

HUMAN BIOLOGY

Seventeenth Edition

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Chapter 13 Muscular System

13.1 Overview of the Muscular System ₁

Learning Outcomes:

- List the three types of muscle tissue and provide a function for each.
- Describe the general structure of a skeletal muscle.
- Recognize how skeletal muscles are named.

13.1 Overview of the Muscular System ²

Muscular system.

Functions in:

- Movement of the entire organism.
 - That is, walking, running.
- Movement of materials within the organism.
 - That is, blood, food.

Types of Muscle ₁

Three types of muscle tissue: **smooth, cardiac, and skeletal.**

- The cells are called **muscle fibers.**

Types of Muscle ₂

Smooth muscle.

Fibers are:

- Shaped like cylinders with pointed ends.
- Uninucleated.
- Arranged in parallel lines, forming sheets.
- Not striated.

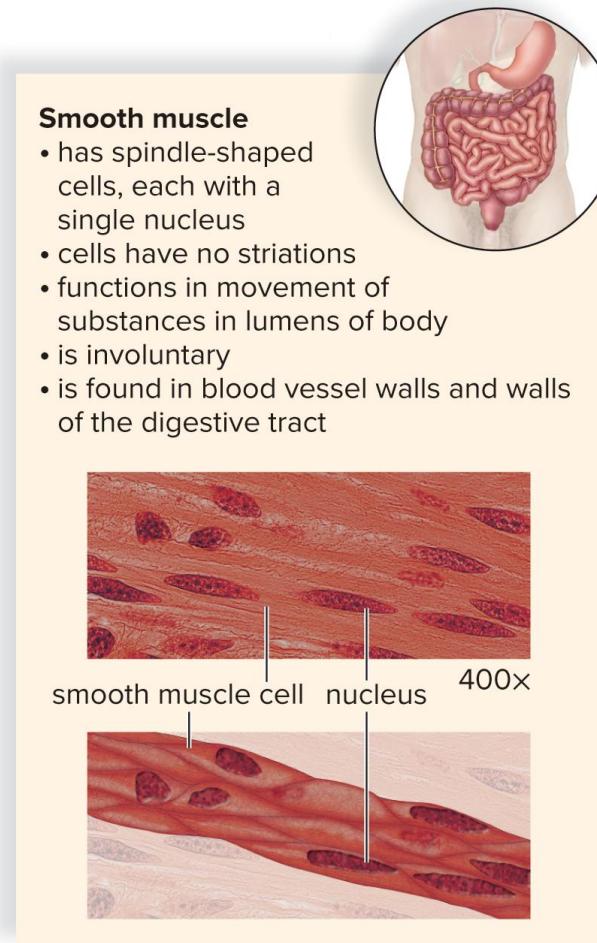
Located in the walls of hollow internal organs and blood vessels and causes these walls to contract.

Types of Muscle ³

Smooth muscle, continued.

- Contraction is involuntary.
- Although smooth muscle is slower to contract than skeletal muscle, it can sustain prolonged contractions and does not fatigue easily.

The Three Classes of Muscles in Humans (Figure 13.1b) ¹



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Types of Muscle 4

Cardiac muscle.

Forms the heart wall.

Fibers are:

- Uninucleated, striated, and tubular.
- Branched; interlock at **intercalated disks**.
 - Contain gap junctions that permit contractions to spread through the heart wall.

Types of Muscle ⁵

Cardiac muscle, continued.

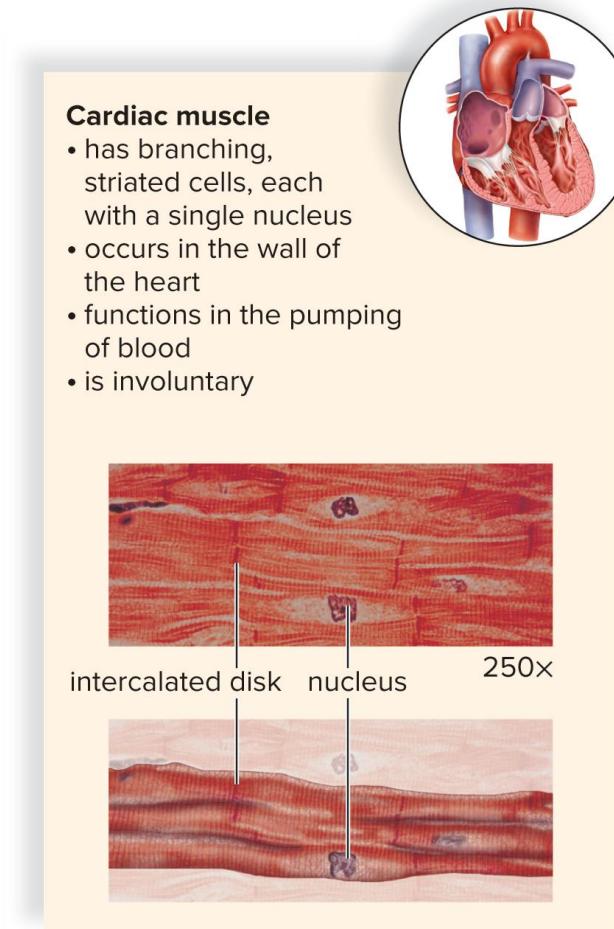
Relaxes completely between contractions, which prevents fatigue.

Contraction:

- Is rhythmic.
- Occurs without nervous stimulation.
- Is involuntary.

The Three Classes of Muscles in Humans

(Figure 13.1c) 2



C.

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Types of Muscle ₆

Skeletal muscle.

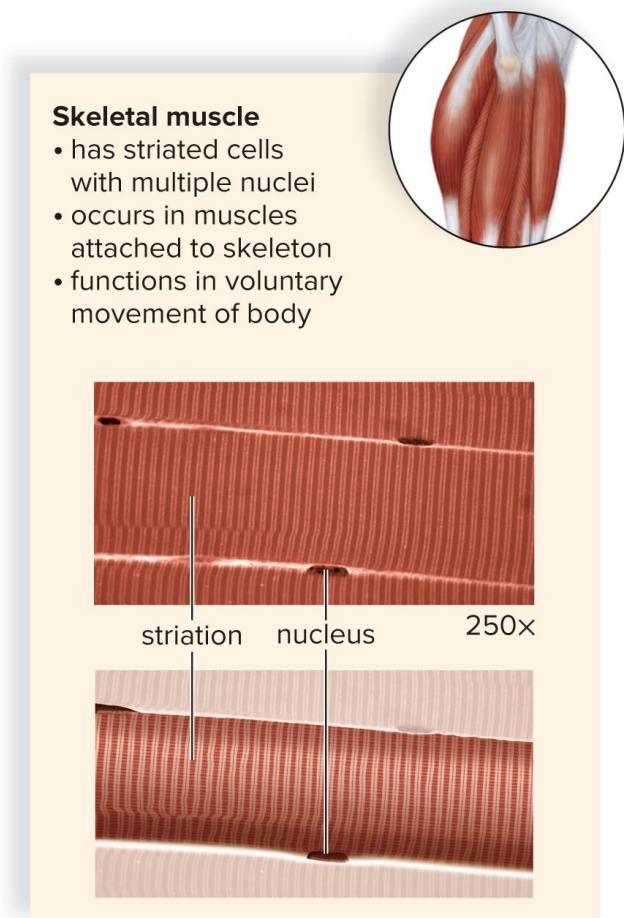
Fibers are:

- Tubular, multinucleated, and striated.
- Make up skeletal muscles, which are attached to the skeleton.
- Very long; run the length of the muscle.

Is voluntarily controlled.

The Three Classes of Muscles in Humans

(Figure 13.1a) 3



Skeletal Muscles of the Body ¹

Humans belong to a class of animals called the **vertebrates**.

- Possess an internal vertebral column, a skeleton, and jointed appendages.

Skeletal muscles are attached to the skeleton, and their contraction causes the movement of bones at joints.

Skeletal Muscles of the Body ²

Functions of skeletal muscles:

Support—muscle contraction opposes gravity and allows us to remain upright.

Movements of bones and other body structures.

- Arms, legs, eyes, facial expressions, and breathing.

Maintenance of a constant body temperature.

- Contraction causes ATP to break down, releasing heat, which helps maintain temperature homeostasis in the body.

Skeletal Muscles of the Body ³

Functions of skeletal muscles, continued:

Movement of fluids in the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems.

- Keeps blood moving in cardiovascular veins and lymph moving in lymphatic vessels.

Protection of the internal organs and the stabilization of joints.

- Muscles pad the bones, and the muscular wall of the abdomen protects internal organs.
- Muscle tendons hold bones together at joints.

Skeletal Muscles of the Body ⁴

Basic Structure of Skeletal Muscles.

Fascicle—bundle of skeletal muscle fibers.

- Within a fascicle, each fiber is surrounded by connective tissue; the fascicle is also surrounded by connective tissue.
- **Fascia**—connective tissue that covers muscles and extends to become its **tendon**.
- Small, fluid-filled sacs called **bursae** (*sing.*, bursa) can often be found between tendons and bones.
 - The bursae act as cushions, lubrication.

Skeletal Muscles of the Body ⁵

Skeletal muscles work in pairs.

For a given movement, the **origin** of a muscle is the attachment site to the stationary bone, and the **insertion** is the attachment on the bone that moves.

- When a muscle contracts, it pulls on the tendons at its insertion and the bone moves.
 - That is, when the biceps brachii contracts, it raises the forearm.

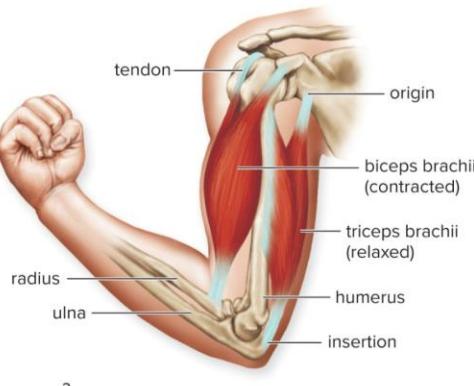
Skeletal Muscles of the Body 6

Skeletal muscles work in pairs, continued.

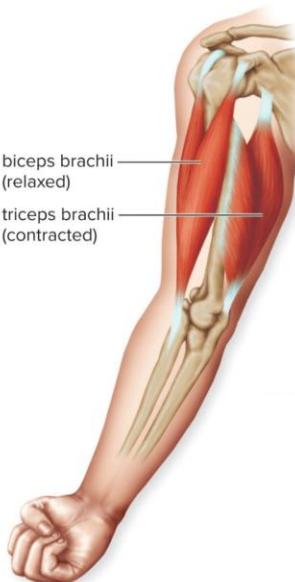
Skeletal muscles usually function in groups.

- **Agonist (prime mover)**—the muscle that does most of the work.
- **Synergist**—assists the agonist.
- **Antagonist**—the muscle that acts opposite to a prime mover.
 - That is, the biceps brachii and the triceps brachii are antagonists; biceps flexes the forearm, and the triceps extends the forearm.
 - If both contract at once, there would be no movement.

Skeletal Muscles Often Work in Pairs (Figure 13.3)



a.



b.

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Skeletal Muscles of the Body ⁷

Names and actions of skeletal muscles.

The names of skeletal muscles often use the following terms to characterize them:

- **Size:** **gluteus maximus**, **gluteus minimus**.
 - Other terms used to indicate size: **vastus** (huge), **longus** (long), and **brevis** (short).
- **Shape:** **deltoid** (shaped like the Greek letter delta).
 - **Trapezius** is shaped like a trapezoid.
 - Other terms used to indicate shape are **latissimus** (wide) and **teres** (round).

Skeletal Muscles of the Body ⁸

**Names and actions of skeletal muscles,
continued.**

Location: external obliques, internal obliques.

- **Frontalis** muscle overlies the frontal bone.
- Other terms used to indicate location are **pectoralis** (chest), **gluteus** (buttock), **brachii** (arm), and **sub** (beneath).

Skeletal Muscles of the Body ,

**Names and actions of skeletal muscles,
continued.**

Direction of muscle fibers: **rectus abdominis** (**rectus** = “straight”).

- **Orbicularis oculi**—circular muscle around the eye.
- Other terms used to indicate direction are **transverse** (across) and **oblique** (diagonal).

Skeletal Muscles of the Body 10

**Names and actions of skeletal muscles,
continued.**

Attachment: **sternocleidomastoid** is attached to the sternum, clavicle, and mastoid process.

- **Brachioradialis**—attached to the brachium (arm) and the radius (forearm).

Number of attachments: **biceps brachii** has two attachments.

- **Quadriceps femoris** has four origins.

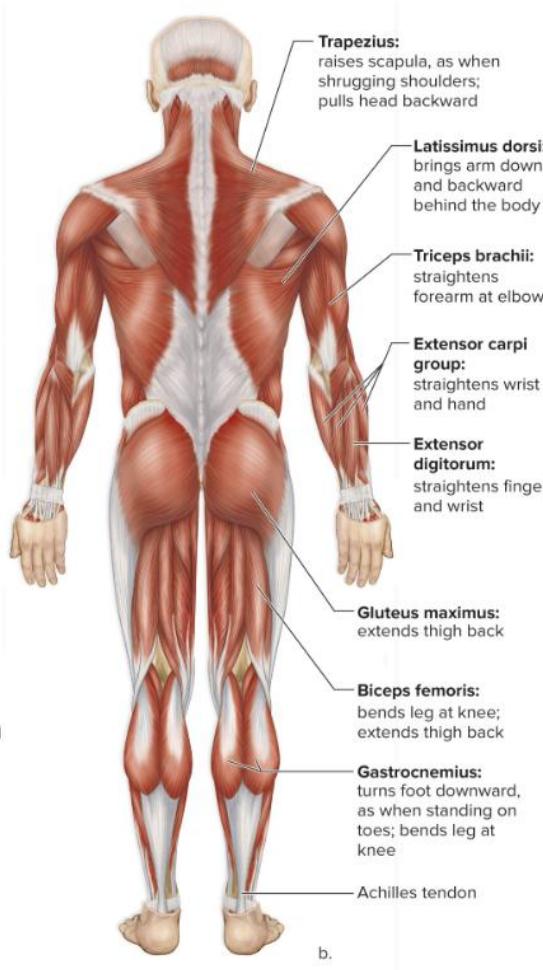
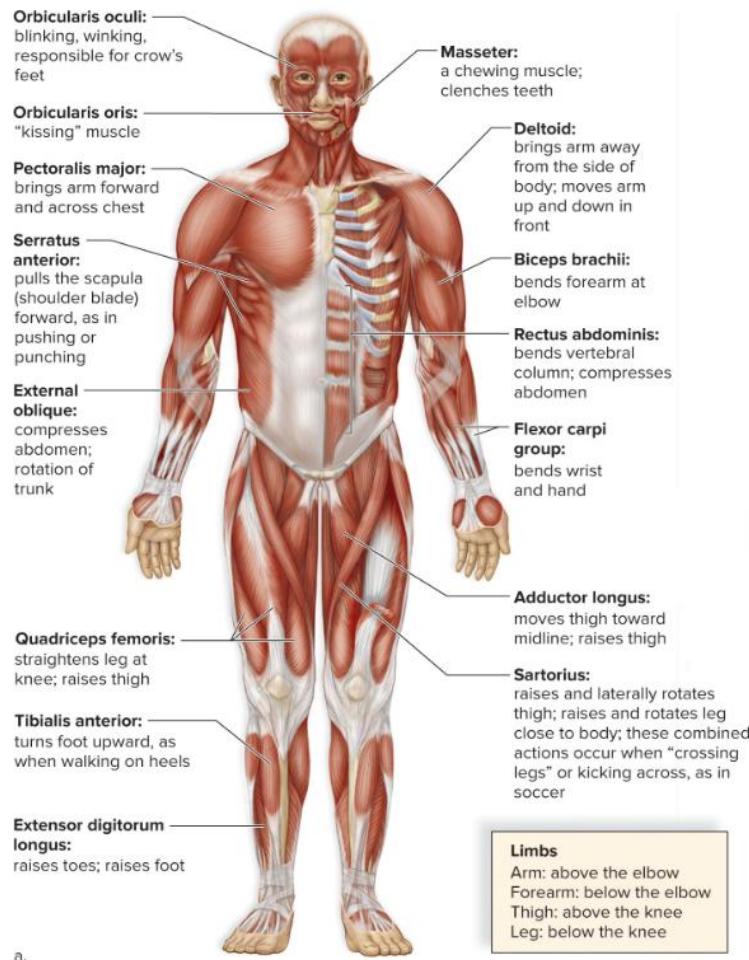
Skeletal Muscles of the Body ₁₁

**Names and actions of skeletal muscles,
concluded.**

Action: **extensor** digitorum extends the fingers (digits).

- **Adductor** longus adducts the thigh.
- Other terms used to indicate action are **flexor** (to bend), **masseter** (to chew), and **levator** (to lift).

The Major Skeletal Muscles of the Human Body (Figure 13.5)



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Check Your Progress 13.1

- State the three types of muscles in the human body and explain where each is found in the body.
- Summarize the functions of skeletal muscles.
- Explain how skeletal muscles work together to cause bones to move.

13.2 Skeletal Muscle Fiber Contraction

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify the structures of a muscle fiber.
- Explain how the sliding filament model is responsible for muscle contraction.
- Summarize how activities within the neuromuscular junction control muscle fiber contraction.

Muscle Fibers and How They Move ¹

Cellular components of a muscle fiber:

Sarcolemma—plasma membrane.

Sarcoplasm—cytoplasm.

Sarcoplasmic reticulum—endoplasmic reticulum.

- Calcium storage site.

T (transverse) tubules—penetrate the cells; come close to portions of the sarcoplasmic reticulum.

Anatomy of a Muscle Fiber (Table 13.1)

Table 13.1 Anatomy of a Muscle Fiber

Name	Function
Sarcolemma	The plasma membrane of a muscle fiber that forms T tubules
Sarcoplasm	The cytoplasm of a muscle fiber that contains the organelles, including myofibrils
Myoglobin	A red pigment that stores oxygen for muscle contraction
T tubule	An extension of the sarcolemma that extends into the muscle fiber and conveys impulses that cause Ca^{2+} to be released from the sarcoplasmic reticulum
Sarcoplasmic reticulum	The smooth endoplasmic reticulum (ER) of a muscle fiber that stores Ca^{2+}
Myofibril	A bundle of myofilaments that contracts
Myofilament	Actin filaments and myosin filaments whose structure accounts for the muscle striations and functions in muscle contraction.

Muscle Fibers and How They Move ²

Cellular components of a muscle fiber,
continued:

- The sarcolemma contains many **myofibrils**, the contractile parts of muscle fibers.
- The sarcoplasm also contains glycogen, which provides energy for muscle contraction.
- The sarcoplasm includes the red pigment **myoglobin**, which binds oxygen.

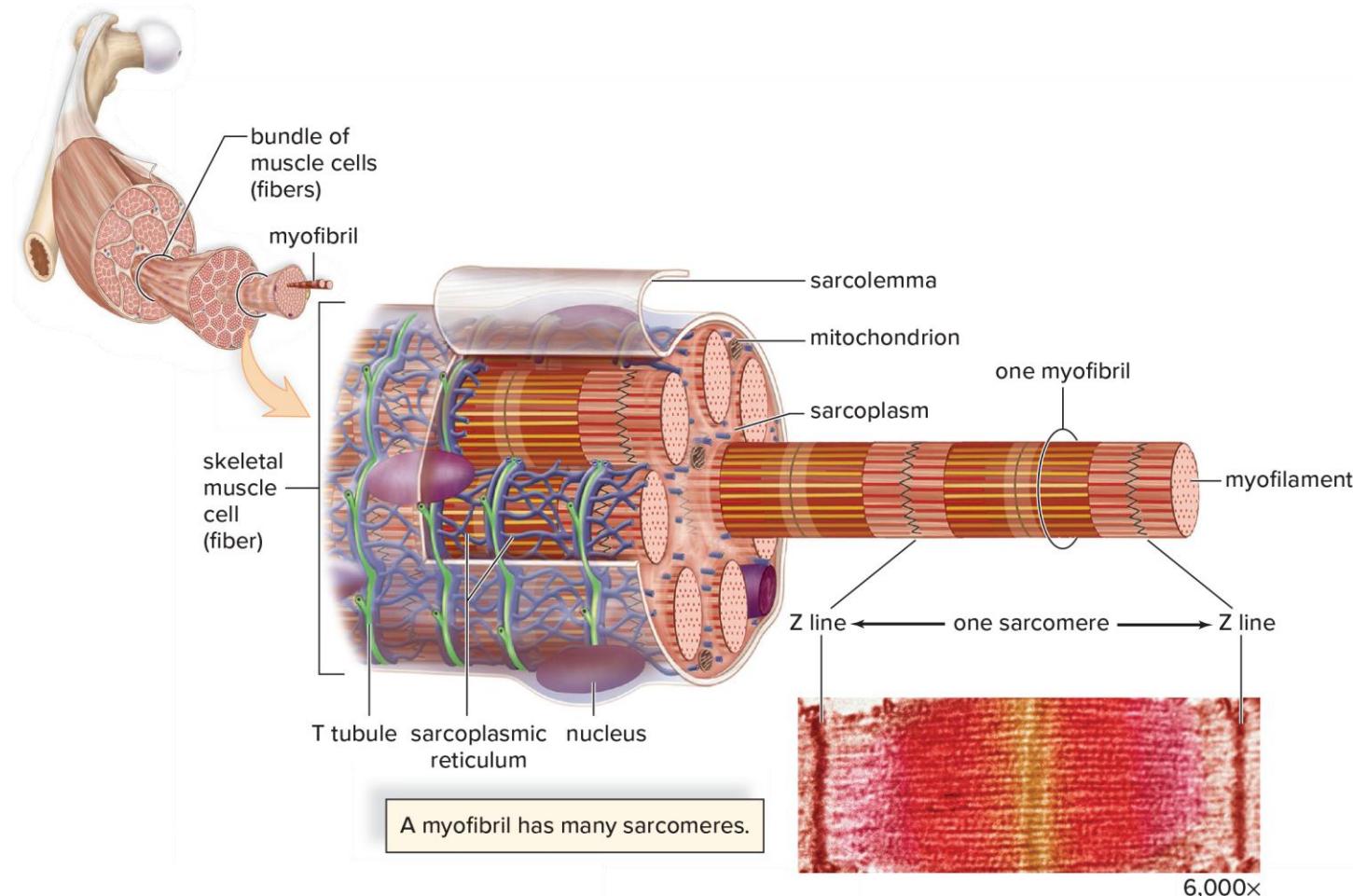
Muscle Fibers and How They Move ³

Myofibrils and sarcomeres.

Muscle fiber.

- Cylindrical in shape.
- Grouped inside this larger cylinder are smaller cylinders called **myofibrils**.
 - Myofibrils run the entire length of the muscle fiber.
 - Made of smaller cylinders called **myofilaments**.
 - Thus, the muscle cell is a set of small cylinders (myofilaments) assembled into larger cylinders (myofibrils) clustered within the largest cylinder (the muscle fiber).

The Structure of a Skeletal Muscle Fiber (Figure 13.6 top) ¹



[Access the text alternative for slide images.](#)

Muscle Fibers and How They Move ⁴

Myofibrils and sarcomeres, continued.

Muscle fiber, continued.

- **Striations**—stripes formed by the placement of myofilaments within myofibrils.
- Two types of myofilaments:
 - Thick myofilaments are made up of **myosin**.
 - Thin myofilaments are composed of **actin**.

Muscle Fibers and How They Move ⁵

Myofibrils and sarcomeres, continued.

Muscle fiber, concluded.

- Myofibrils are further divided into **sarcomeres**.
 - Sarcomeres extend between two dark vertical lines called **Z lines**.
 - **I band**—light colored; made of only thin myofilaments.
 - **A band**—made of overlapping thin and thick myofilaments.
 - Centered within the A band is a vertical **H band**, which contains only thick myofilaments.

Muscle Fibers and How They Move ⁶

Myofibrils and sarcomeres, concluded.

Thick filaments.

- Composed of the protein **myosin**.
 - Each myosin molecule is shaped like a golf club, with the straight portion of the molecule ending in a globular head, or **cross-bridge**.

Thin filaments.

- Made of two intertwining strands of the protein **actin**, with **tropomyosin**, and **troponin**.

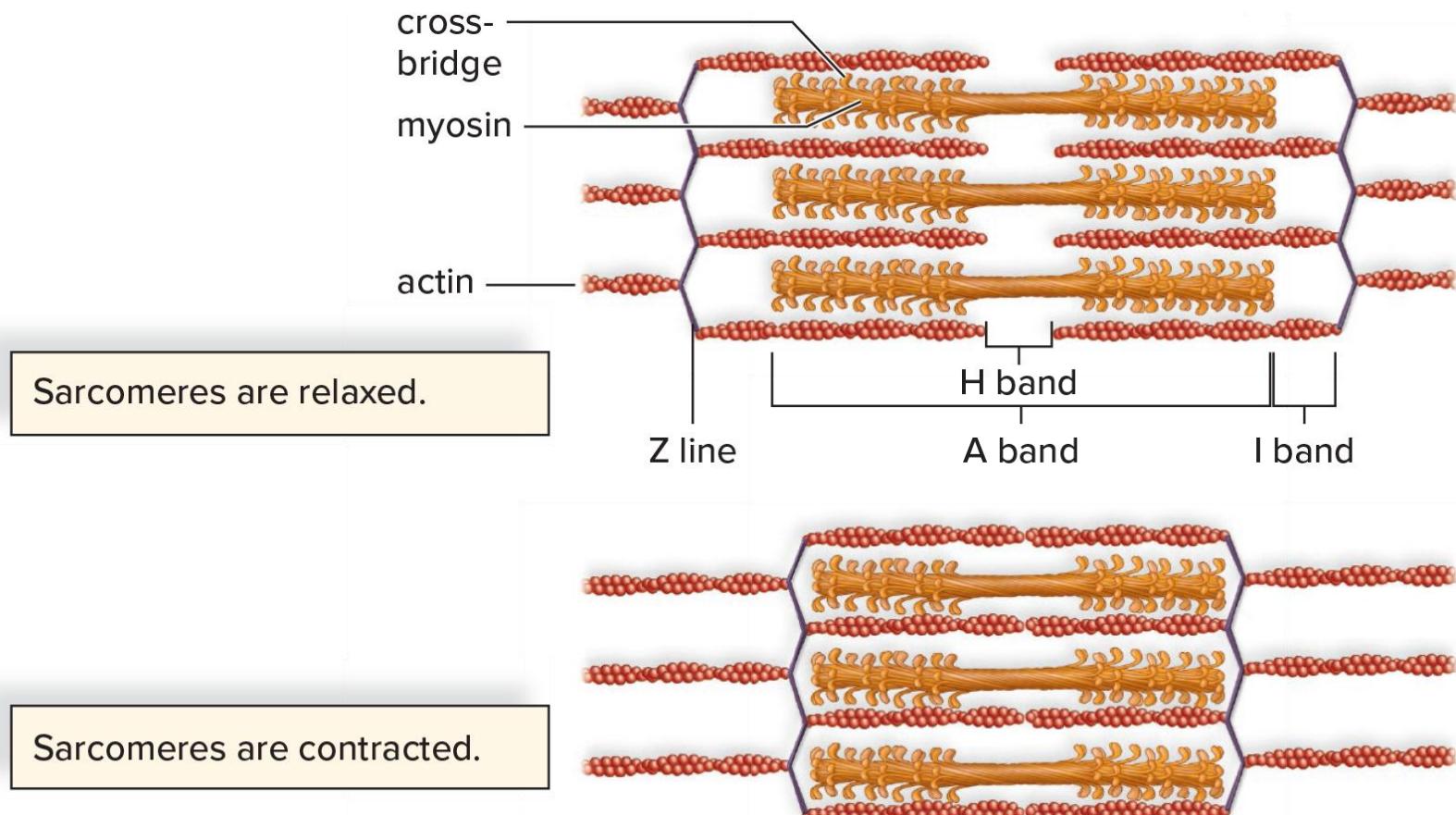
Muscle Fibers and How They Move ⁷

The sliding filament model.

The muscle fiber contracts as the sarcomeres shorten.

- Note that when the sarcomere contracts, the filaments themselves remain the same length.
 - The thin filaments slide past the thick filaments.
 - The I band shortens, the Z lines move inward, and the H band almost disappears.

The Structure of a Skeletal Muscle Fiber (Figure 13.6 bottom) ²



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Muscle Fibers and How They Move ⁸

The sliding filament model, continued.

ATP supplies the energy for muscle contraction.

- Myosin filaments break down ATP, and their cross-bridges pull the actin filament toward the center of the sarcomere.

Muscle Fiber Contraction ₁

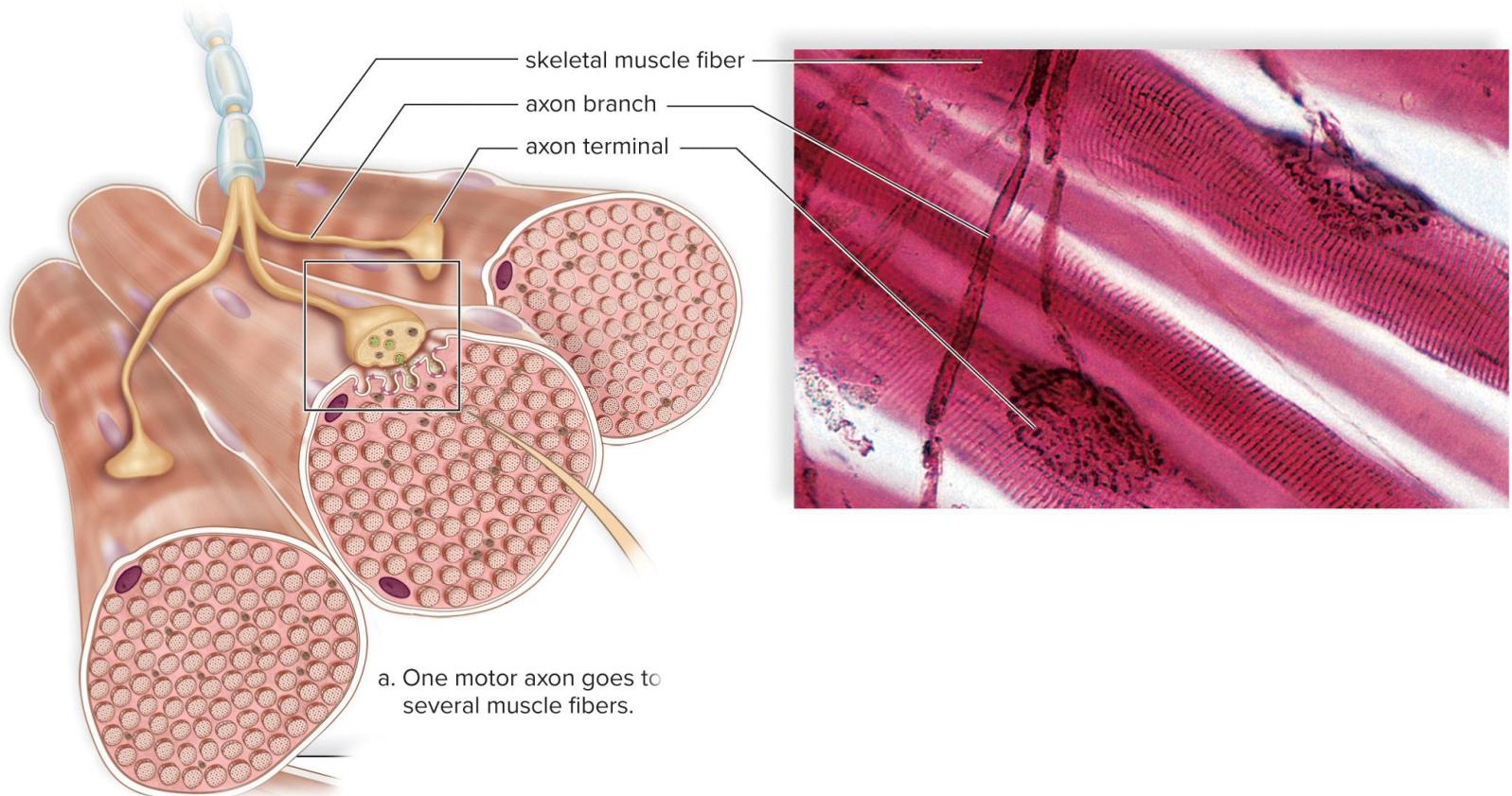
Motor neuron—a type of nervous system cell that stimulates muscle fibers to contract.

Nerve—group of neurons.

Axon—the part of a neuron that stimulates a muscle fiber.

- Branches, so can stimulate several muscle fibers.

Neuromuscular Junctions (Figure 13.7a) ₁



Muscle Fiber Contraction 2

Neuromuscular junction.

Where an **axon terminal** (end of an axon) comes near the sarcolemma.

- **Synaptic cleft**—the space that separates the two.

Axon terminals contain **synaptic vesicles** filled with the neurotransmitter **acetylcholine (ACh)**.

- When nerve signals traveling down the axon arrive at an axon terminal, synaptic vesicles release ACh into the synaptic cleft.

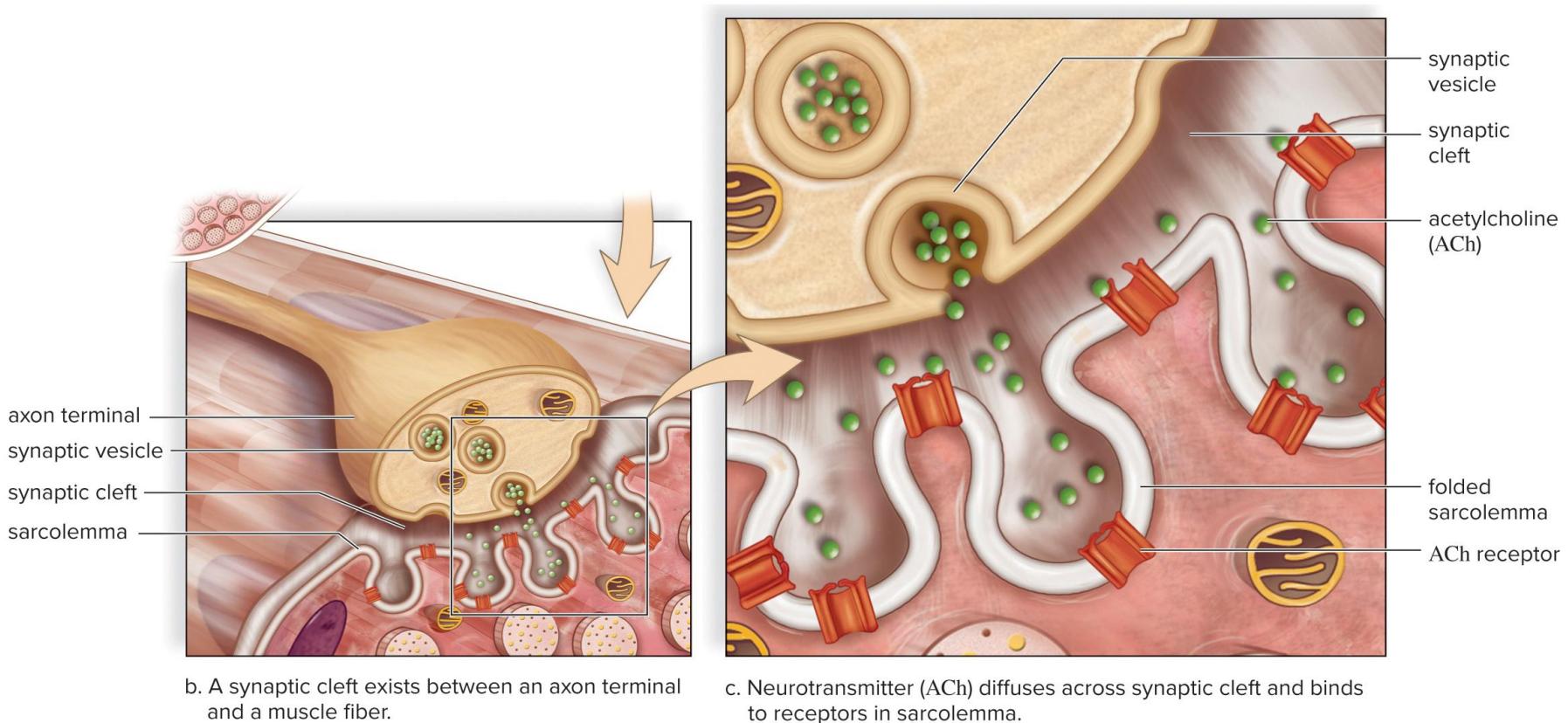
Muscle Fiber Contraction ³

Neuromuscular junction, concluded.

ACh diffuses across the cleft and binds to receptors in the sarcolemma.

- This generates electrical signals that spread across the sarcolemma and down the T tubules.
- This causes calcium to be released from the sarcoplasmic reticulum.

Neuromuscular Junctions (Figure 13.7b,c) ₂



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Muscle Fiber Contraction 4

Two other proteins are in thin filaments:

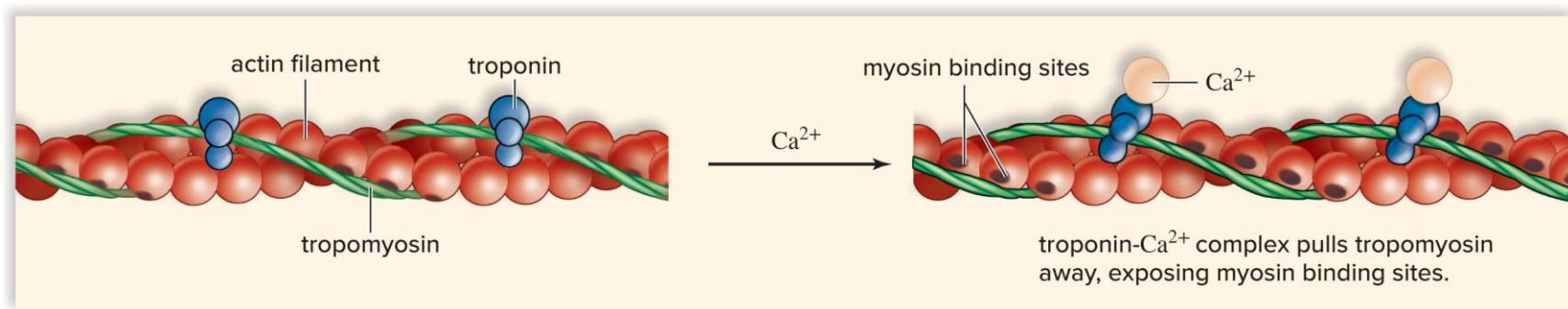
Threads of **tropomyosin** wind around the strands of actin, covering binding sites for myosin.

Troponin occurs at intervals along the threads.

When Ca^{2+} is released from the sarcoplasmic reticulum, it binds to troponin.

- The tropomyosin threads move, exposing myosin-binding sites.

The Role of Calcium Ions and ATP During Muscular Contraction (Figure 13.8a)



a. Function of Ca^{2+} ions in muscle contraction

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Muscle Fiber Contraction ⁵

Steps of a muscle contraction.

The myosin heads have ATP-binding sites.

- At this site, ATP is split to form ADP and P.

Myosin heads attach to actin.

- Form temporary bonds called **cross-bridges**.

ADP and P are then released and the myosin heads bend.

- This is the power stroke that pulls the actin filament toward the center of the sarcomere.

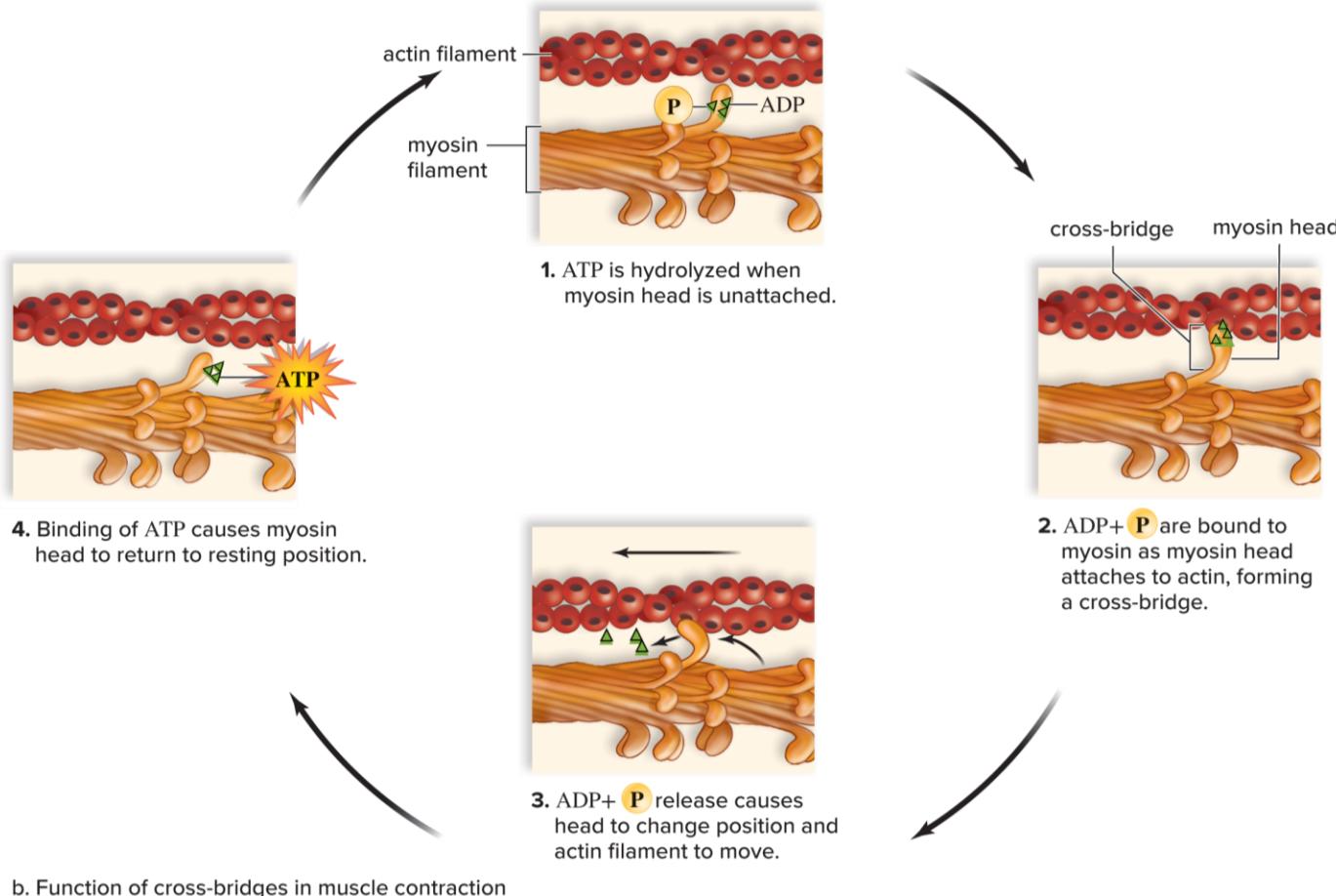
Muscle Fiber Contraction ₆

Steps of a muscle contraction, continued.

The binding of ATP to myosin heads breaks the cross-bridges.

- Myosin detaches from actin.
- The cycle begins again and myosin reattaches farther along the actin filament.
- The cycle recurs over and over, shortening the sarcomere (and therefore the muscle).
- **Rigor mortis**—relaxing the muscle is impossible, because ATP is needed to break the cross-bridges.

The Role of Calcium Ions and ATP During Muscular Contraction (Figure 13.8b) ₂



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Check Your Progress 13.2

- Explain the role of the myofibril, myofilament, and sarcomere in a muscle fiber.
- Explain how the thin and thick filaments interact in the sliding filament model.
- Describe the role of both ATP and calcium ions in muscle contraction.

13.3 Whole Muscle Contraction

Learning Outcomes:

- List the stages of a muscle twitch and explain what is occurring in each stage.
- Explain how summation and tetanus increase the strength of whole muscle contraction.
- Summarize how muscle cells produce ATP for muscle contraction.
- Distinguish between fast-twitch and slow-twitch muscle fibers.

Muscles Have Motor Units ₁

Motor unit—a nerve fiber and all the muscle fibers it innervates.

All muscle fibers in a motor unit are stimulated at once; they all either contract or don't.

The number of muscle fibers within a motor unit varies.

- Some motor units, like the ones that require fine control, contain only a few fibers.
- Motor units responsible for strength contain many fibers.

Muscles Have Motor Units ²

Muscle twitch—a single contraction of a muscle fiber; lasts only a fraction of a second.

Divided into three stages:

- **Latent period**—the time between stimulation and initiation of contraction.
 - The events that begin muscle contraction are occurring: ACh diffuses across the synaptic cleft, causing an electrical signal to spread across the sarcolemma and down the T tubules.

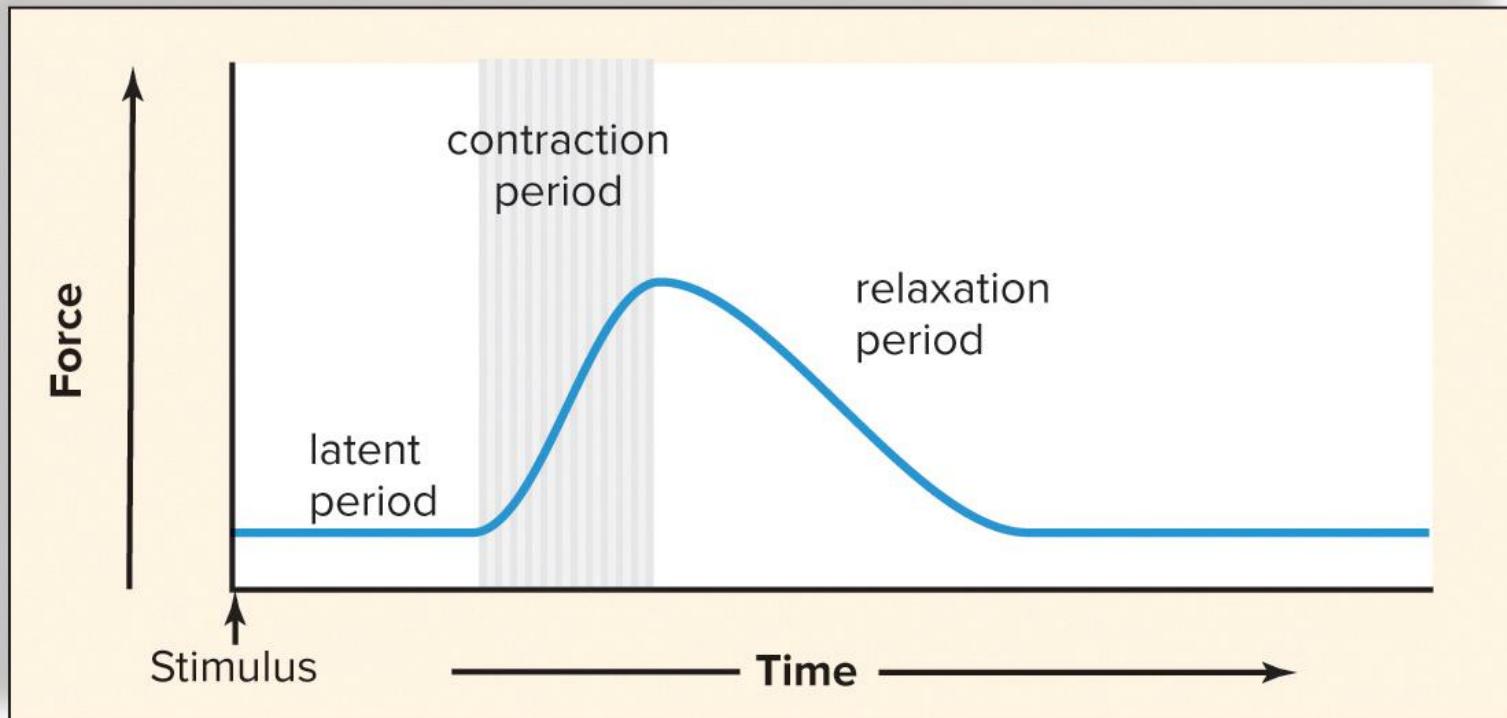
Muscles Have Motor Units ³

Muscle twitch, continued.

Three stages of a muscle twitch, continued.

- **Contraction period**—calcium leaves the sarcoplasmic reticulum; cross-bridges form.
- **Relaxation period**—cross-bridges are broken; calcium returns to the sarcoplasmic reticulum.
 - Force diminishes as the muscle returns to its former length.

The Three Phases of a Single Muscle Twitch (Figure 13.9a) ¹



a.

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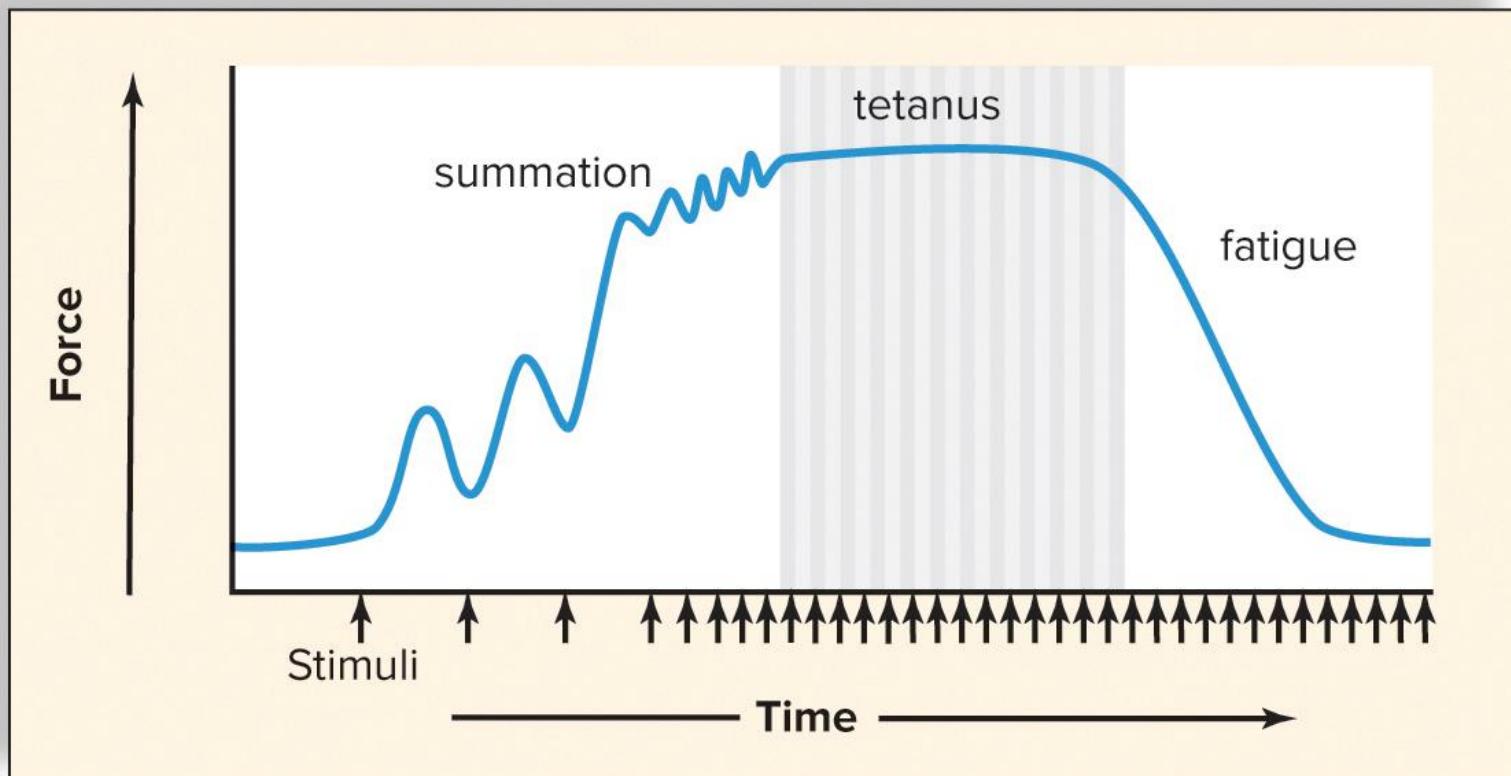
Muscles Have Motor Units ⁴

Summation—increased muscle contraction.

Can occur until maximal sustained contraction, called **tetanus**, is achieved.

- Tetanus continues until the muscle fatigues due to depletion of energy reserves.
 - Fatigue—when a muscle relaxes, even though stimulation continues.
- Not the same as the infection called tetanus.

The Three Phases of a Single Muscle Twitch (Figure 13.9b) ²



b.

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Muscles Have Motor Units ⁵

Recruitment—as the intensity of nervous stimulation increases, more motor units in a muscle are activated.

Maximum contraction of a muscle requires that all motor units be in tetanus.

- This rarely happens, because they would all fatigue at the same time.
- Instead, some motor units contract maximally while others rest.

Muscles Have Motor Units ₆

Muscle tone.

Muscle tone = muscle firmness.

- The amount is dependent on muscle contraction.
- Some motor units are always contracted, but not enough to cause movement.

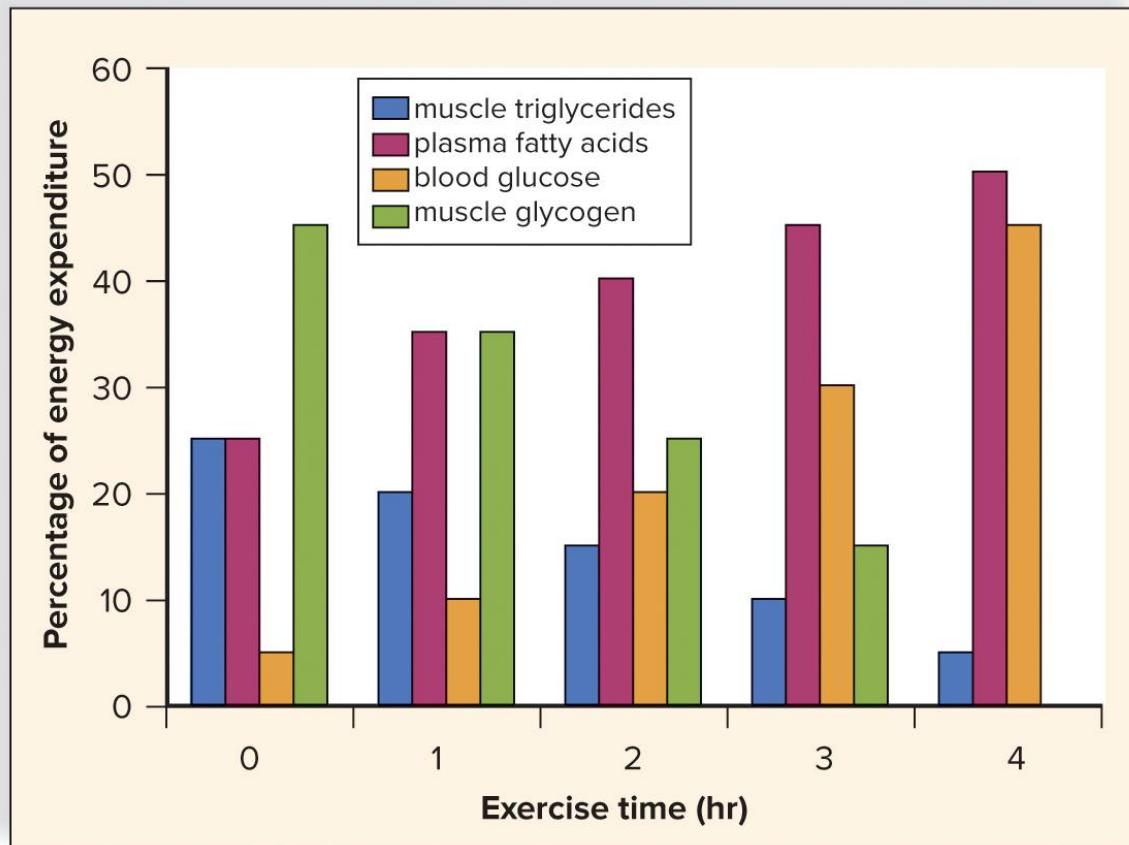
Energy for Muscle Contraction 1

Fuel sources for exercise.

Muscles have four different sources of energy:

- Two are stored in muscle (glycogen, triglycerides) and two are acquired from blood (glucose, fatty acids).
 - Which of these are used depends on exercise intensity and duration.
- As time of exercise increases, use of muscle energy stores decreases and use of energy sources from the blood increases.

The Sources of Energy for Muscle Contraction (Figure 13.10)



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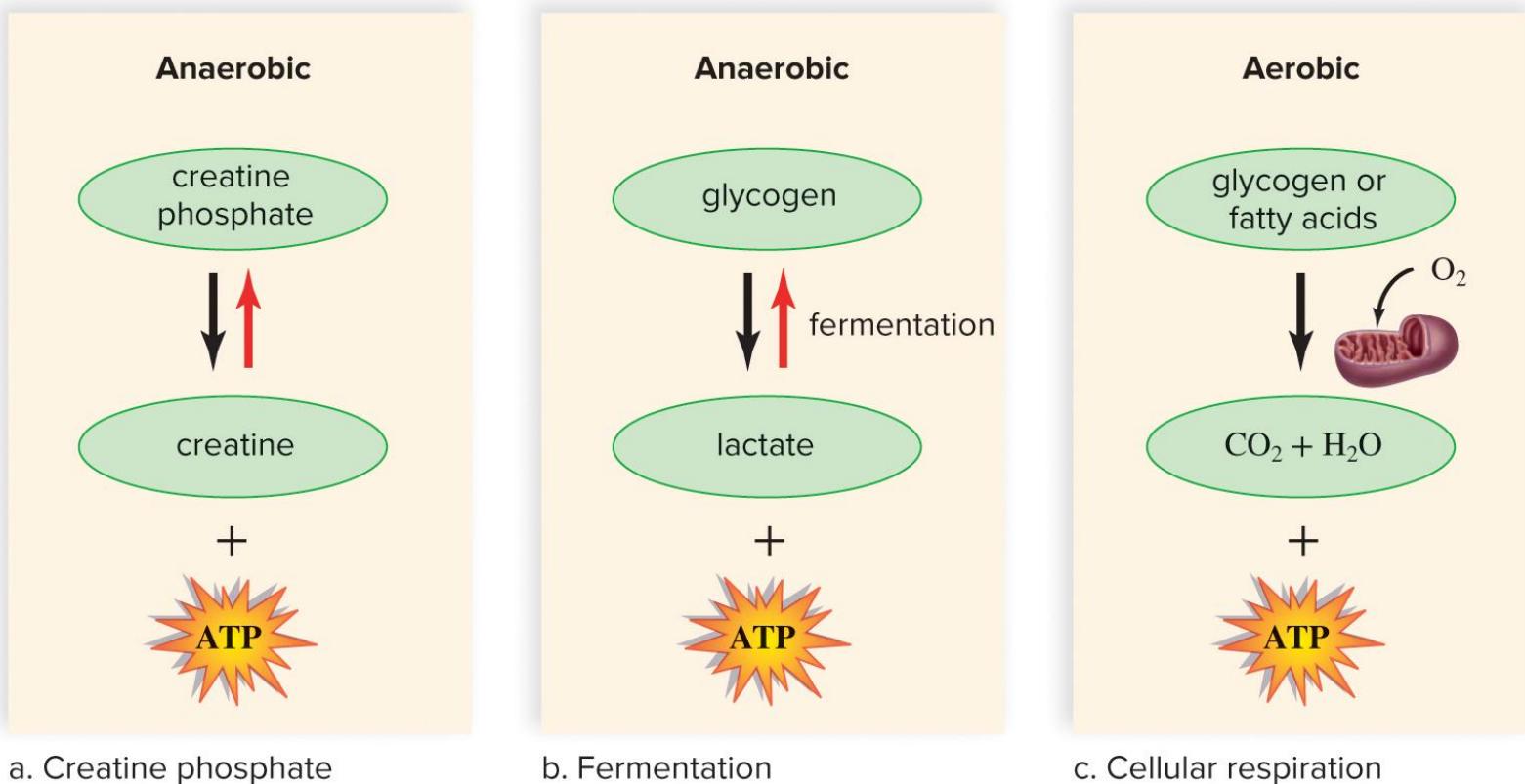
Energy for Muscle Contraction 2

Sources of ATP for muscle contraction.

Muscle cells store limited amounts of ATP.

- Once it is used up, they have three ways to produce more ATP:
 - The creatine phosphate (CP) pathway.
 - Fermentation.
 - Cellular respiration.
 - Mitochondria uses oxygen, so is **aerobic**; neither the CP pathway nor fermentation requires oxygen (are **anaerobic**).

The Three Pathways by Which Muscle Cells Produce the ATP Energy Needed for Contraction (Figure 13.11)

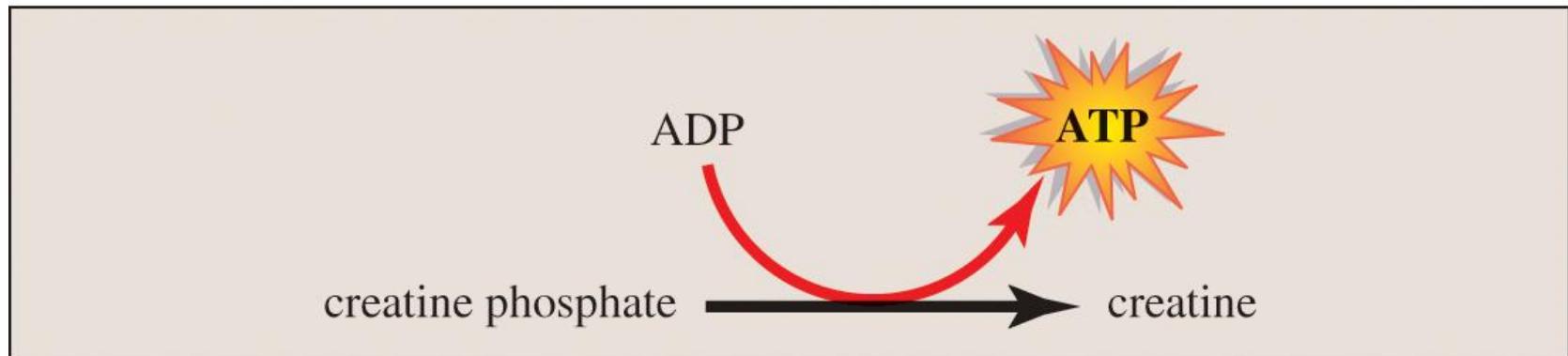


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Energy for Muscle Contraction 3

The creatine phosphate pathway.

- The simplest and fastest way for muscle to make ATP; it consists of only one reaction:



Energy for Muscle Contraction ⁴

The creatine phosphate pathway, continued:

Creatine phosphate is formed only when a muscle cell is resting, and only a limited amount is stored.

The CP pathway is used at the beginning of exercise.

- That is, the energy to complete a play in a football game comes principally from the CP system.

Intense activities lasting longer than 5 seconds also make use of fermentation.

Energy for Muscle Contraction 5

Fermentation.

The anaerobic processes of glycolysis and **fermentation** produce two ATPs from the breakdown of glucose to lactate.

- Hormones signal cells to break down glycogen, making glucose available as an energy source.
- Fermentation, like the CP pathway, is fast-acting, but results in the buildup of lactate.
 - Lactate produces short-term muscle aches and fatigue.

Energy for Muscle Contraction ₆

Fermentation, continued.

Oxygen debt—heavy breathing following strenuous exercise is required to complete the metabolism of lactate and restore cells to their original energy state.

- People who train have more mitochondria in their muscles.

Energy for Muscle Contraction 7

Cellular respiration.

The slowest of all three mechanisms used to produce ATP, but the most efficient.

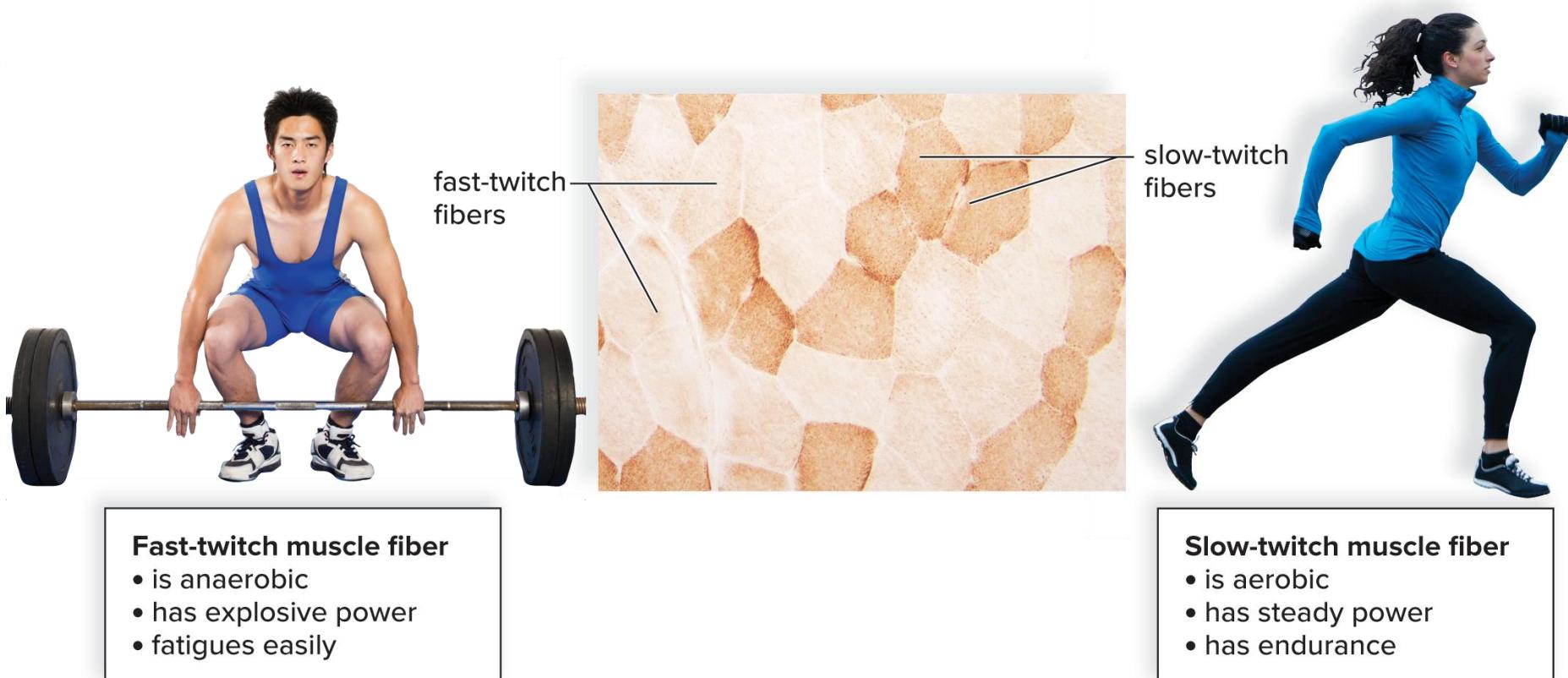
- Occurs in the mitochondria.
- **Myoglobin**—a protein in muscle cells that delivers oxygen directly to the mitochondria.
- Can use glucose from stored glycogen, glucose in the blood, and fatty acids.

Fast-Twitch and Slow-Twitch Muscle Fibers ₁

Fast-twitch fibers rely on the creatine phosphate pathway and fermentation (are anaerobic).

Slow-twitch fibers tend to prefer cellular respiration, which is aerobic.

Fast-Twitch and Slow-Twitch Muscle Fibers Differ in Structure (Figure 13.12)



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Fast-Twitch and Slow-Twitch Muscle Fibers ²

Fast-twitch fibers.

- Designed for strength; their motor units contain many fibers.
- Provide explosions of energy.
- Are most helpful in sports such as sprinting and weightlifting.

Fast-Twitch and Slow-Twitch Muscle Fibers 3

Fast-twitch fibers, continued.

- Are light in color because they have fewer mitochondria, little myoglobin, and fewer blood vessels than slow-twitch fibers.
- Develop maximum tension faster than slow-twitch fibers.
- Maximum tension is greater.
- Their dependence on anaerobic energy leaves them vulnerable to an accumulation of lactate, which causes them to fatigue quickly.

Fast-Twitch and Slow-Twitch Muscle Fibers ⁴

Slow-twitch fibers.

Motor units have fewer muscle fibers.

Have more stamina.

- Most helpful in endurance sports: long-distance running, biking, jogging, and swimming.

Produce most of their energy aerobically; they tire only when their fuel supply is gone.

Have many mitochondria and are dark in color because they contain myoglobin.

Fast-Twitch and Slow-Twitch Muscle Fibers ⁵

Slow-twitch fibers, continued.

- Surrounded by dense capillary beds; draw more blood and oxygen than fast-twitch fibers.
- Tension develops slowly.
- Highly resistant to fatigue.
- Have a reserve of glycogen and fat so their mitochondria can maintain a steady, prolonged production of ATP when oxygen is available.

Check Your Progress 13.3

- List the stages of a muscle twitch.
- Contrast the activities of a single muscle twitch with the action of summation and tetanus.
- Summarize how the CP pathway, fermentation, and cellular respiration produce ATP for muscle contraction.
- Explain why weightlifters are not well adapted for distance running.

13.4 Muscular Disorders

Learning Outcomes:

- Distinguish between common muscle conditions, such as strains and sprains.
- Summarize the causes of fibromyalgia, muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis, and muscle cancer.

Common Muscular Conditions ¹

Common muscular conditions.

Spasms—sudden, involuntary muscle contractions, accompanied by pain.

- Can occur in smooth and skeletal muscles.
- **Convulsion**—multiple spasms of skeletal muscles.

Cramps—strong, painful spasms due to strenuous activity.

Facial tics—spasms in the face that can be controlled voluntarily, but only with great effort.

Common Muscular Conditions ²

Common muscular conditions, continued.

Strain—stretching or tearing of a muscle.

Sprain—twisting of a joint, leading to swelling and injury of muscles, ligaments, tendons, blood vessels, and nerves.

Tendinitis—inflammation of a tendon.

- May irritate the bursae underlying the tendon, causing **bursitis**.