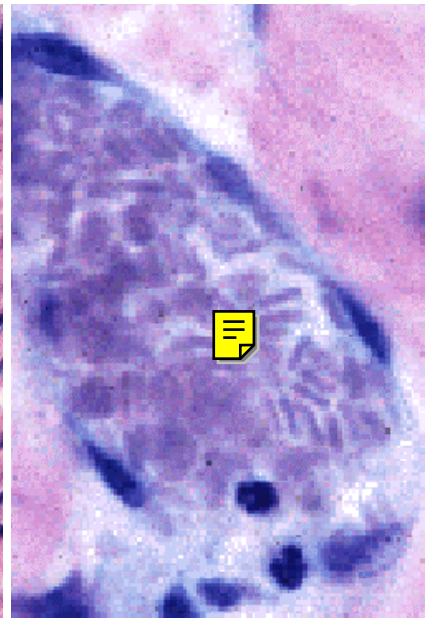
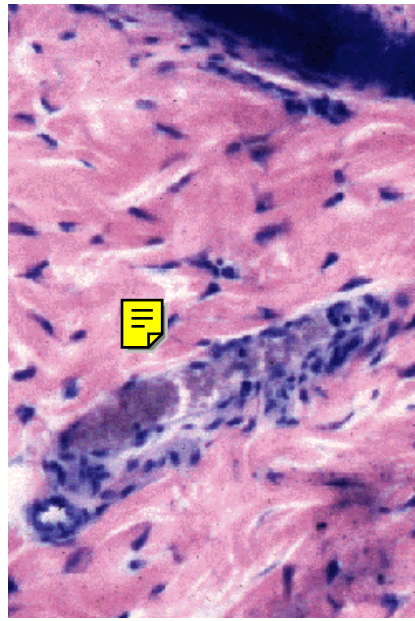
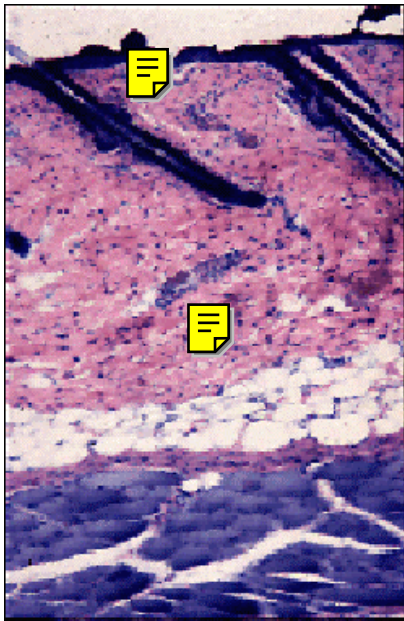


The Inflammatory Response

Normal Tissue:

To understand what is happening during an infection and subsequent inflammation, we need some acquaintance with normal tissue. Taking a few minutes to review the structure of normal skin will allow you to better appreciate the remarkable changes that will soon occur. The first image is of a section of normal skin at low magnification. The skin cells make a very thin blue layer on the outer surface. The pink, wavy material underlying the skin cells is connective tissue, a complex mixture of carbohydrates and proteins that provides crucial support functions for the skin. The small blue dots you see scattered through the connective tissue are the nuclei of fibroblasts, the cells responsible for laying down and supporting the connective tissue. The large white cells below the connective tissue are fat cells forming a layer of adipose tissue. The blue/gray cells at the bottom of the picture are muscle cells. Running at an angle through the connective tissue and then on out of the skin are some hair shafts. The next two pictures are at higher magnification and focus on the connective tissues and blood vessels.



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