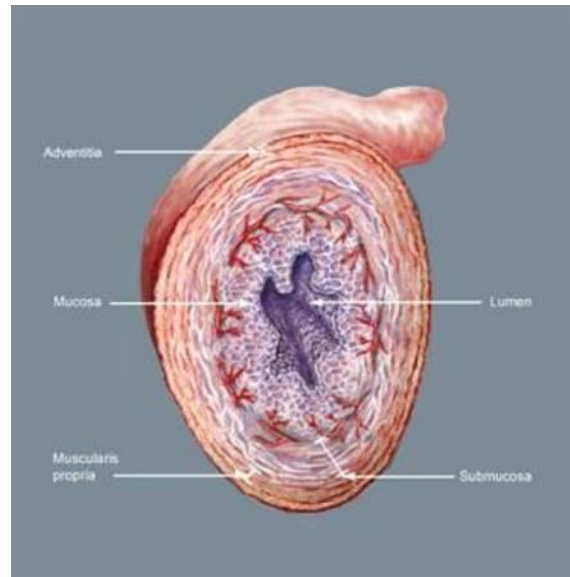


# HISTOLOGY OF OESOPHAGUS



# Objectives

- State the basic differences in the structure of various regions of the oesophagus.
- State how the structure is adapted to function.



# Digestive tract

Mouth and Pharynx

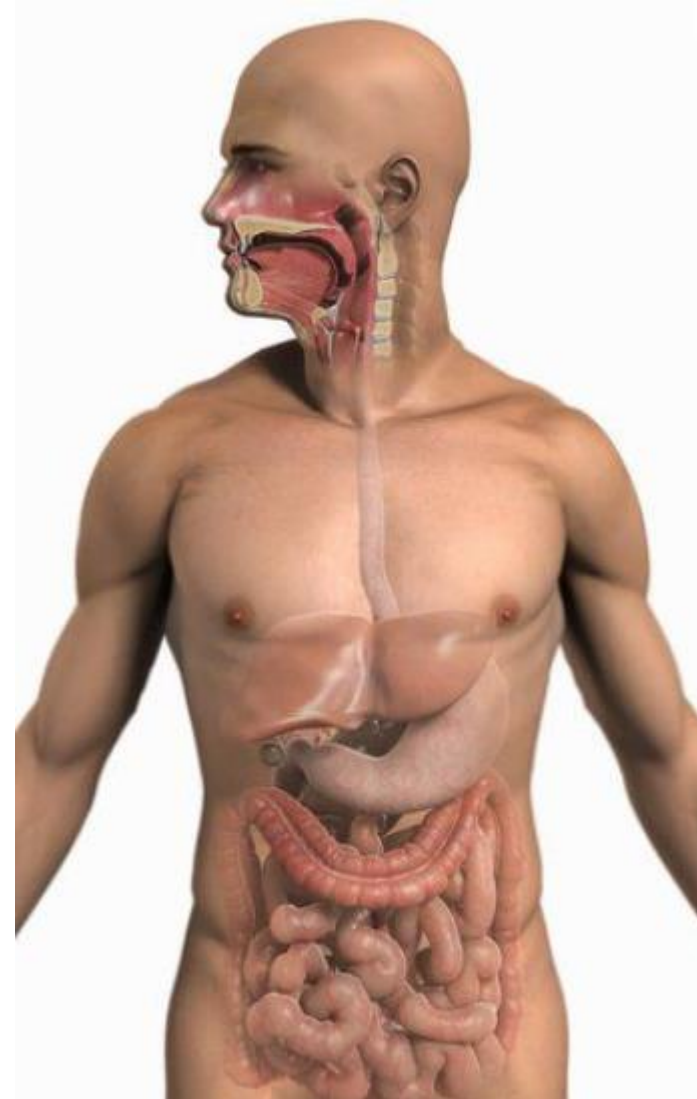
Oesophagus

Stomach

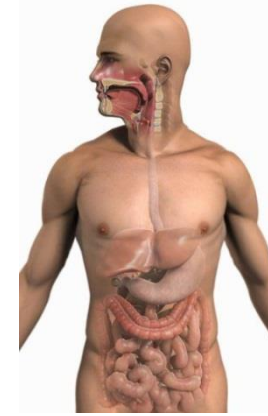
Small intestine

Large intestine

Associated glands



# Oesophagus



- Muscular tube 10 inches / 25 cms long
- Pharynx in the neck → stomach of abdomen
- Lower border of the cricoid cartilage (C6) → cardiac orifice of the stomach(T11)
- **Function: *conveys food from oropharynx to stomach***



# Basic types of mucosa in GIT

- **Protective** ← **Oesophagus**
- Secretory
- Absorptive
- Absorptive/Protective



# Typical layers - GIT

- **Mucosa**

*Epithelium*

*Lamina propria*

*Muscularis mucosae*

- **Submucosa**

- **Muscularis externa**

- **Adventitia / Serosa**



# Oesophagus

- **Mucosa**

  - Epithelium (E)

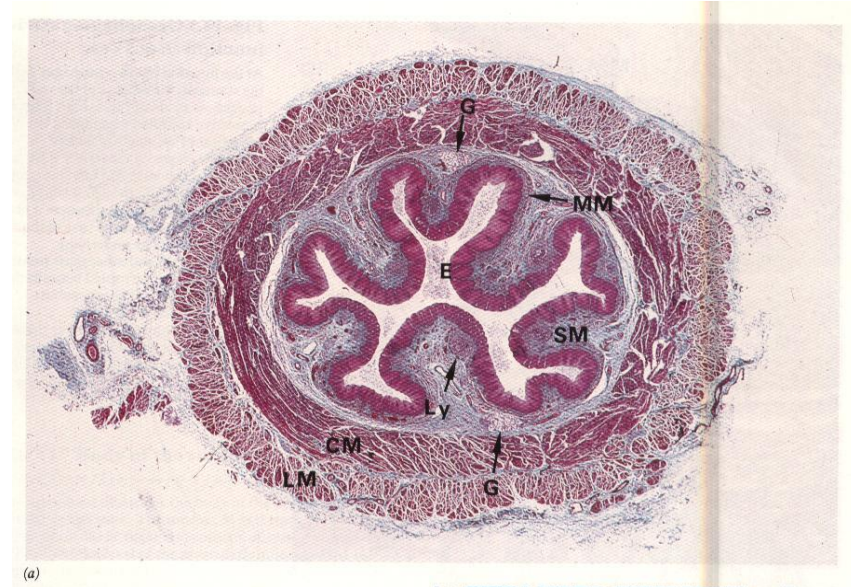
  - Lamina propria

  - Muscularis mucosae (MM)

- Submucosa

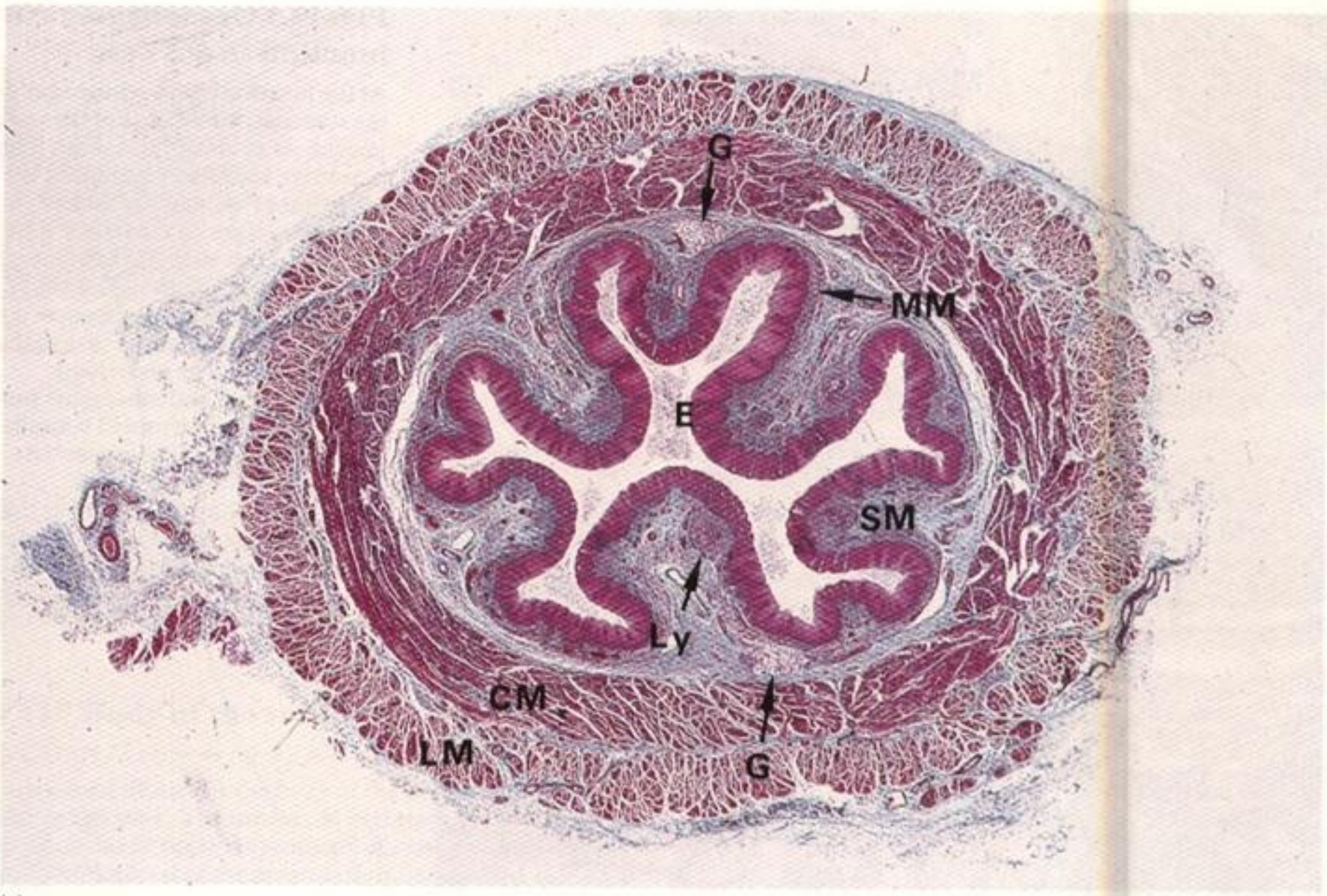
- Muscularis externa (CM & LM)

- Adventitia / Serosa



*Parts of oesophagus : upper , middle & lower*





(a)





# Oesophagus - Mucosa

- Epithelium
- Lamina propria
- Muscularis mucosae



# Epithelium

- Stratified squamous non keratinized
- Wet epithelium
- Lubricated by mucus



mucus glands



*Submucosa*

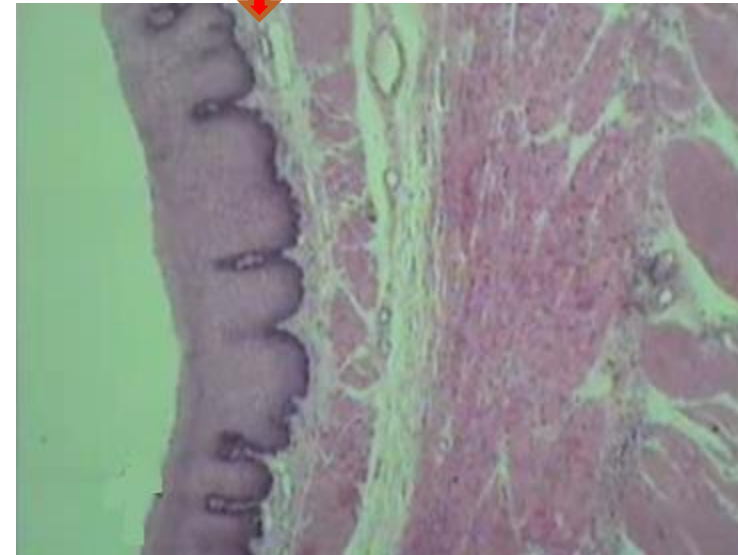


*Lamina propria*



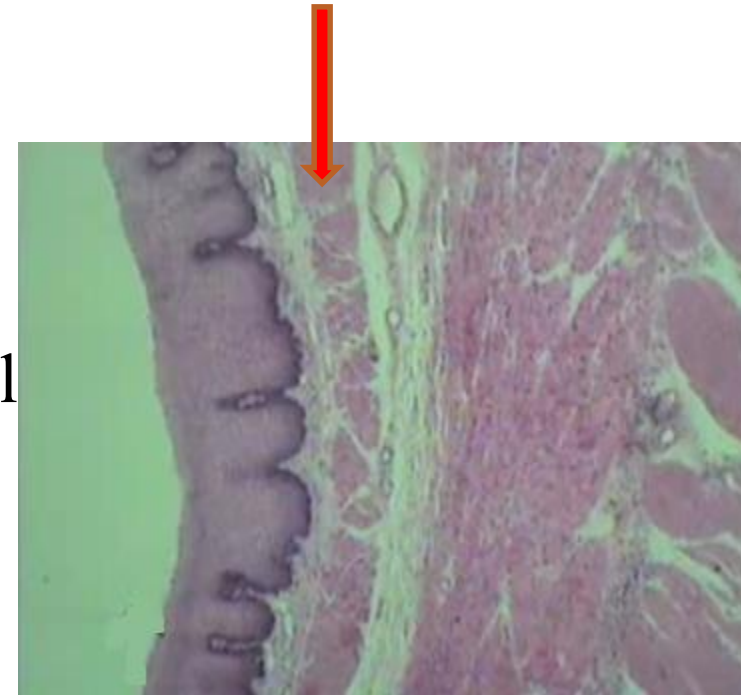
# Lamina Propria

- Relatively condensed connective tissue
- Lymph and blood capillaries
- More lymphoid nodules
- Numerous plasma cells
- **Mucous gland (upper & lower of the oesophagus )**
- **The mucus mucosal glands of the abdominal esophagus closely resembles gastric cardiac gland & named oesophageal gastric gland**



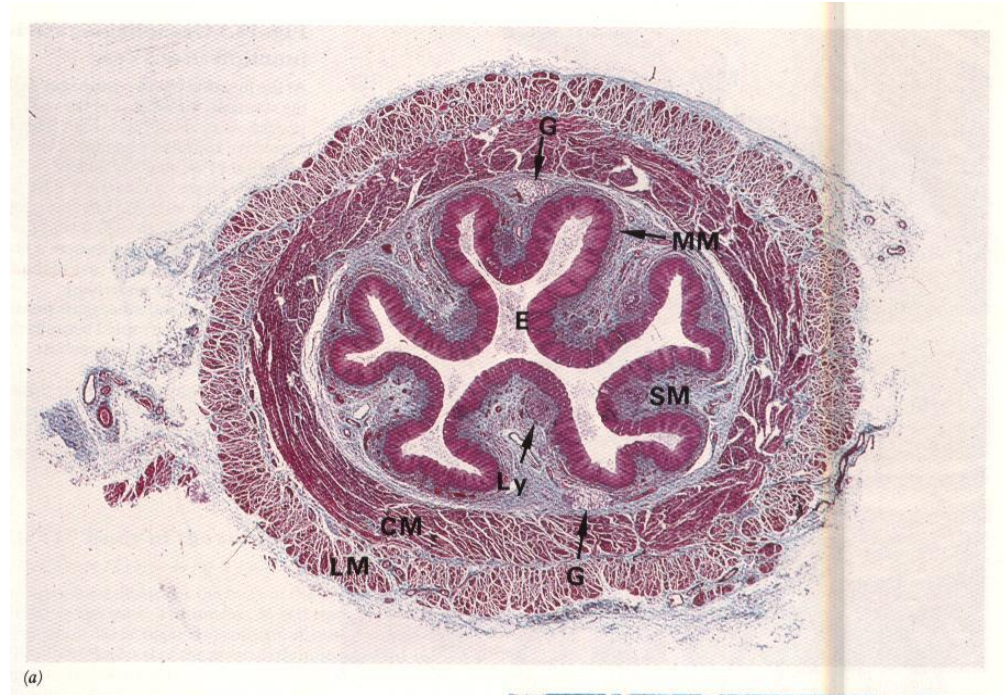
# Muscularis mucosae

- Thin layers of smooth muscle
  - 2 layered: Inner circular
  - Outer longitudinal
- **Prominent in oesophagus**
- Contraction – propulsion of food



# Oesophagus

- Mucosa
  - Epithelium
  - Lamina propria
  - Muscularis mucosae
- Submucosa
- Muscularis externa
- Adventitia / Serosa





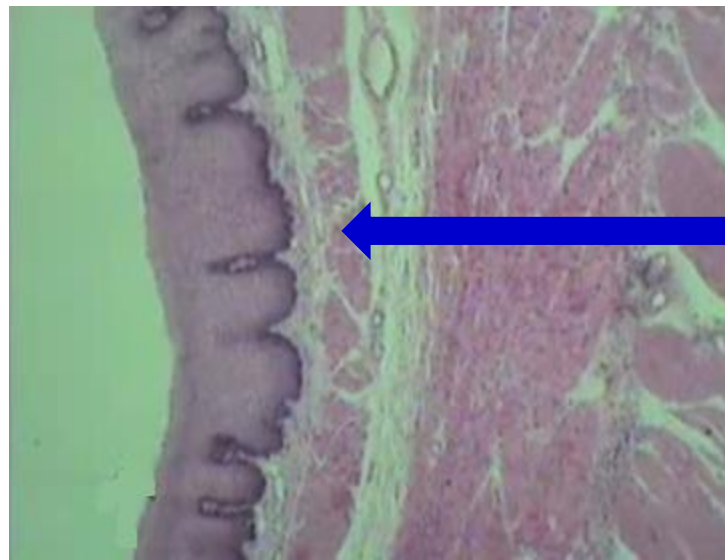
# Submucosa

- Relatively loose connective tissue



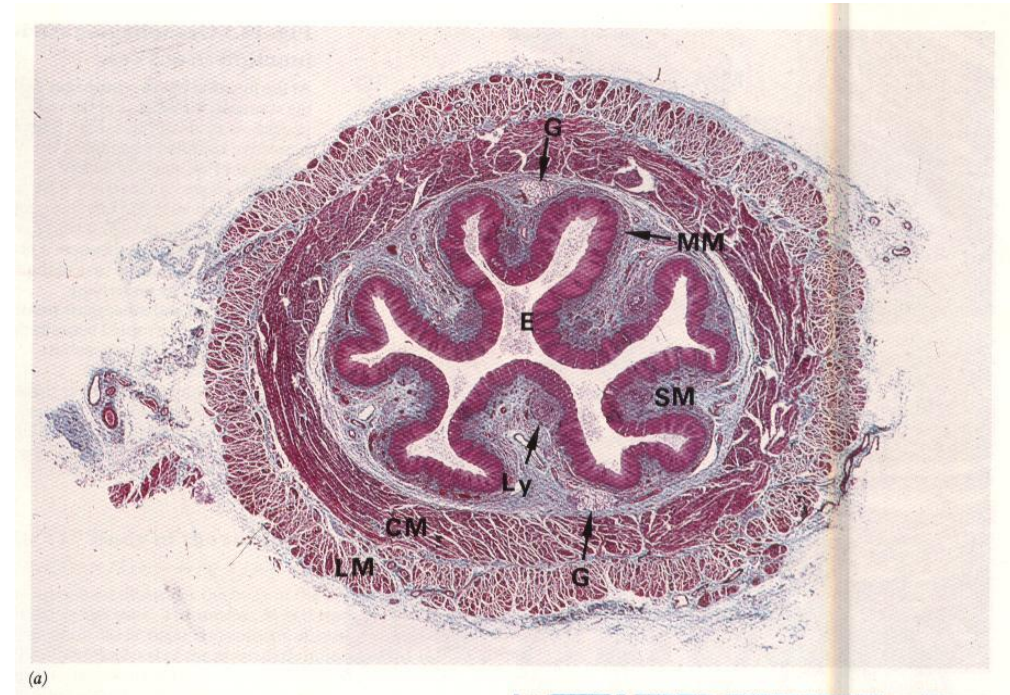
Considerable distension

- Highly vascular
- Nerve plexus - meissner's plexus
- Tubule-acinar oesophageal glands: contain single long ducts
- Composed mostly mucous cells with some serous cells



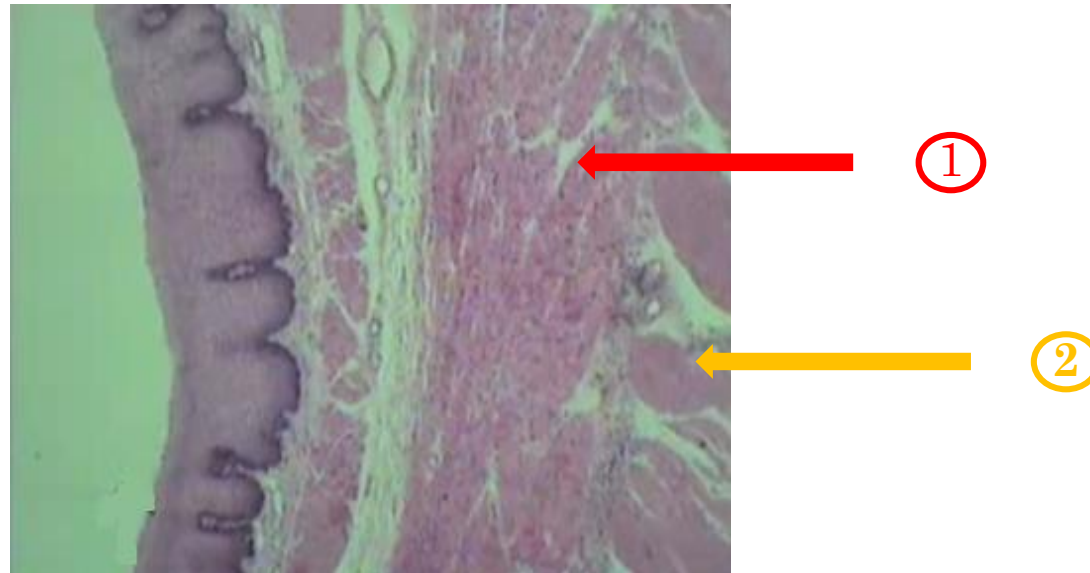
# Oesophagus

- Mucosa
  - Epithelium
  - Lamina propria
  - Muscularis mucosae
- Submucosa
- Muscularis externa
- Adventitia / Serosa

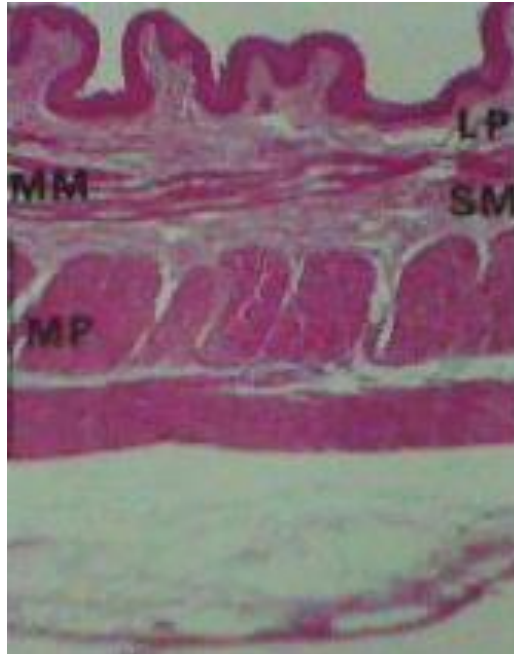


# Muscularis externa

- Thick layers of muscle :
  - ① Inner circular layer — *constricts and narrows - lumen*
  - ② Outer longitudinal layer — *shortens & ↑ diameter - lumen*
- Action; right angle to one another → *Peristaltic contraction*
- Nerve plexus : myenteric plexus (Auerbach's plexus)



# Muscularis externa



*Upper third* → *striated muscle*

*Middle third* → *striated muscle & smooth muscles*

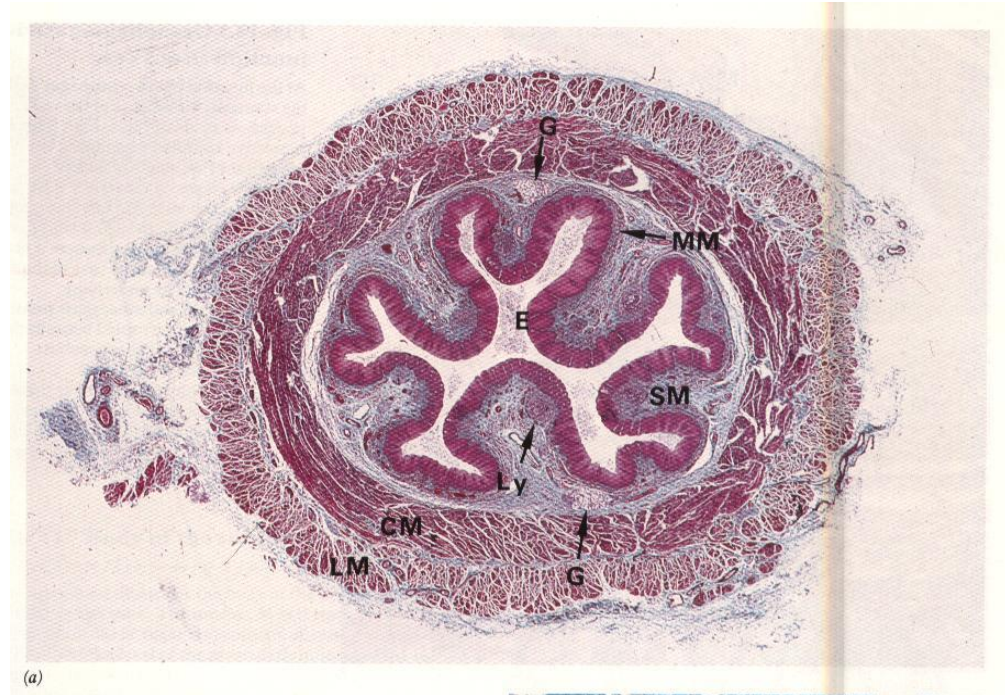
*Lower third* → *smooth muscle*





# Oesophagus

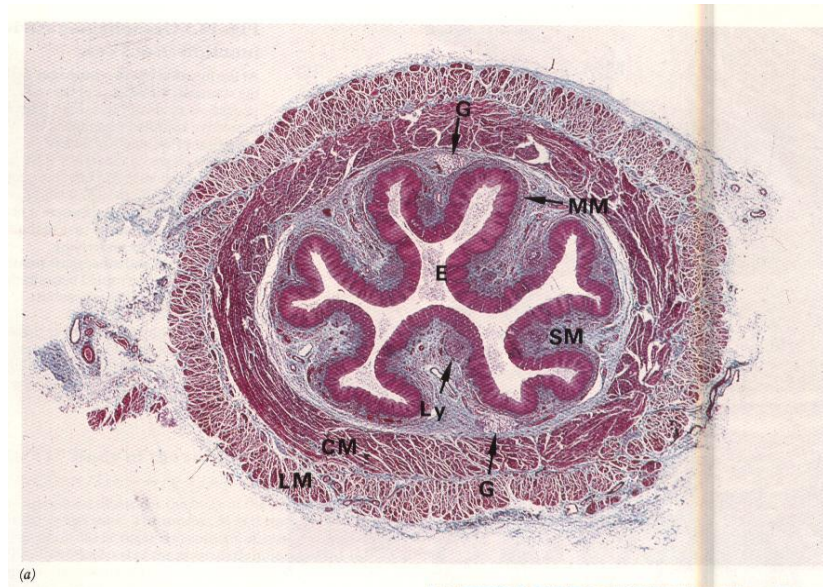
- Mucosa
  - Epithelium
  - Lamina propria
  - Muscularis mucosae
- Submucosa
- Muscularis externa
- Adventitia / Serosa





# Adventitia / Serosa

- Outermost layer
- Connective tissues
- Major vessels & nerves
- Adipose tissue



# Abrupt mucosal transition points – GI tract

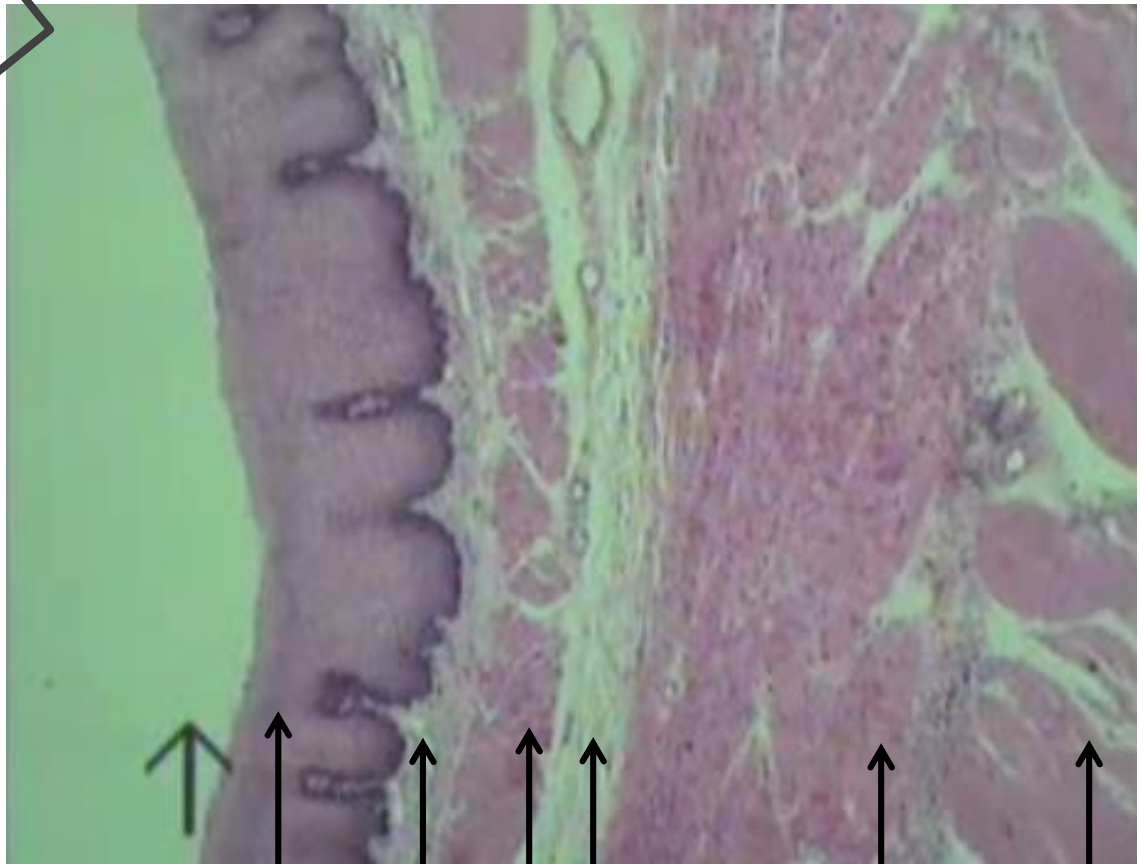
- Oesophago-gastric junction
- Gastro-duodenal junction
- Ileo-caecal junction
- Recto-anal junction



# Applied Anatomy



Summary



Lumen

Stratified squamous non keratinized  
epithelium

Lamina propria

Submucosa

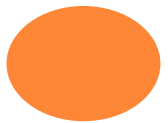
Outer longitudinal  
layer

Inner circular layer

Muscularis mucosae

Muscularis externa

Mucosa



# REFERENCES

- Burkit, H.G, young, B. (1993). **Wheaters functional histology**. 4 th ed., london:Churchill livingstone
- **Junqueira, L.C., Carneiro (1998). Basic histology**. 9 th ed., stamford: Appleton & lange
- **Gray's Anatomy**





Thank  
you

