse section through the lumbar region of a 6-week embryo, colonization of primitive gonade by primordial germ cells

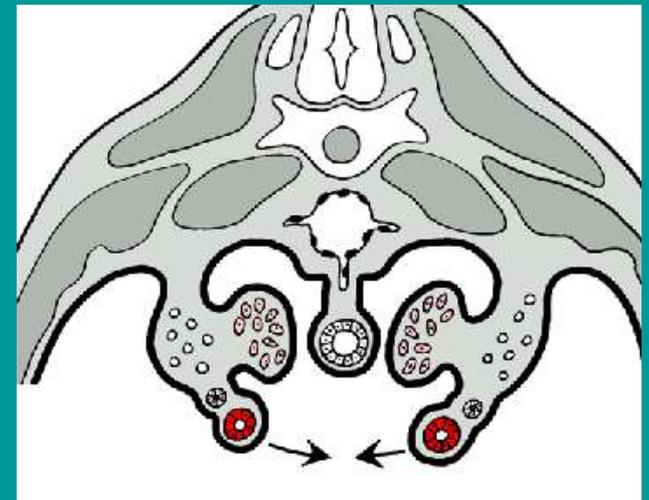
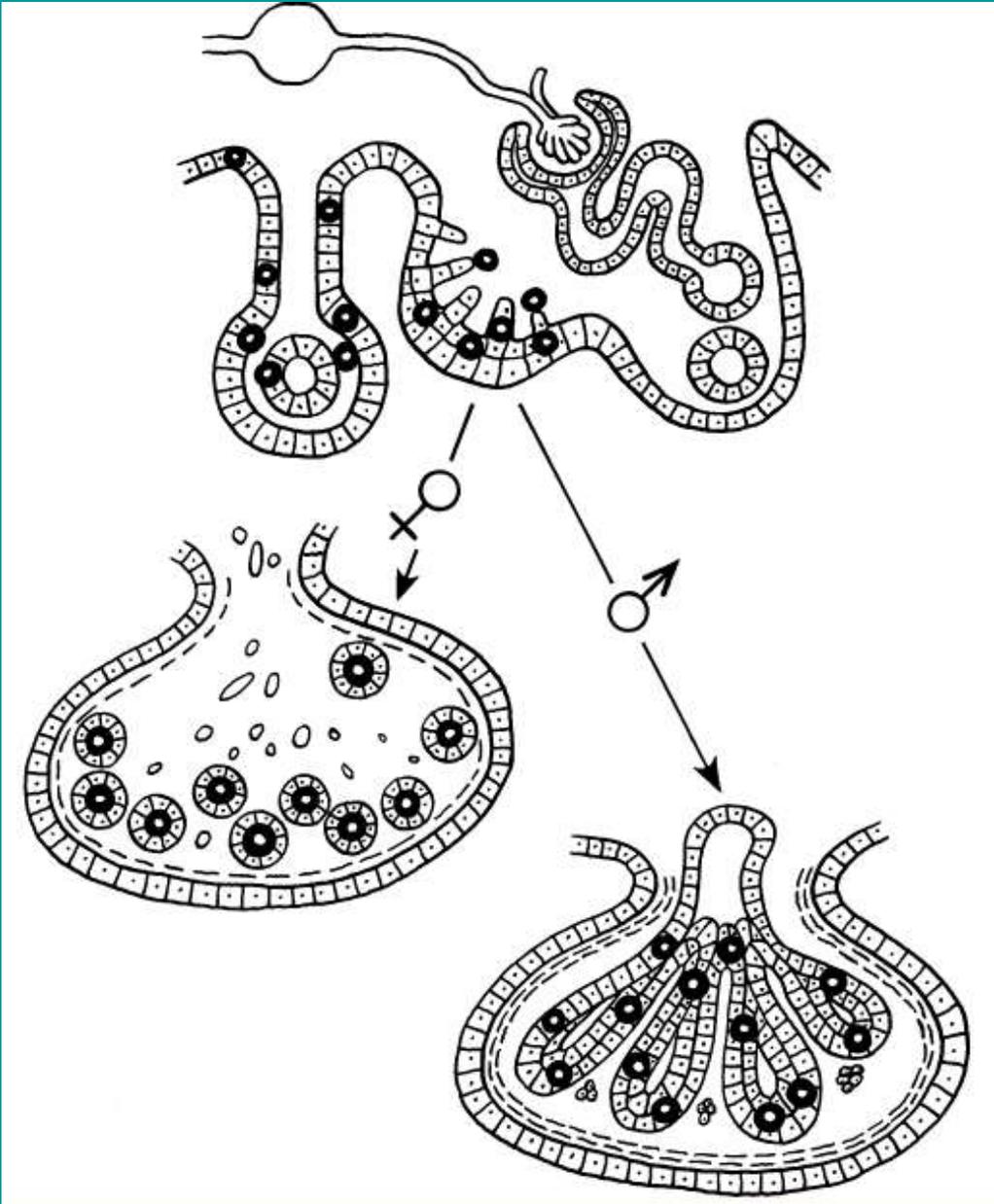
- Plica urogenitalis (urogenital ridge) – 2 ducts:  
Ductus mesonephricus (Wolffi)  
Ductus paramesonephricus (Mülleri)

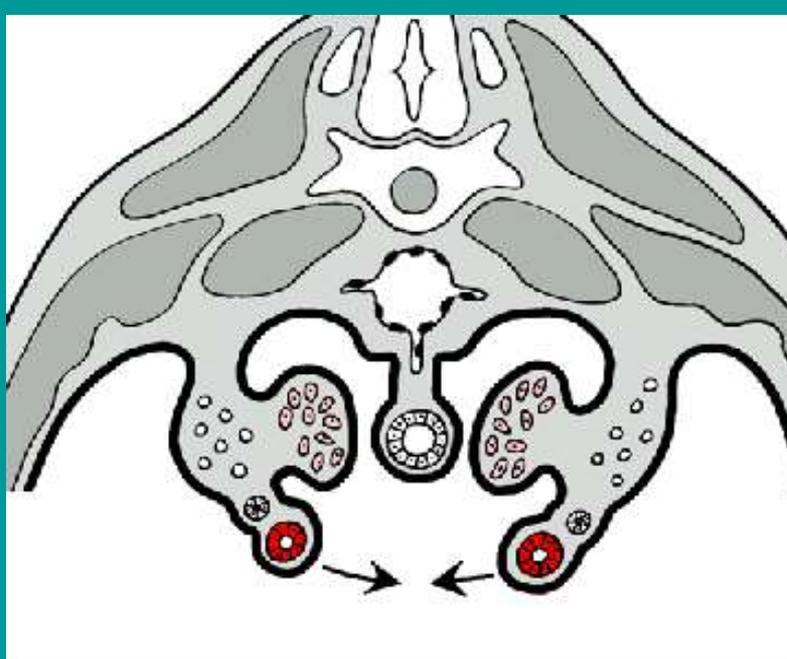


**Primordial germ cells migrate into gonads from the yolk sac**

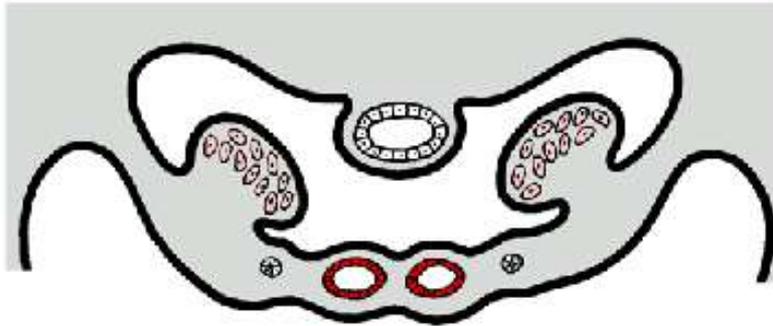
**Differentiation of indifferent gonads into ovary and testis**

**Ovary: ovarian follicles  
Testis: seminiferous tubules, tunica albuginea**





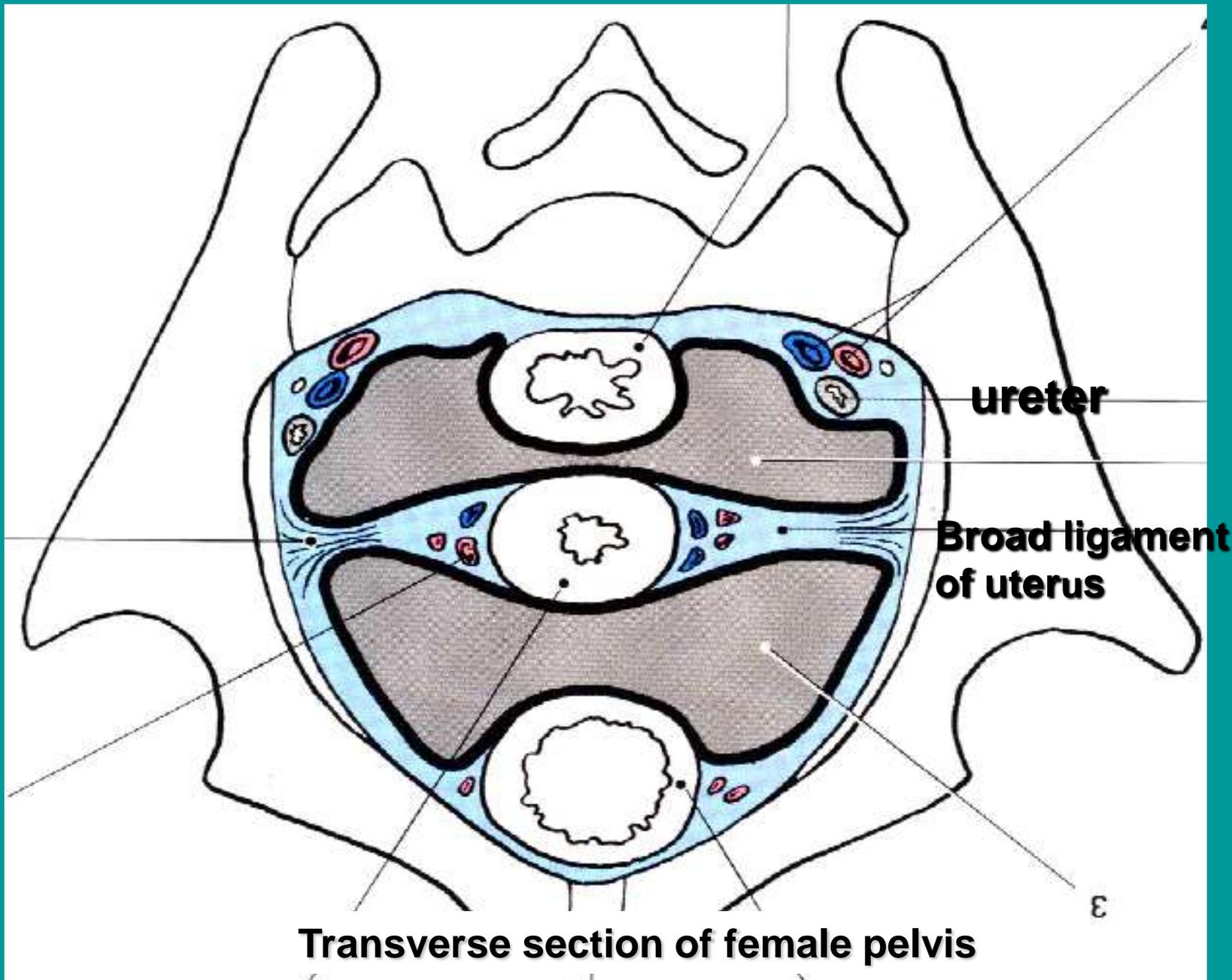
**Development of broad ligament of uterus from urogenital ridge**



**Development of uterine tube, uterus and part of vagina from paramesonephric (Müllerian) duct**



**Development of position of female internal genital organs,**



## Parametrium

Supporting  
apparatus of  
uterus,

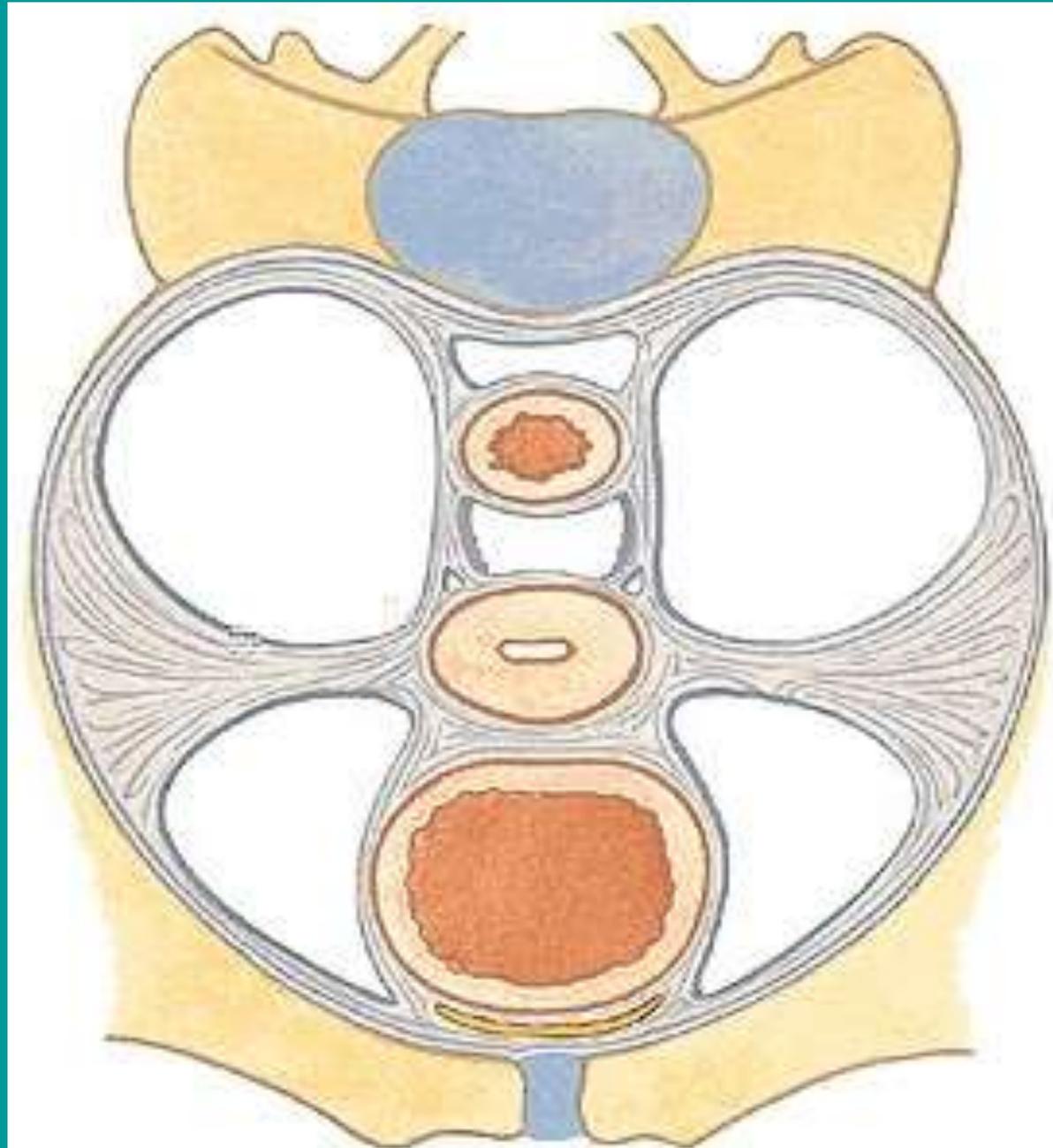
cardinal lig.

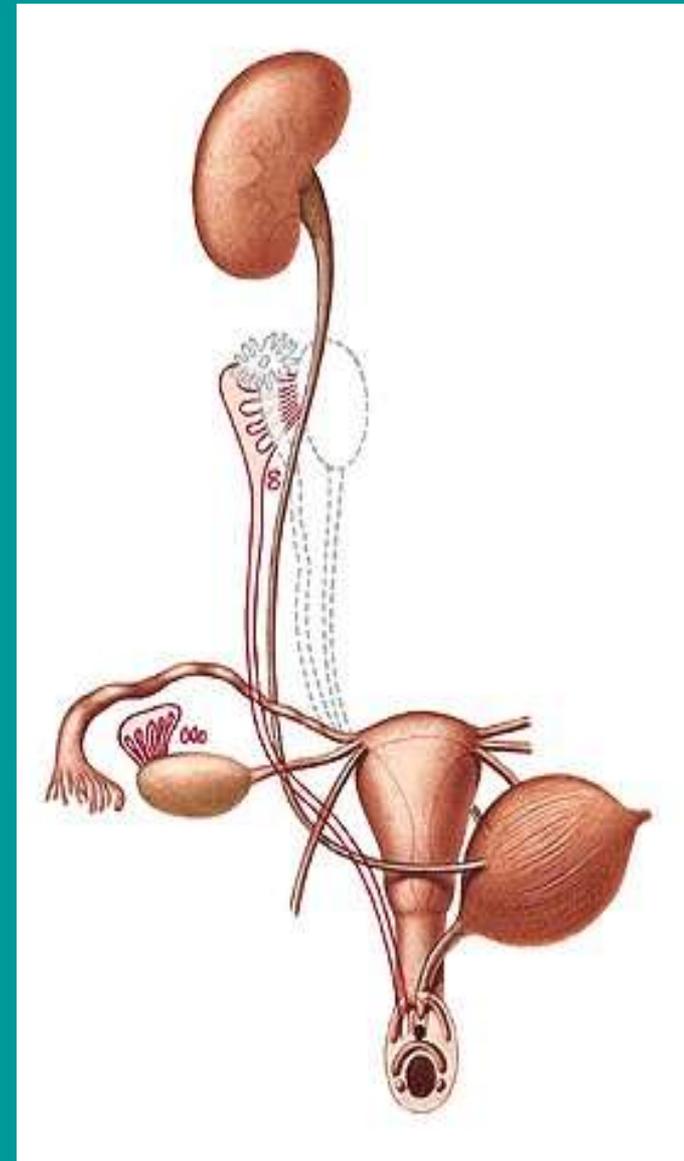
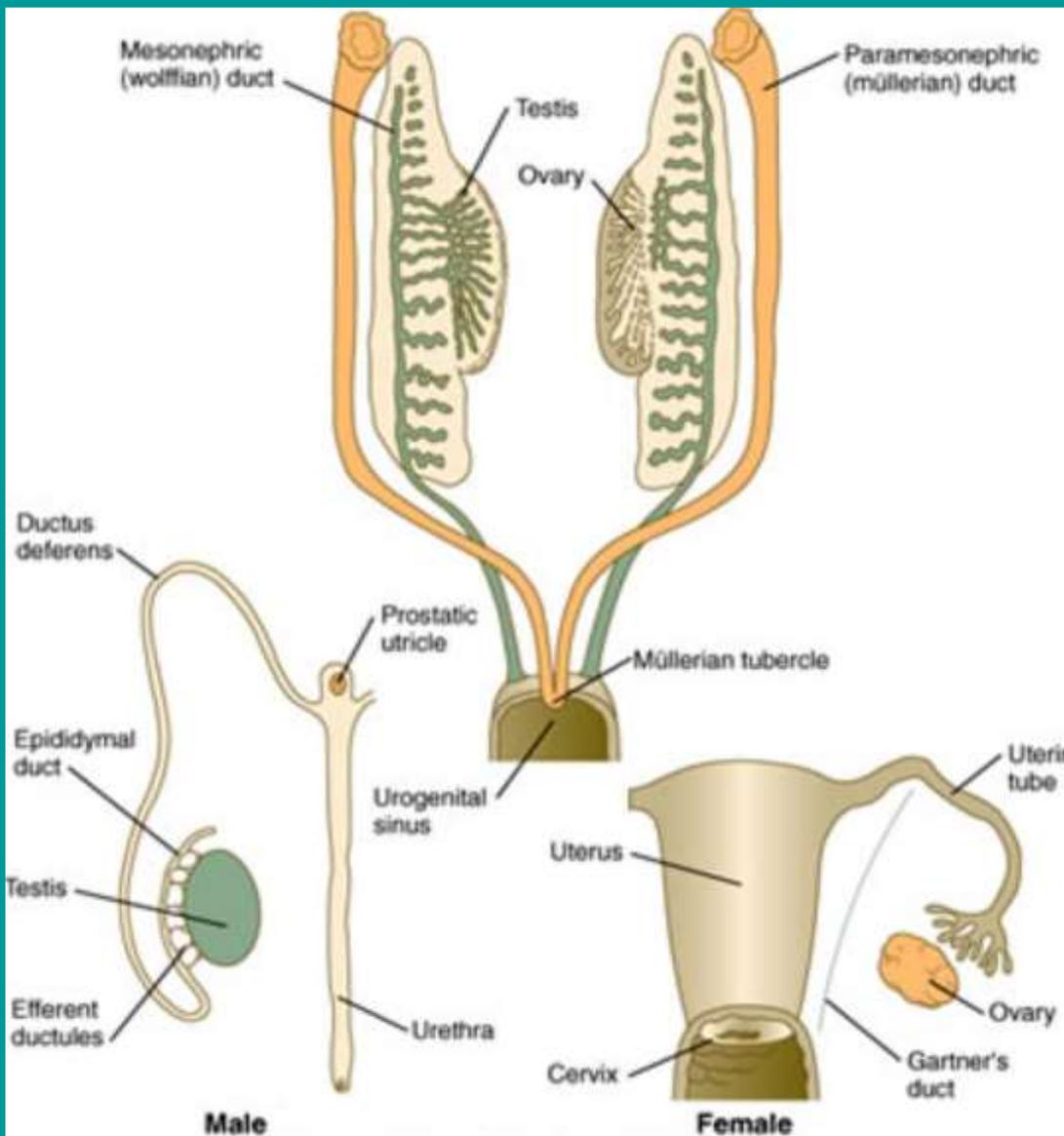
(broad ligament)

round ligament

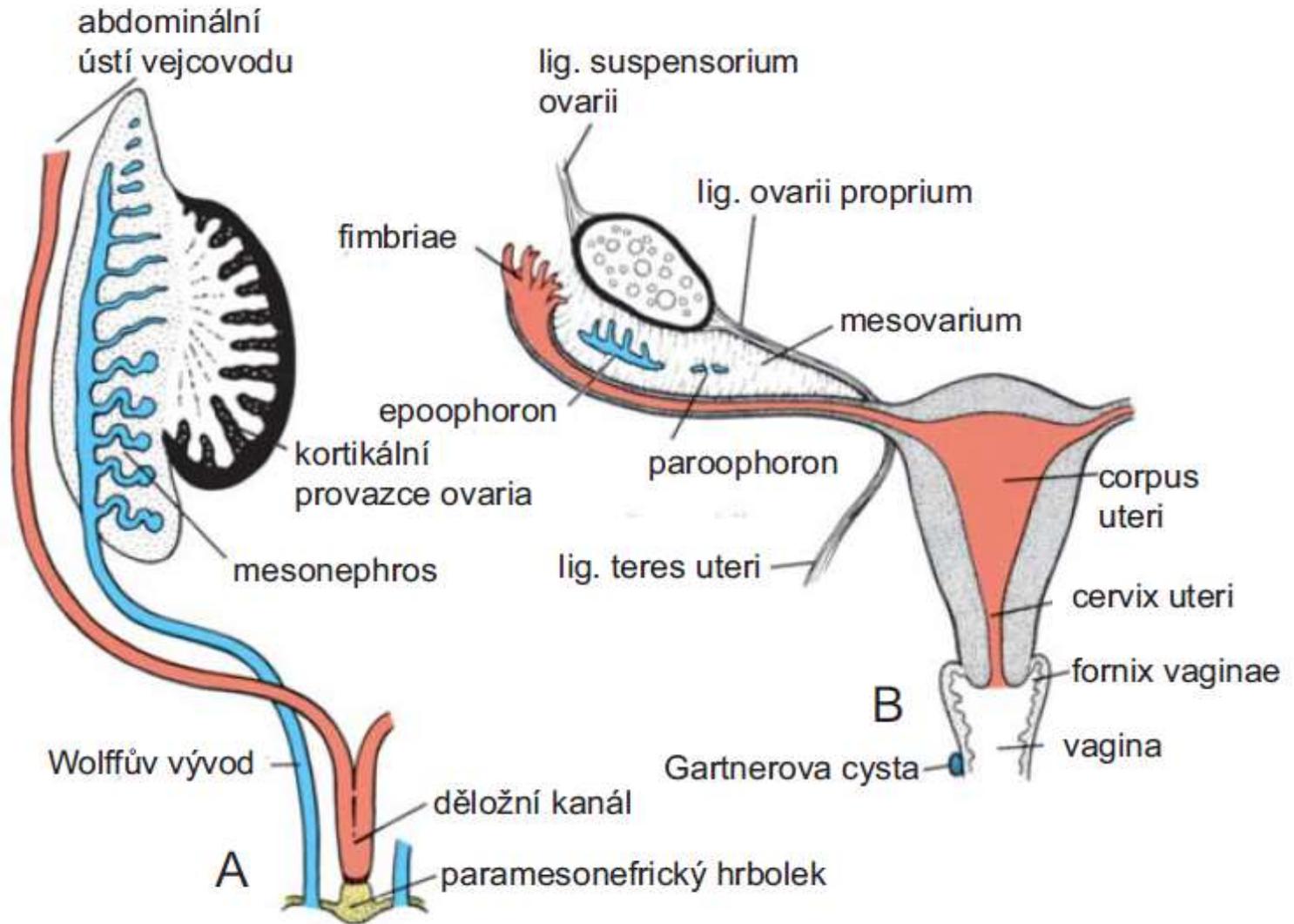
pubocervical lig.

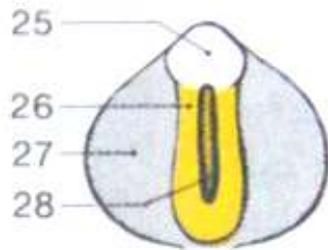
recto-uterine lig.



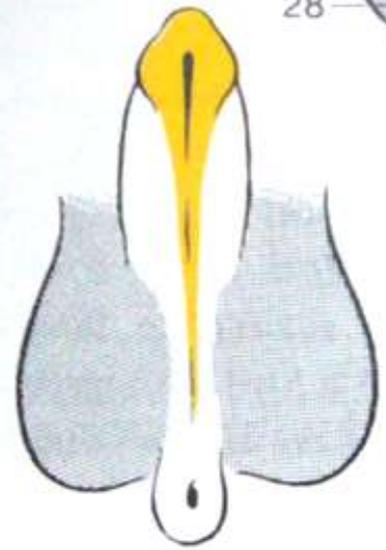


**Descent of ovary. Development of uterine tube , uterus and part of vagina from paramesonephric (Müllerian) duct**



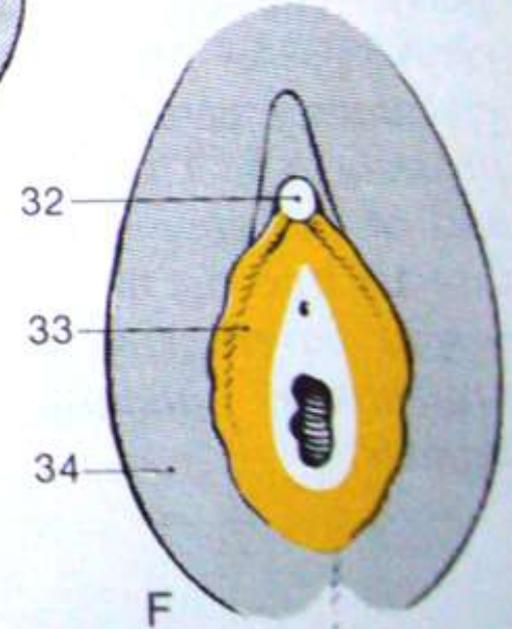
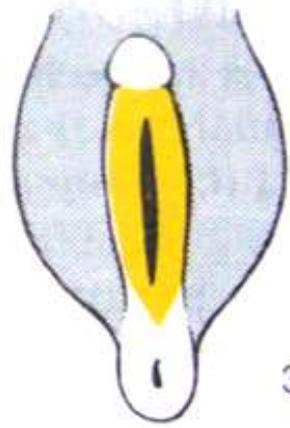


Male



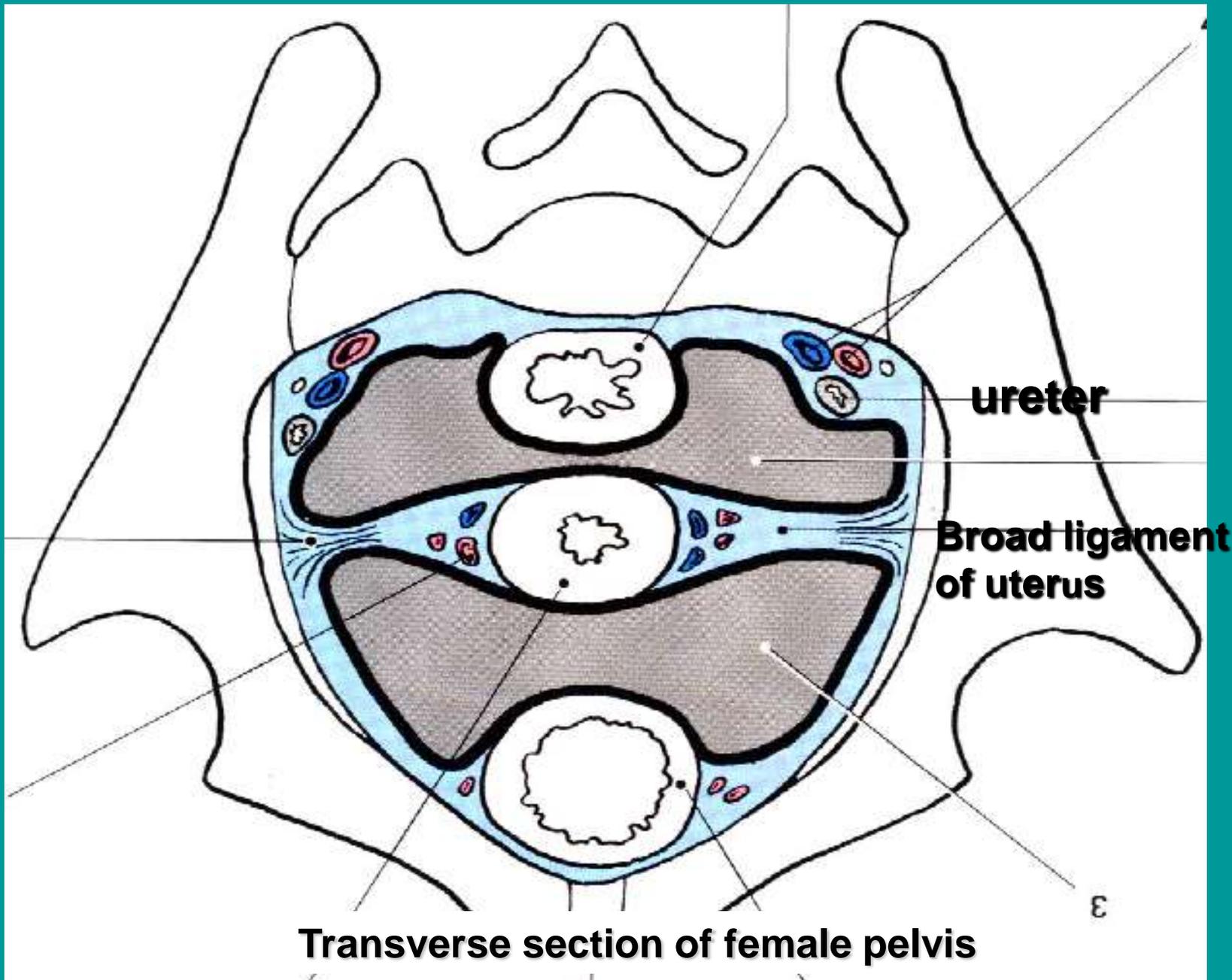
D

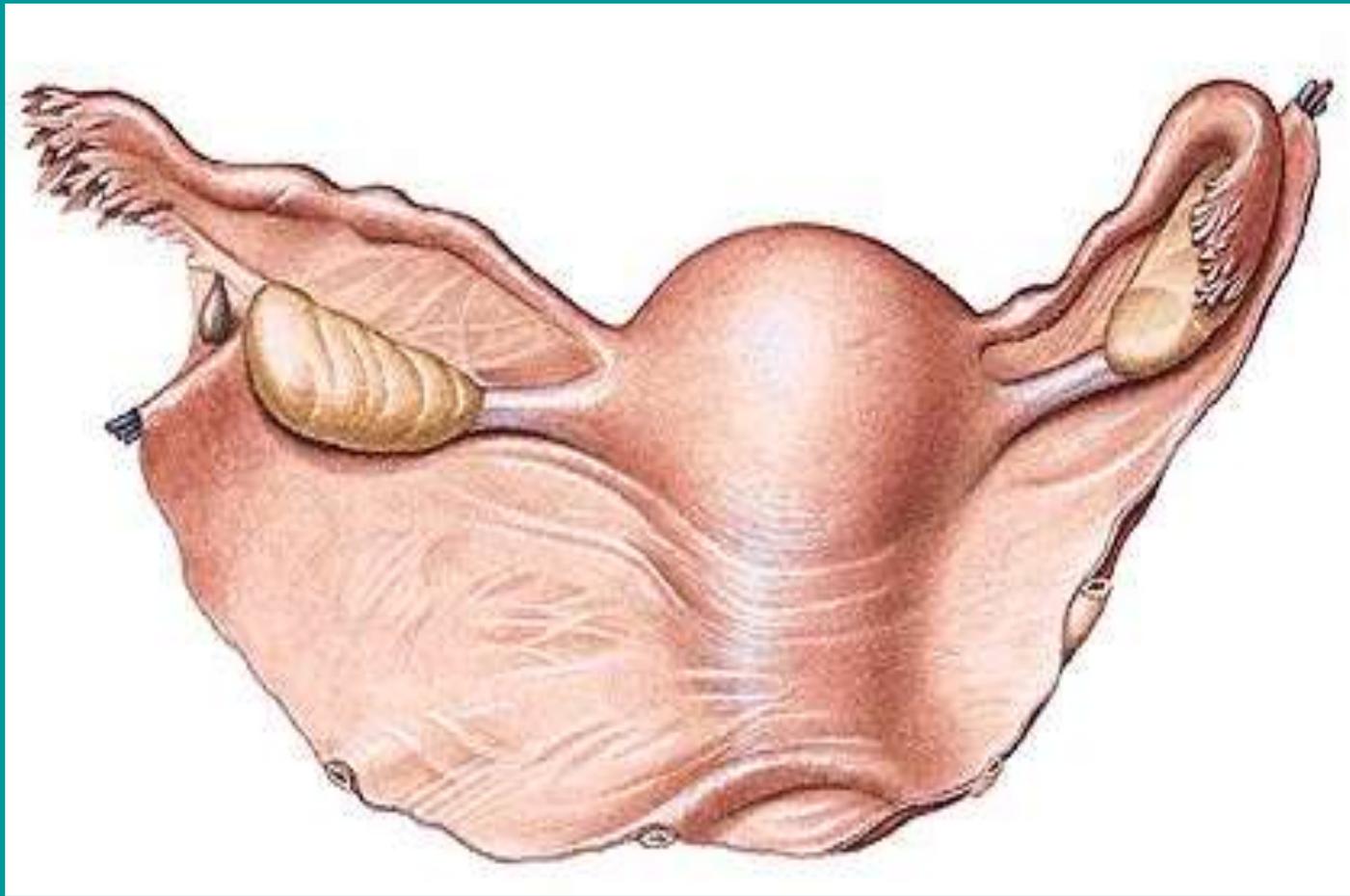
Female



E Development of internal and external genital organs

**External genital organs develop from: genital eminence, genital folds, genital ridges and urogenital sinus**





## **Ovary** (posterior view)

**Tubal + uterine extremity, Medial + lateral surface**

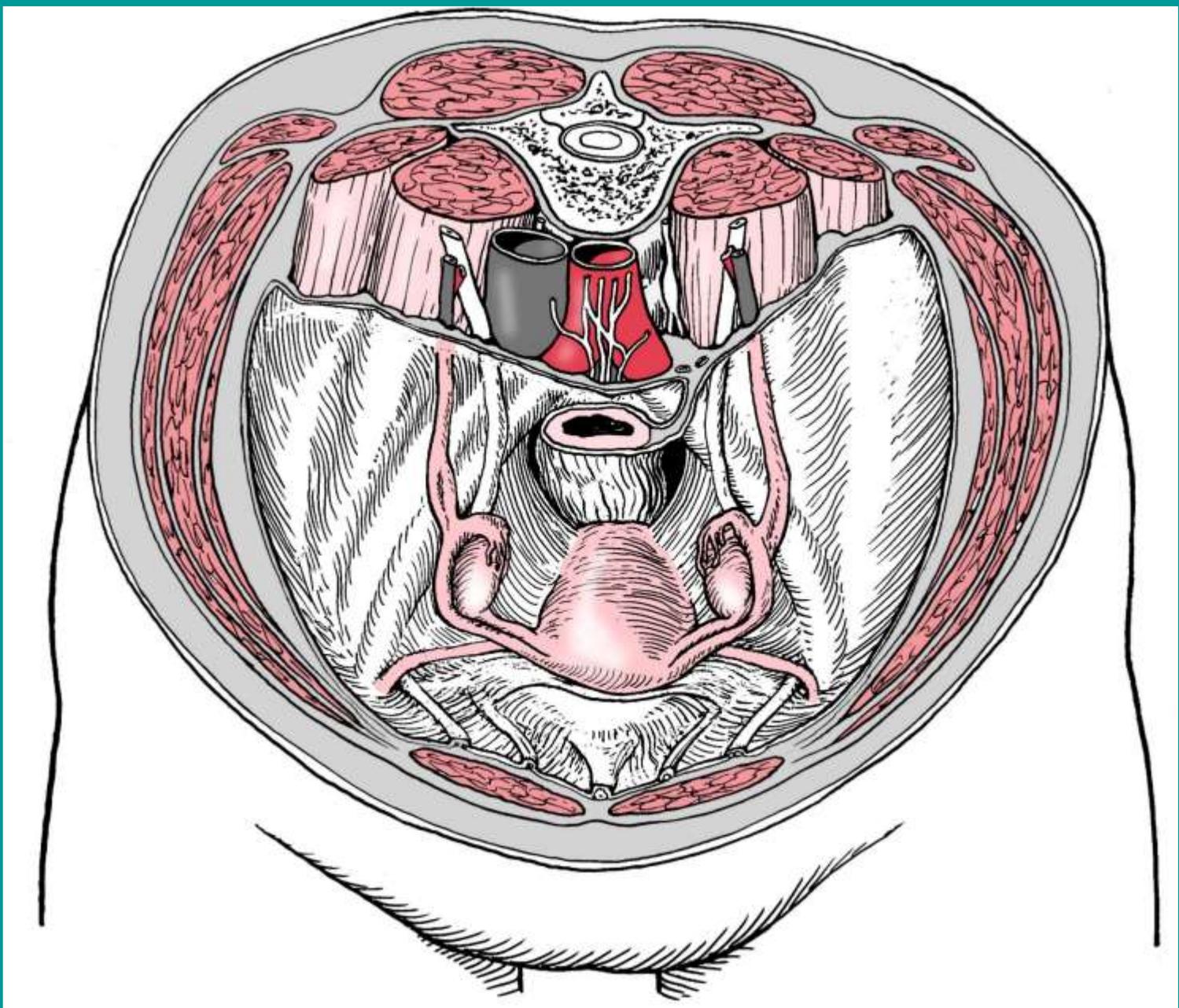
**Free + mesovarian border,**

**Mesovarium, Uteroovarian lig., Suspensory lig. of ovary,**

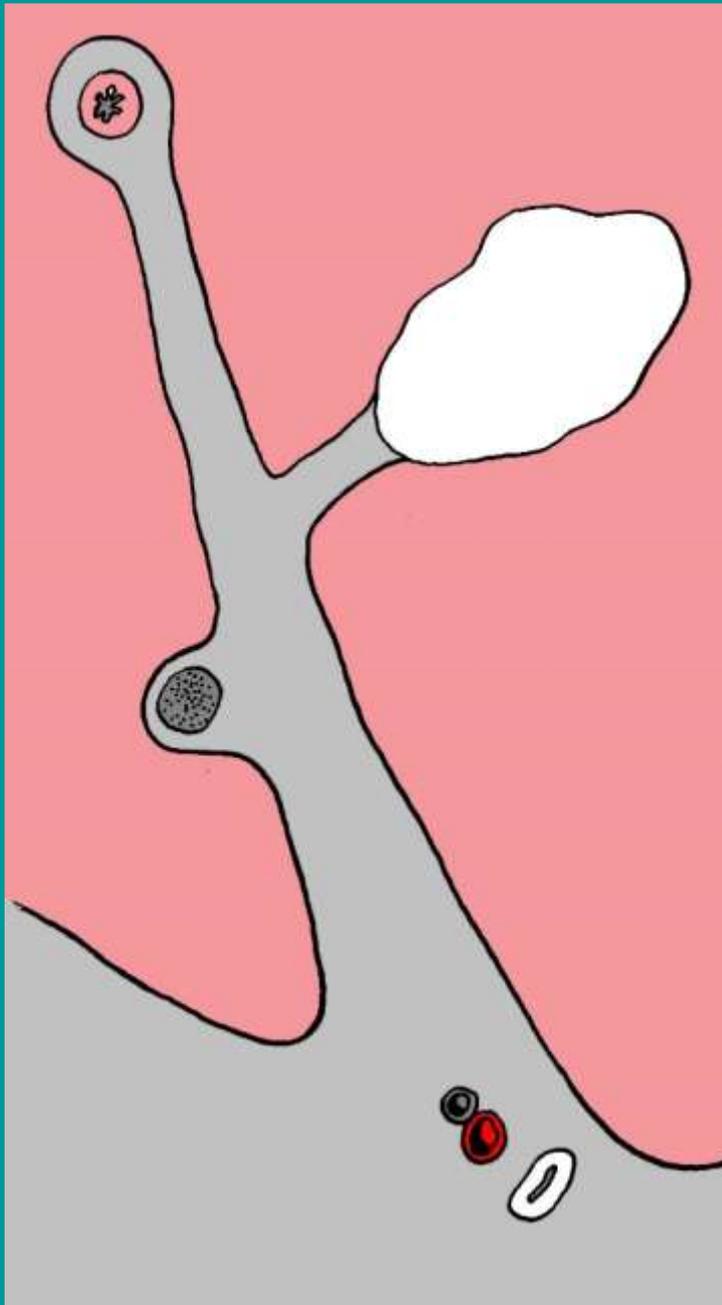
**Mesosalpinx, Mesometrium**



**Ovary, uterine tube, fimbrie of the tube, fundus of uterus**



Ovaric fossa between internal and external iliac artery



**Sagittal section of  
plica lata uteri (broad  
lig. of uterus)**

**Ovary - free +  
mesovarian border,  
Mesovarium,  
Uterine tube (salpinx)  
Mesosalpinx,  
Round lig. of uterus  
Mesometrium,  
Ureter  
Uterine a. +. v.**

# Ovary

Hilum, Tunica albuginea,

**Cortex, Medulla**

Ovarian follicle: primordial,  
primary, secondary,  
tertiary (vesicular, Graafian)

**Oogenesis:**

Multiplication, maturation

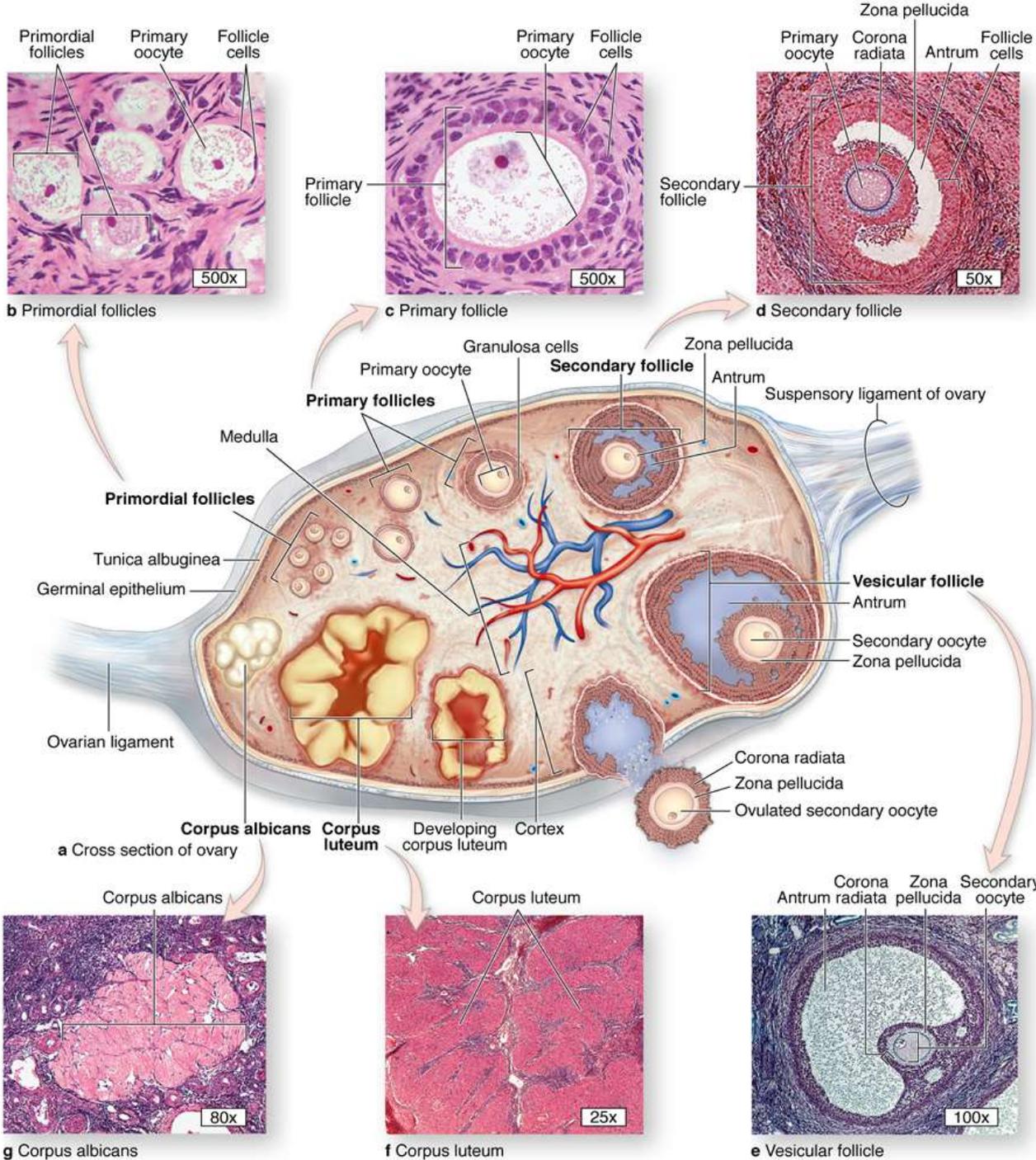
**Ovulation**

**Sex hormones production:**

Estrogens in cells of theca  
interna of the growing follicle

Progesterone in corpus luteum,





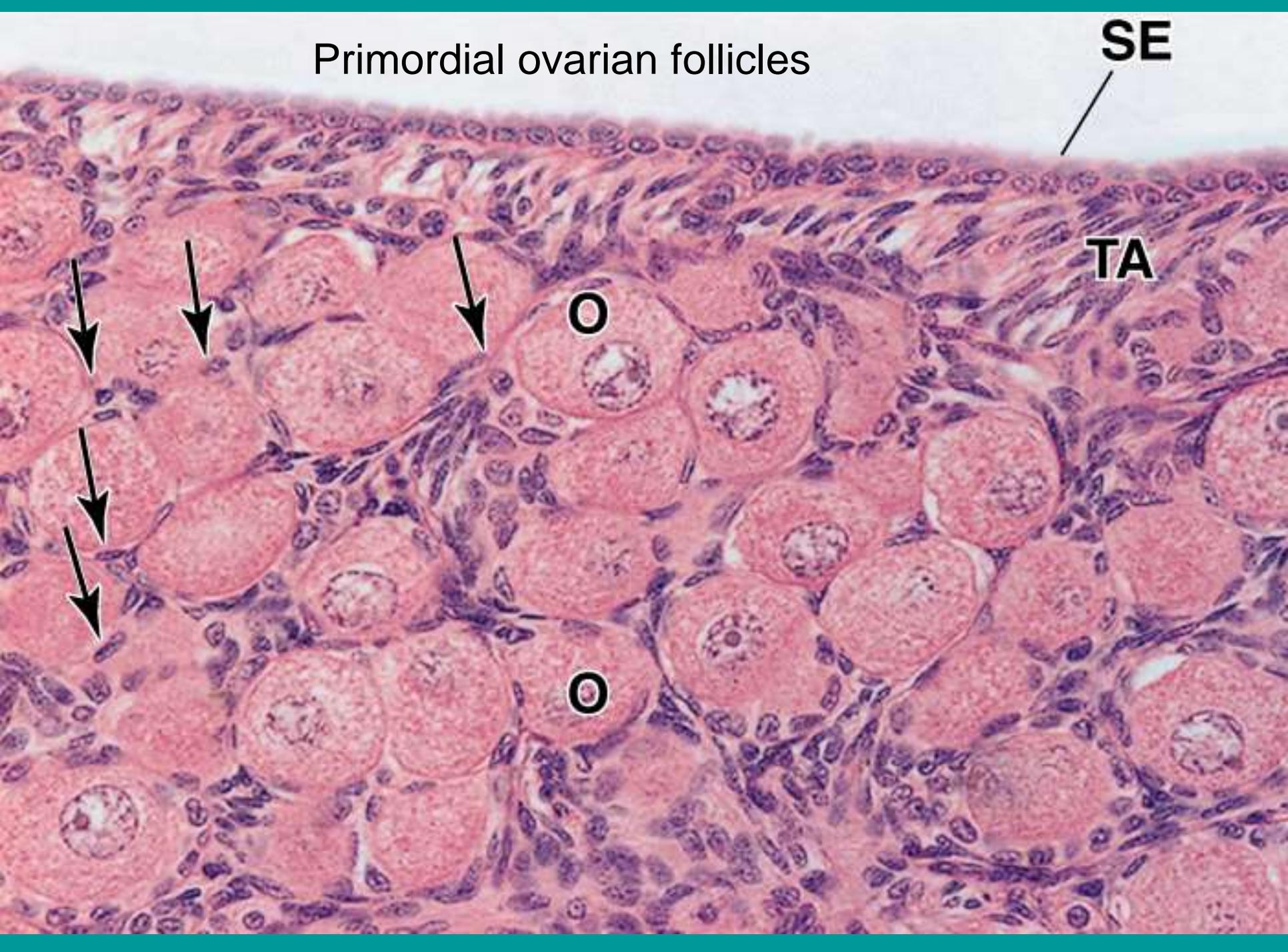
Primordial ovarian follicles

SE

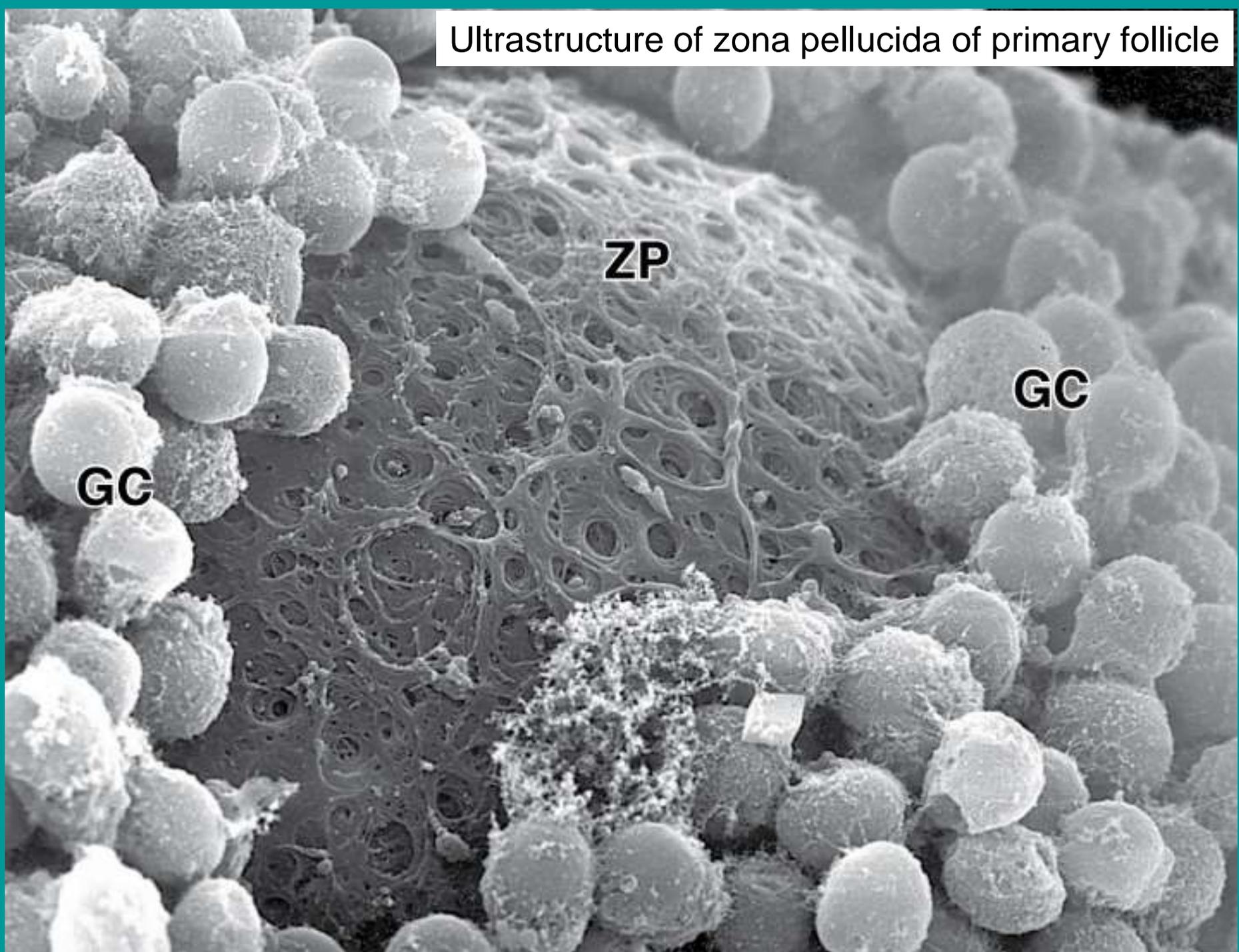
TA

O

O



# Ultrastructure of zona pellucida of primary follicle



# Gonadotropic hormones:

Luteinizing hormone (LH)

Follicle stimulating hormone (FSH)

Ovarian hormones:

Estrogen (E)

Progesterone (P)

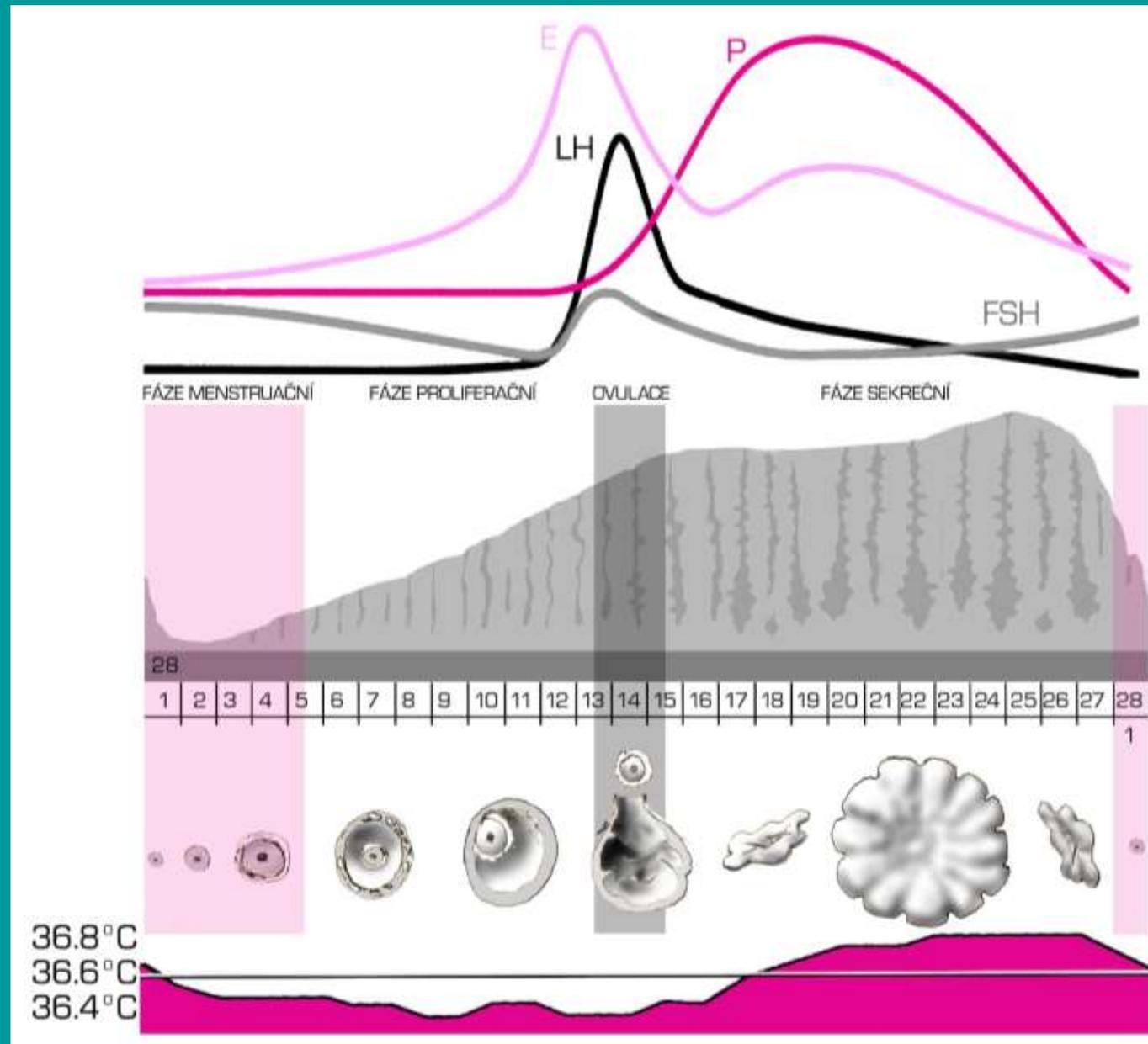
Ovarian cycle:

Estrogen phase

Ovulation

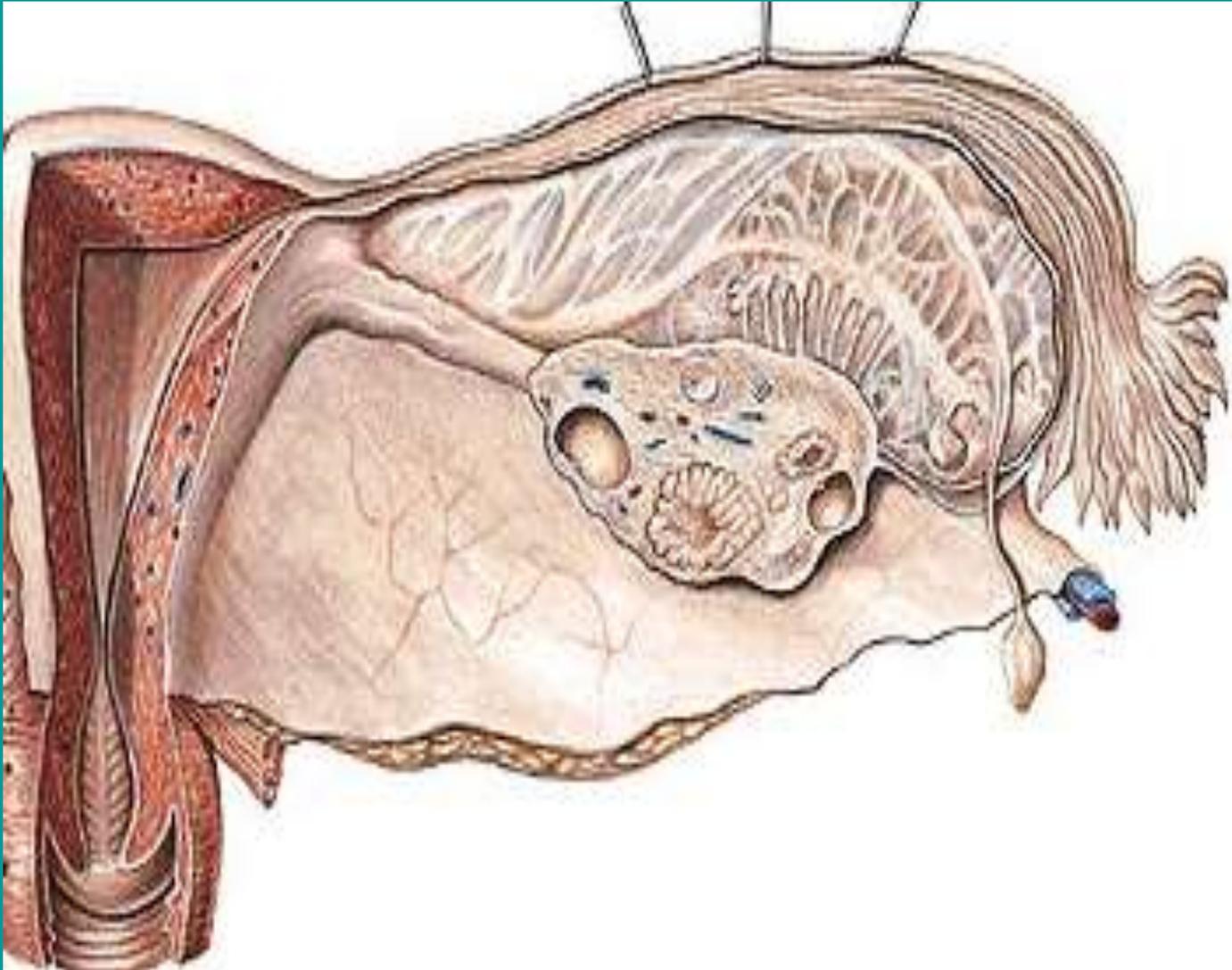
Progesterone phase

Menstrual cycle



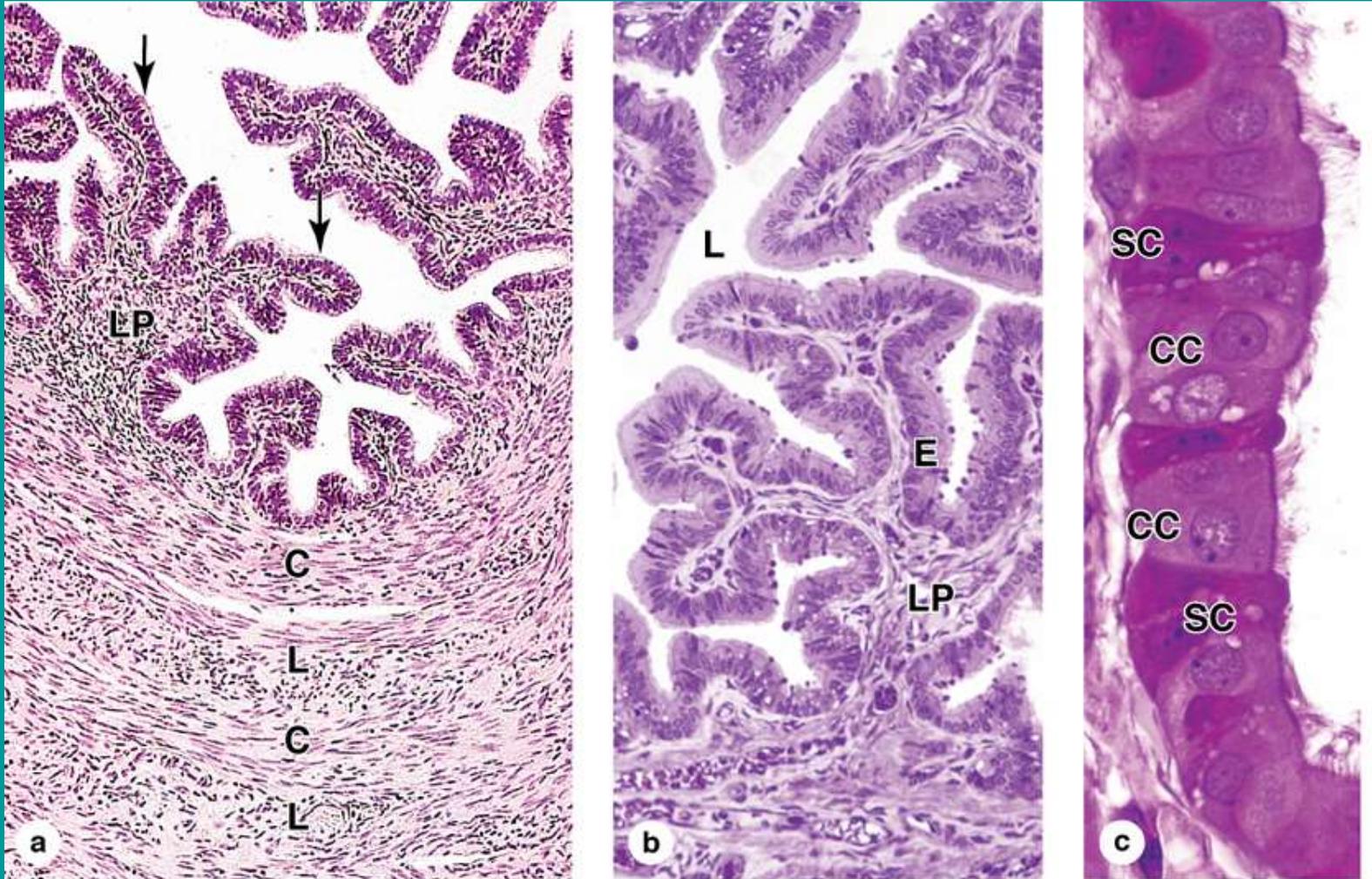
# Uterine tube (Salpinx, Fallopian tube): (8-15 cm)

Abdominal ostium, Uterine ostium, Infundibulum, Ampulla, Fimbriae, Isthmus, Intramural part, Mesosalpinx, Mesoovarium, Mesometrium



Serous coat,  
Muscular coat,  
Mucous  
Membrane  
Membrane folds  
Peristalsis,  
Fluid current

# •Mucous membrane of Fallopian tube



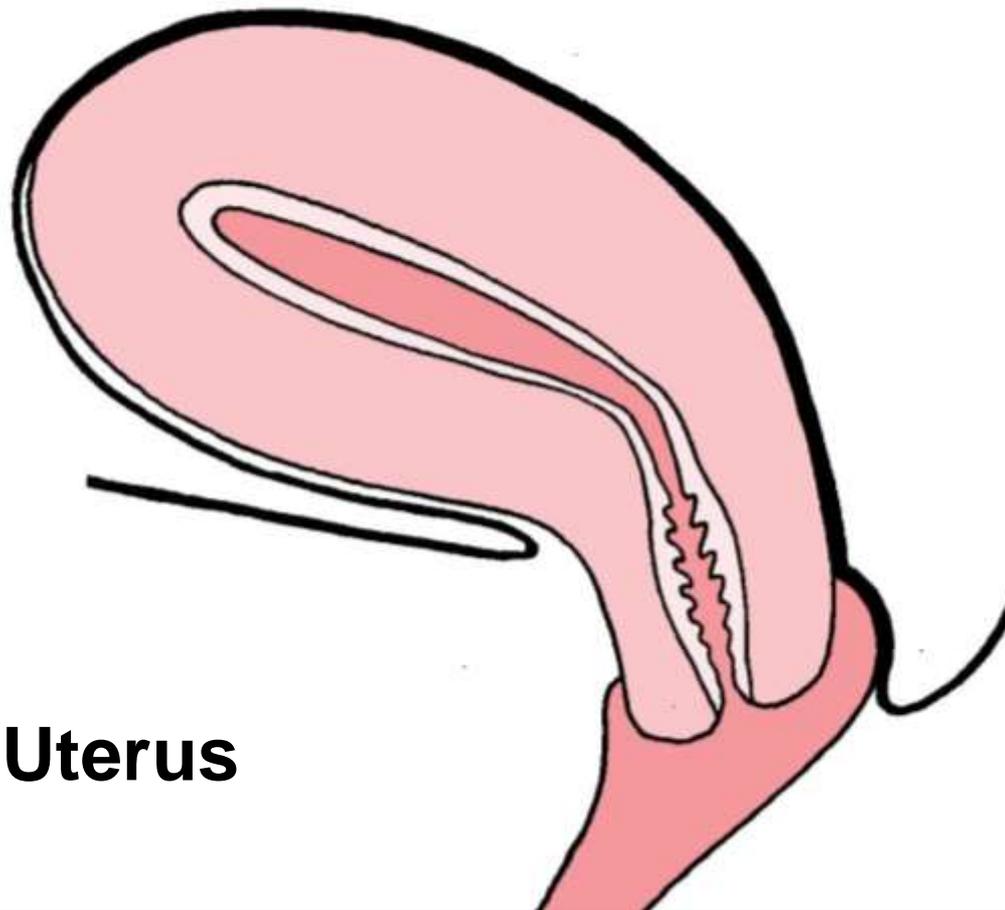
**Membrane folds, ciliated and glandular cells, Transport of oocytes and spermatozoa during fertilization, Peristalsis, Fluid current**



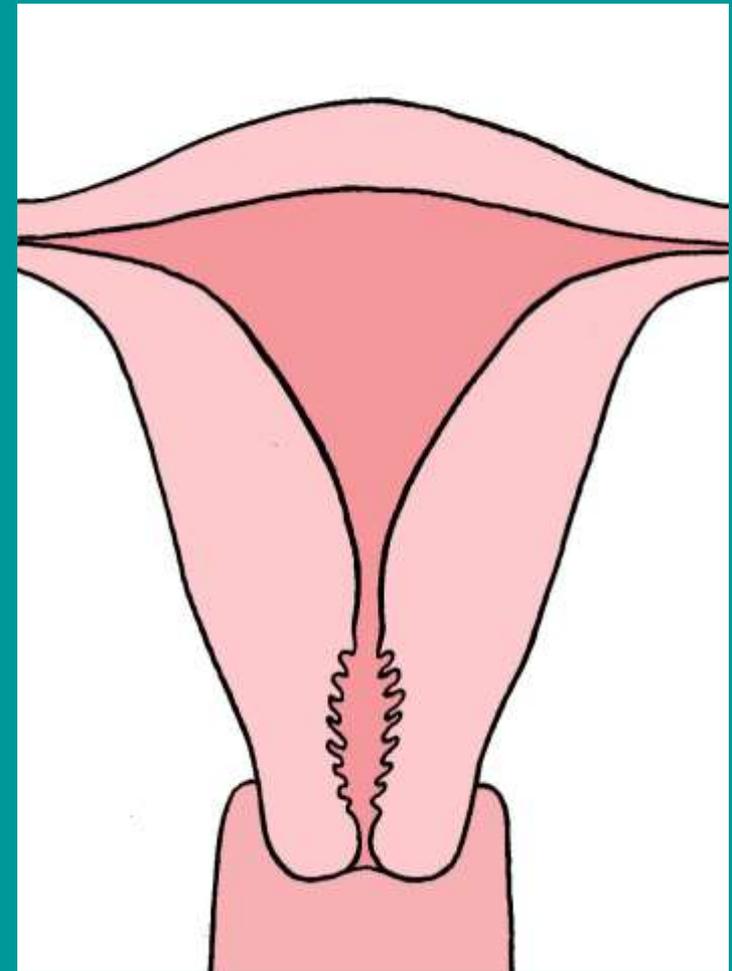
# Uterus

fundus, horns, body, isthmus, cervix, intestinal surface, vesical surface, perimetrium, round ligament

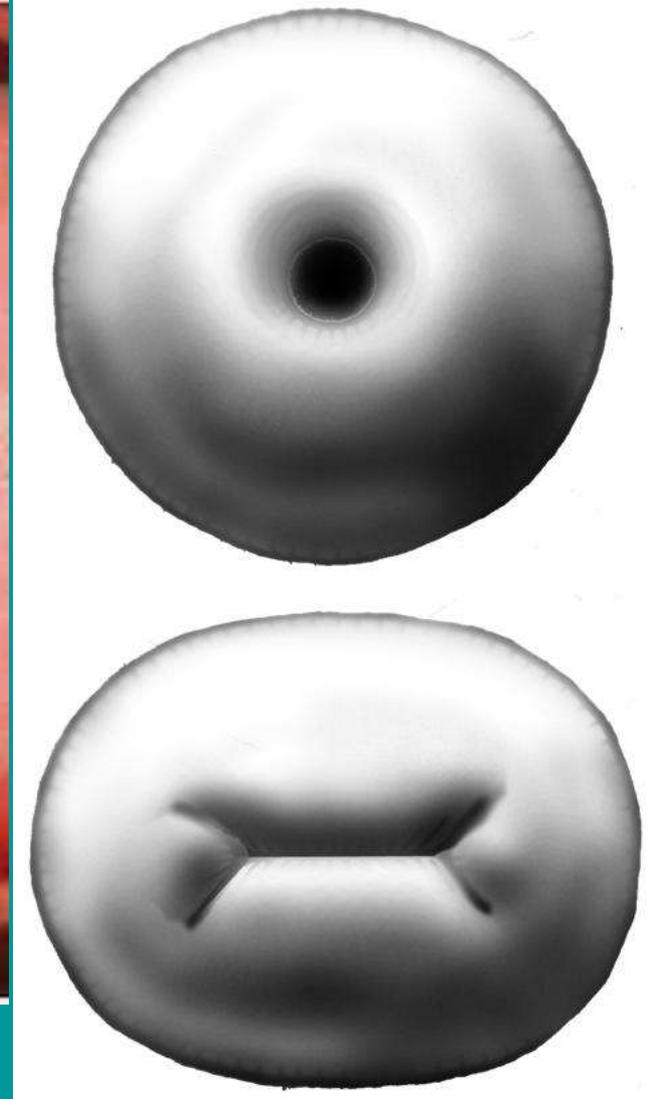
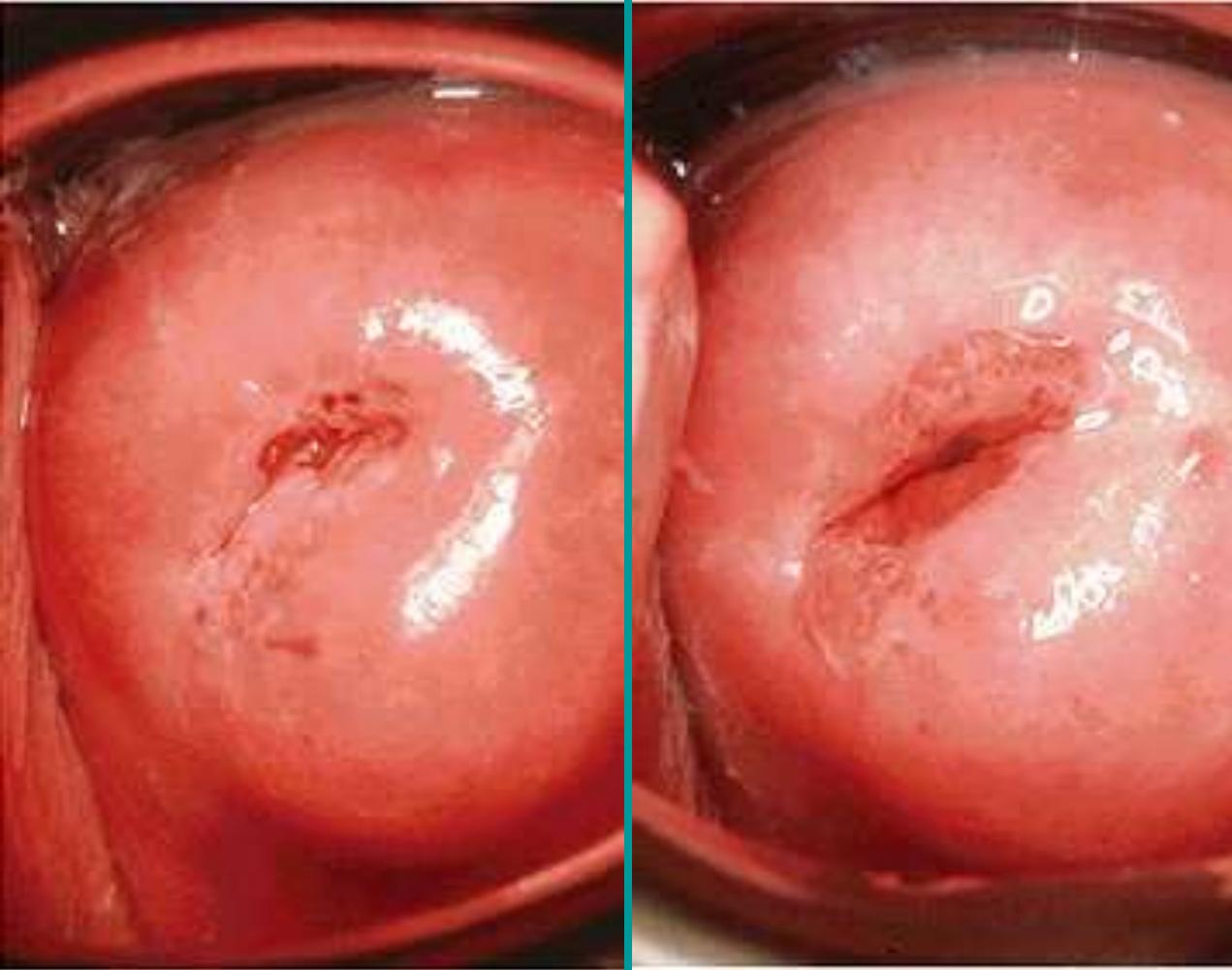
**Receptacle for developing embryo (fetus),expulsion at birth**



**Uterus**



perimetrium, myometriu, endometrium, anteflexion, anteversion, uterine cavity, isthmus, cervical canal, palmate folds, ostium uteri, supravaginal and vaginal part of cervix, uterine glands, cervical glands



Cervix of uterus – vaginal part

Ostium uteri: **nulliparous women, multiparous women**  
anterior + posterior lip, cervical mucous plug

# Endometrium (mucous membrane)

basal layer,

**functional layer** – proliferative phase (estrogens),  
- secretory phase (progesteron),  
- menstrual phase (decline  
of ovarian hormones),

Uterine glands – nutriens, particulary glykogen,

Cervical glands - mucous plug

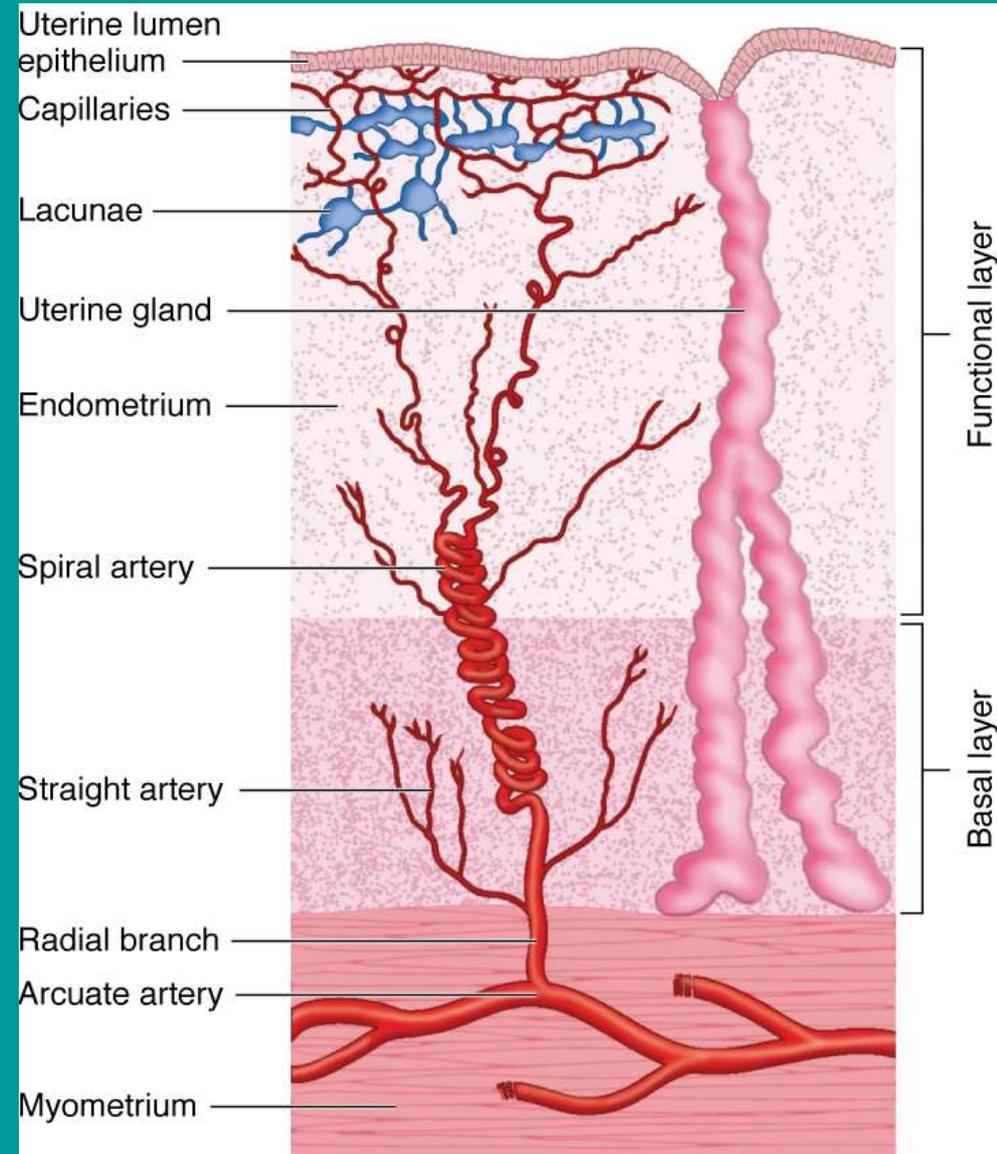
Arterial supply to the endometrium:  
straight and spiral arteries

**Myometrium** (muscular wall)

- middle layer (stratum vasculare),
- inner and outer layers,

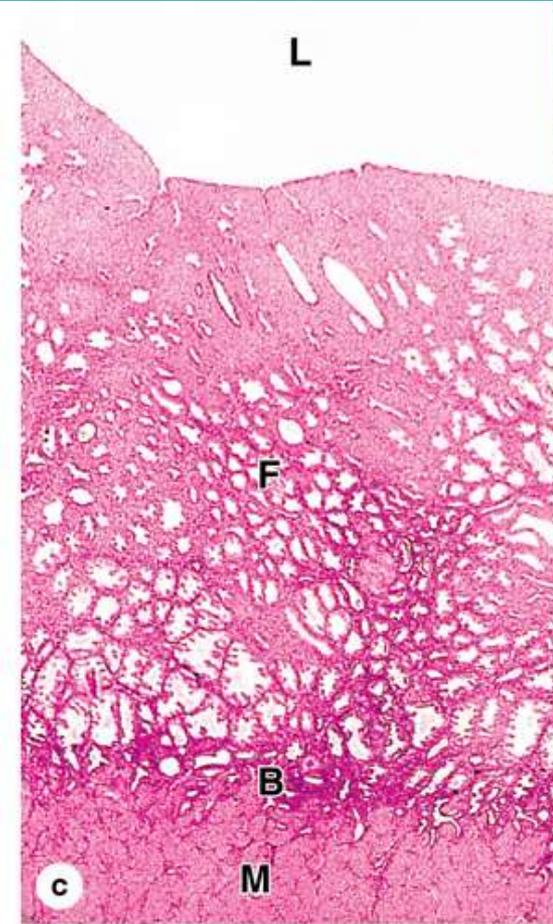
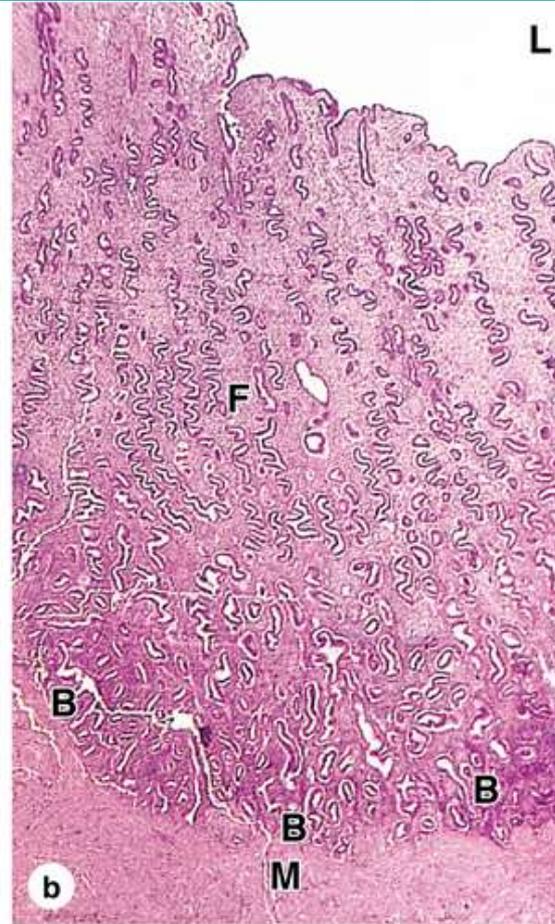
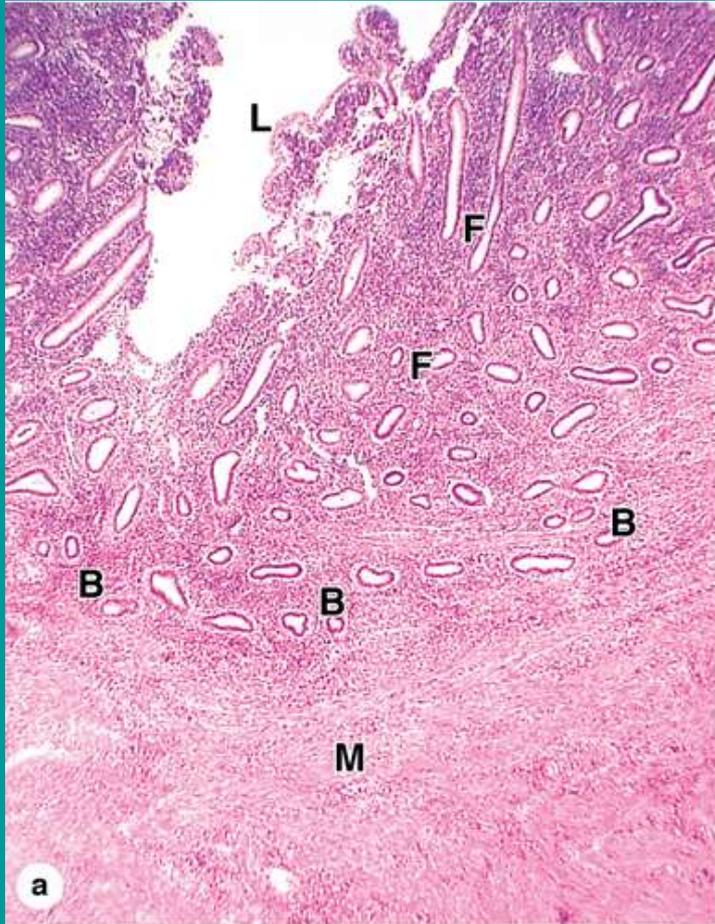
**Perimetrium** (peritoneum, tunica adventitia)

**Arterial supply to the endometrium.** The **basal and functional layers** are supplied by the **straight arteries** and **spiral arteries** respectively. The **spiral arteries** are uniquely sensitive to progesterone, growing rapidly and providing blood to a microvasculature that includes many lacunae lined by thin endothelium. The rapid decline in the level of progesterone causes **constriction of the spiral arteries** that quickly lead to **local ischemia** in the functional layer and its separation from the basal layer during **menstruation**



Uterine wall, myometrium, endometrium (functional and basal layer)

# Endometrium

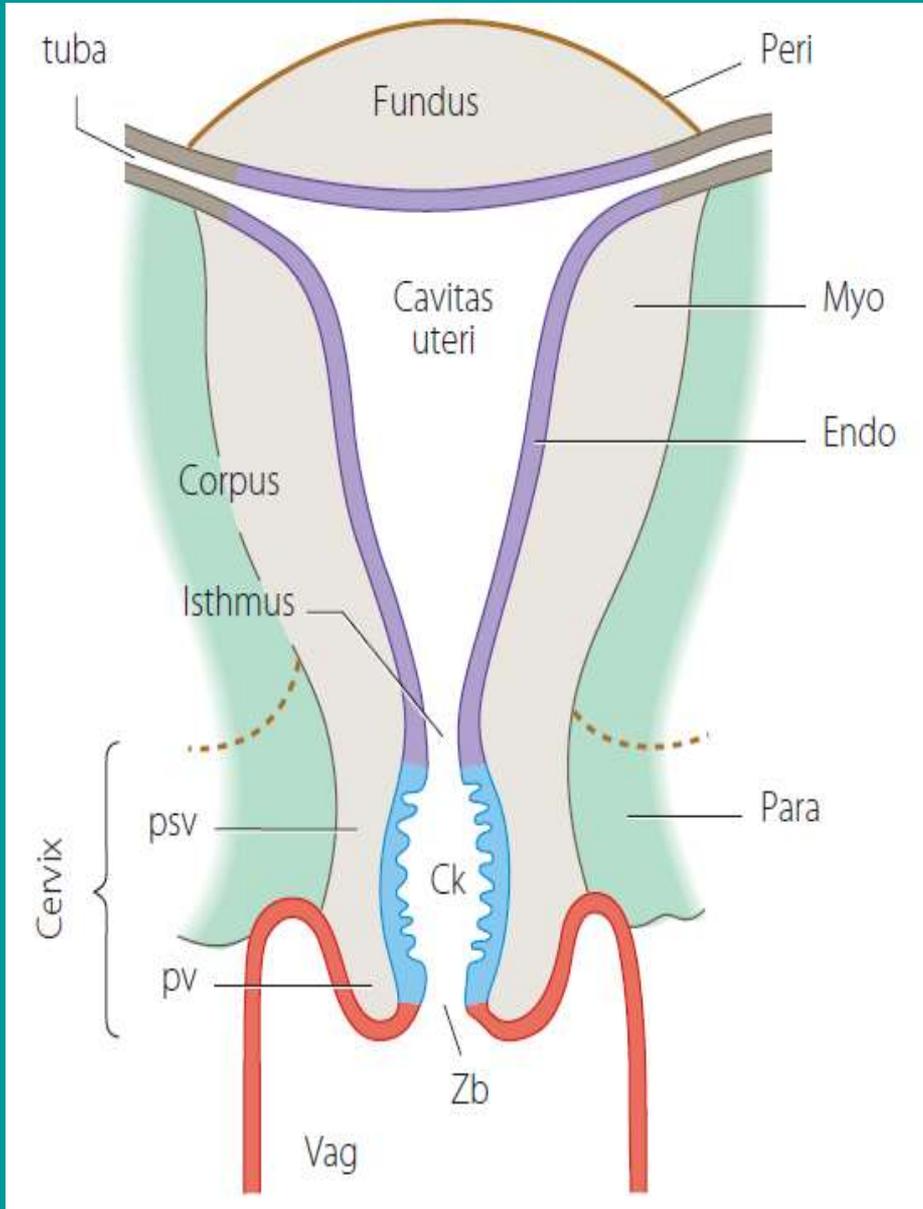


**Proliferative,**

**secretory,**

**premenstrual**

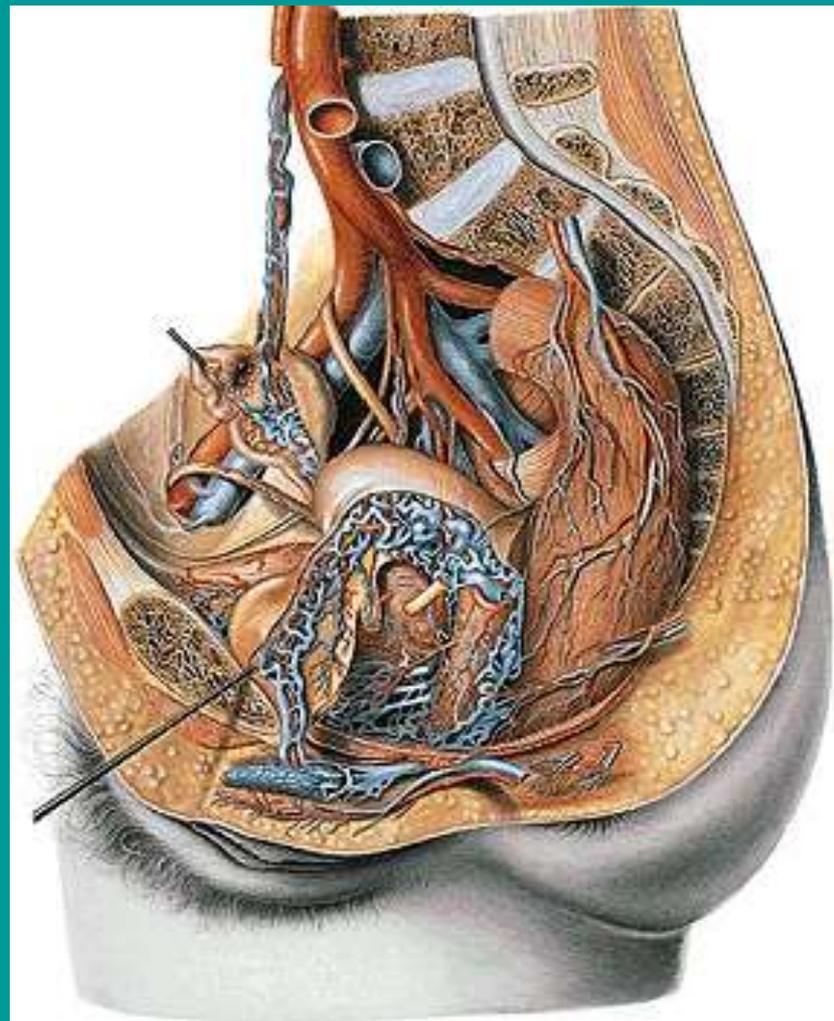
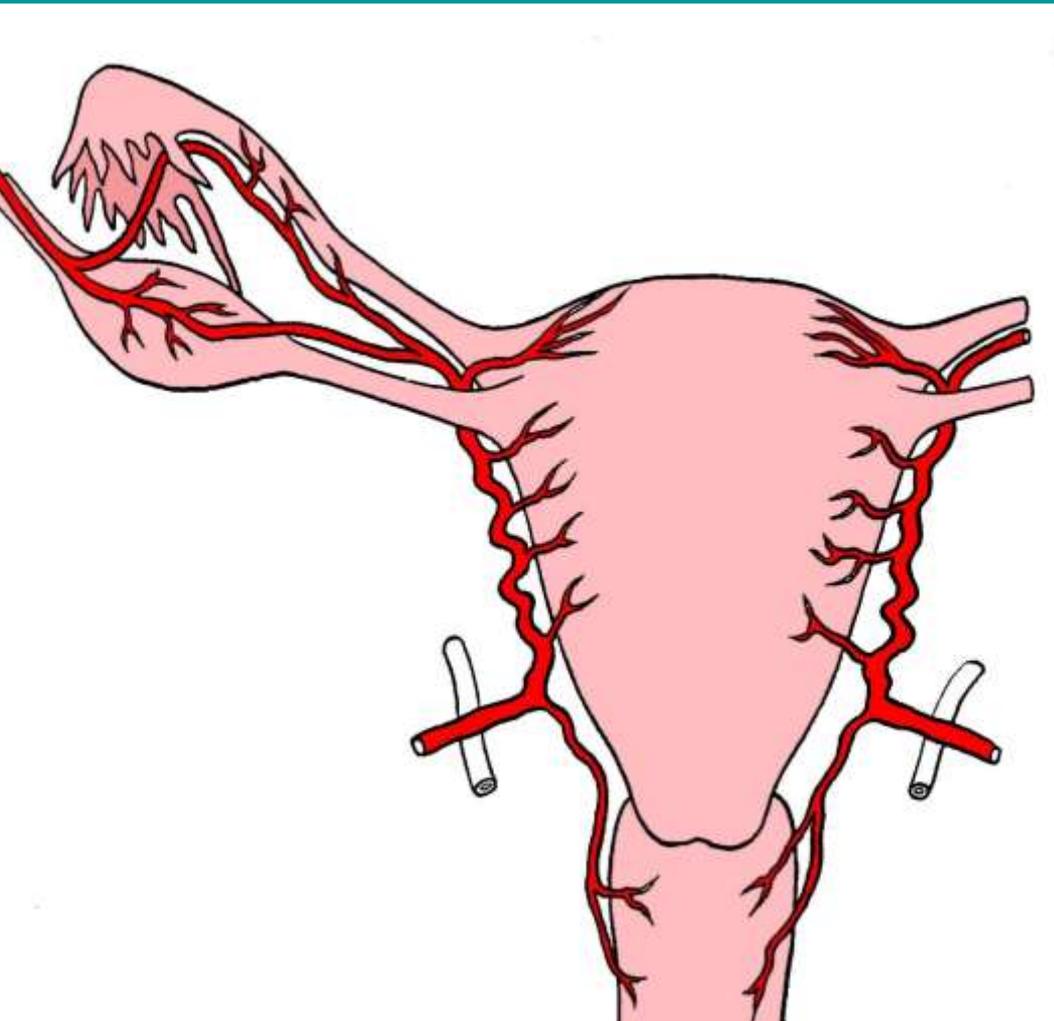
**phases of endometrium**



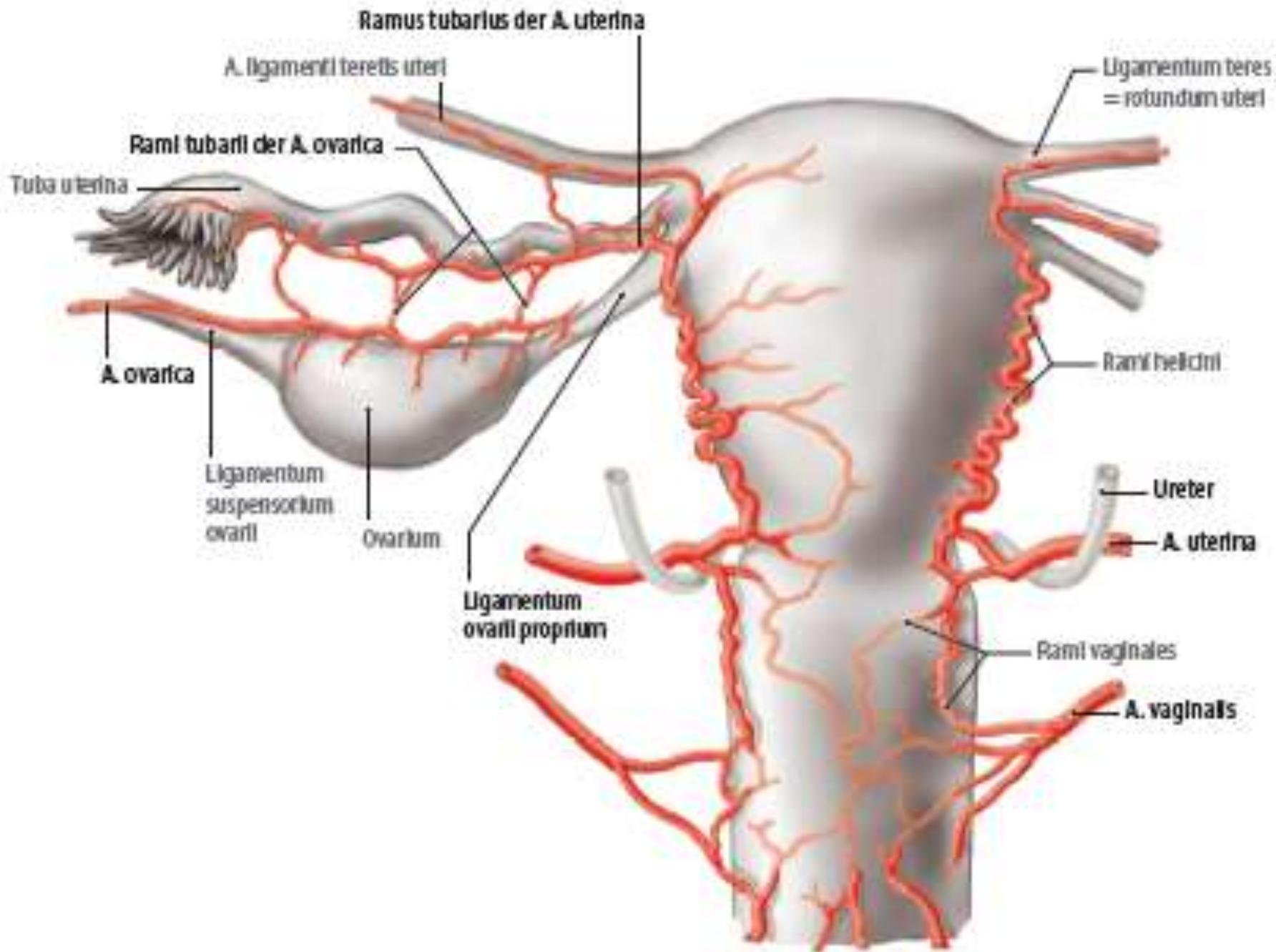
## Cervix

The mucosa of the cervical canal is lined by **simple columnar epithelium** and contains many large branched **cervical glands** secreting mucus.

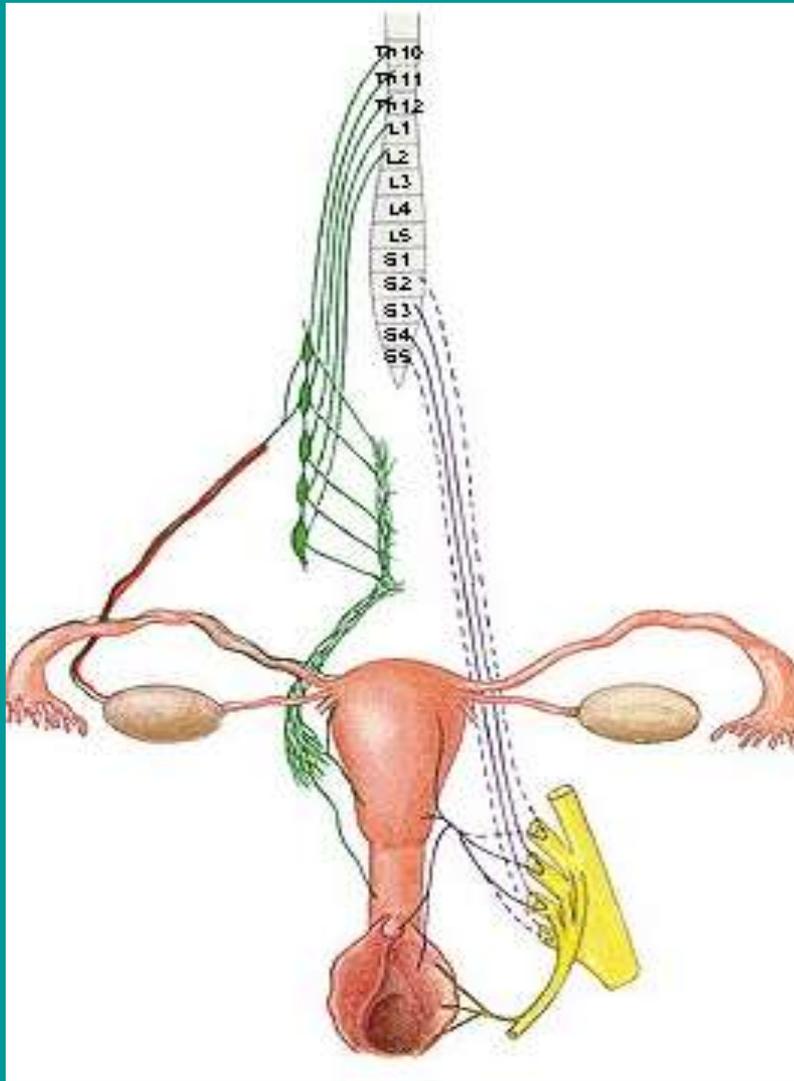
At the external os, there is an abrupt junction (J) between cervical epithelium (EC) and **the stratified squamous (SS) epithelium** covering the exocervix and vagina (V).



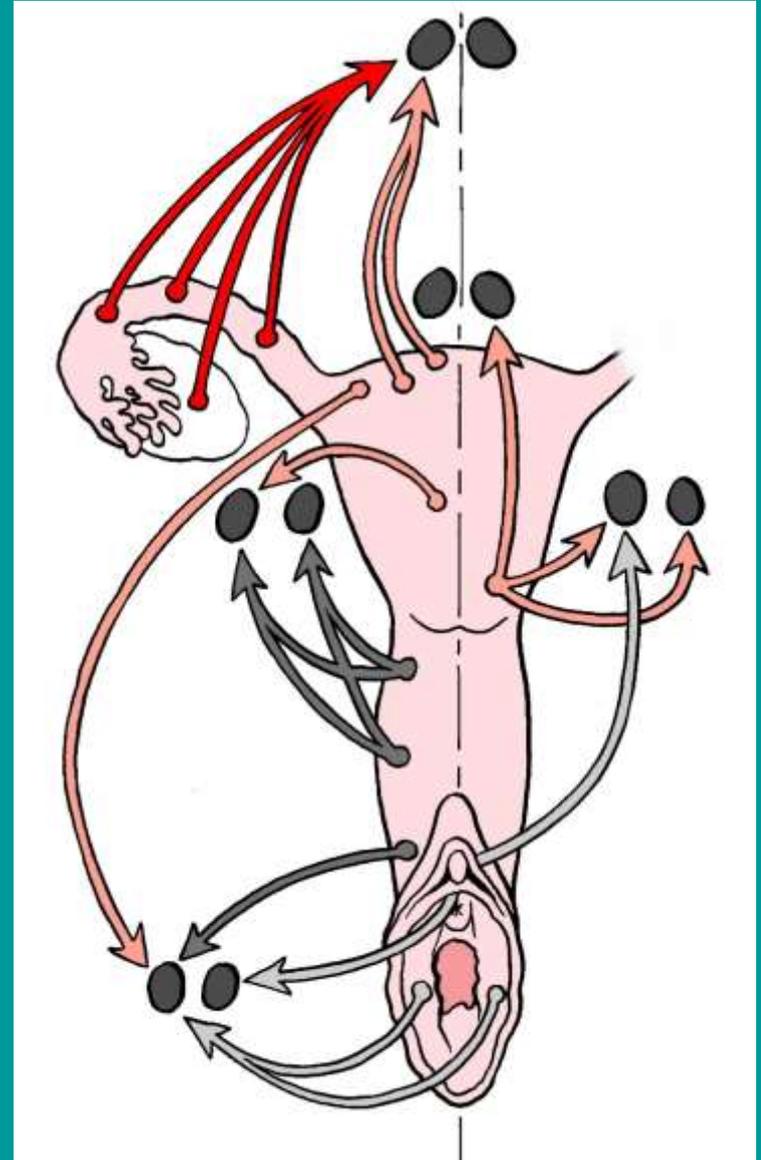
**uterine artery, vaginal branch, ovarian artery,  
anastomosis, uterovaginal venous plexus**



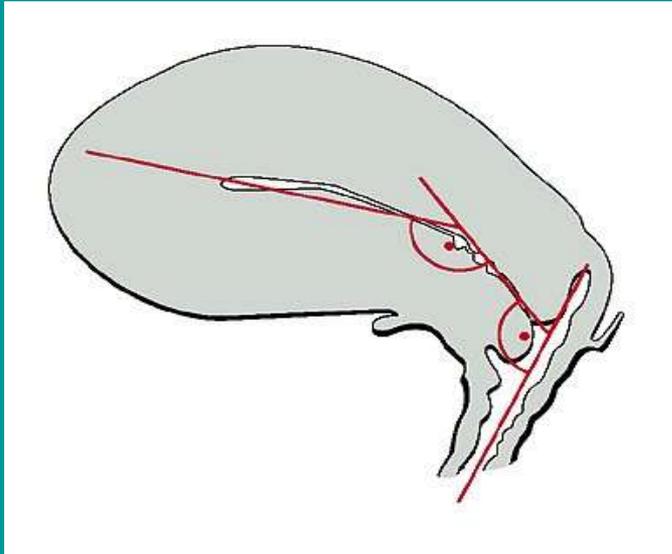
**Lymph nodes: lumbar, sacral,  
internal iliac, external iliac,  
superficial inguinal**



**Uterovaginal plexus  
sympathetic, parasympathetic  
and sensory fibres from ovarian  
and inf. hypogastric plexuses**







## Position of the uterus

Anteflexion

Anteversion

Retroversion,

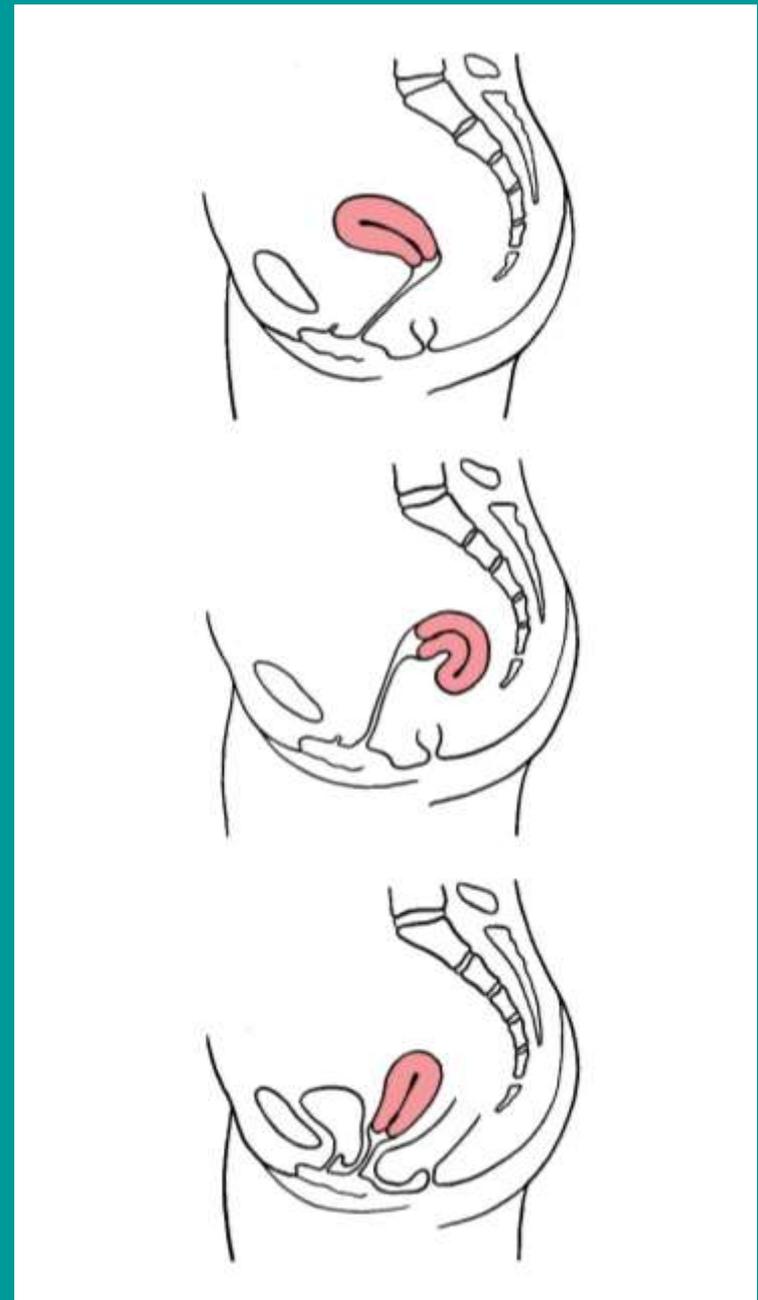
Retroflexion

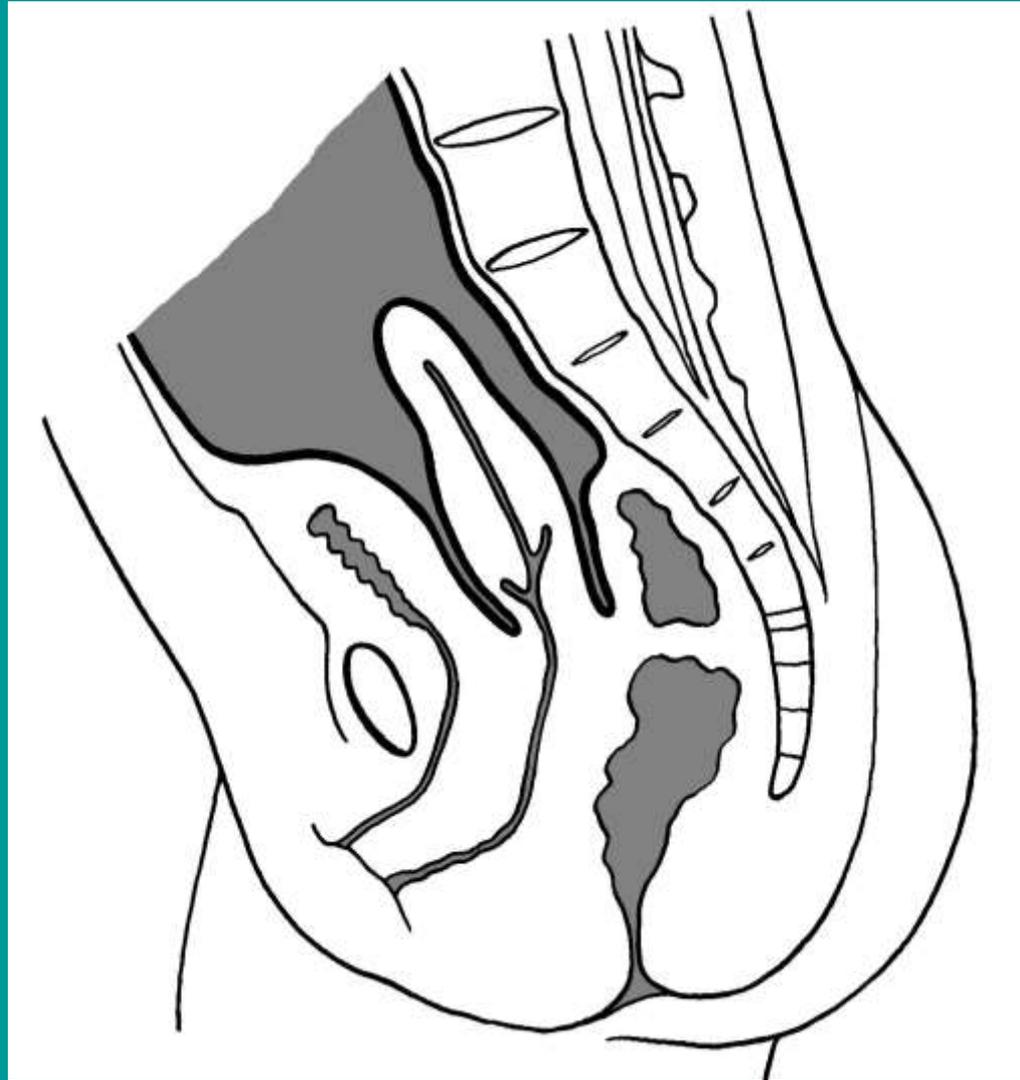
Descent of the uterus

prolapse

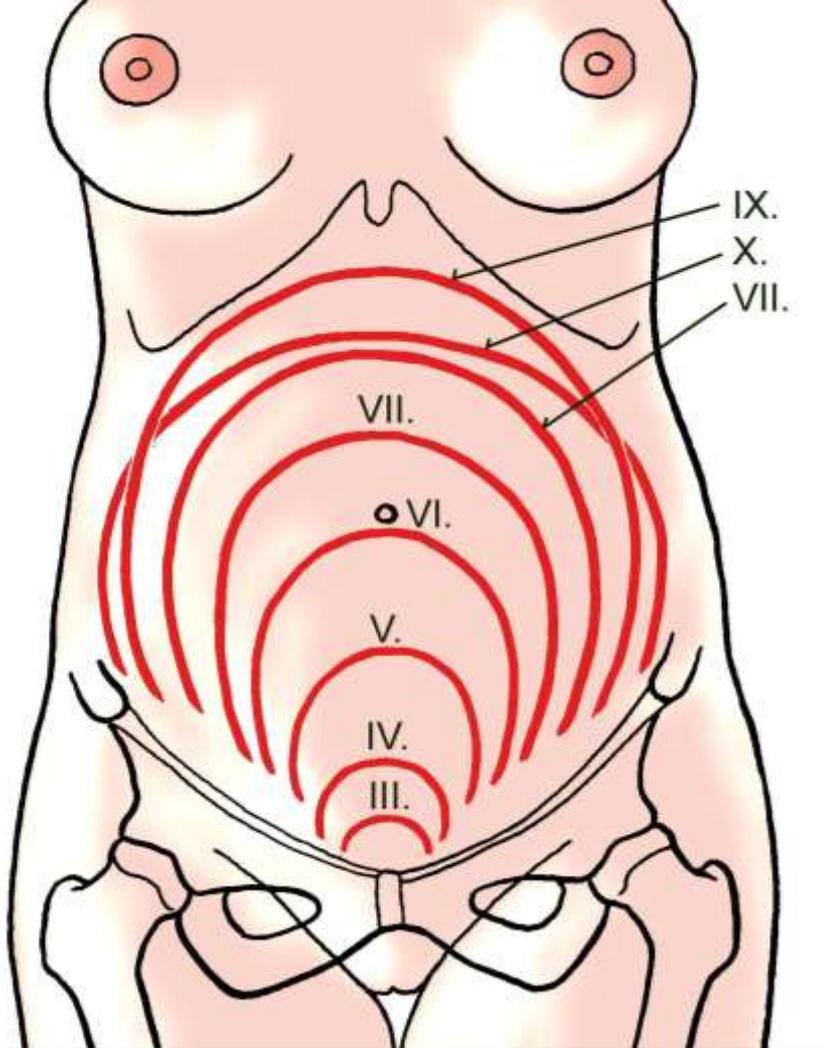
cystocele

rectocele





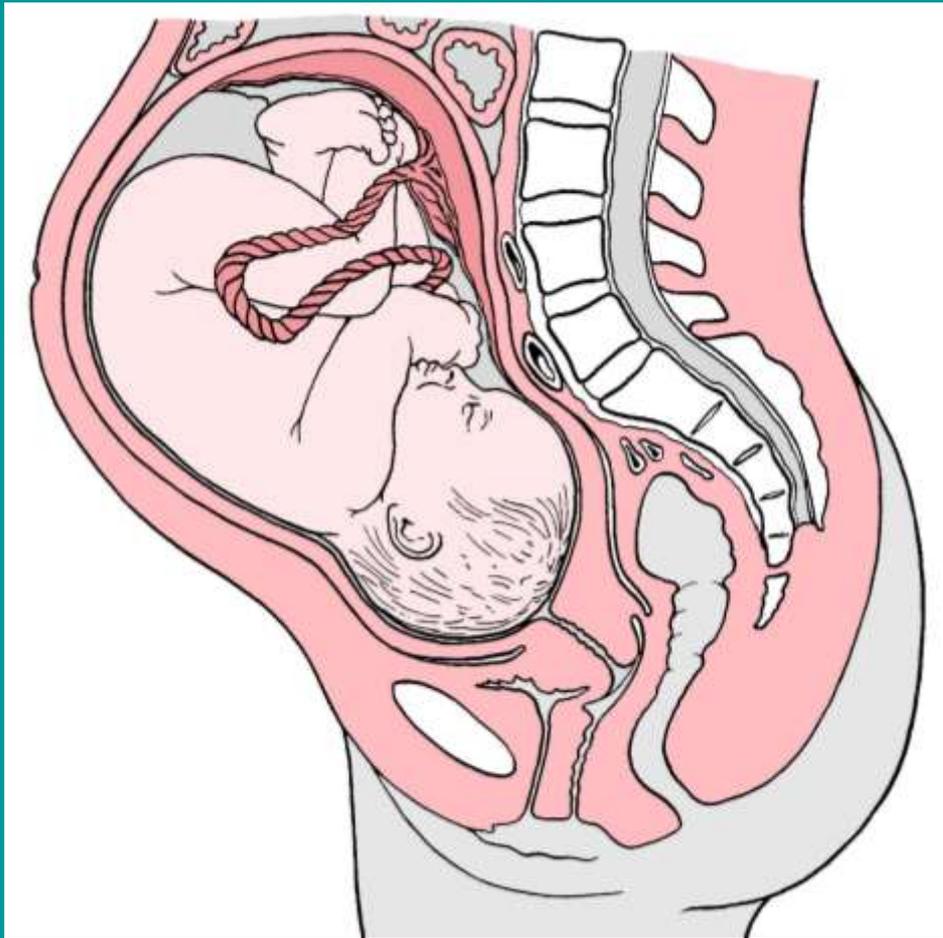
In children, the body of the uterus is shorter than the cervix



Projection of pregnant uterus during lunar months I. – X.

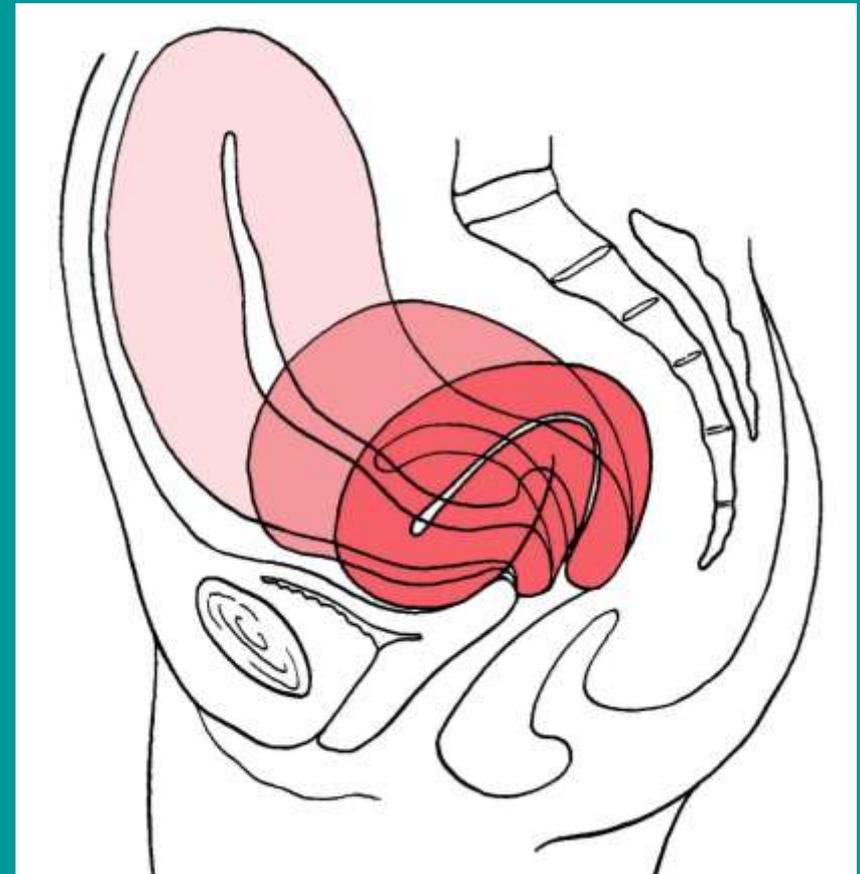


Ultrasonography of the female pelvis through pregnant uterus



Expansion and enlargement of the uterus during pregnancy:  
The cervical canal remains closed

Involution of the uterus after parturition:  
Immediately after parturition,  
after 2. weeks  
after 6. weeks



# Vagina

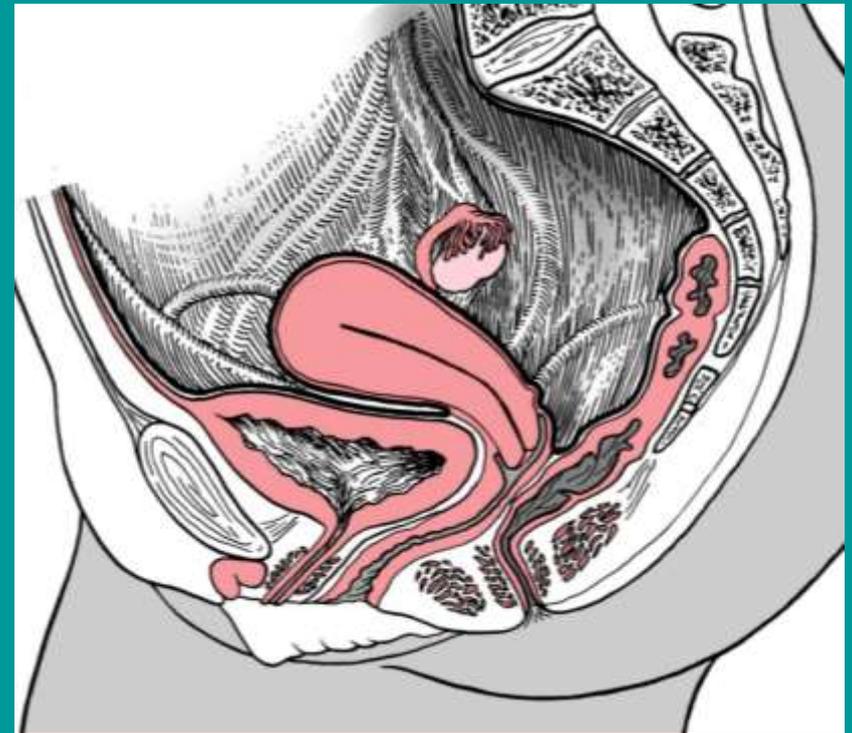
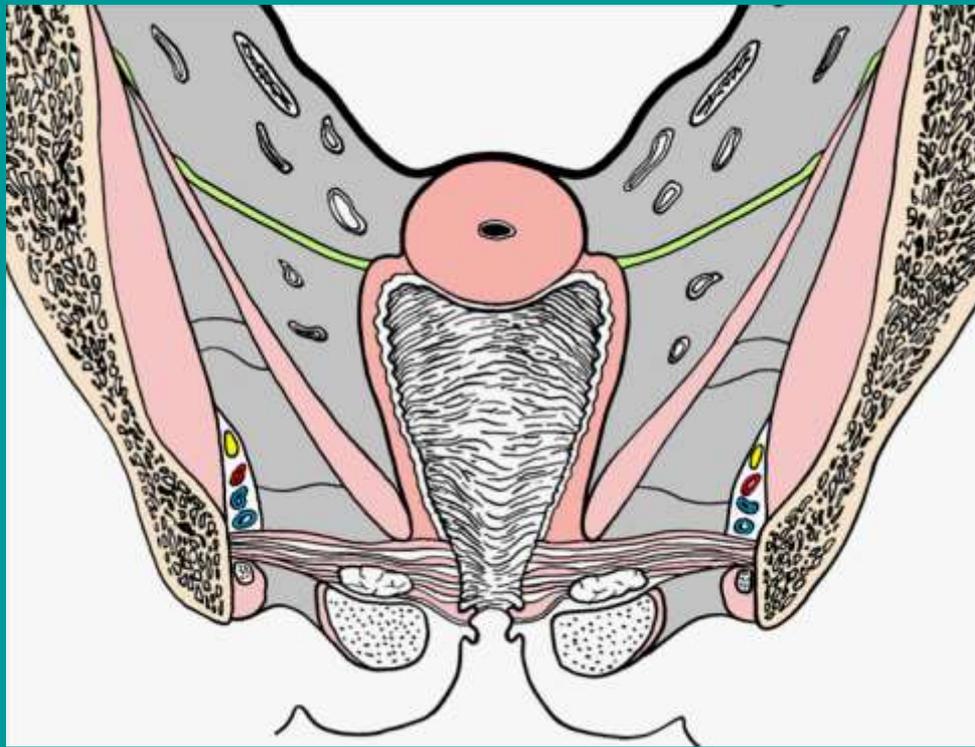
The vagina has mucosal, muscular, and adventitial layers

There are **no secretory glands**, cells of the **thick, nonkeratinized stratified squamous epithelium** become filled with **glycogen** before desquamation.

The lamina propria mucosae contains **thin—walled veins** and muscular layers exude fluid on the surface of the epithelium.

The papillae and entire lamina propria are very rich in protective lymphocytes and neutrophils.

The muscular layer has **bundles of smooth muscle arranged in a circular manner near the mucosa and longitudinally near the adventitia.**

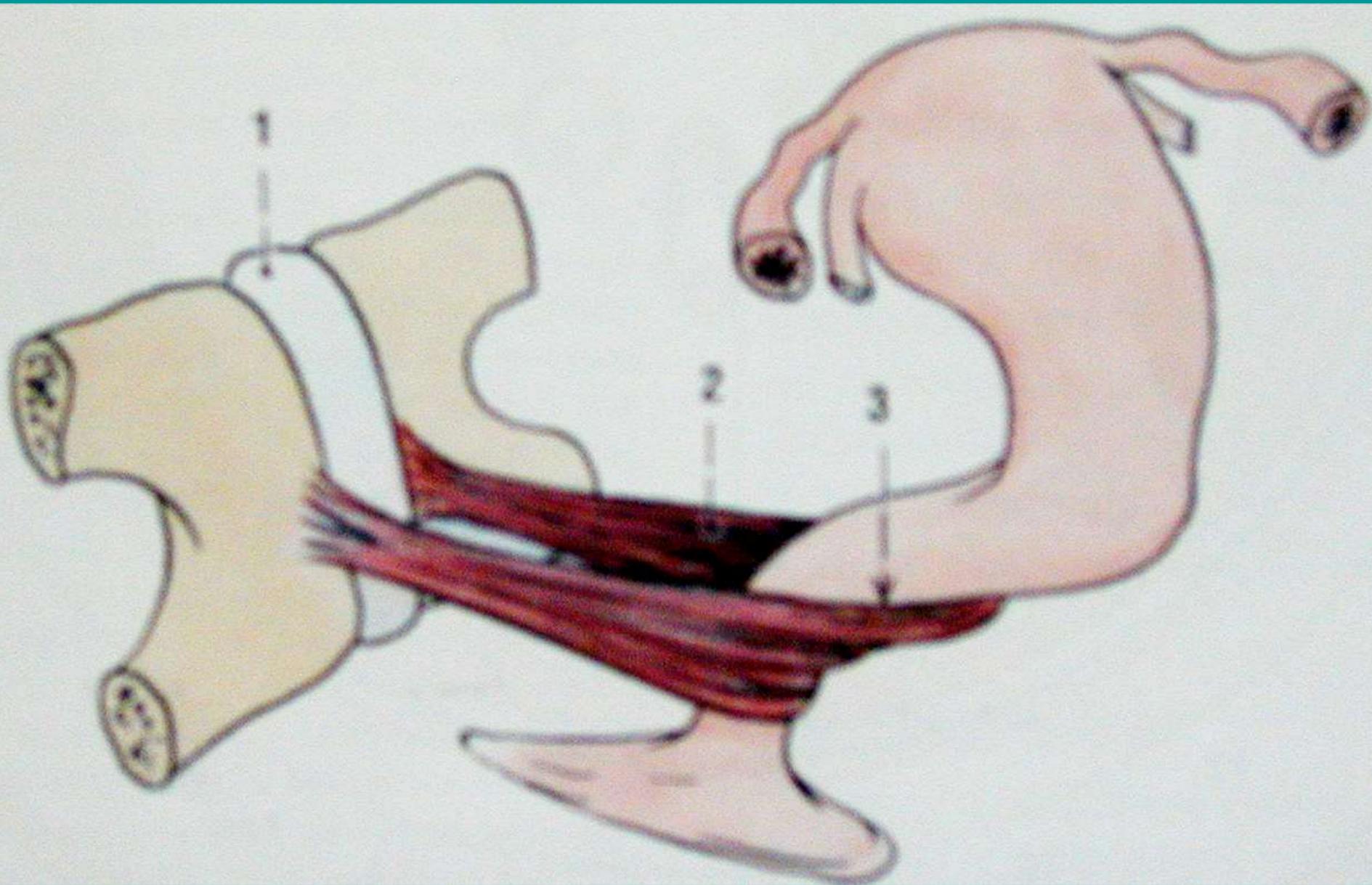


**Vagina (kolpos)** fornix, ostium, hymen, rugae, columns, urethral carina, trigonal area of vagina, mucous membrane, muscular layer, spongy layer, parakolpium, urogenital hiatus, pubovaginal m., promontorium of vagina, urethrovaginal sphincter muscle, bulbospongiosus muscle,



© Švábik, Mašata, Martan, Vávrová

**Magnetic resonance image of female pelvis in sagittal plane**

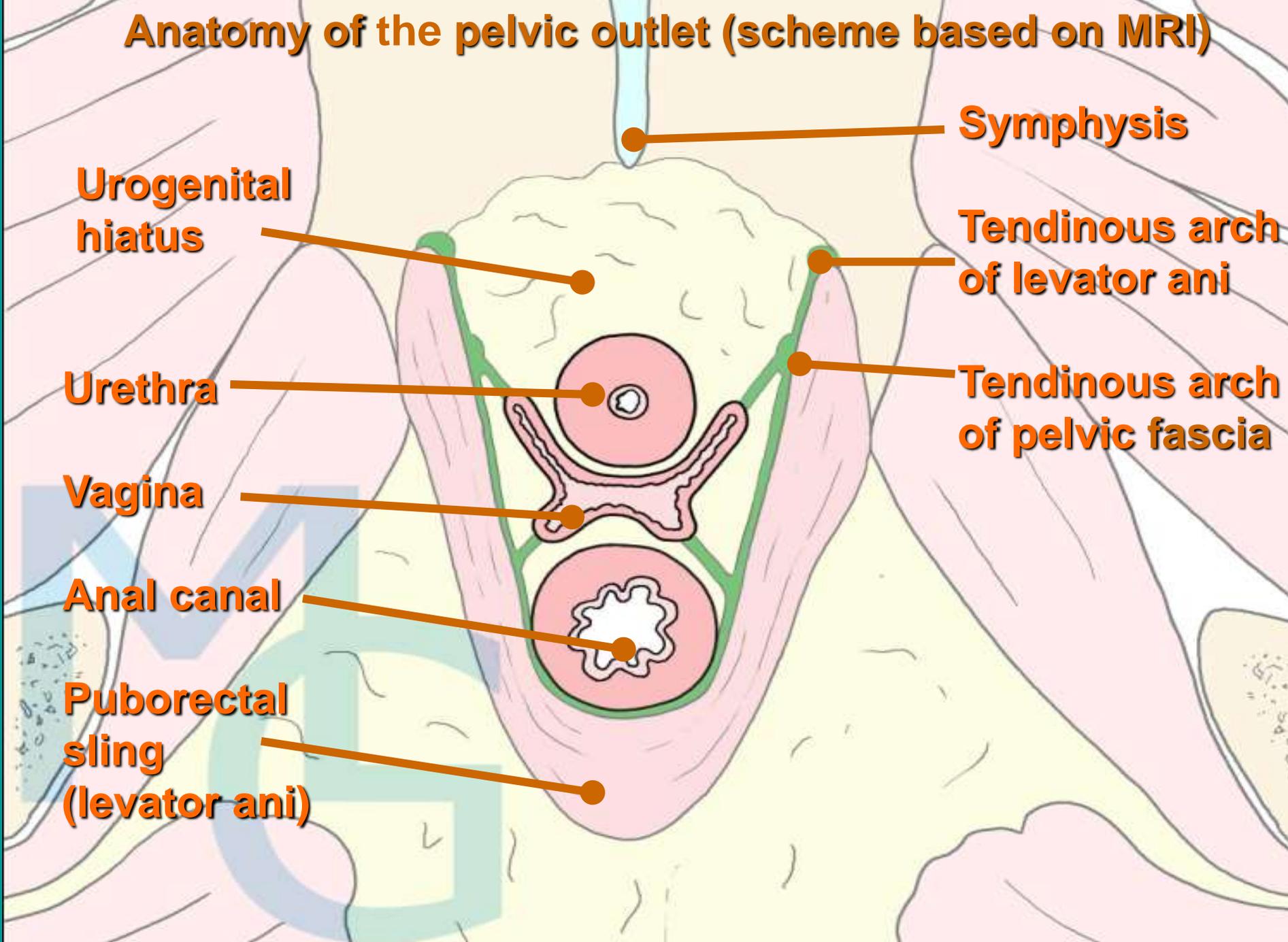


**Sling of the pubovaginalis muscle**



**Magnetic resonance image of female pelvis in plane of urogenital hiatus (level 2 according to DeLancey)**

# Anatomy of the pelvic outlet (scheme based on MRI)



**Symphysis**

**Tendinous arch of levator ani**

**Tendinous arch of pelvic fascia**

**Urogenital hiatus**

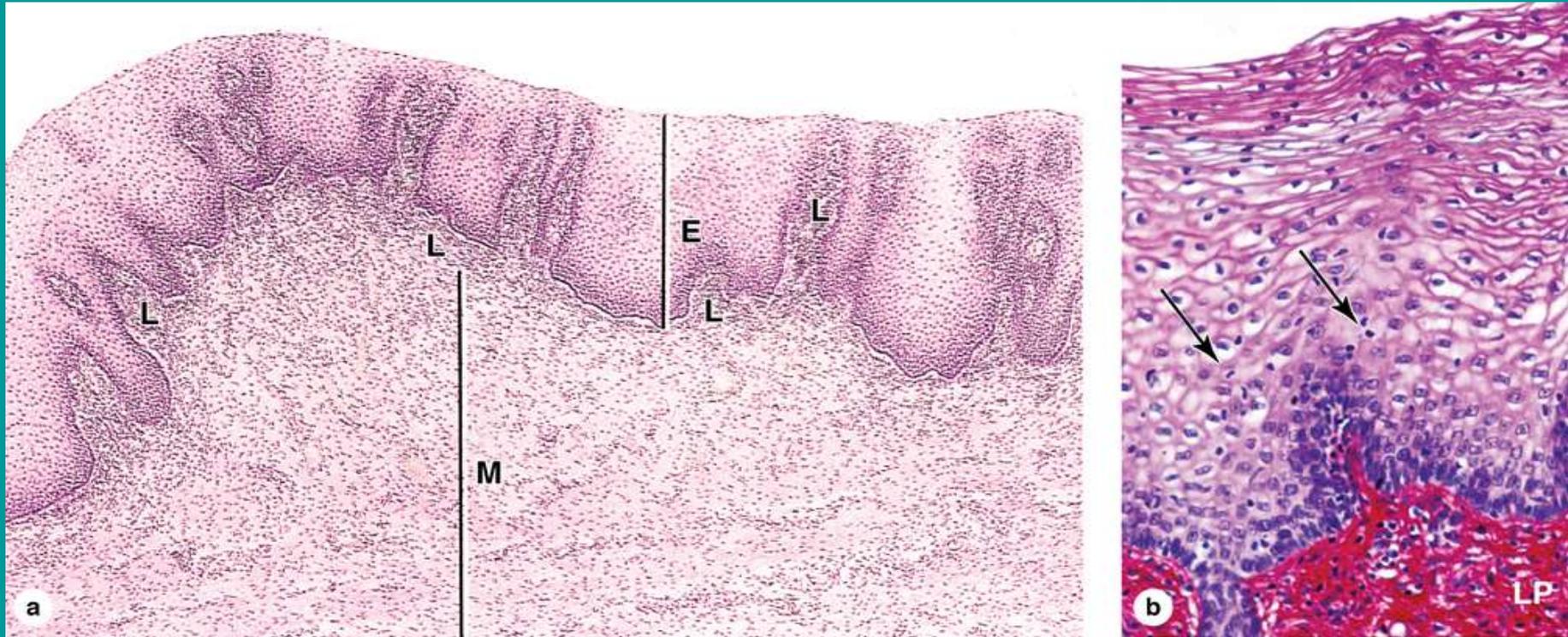
**Urethra**

**Vagina**

**Anal canal**

**Puborectal sling (levator ani)**

# The wall of vagina (mucosal, muscular, and adventitial layers)



**(a):** The micrograph shows the lamina propria (L) is highly cellular and extends narrow papillae into the epithelium (E).

**(b):** Higher magnification of the epithelium and lamina propria (LP) shows **invasion of leukocytes** (arrows) between epithelial cells from the connective tissue

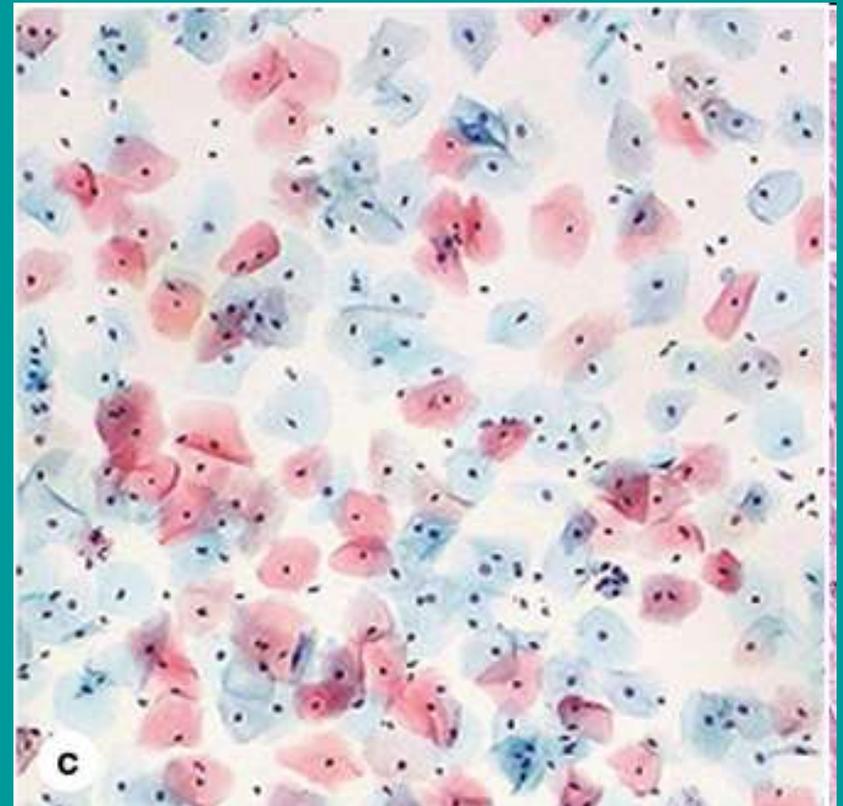
## Exfoliative cytology of cells scraped from a normal cervix in a routine cervical smear

The Papanicolaou procedure stains cells differently according to their **content of keratins**

Surface cells have denser cytoplasmic keratin and stain pinkish orange.

**Less differentiated subsurface cells have blue—green cytoplasm.**

Unusually high numbers of blue—green cells, prompt further tests for the possibility of cervical carcinoma



# **External genital organs**

**Pudendum (vulva)**

**Mons pubis**

**Labium majus**

**Labium minus**

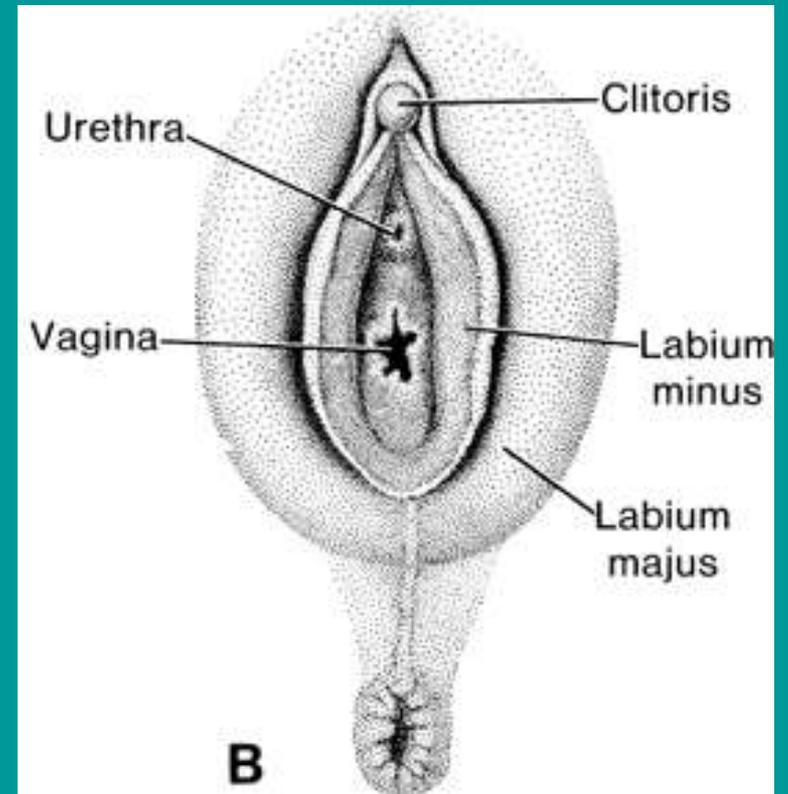
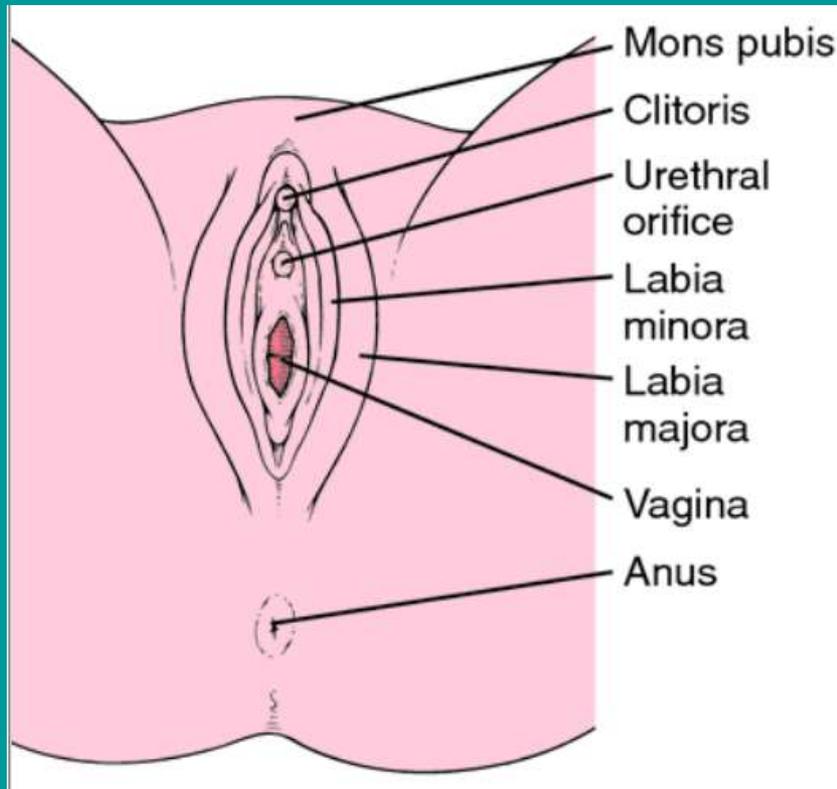
**Pudendal cleft**

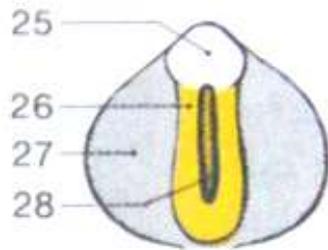
**Vestibule**

**Bulb of vestibule**

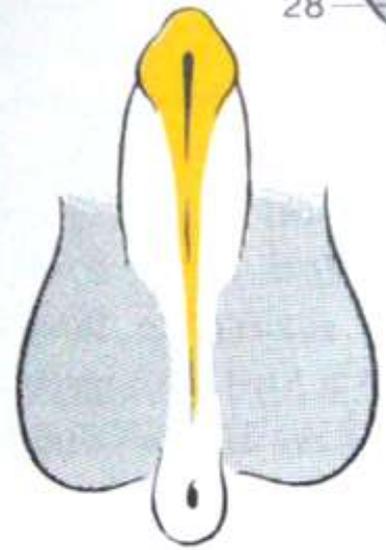
**Clitoris**

# Pudendum femininum (vulva)



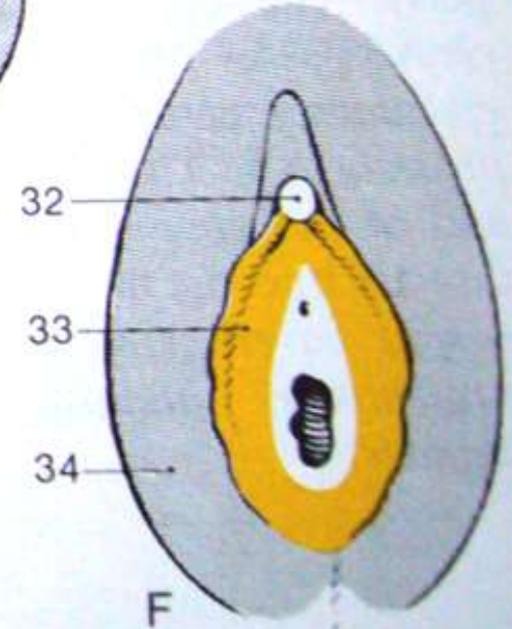
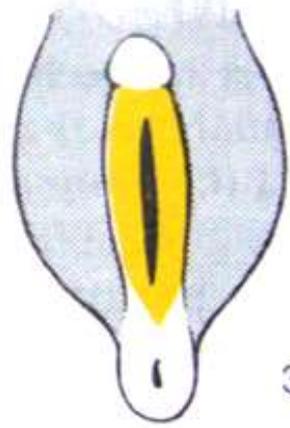


Male



D

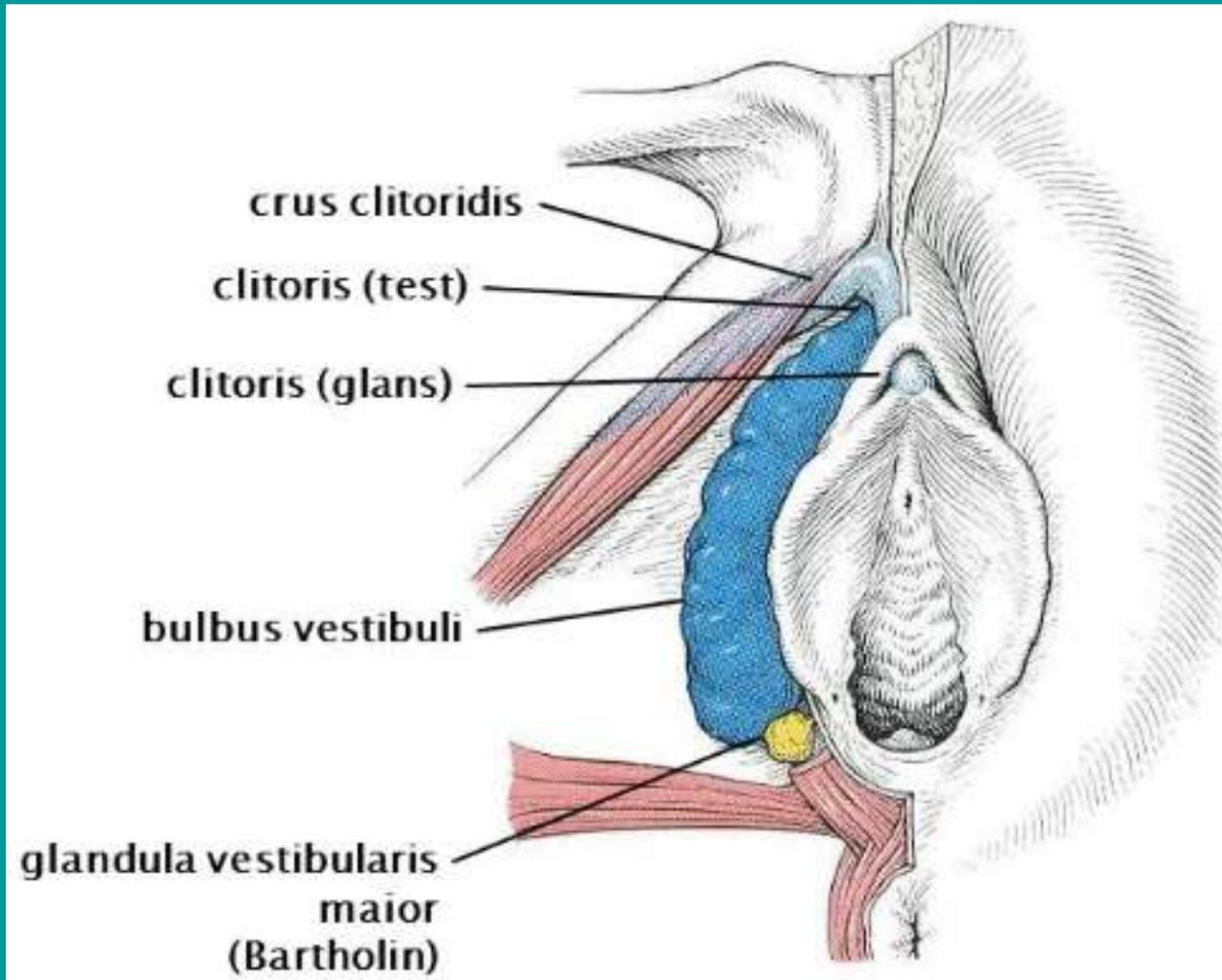
Female



**External genital organs develop from: genital eminence, genital folds, genital ridges and urogenital sinus**

E Development of internal and external genital organs

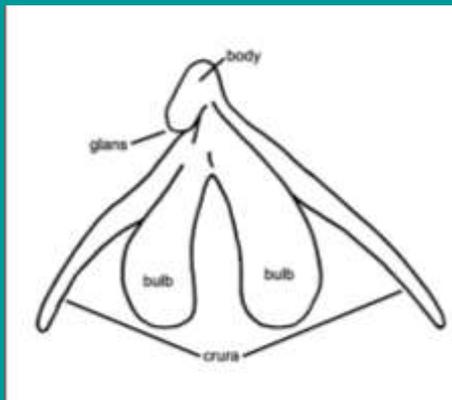
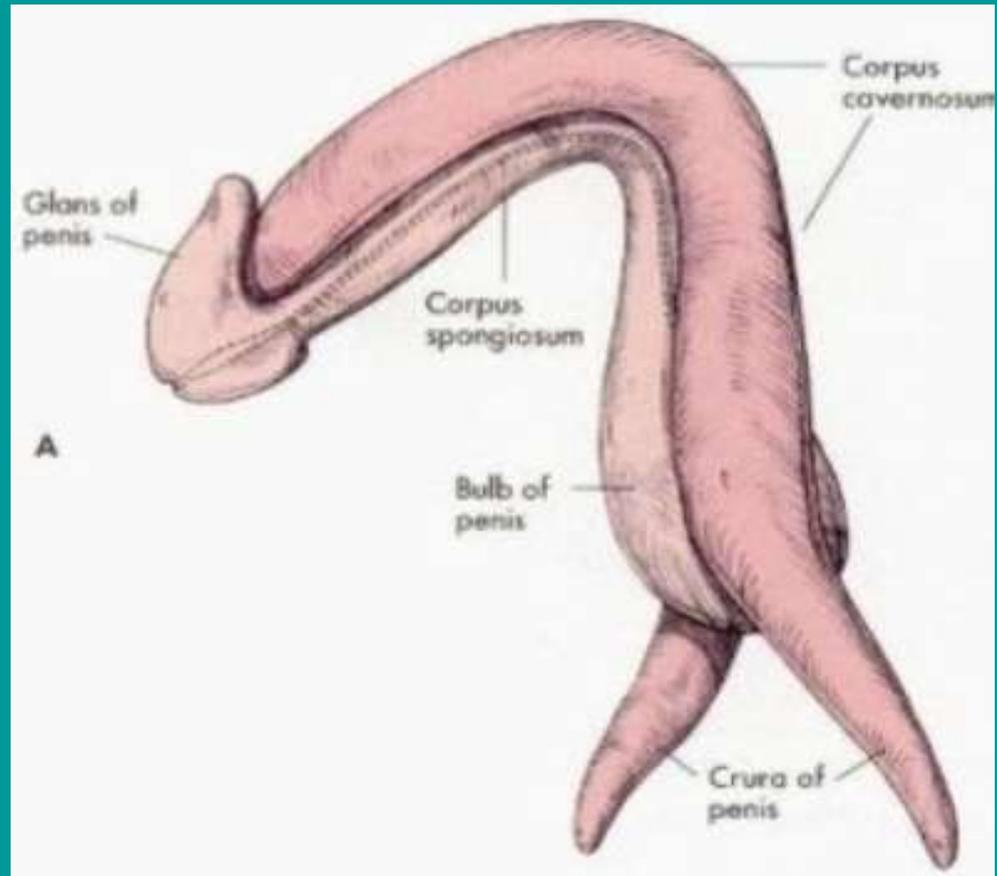
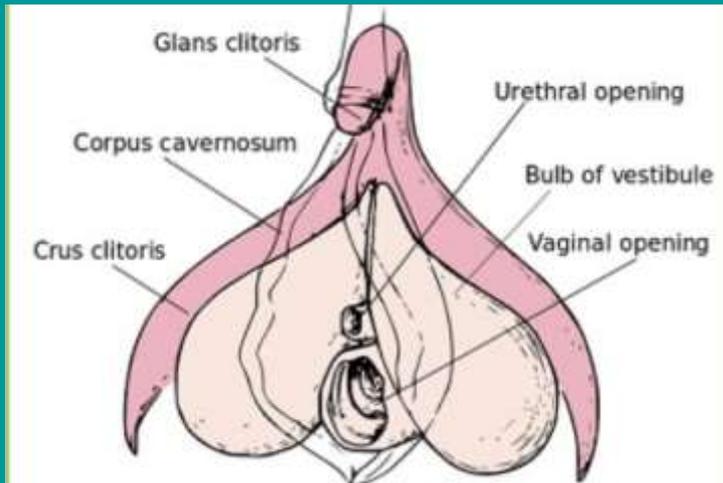
Vestibulum vaginae, bulbus vestibuli, gl.  
vestibularis major, m. ischiocavernosus,

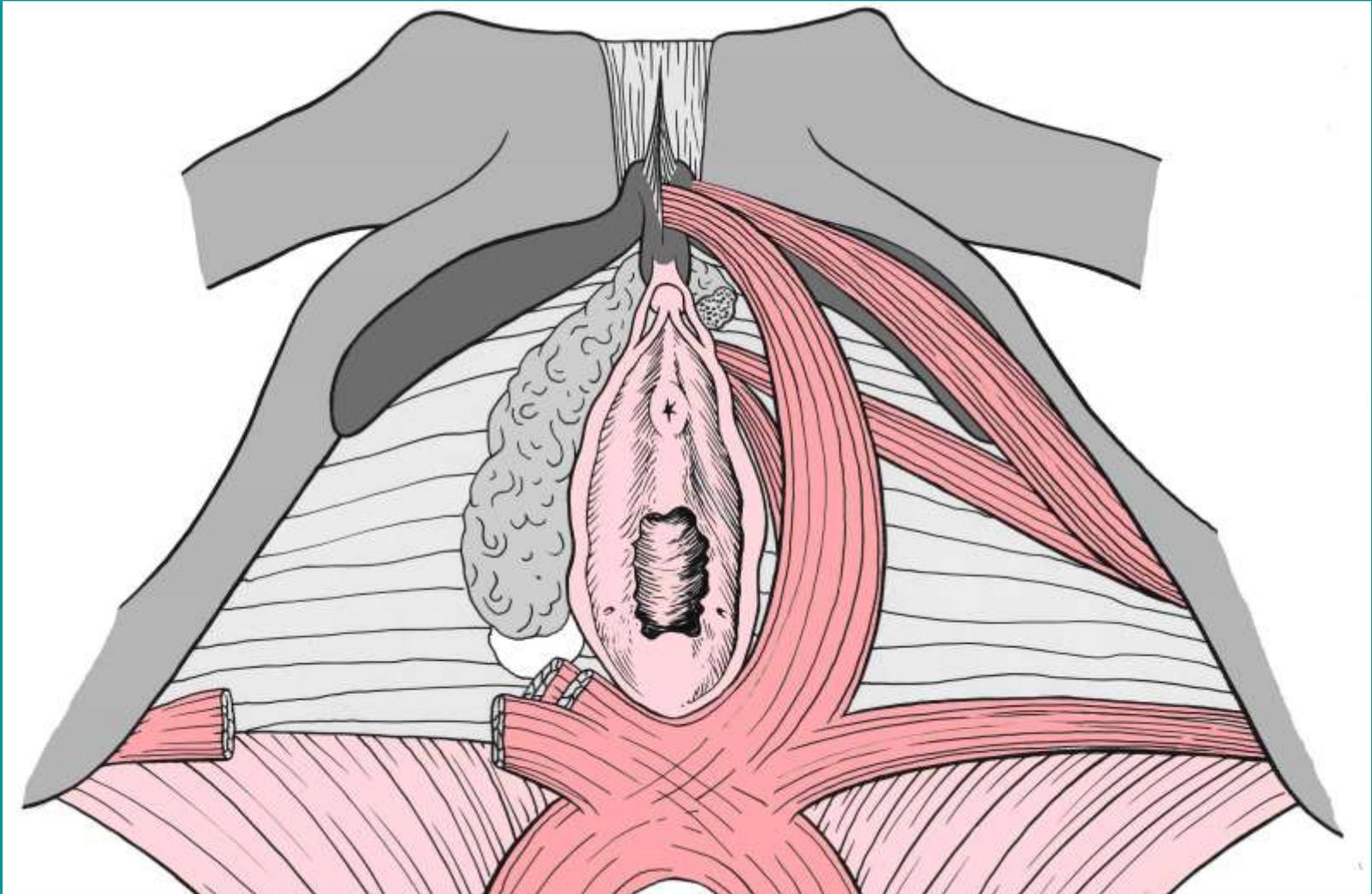


# Cavernous tissue of female and male

Clitoris, bulbus vestibuli- glans clitoridis, corpus clitoridis, crus clitoridis

Penis – corpora cavernosa, corpus spongiosum, glans





**Perineal muscles in urogenital region:  
bulbospongiosus, ischio-cavernosus, compressor of urethra,  
urethrovaginal sphincter, superficial transverse perineal m.**

## Sources of illustrations used :

Gray's Anatomy,

Sobotta: Atlas der Anatomie des Menschen

Grim, Druga: Regional Anatomy, Galen, Prague 2012

Benninghoff, Drenckhahn: Anatomie I., II.

Carlson, B.M.: Human Embryology and Developmental Anatomy

## Recommended Textbooks:

R. S. Snell: Clinical Anatomy. 7th Edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2004, pp. 478 – 562

or

K. L. Moore: Clinically oriented Anatomy, 3rd Edition, Williams & Wilkins 1992, pp. 501 – 635

and

W. Kahle: Color Atlas/Text of Human Anatomy, Vol. 2 Internal organs. Thieme, 4th English Edition, 1993

Langman's Medical Embryology, 11th Edition, 2010

Junqueira's Basic Histology 12th Edition, 2010

Ross MH, Pawlina W: Histology, 5th edition, Lippincott Williams, Wilkins, 2005

Gilroy, MacPherson, Schuenke, Schulte, Schumacher: Atlas of Anatomy, 3rd edition, Thieme 2016