



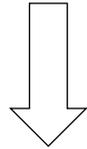
# Pharyngeal (Branchial) Apparatus

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*Prepared and adapted for teaching by Prof. Dr. Heba Kalbouneh.  
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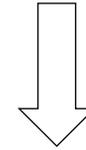


Bilaminar disc  
(2<sup>nd</sup> week)

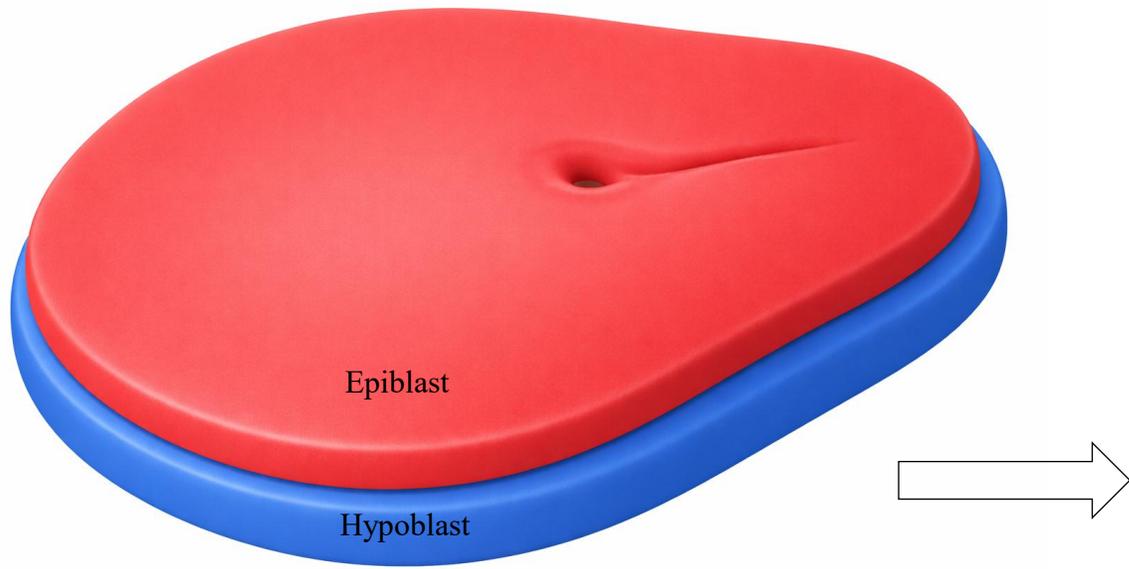


Trilaminar disc  
(3<sup>rd</sup> week)

Ectoderm  
Mesoderm  
Endoderm



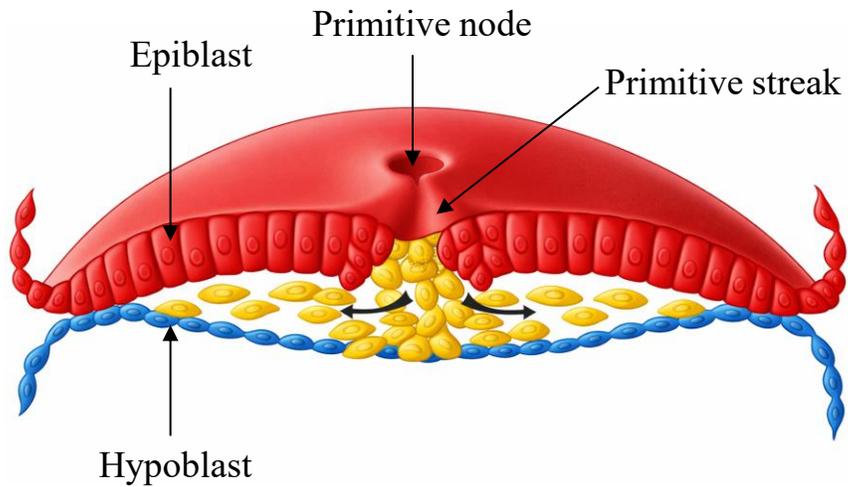
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**Bilaminar disc  
(2<sup>nd</sup> week)**



**Trilaminar disc  
(3<sup>rd</sup> week)**





**Trilaminar disc**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> week)

after folding

Mesoderm / Mesenchyme

its the tissue forming the filling material between outer ectoderm & inner endoderm

our connective tissue now lost its ability to differentiate into different types of cells



Connective tissue of the embryo composed of mesenchymal cells, Stem cells which have the ability to differentiate into other type of cells as Osteoblast, Hematopoietic cells, chondroblast & myoblast

the type of cells which the stem cells will differentiate into depends on the location of the stem cell in the embryo

Not only from side to side but also Cranio-caudal folding =

**Folding**  
(4<sup>th</sup> week)

Caudally, it will form mucous membrane of the urinary tract

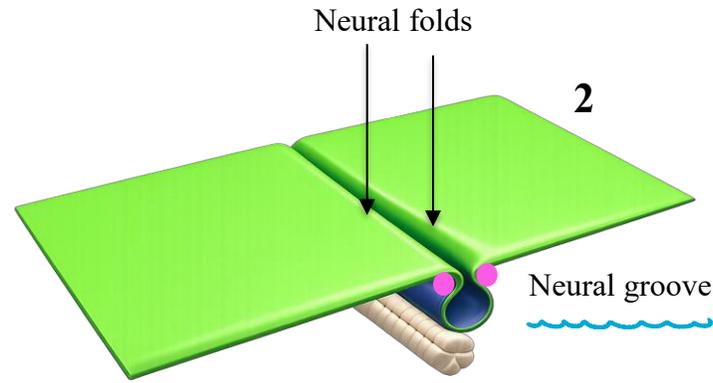
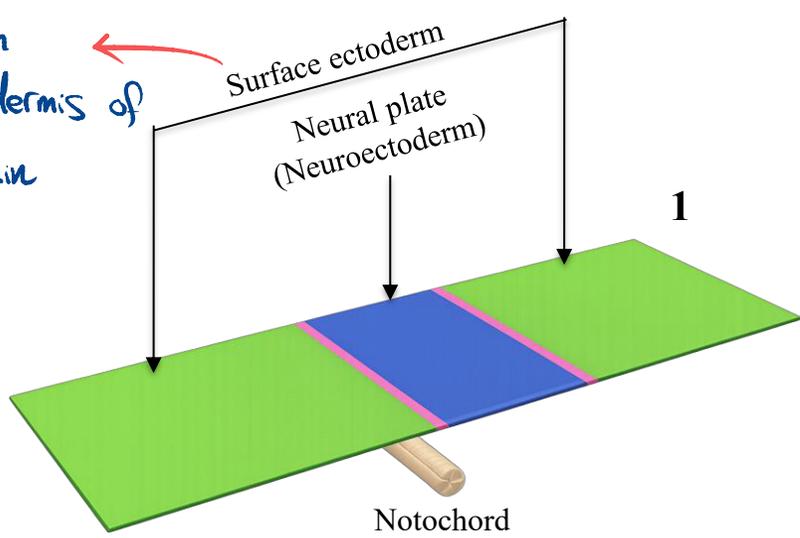
Endoderm will form the mucous membranes of our Gut & the Glands associated with our Gut

From upper part of our Gut Respiratory tract will be formed

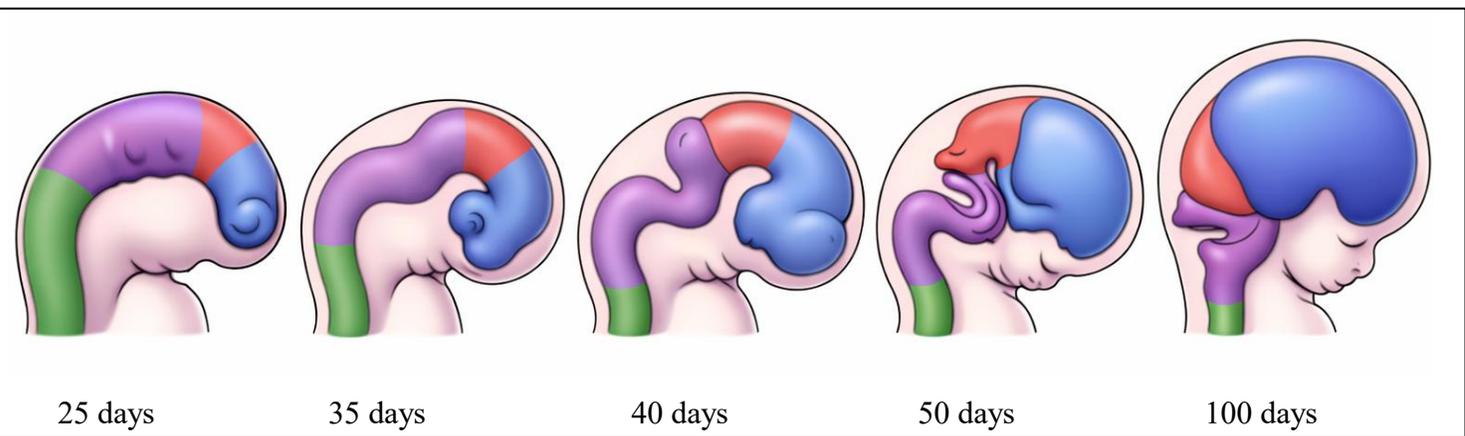
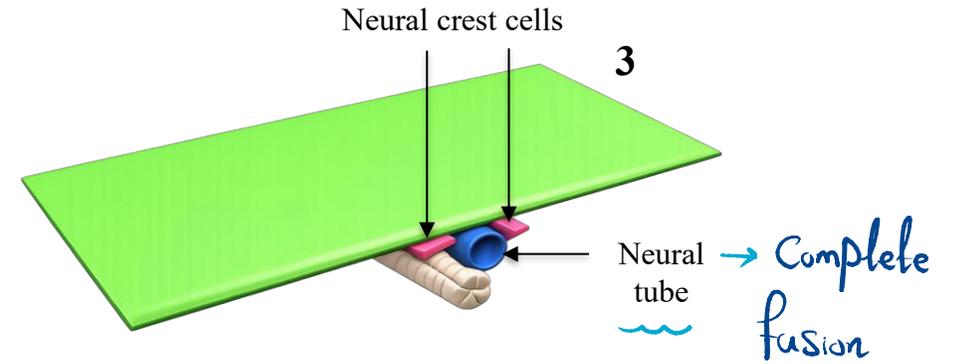
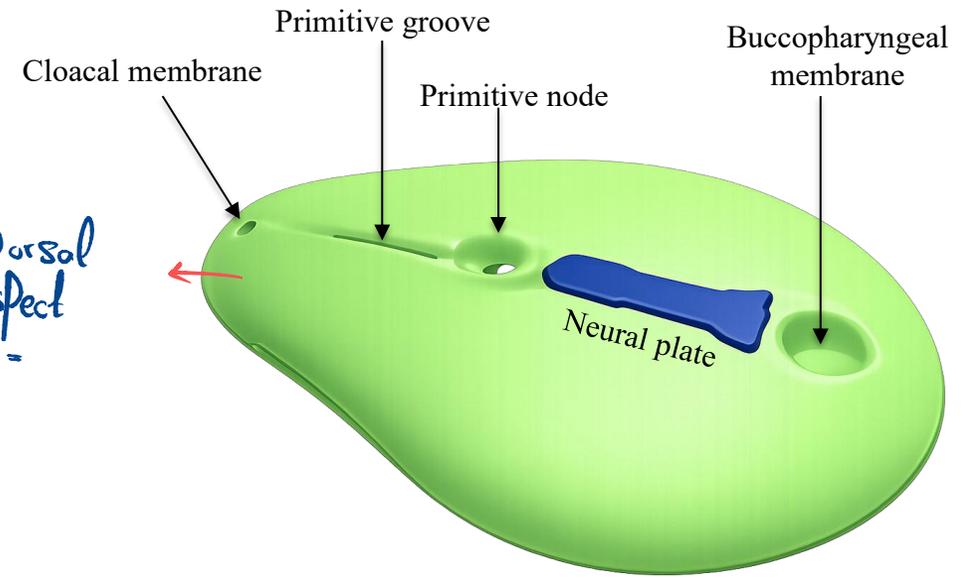
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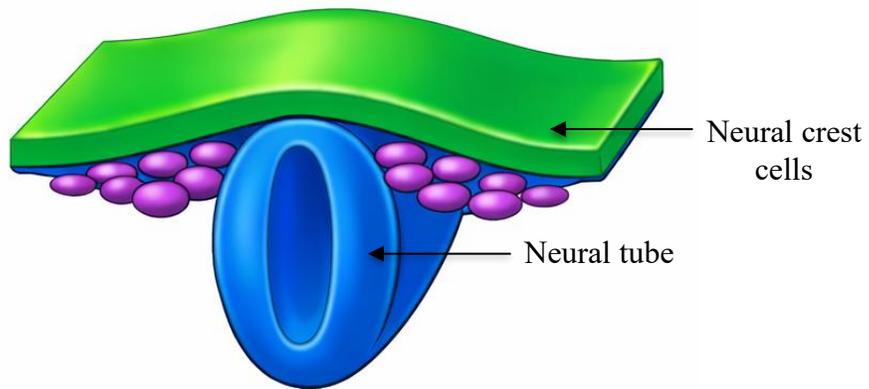
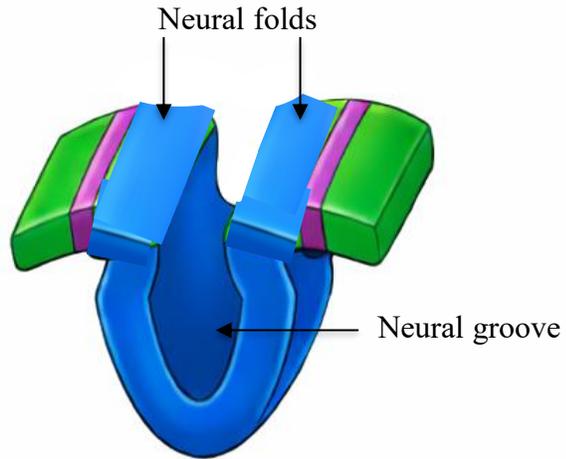
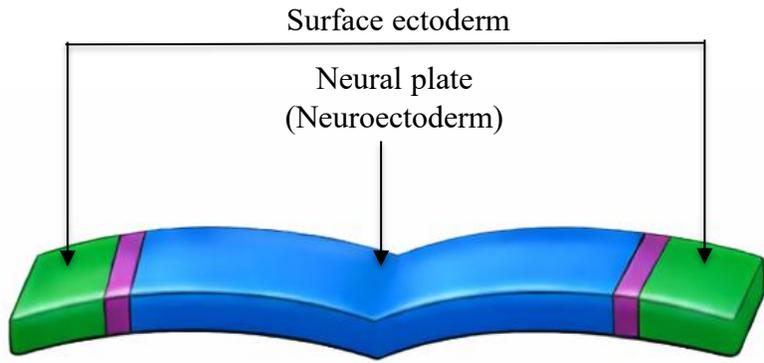
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will form the epidermis of the skin



Dorsal aspect



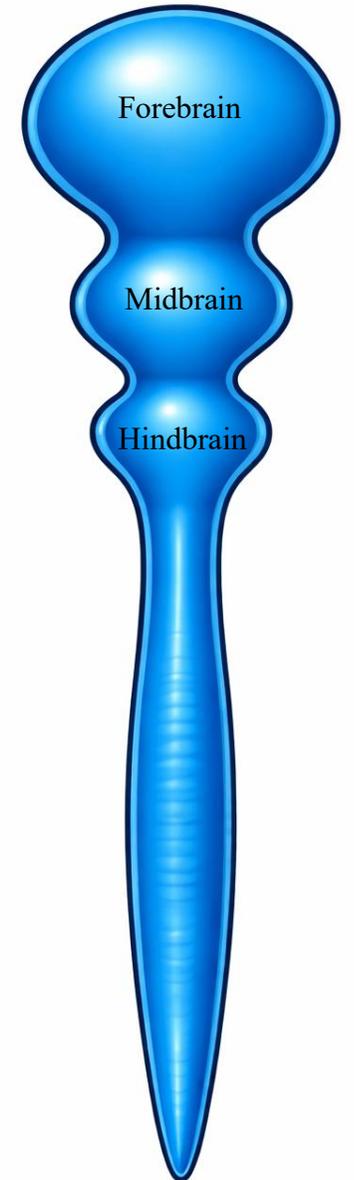


In early neural tube development, the brain forms three primary vesicles:

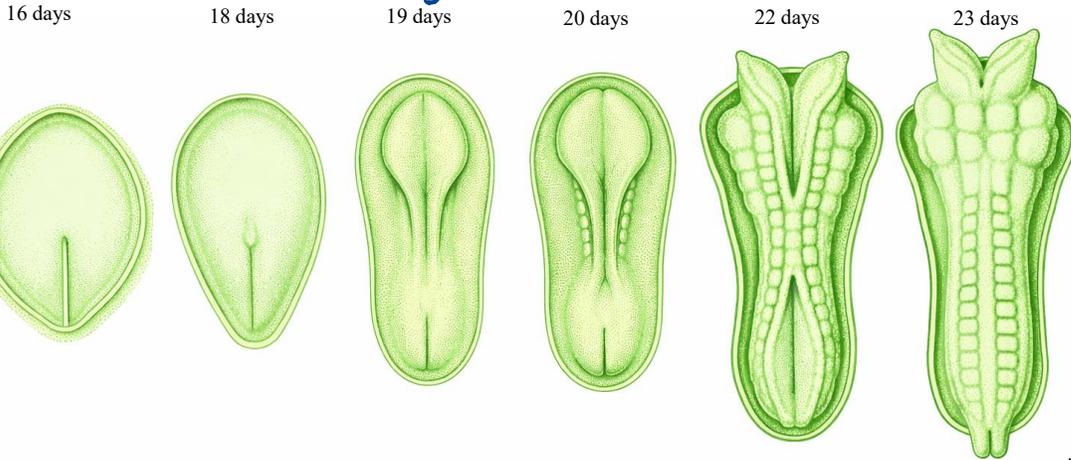
1. Forebrain
2. Midbrain
3. Hindbrain

*Cranial end*  
Brain

Spinal cord

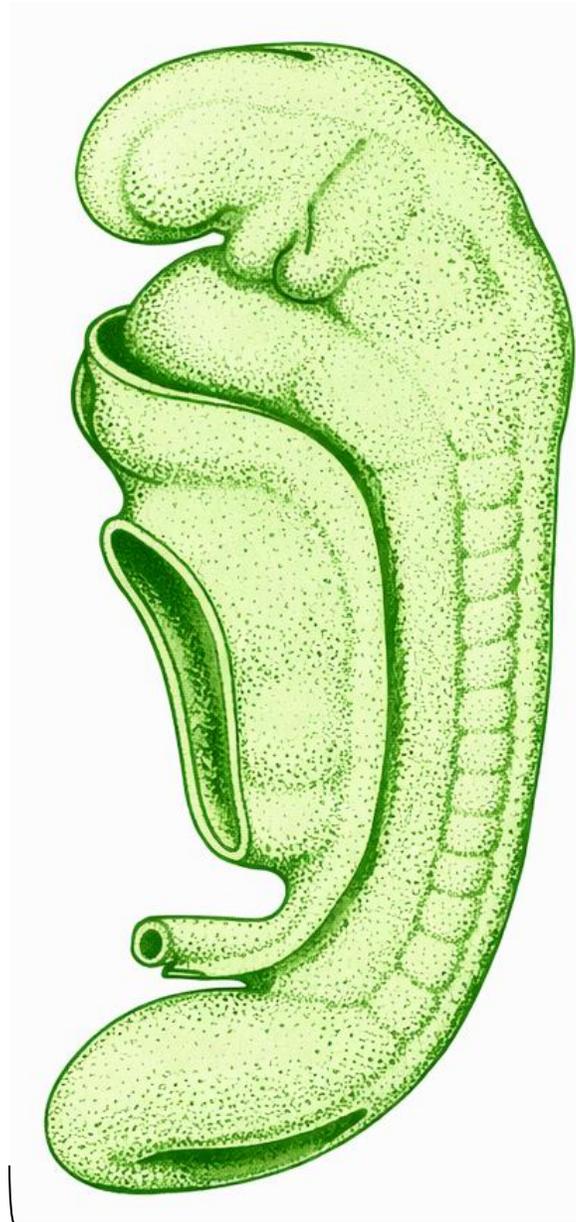


neural groove

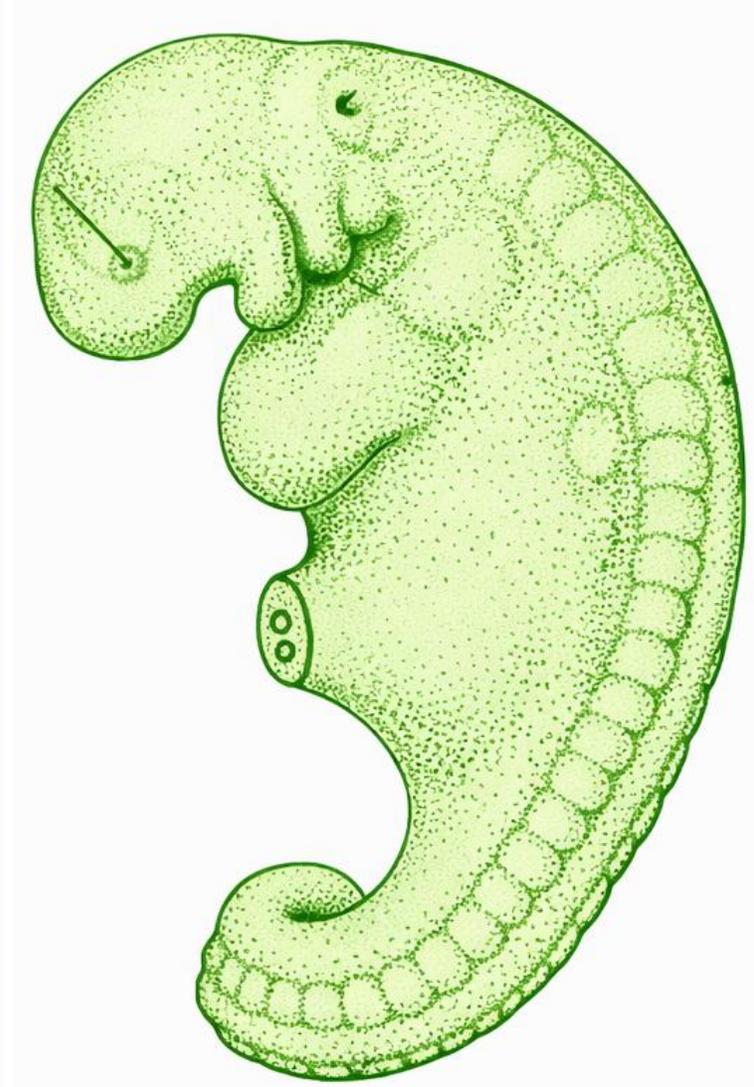


Dorsal view

25 days



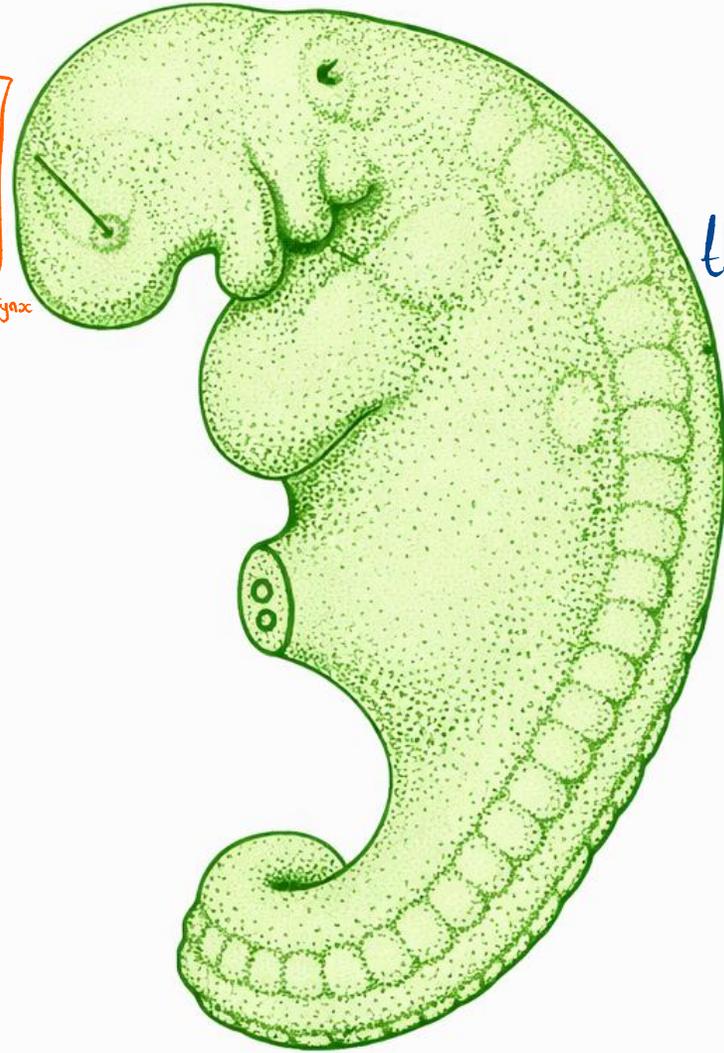
28 days



Lateral view

28 days

nose  
 upper & lower lips  
 bucco-pharyngeal membrane  
 Pharynx  
 nasal cavity  
 oral cavity

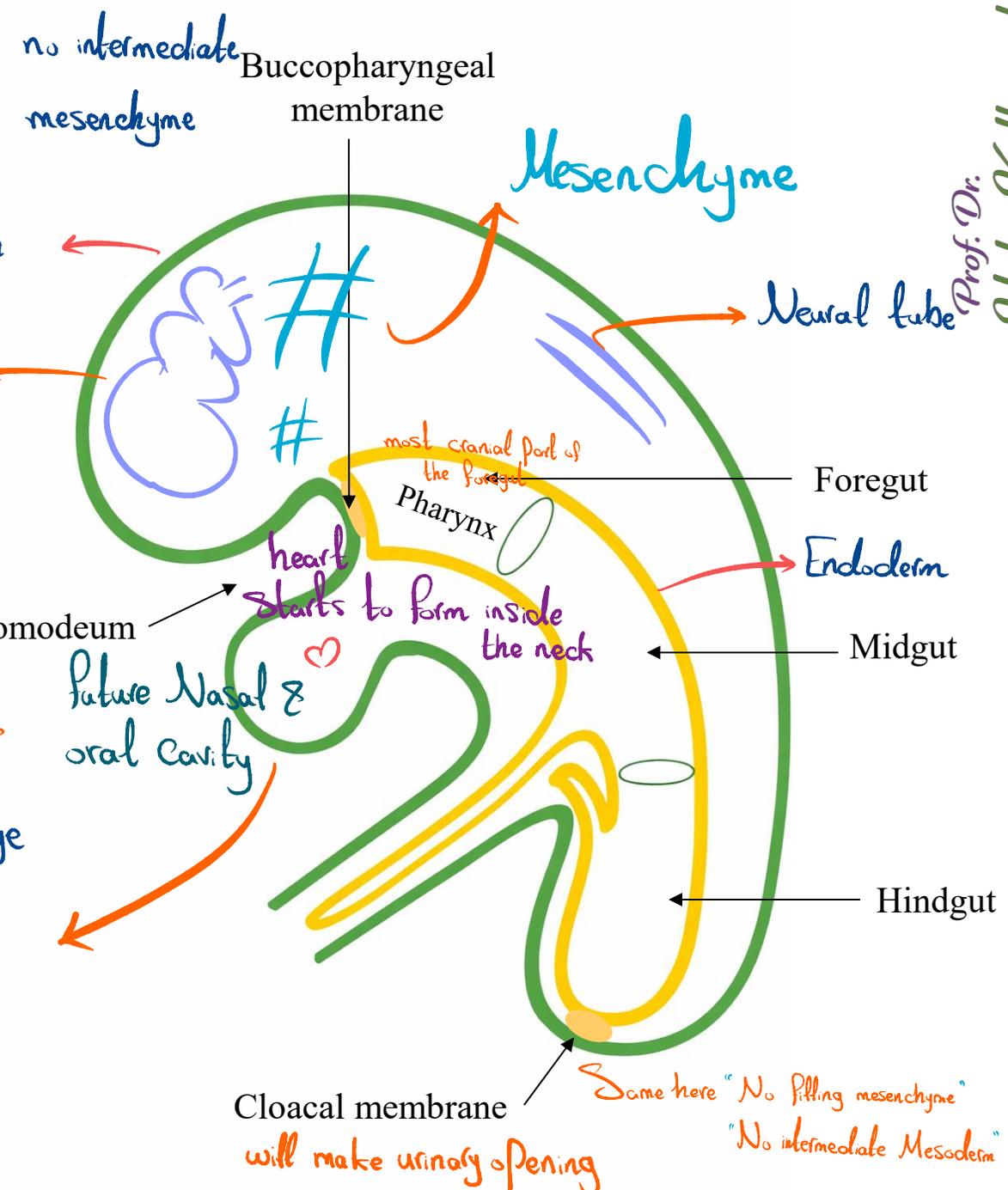


Lateral view

the Area of the future head is enlarged due to the growing of the brain

Forebrain bulge

Pericardium bulge



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Note that the ectoderm and endoderm are in direct contact with each other (no mesoderm in between) in only two places:  
**The buccopharyngeal membrane:** cranially  
**The cloacal membrane:** caudally.

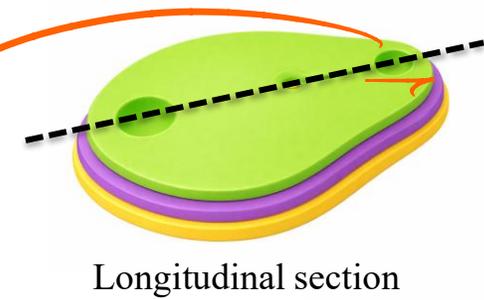
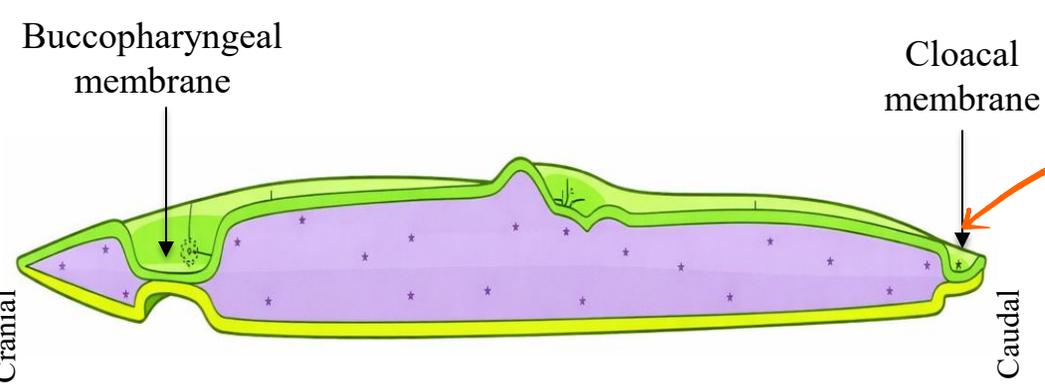
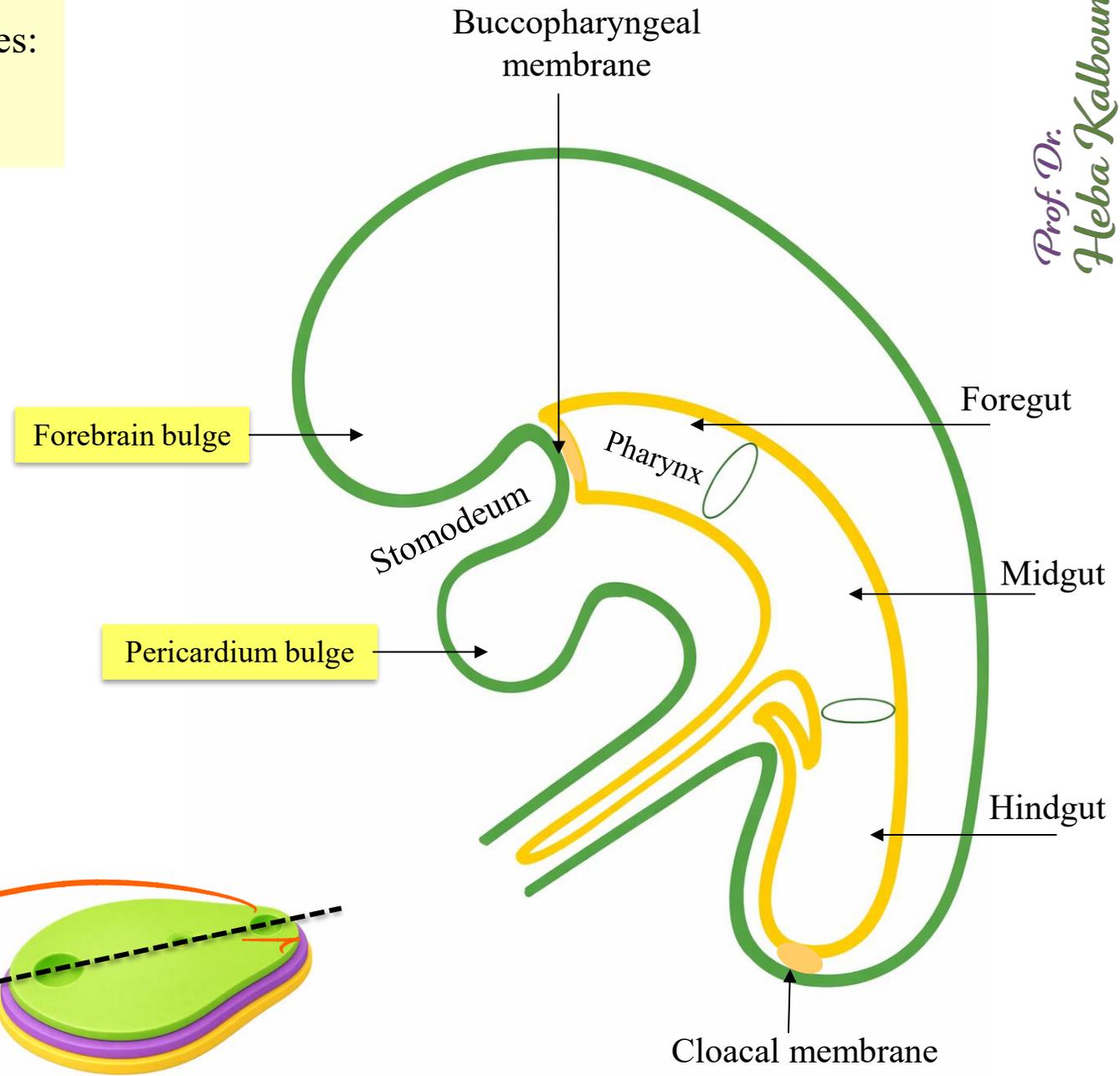
The buccopharyngeal membrane lies between stomodeum and the primitive pharynx.

The **stomodeum** is a depression between the forebrain bulge and the pericardium bulge.

Stomodeum will form the **nasal and oral cavities**.

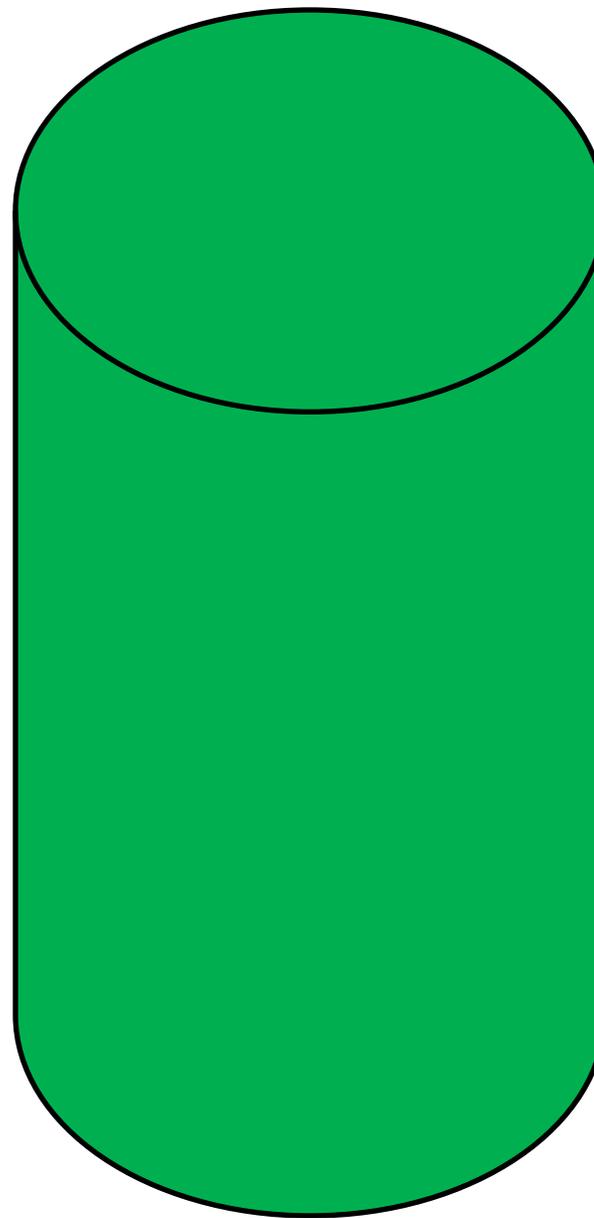
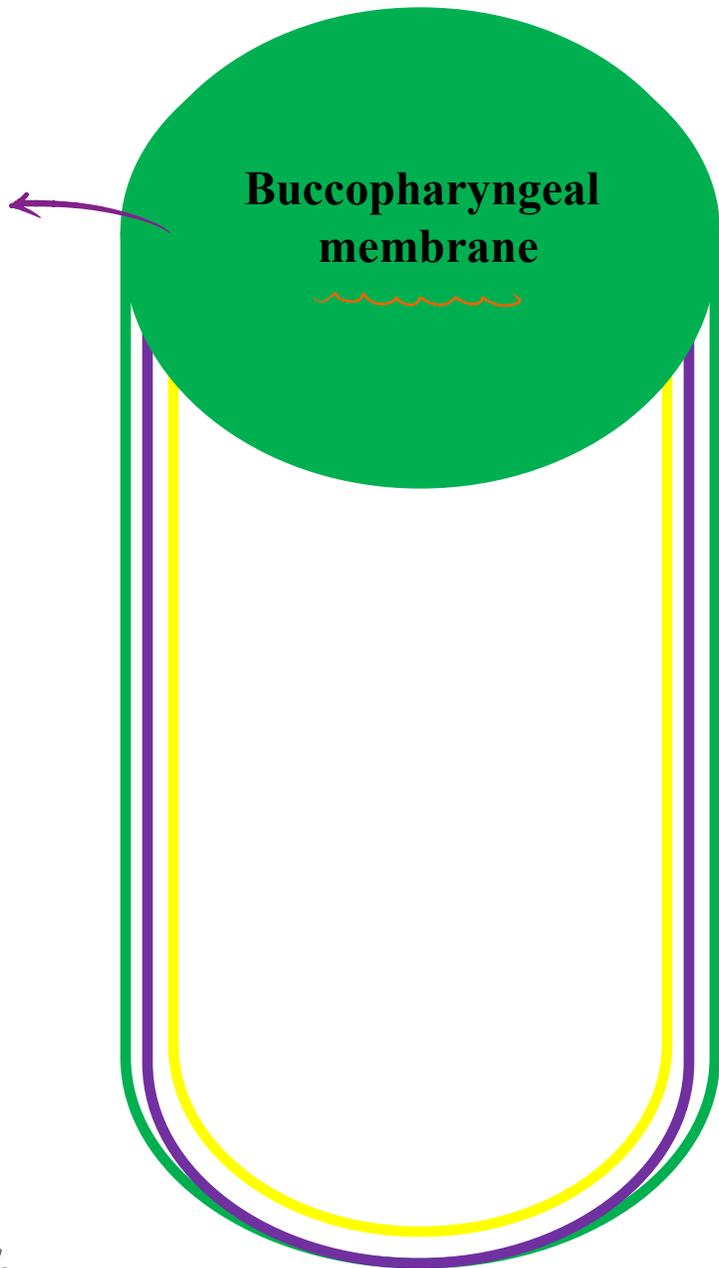
Later, the buccopharyngeal membrane breaks down so that the stomodeum communicates with the foregut.

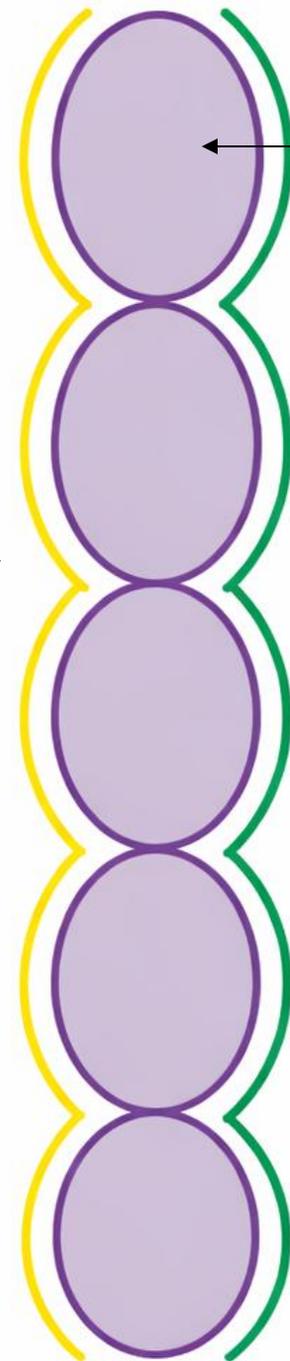
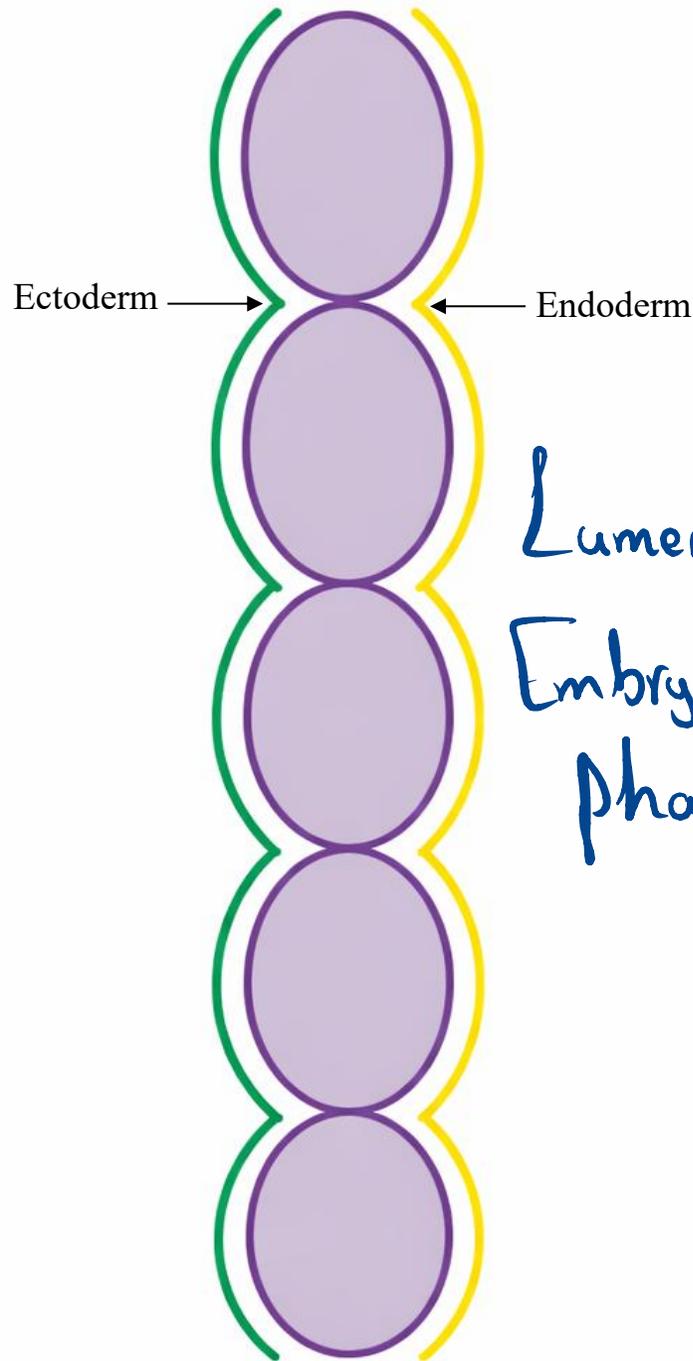
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Covered by  
Ectoderm

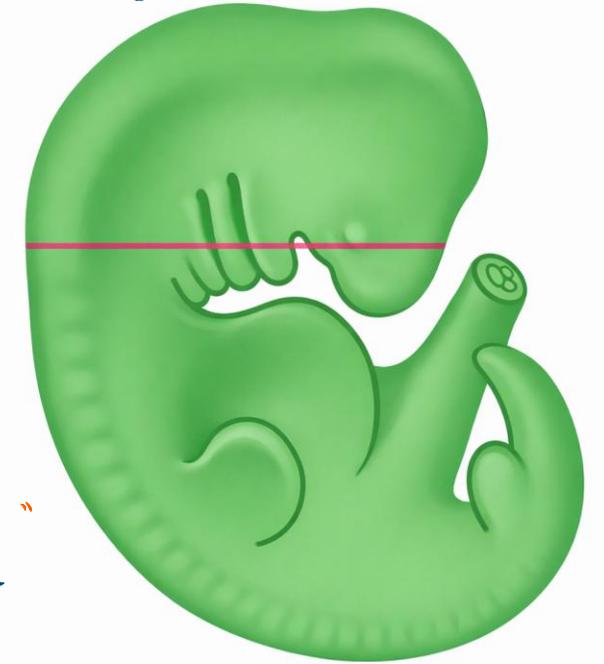
Ecto  
meso  
Endo Derm





Mesenchyme is going to thicken "not uniformly" Along six lines

- \* Cylindrical
- \* running from Dorsal to ventral
- \* arched "Curved"



As they are formed at the sides of the neck "which is Cylindrical Structure"

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# Pharyngeal (Branchial) Arches

- The pharyngeal arches are six paired swellings that develop in the wall of the primitive pharynx.
- Each arch consists of a core of mesenchyme covered externally by ectoderm and internally by endoderm.
- They appear during the 4th and 5th weeks of development.
- The arches are separated externally by four **pharyngeal clefts** (grooves) → ectoderm.
- On the internal aspect, the arches are separated by **pharyngeal pouches** → endoderm.

Why pharyngeal arches?

*Netrodorsal cylindrical curved thickenings in the mesoderm in the both sides of pharynx*

In human embryo, the arches form on the sides of the pharynx

Why branchial arches?

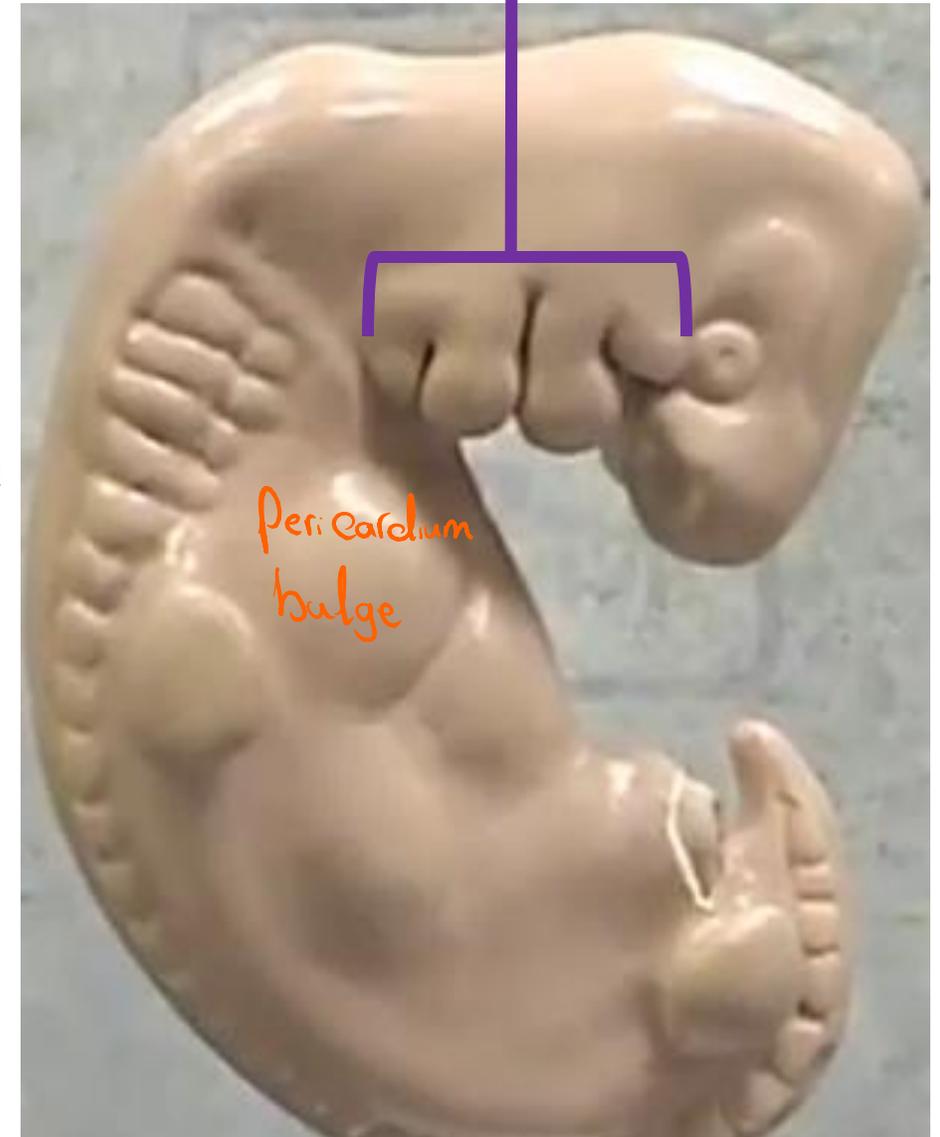
Pharyngeal arches resemble the gills of the fish in shape

***Gills=branchia***

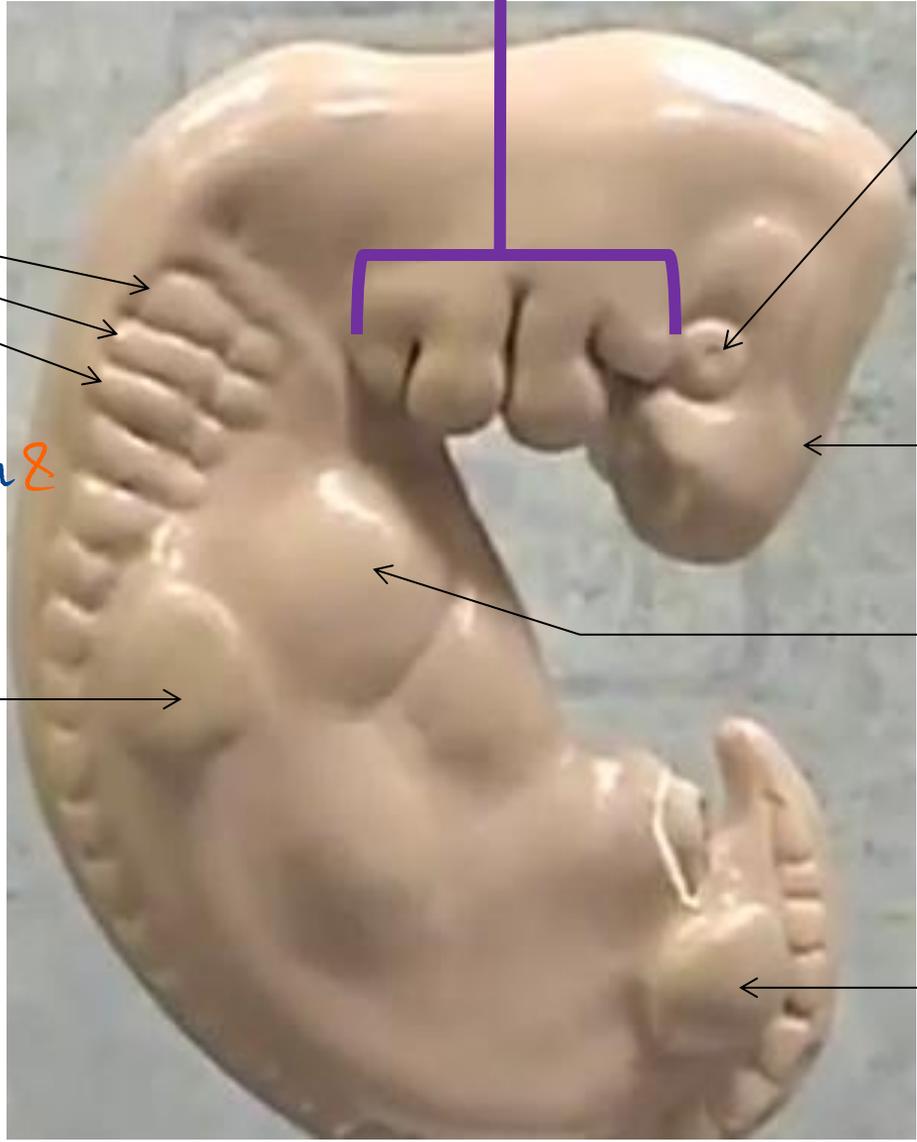


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## Pharyngeal arches



# Pharyngeal arches



Primordium of the eye

*Developing eye*

Somites

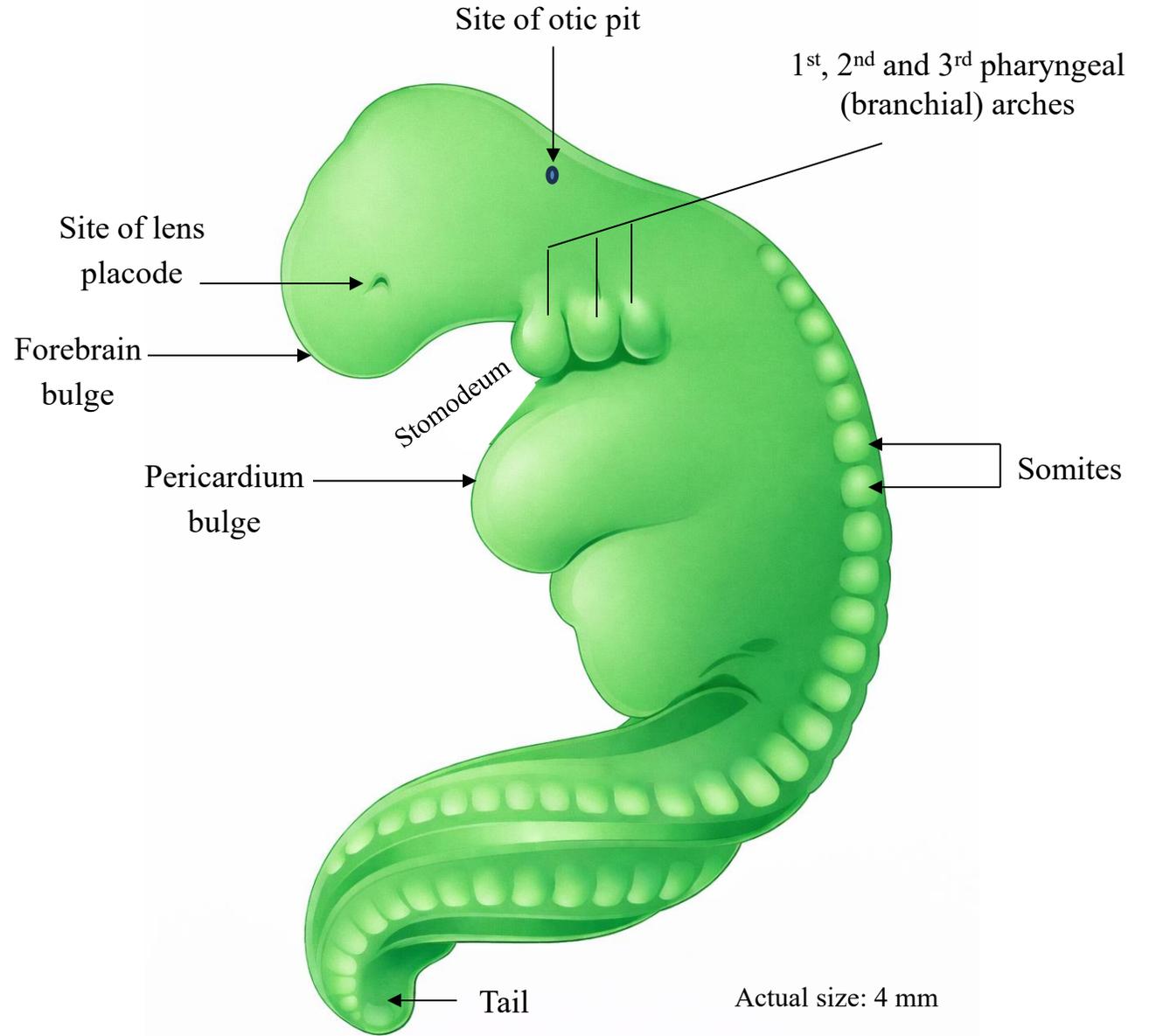
*Segments which are going to form Vertebral Column & the muscles associated with it*

Forebrain bulge

Pericardium bulge

Upper limb bud

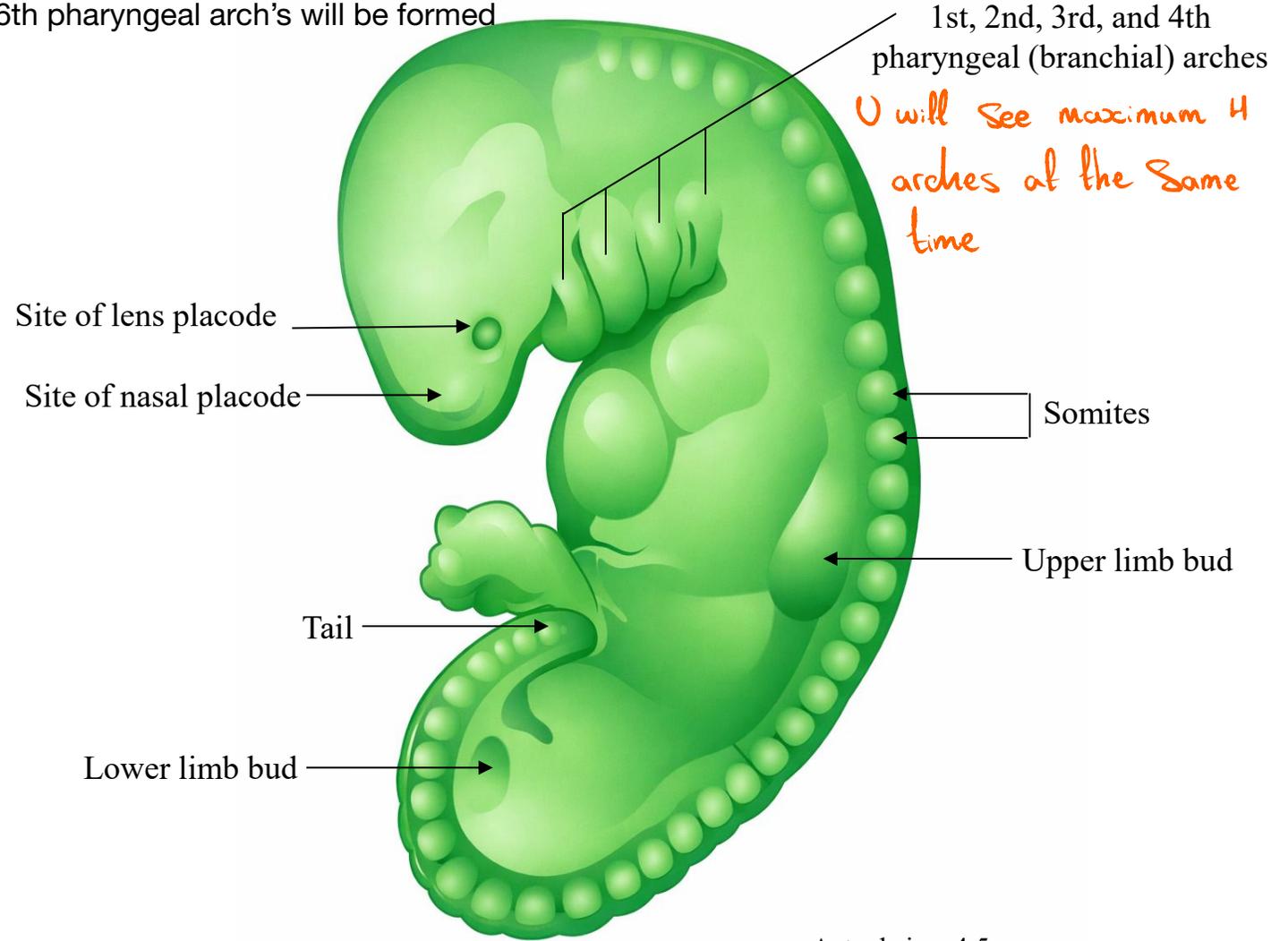
Lower limb bud



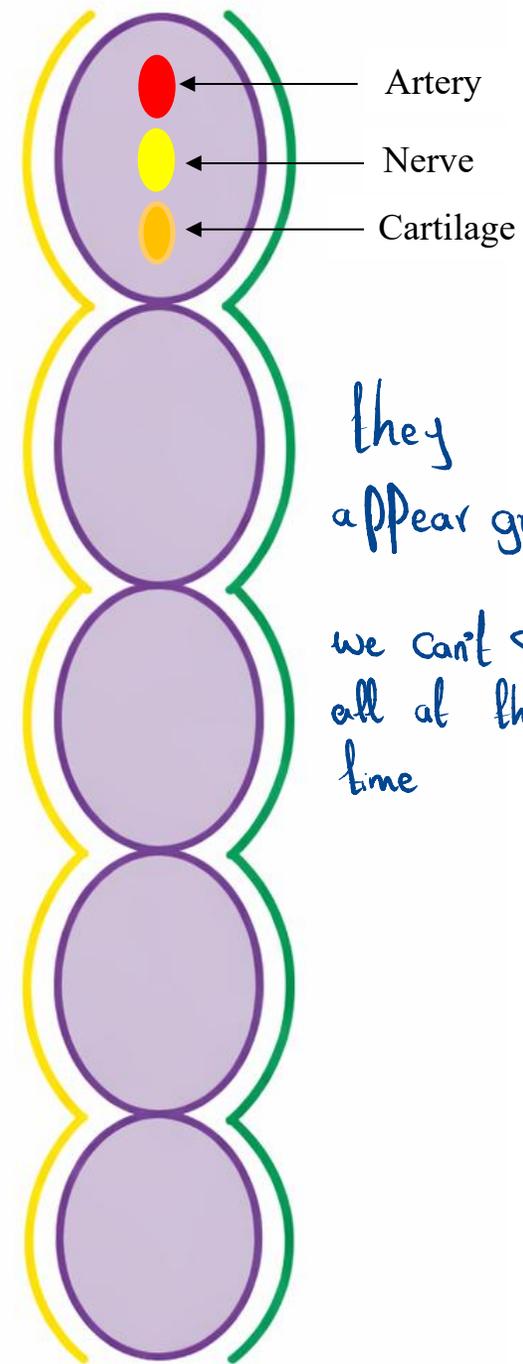
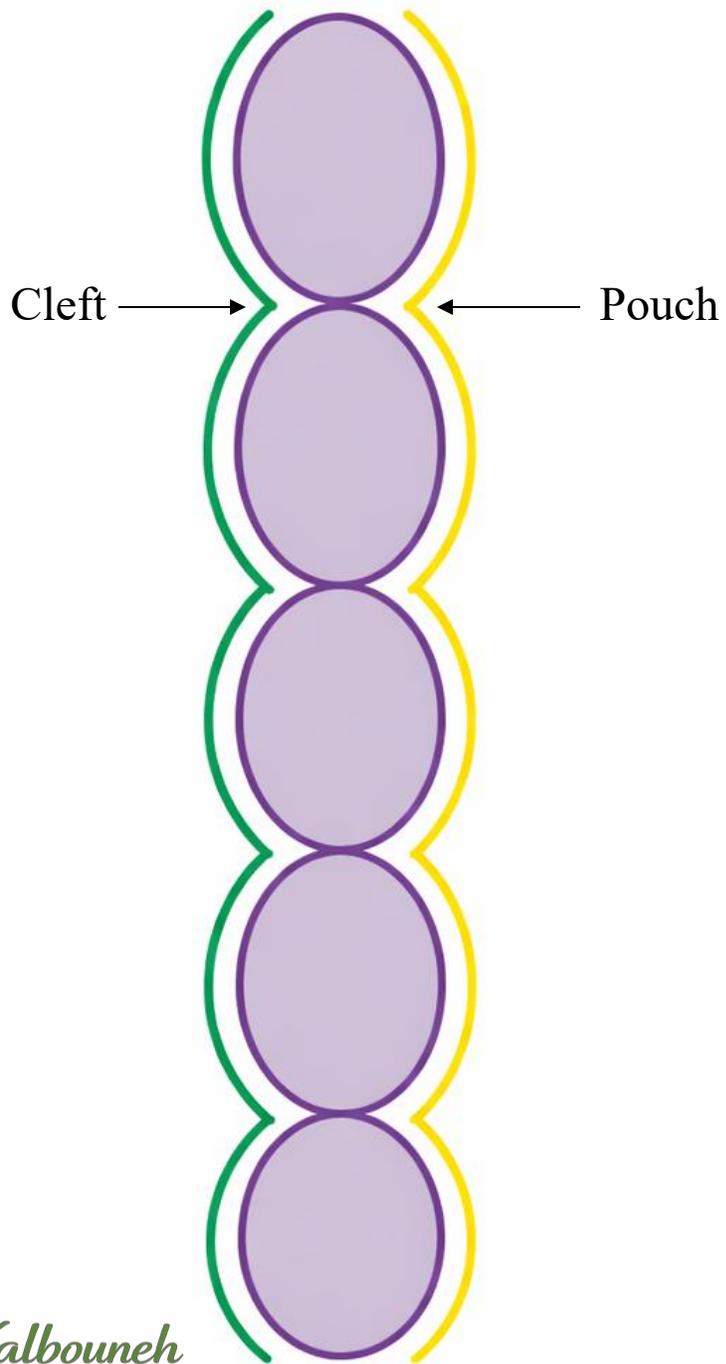
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\* The first 3 arches will be formed first, then the 1st arch is going to form its derivatives, then the 4th pharyngeal arch will appear while the 2nd arch is forming its derivatives, then the 5th & 6th pharyngeal arch's will be formed → Extra info...



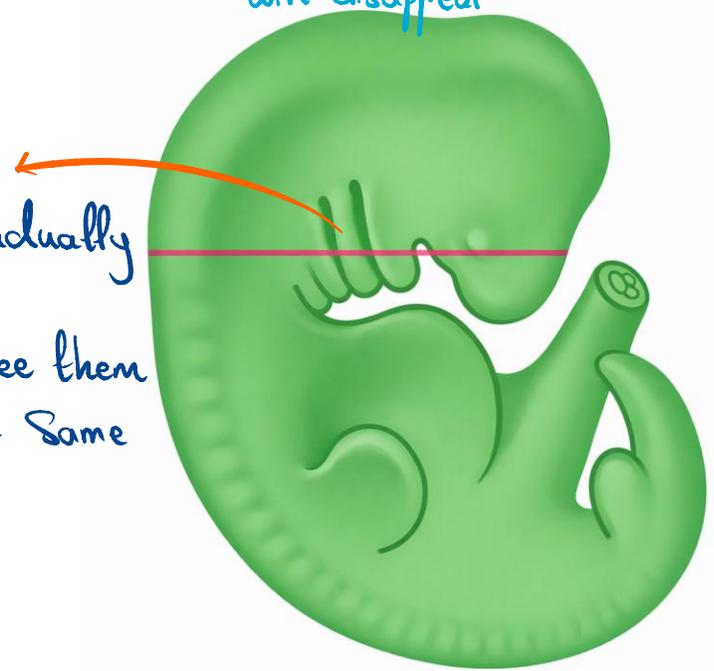
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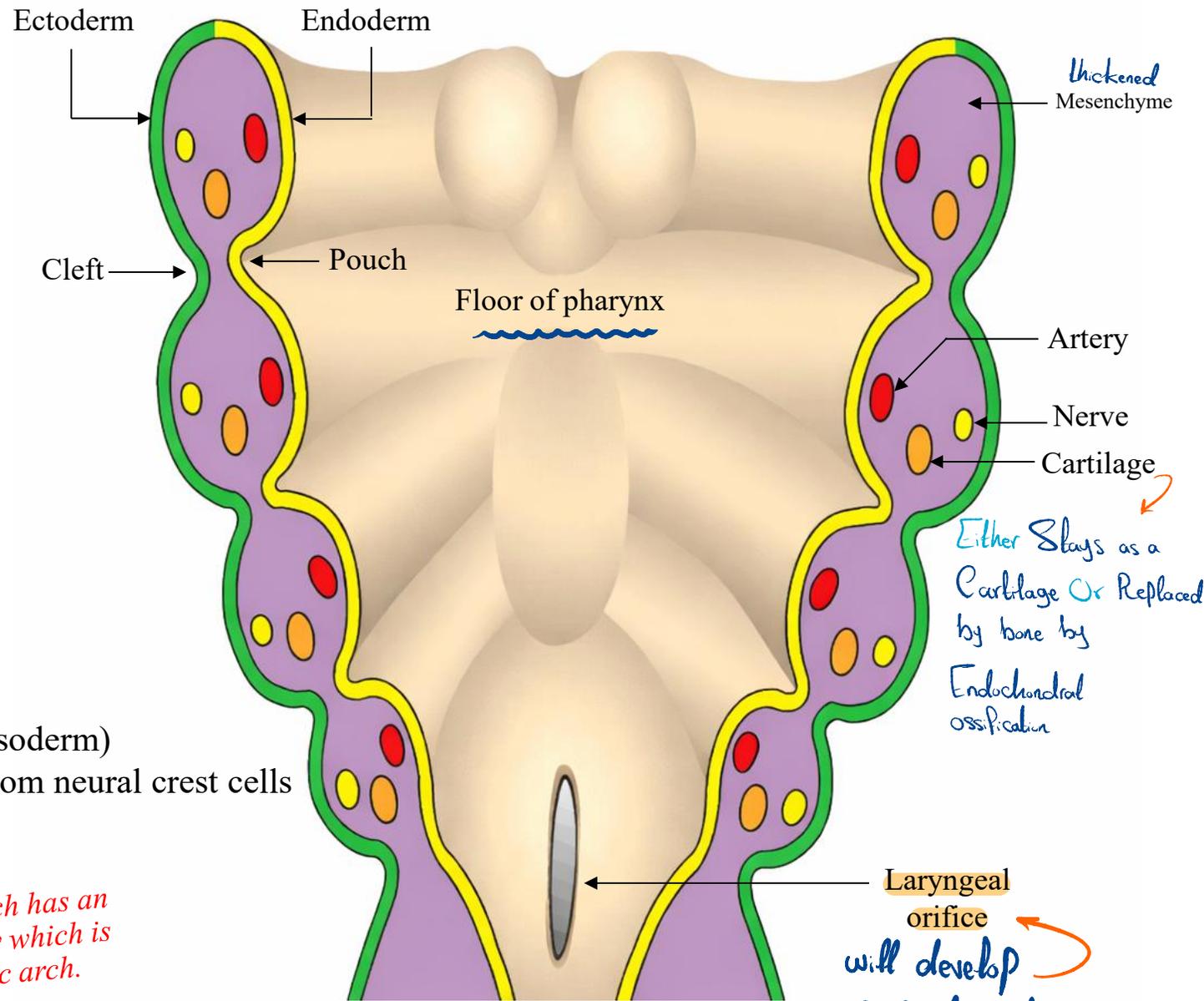
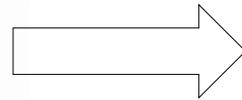
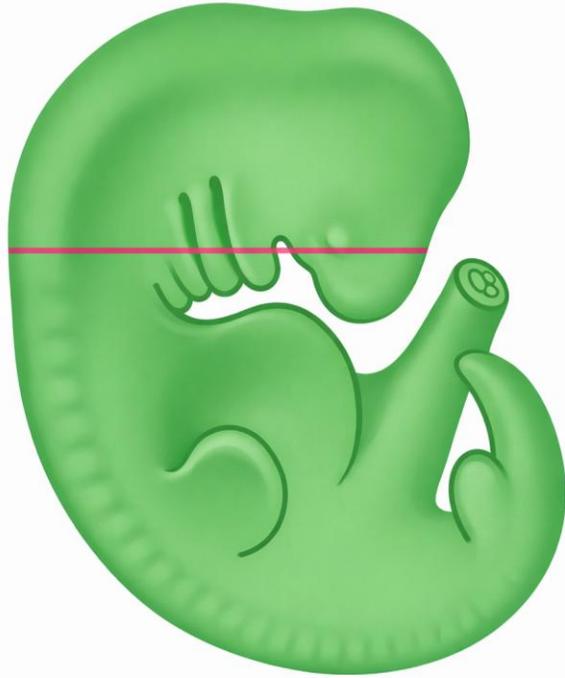
*Although six arches form, the 5th arch is rudimentary or "absent in humans," so only five pharyngeal pouches are recognized.*

*will disappear*

*they appear gradually  
we can't see them all at the same time*



**Pharyngeal apparatus  
(arches, clefts and pouches)**



Each pharyngeal arch contains:

- Mesenchymal core (derived from neural crest cells and mesoderm)
- Cartilaginous rod (skeletal component) – mainly derived from neural crest cells
- Muscle component – derived from mesoderm
- Aortic arch artery
- Cranial nerve supplying the arch
- External ectoderm covering
- Internal endoderm lining

*Note: Each arch has an arterial supply which is called aortic arch.*

**Coronal section of neck showing structure of pharyngeal arches**

# Nerve supply of pharyngeal arches

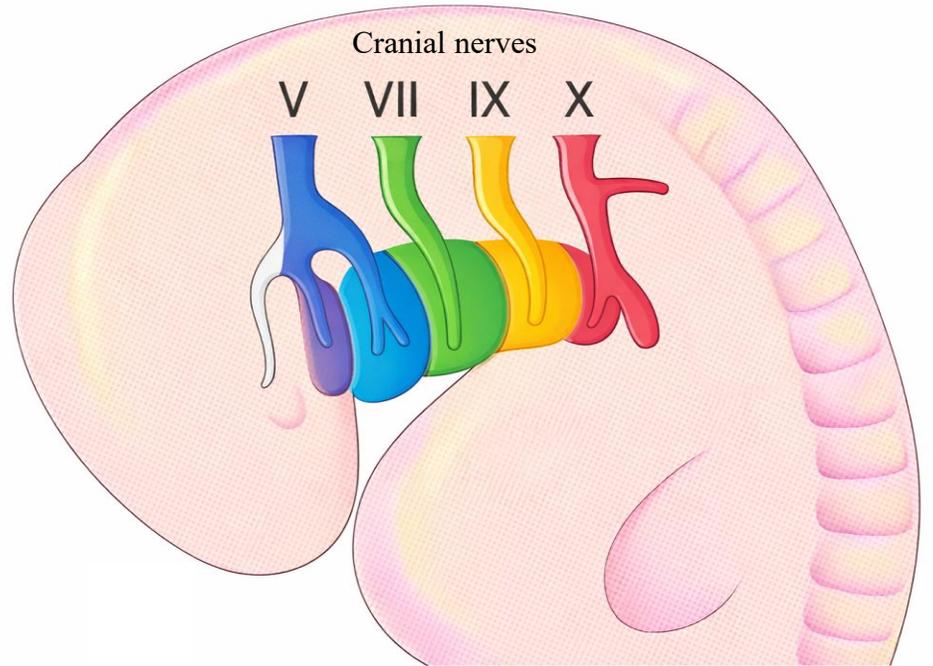
**Mandibular & Maxillary nerves** supplies derivatives of **1<sup>st</sup> arch**

**Facial nerve** supplies derivatives of **2<sup>nd</sup> arch**

**Glossopharyngeal nerve** supplies derivatives of **3<sup>rd</sup> arch**

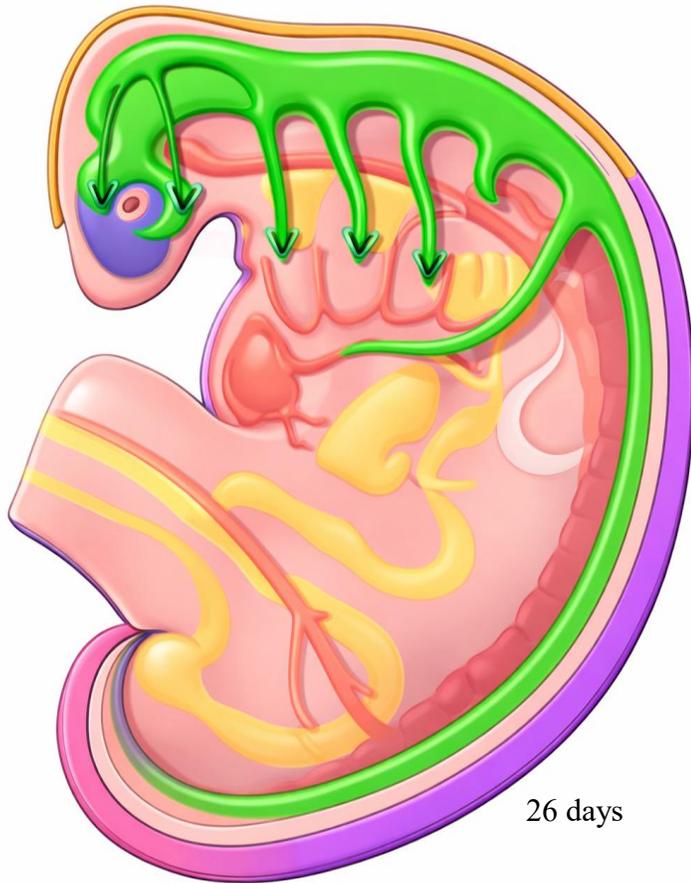
**Superior laryngeal nerve (vagus nerve)** supplies derivatives of **4<sup>th</sup> arch**

**Recurrent laryngeal nerve (vagus nerve)** supplies derivatives of **6<sup>th</sup> arch**

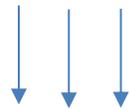


*Each nerve supplies the mucosa and muscles derived from the arch*

*Each arch has its own cranial nerve and wherever the muscle cells migrate, they carry their nerve component with them*  
*Example: Muscles of facial expression migrate over the face and innervated by CN VII.*



*The cranial nerves originate from brainstem nuclei in the developing neural tube, while their sensory ganglia are largely derived from neural crest cells that migrate into the head and pharyngeal arches.*



*Note:*

*The 5<sup>th</sup> pharyngeal arch is rudimentary or absent in humans.*

*Therefore, the arches that persist and have nerve supply are:*

*1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> arches.*

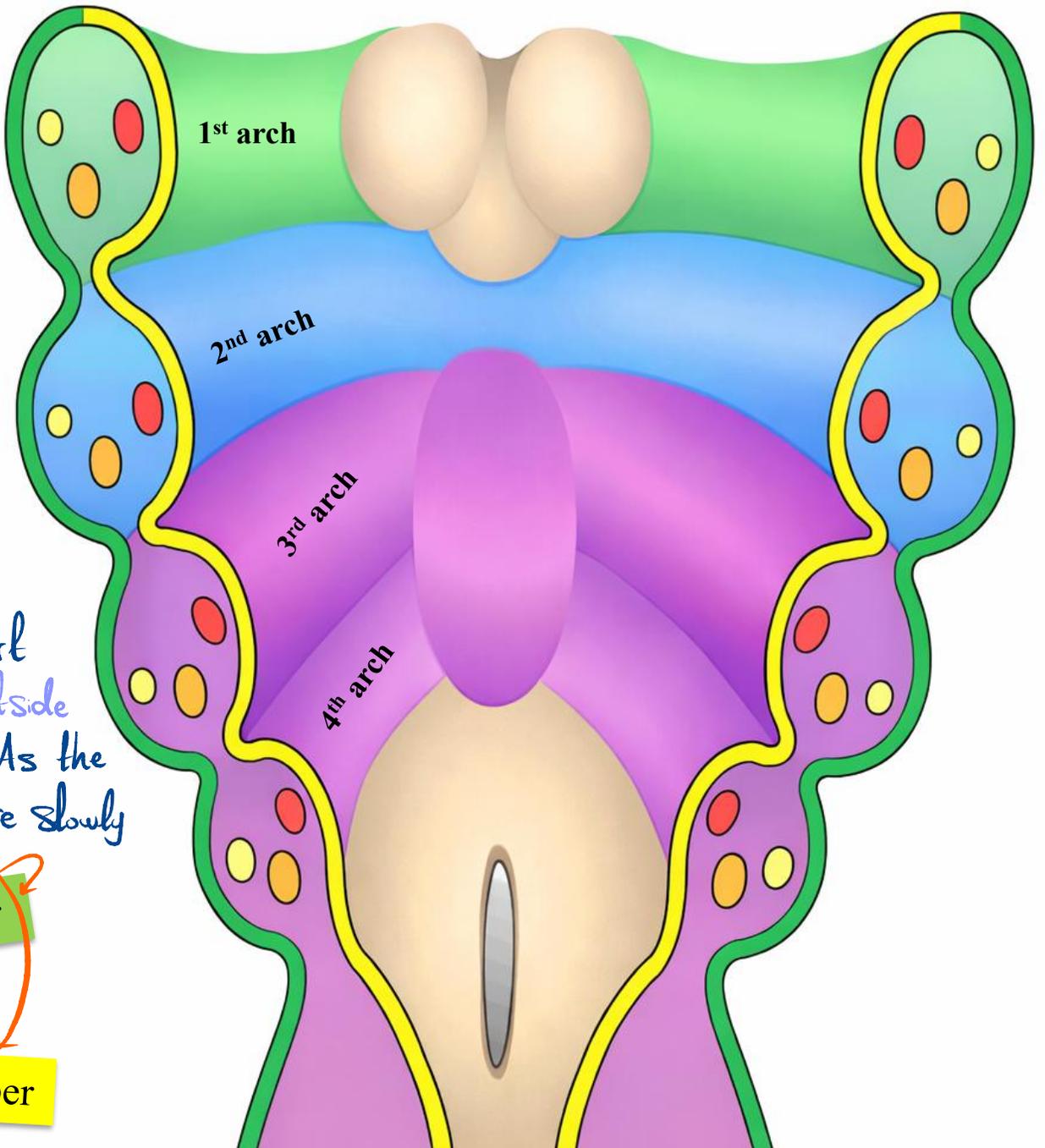
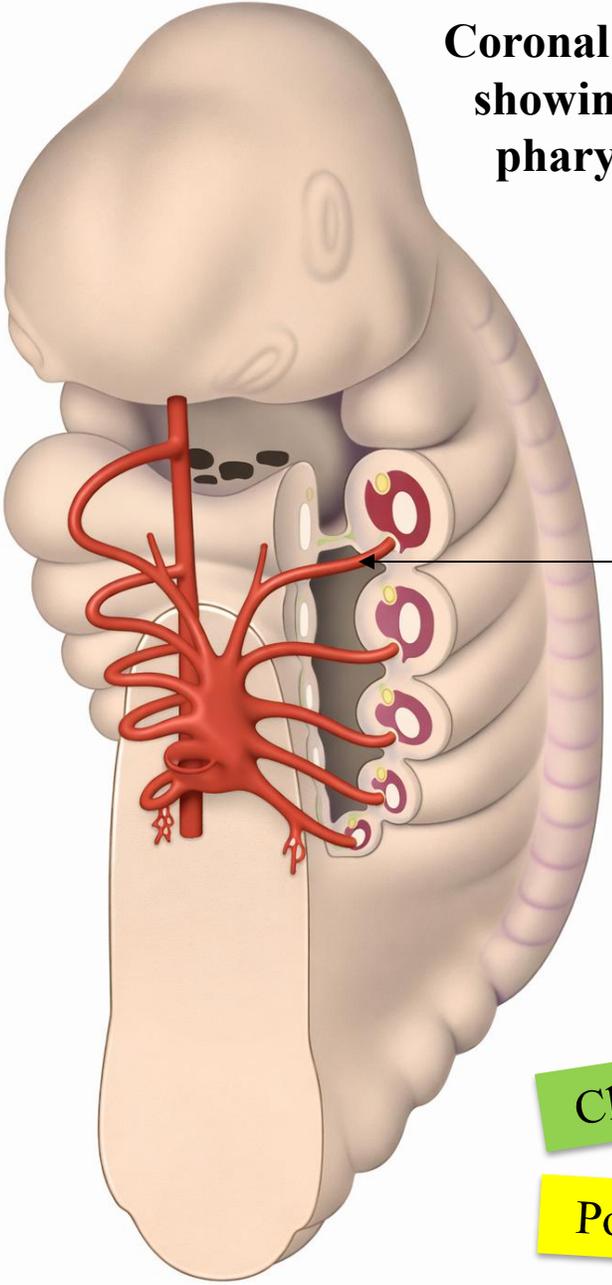
*This explains why Vagus nerve supplies two arches*

*Superior laryngeal nerve → 4<sup>th</sup> arch*

*Recurrent laryngeal nerve → 6<sup>th</sup> arch*

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**Coronal section of neck showing structure of pharyngeal arches**



*the 5<sup>th</sup> arch start to disappear from outside then from inside, & As the Pouches disappear more slowly than clefts, we have*

**Clefts are four in number**

**Pouches are five in number**

First arch has 2 processes: *for each side*

- 1- Maxillary process
- 2- Mandibular process

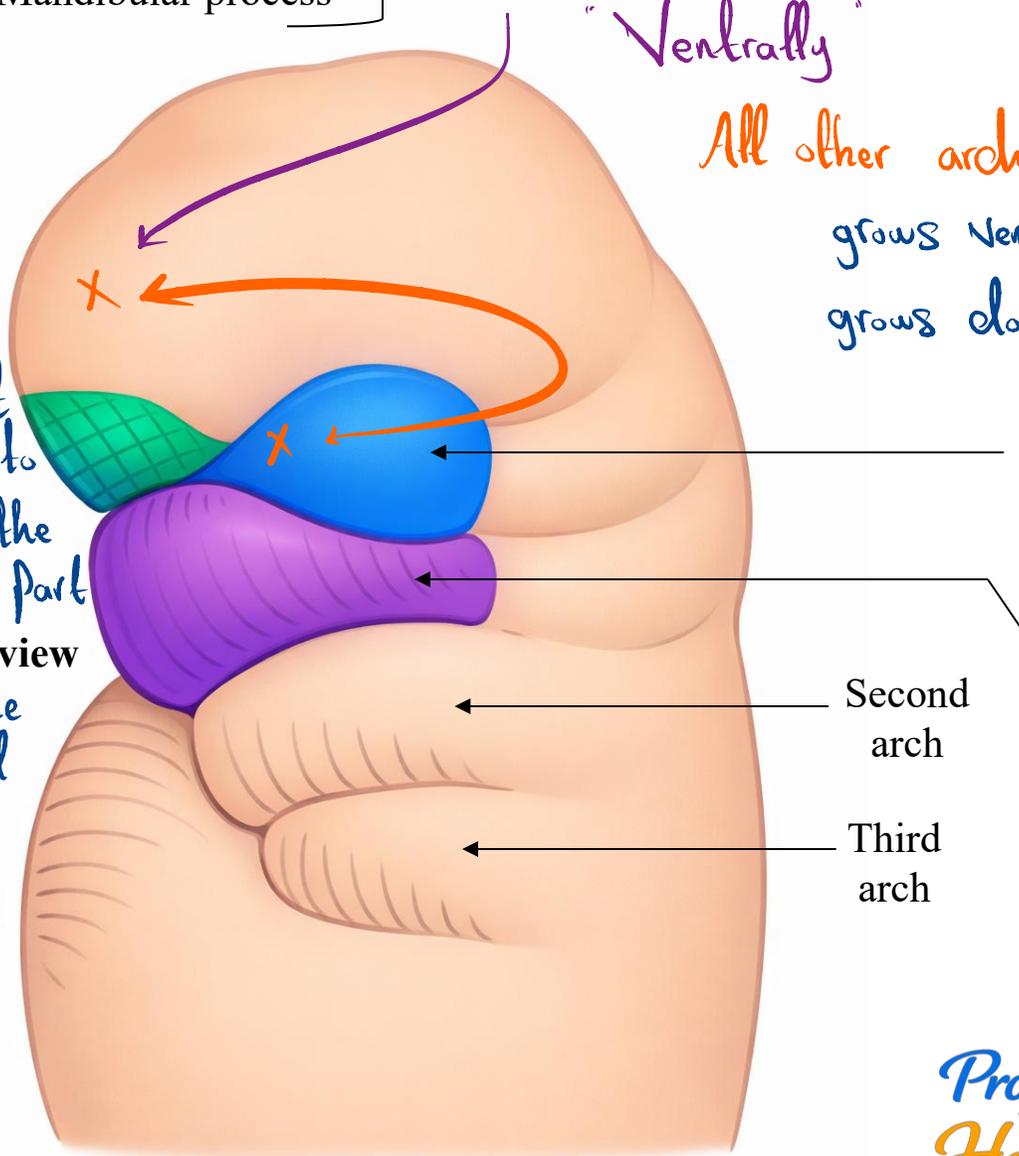
*Both processes grow forward*

*"Ventrally"*

*All other arches / Ventral end grows ventrally, Dorsal end grows dorsally*

*As it going to form the lower part of the head*

**Side view of the head**

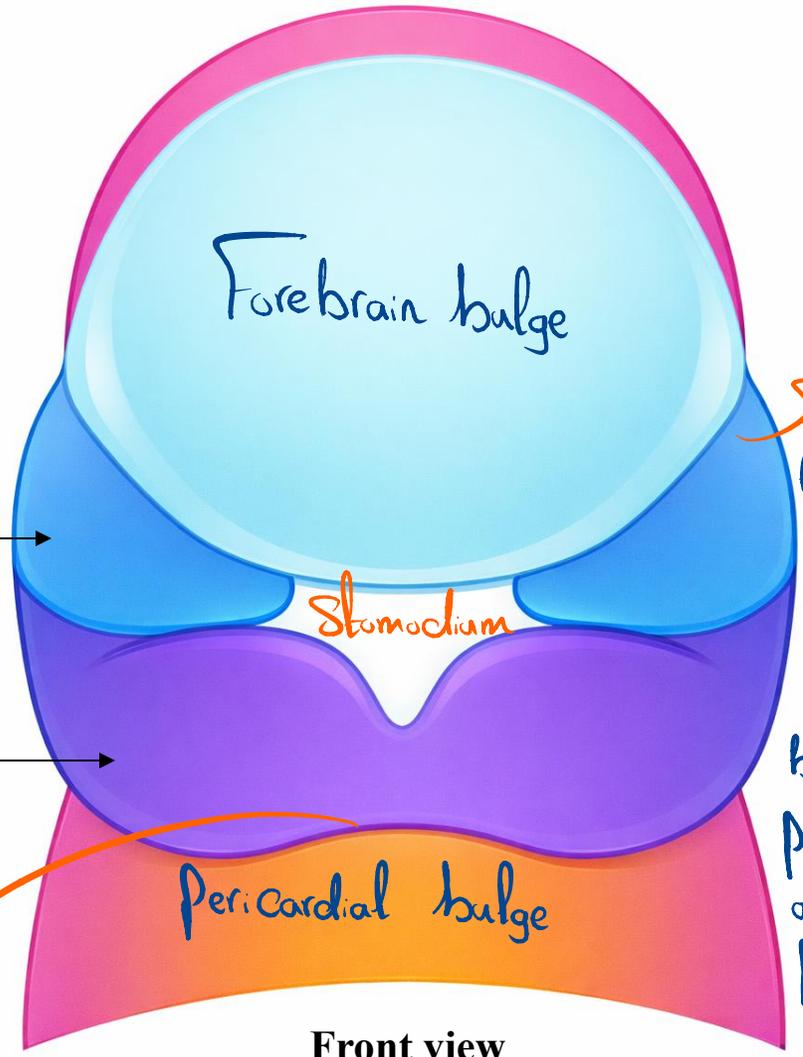


Maxillary process

Mandibular process

Second arch

Third arch



Forebrain bulge

Stomodaeum

Pericardial bulge

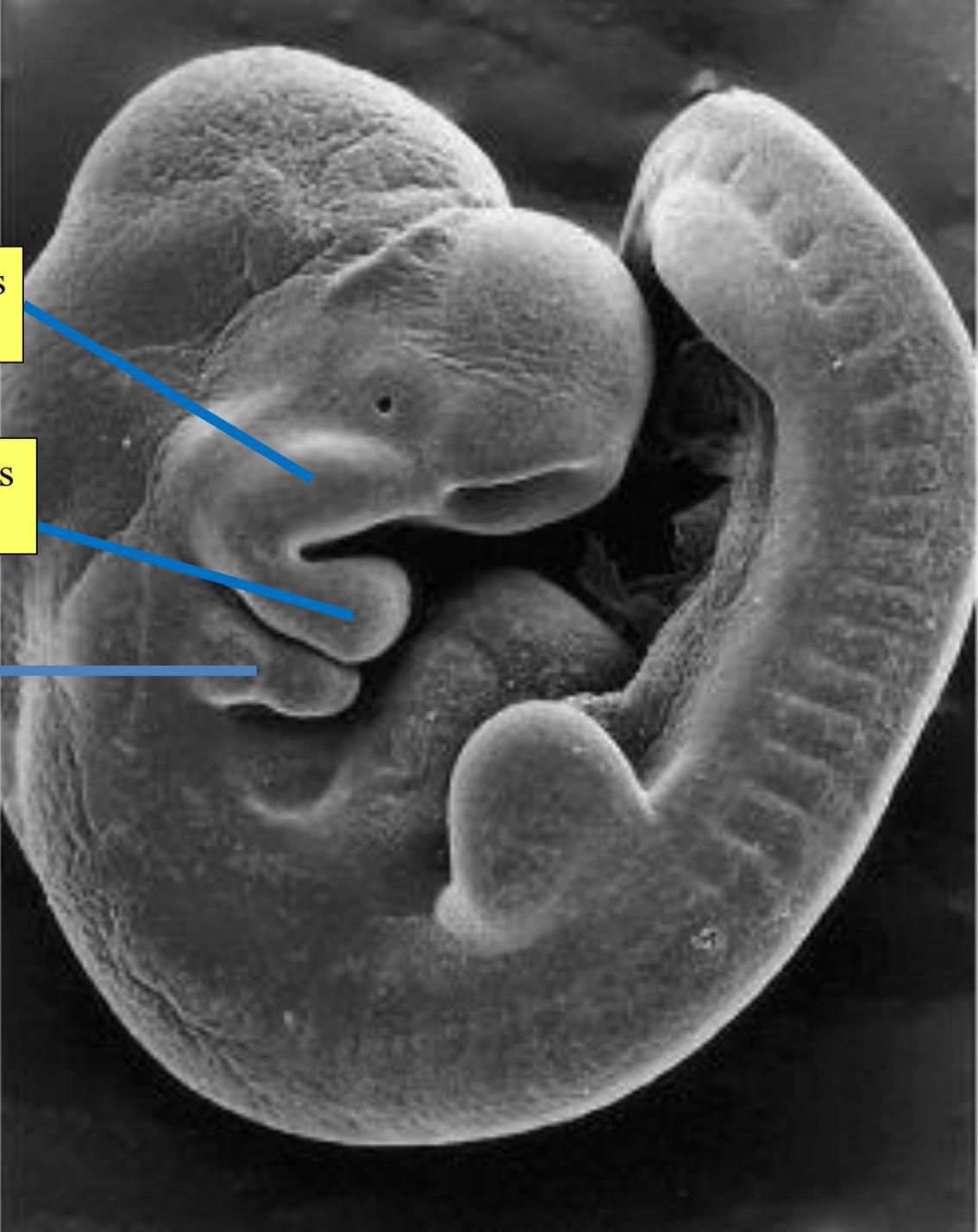
**Front view**

*will enclose the sides of the face*

*by the 2 processes of 1st pharyngeal arch*

*2 mandibular processes will enclose to form mandible*

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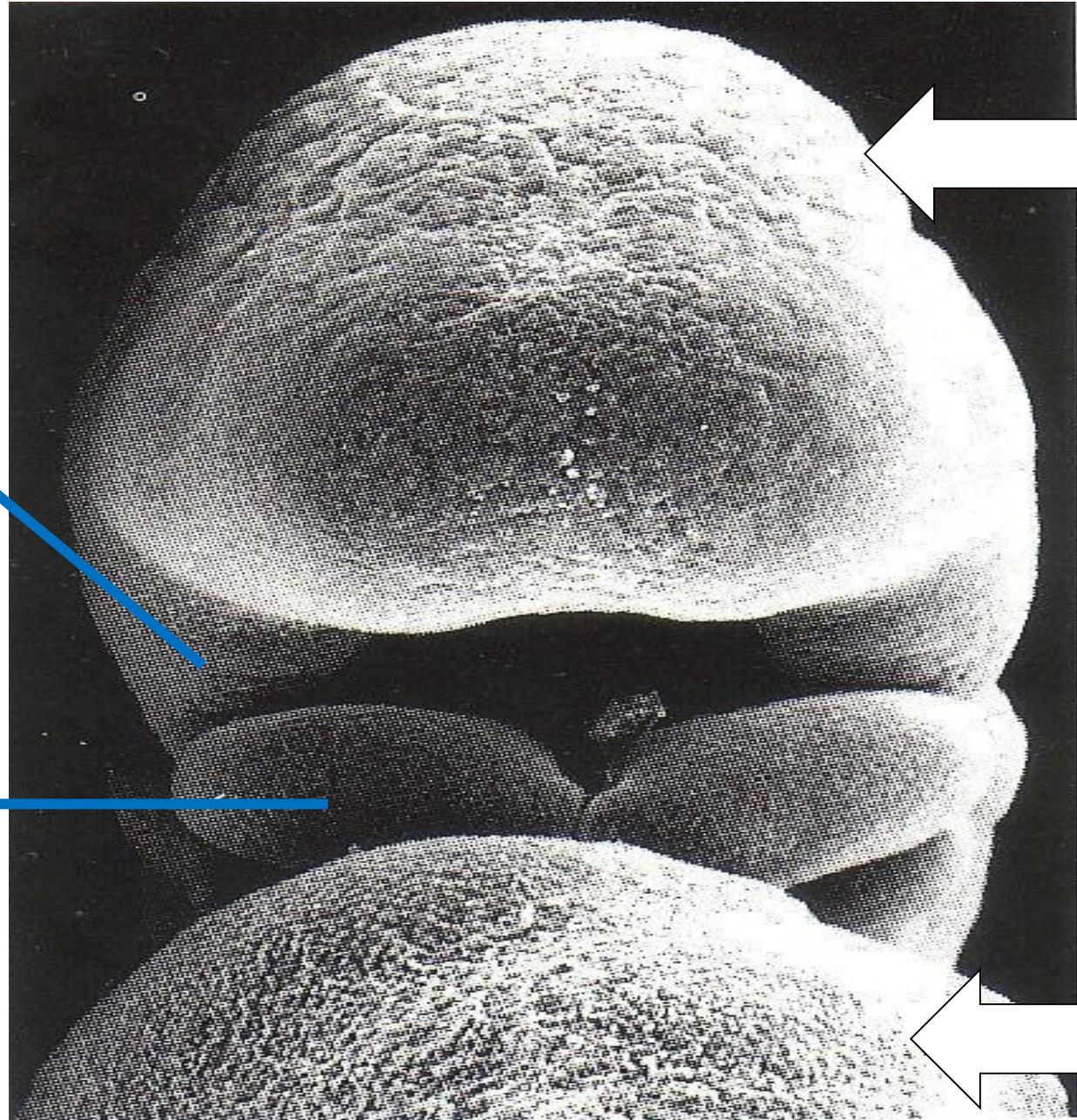


Maxillary process  
of first arch

Mandibular process  
of first arch

Second arch

- ✓ **Maxillary process** is a forward growth of dorsal end of 1<sup>st</sup> pharyngeal arch.
- ✓ **Mandibular process** is a forward growth of ventral end of 1<sup>st</sup> pharyngeal arch



Forebrain bulge

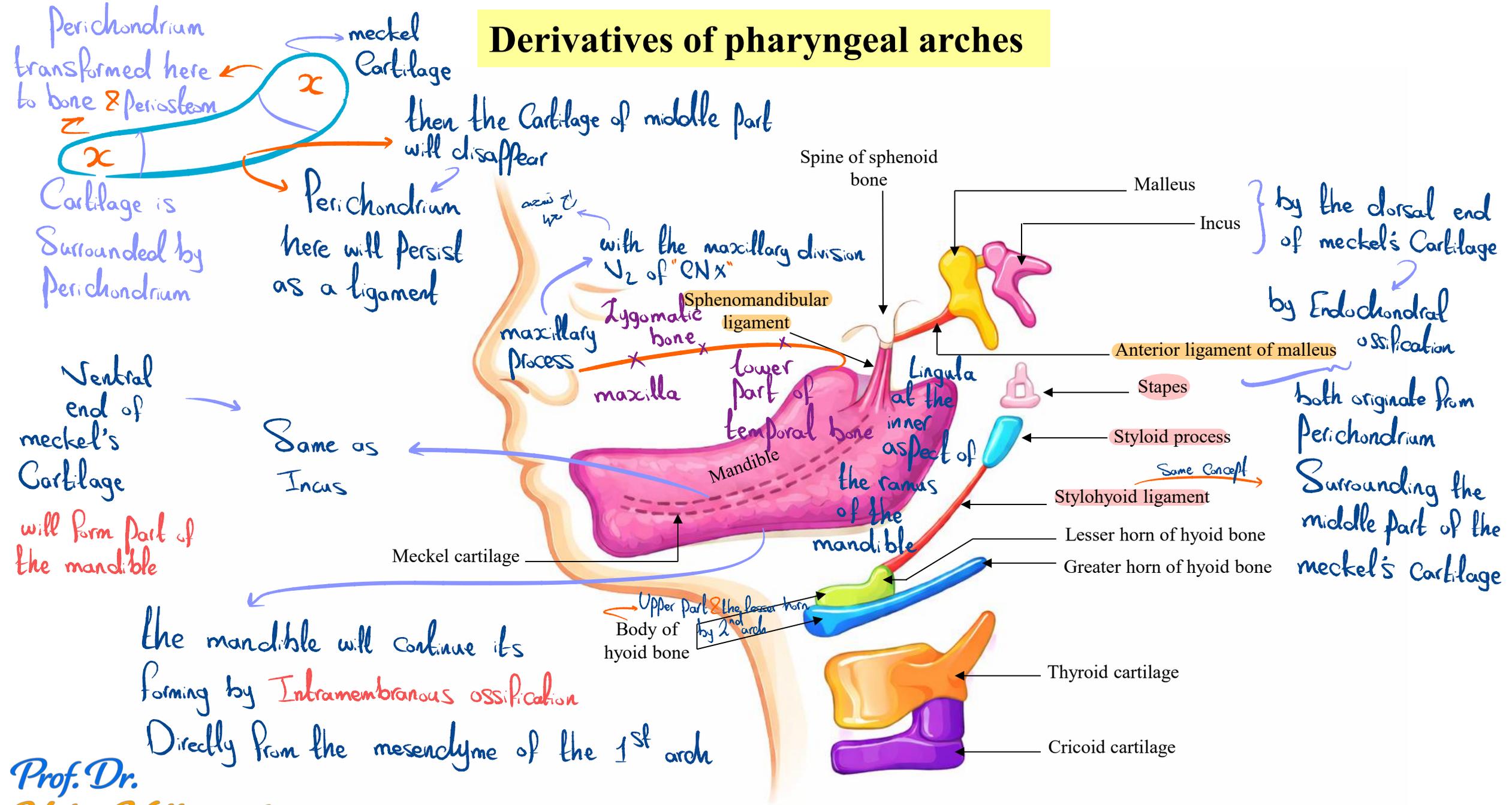
Maxillary process  
of first arch

Mandibular process  
of first arch

Pericardium bulge

Fourth Week

# Derivatives of pharyngeal arches



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# Derivatives of first pharyngeal arch

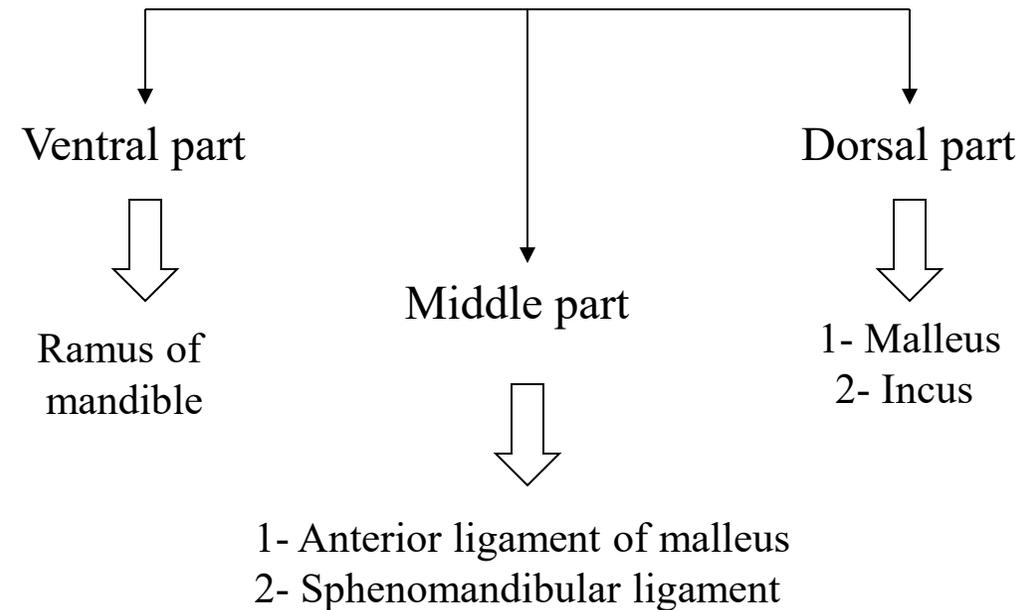
## Maxillary process forms:

1. Lower part of temporal bone
2. Zygomatic bone
3. Maxilla

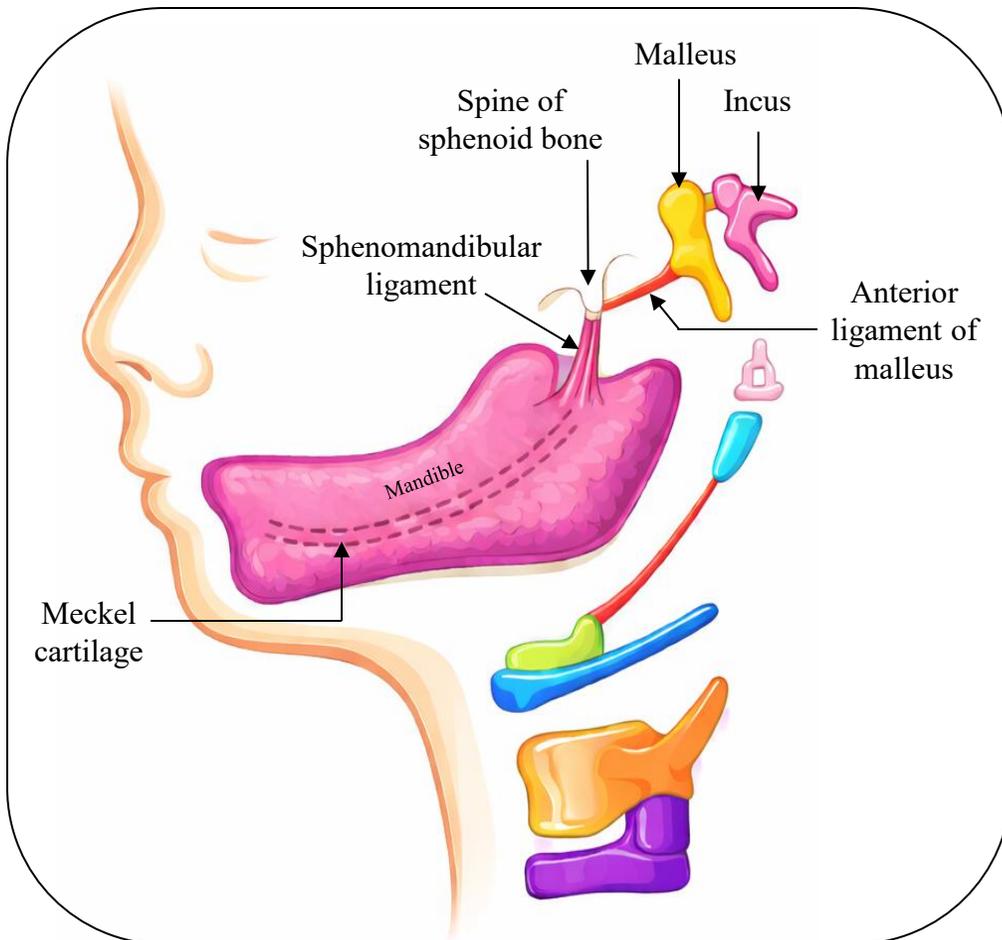
## Mandibular process forms

Meckel's cartilage

## Meckel's cartilage



*N.B The rest of the mandible is formed by intramembranous ossification*



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## Muscles of first pharyngeal arch:

Are the muscles supplied by the **mandibular nerve**:

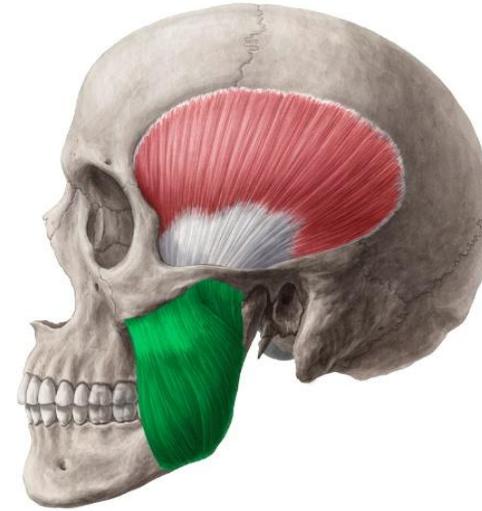
1. Muscles of mastication
2. Tensor tympani
3. Anterior belly of digastric
4. Mylohyoid
5. Tensor veli palatini

*All are supplied by  
Mandibular nerve*

*The nerve supply to the muscles of the first arch is provided by the mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve.*

*Since mesenchyme from the first arch also contributes to the dermis of the face, sensory supply to the skin of the face is provided by ophthalmic, maxillary, and mandibular branches of the trigeminal nerve.*

Masseter & Temporalis

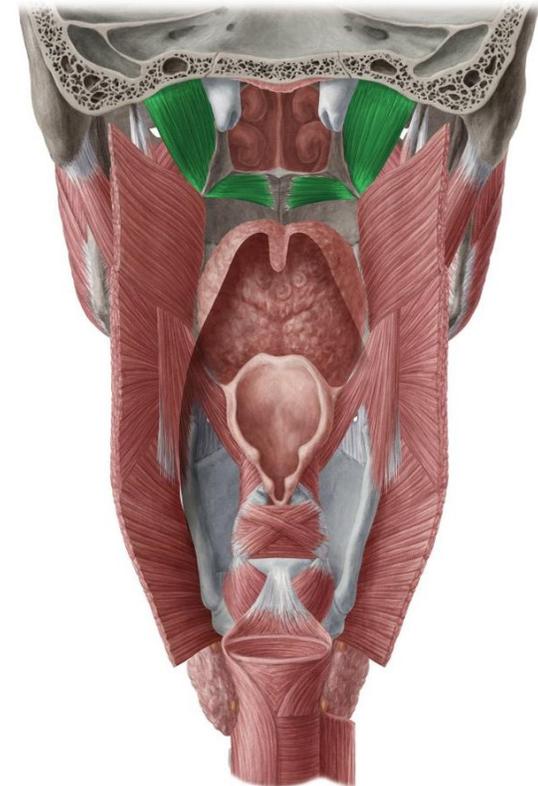


Mylohyoid



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Tensor veli palatini



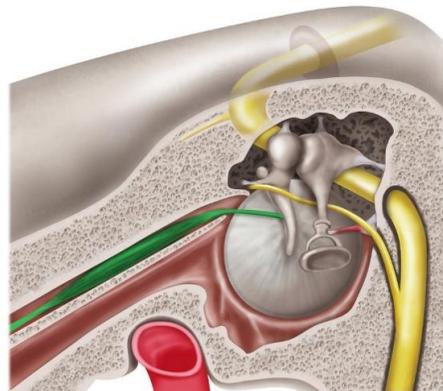
Medial & Lateral pterygoids



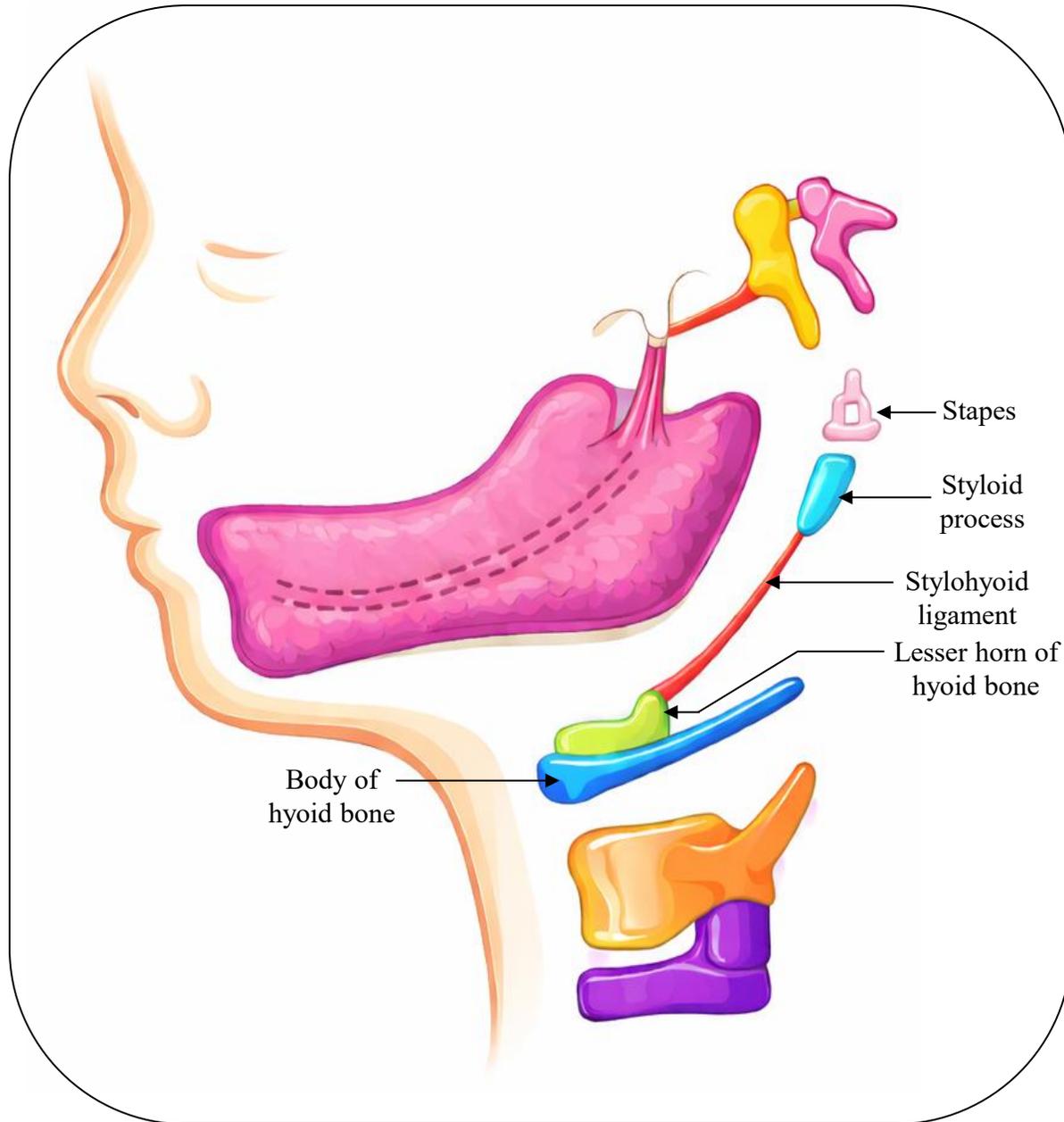
Anterior belly of digastric



Tensor tympani

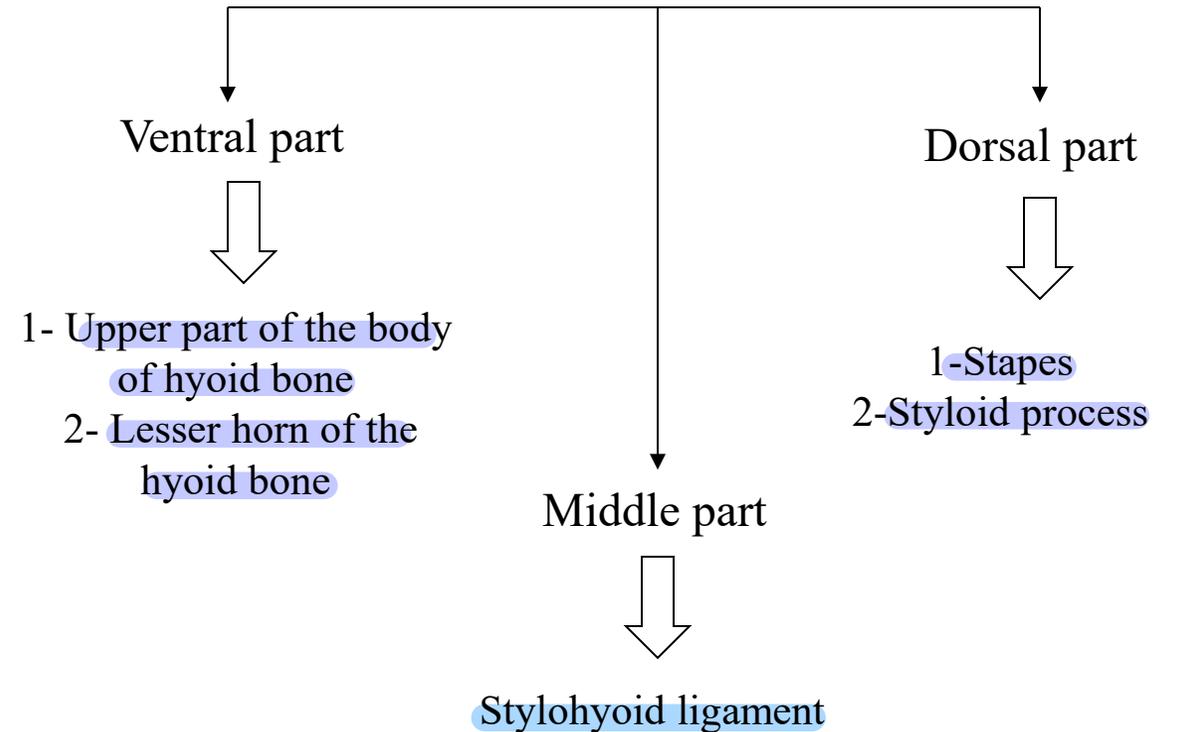


# Derivatives of second pharyngeal arch



The cartilage of the second or hyoid arch  
**(Reichert's cartilage)**

## Reichert's cartilage

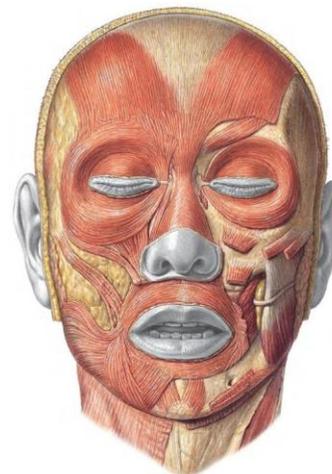


## Muscles of second pharyngeal arch:

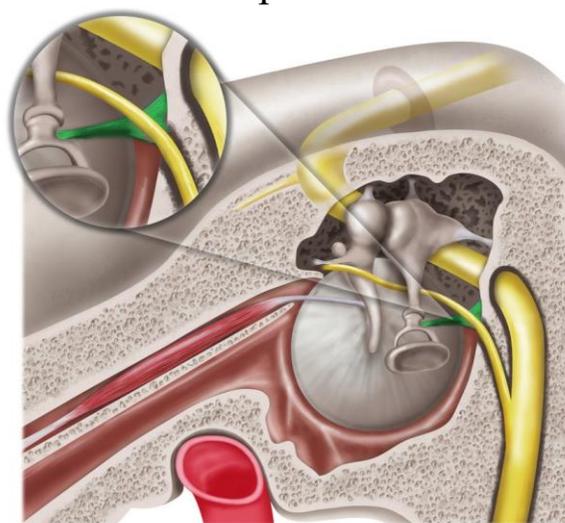
Are the muscles supplied by the **facial nerve**:

- 1- Muscle of facial expression
- 2- Stapedius
- 3- Stylohyoid
- 4- Posterior belly of the digastric

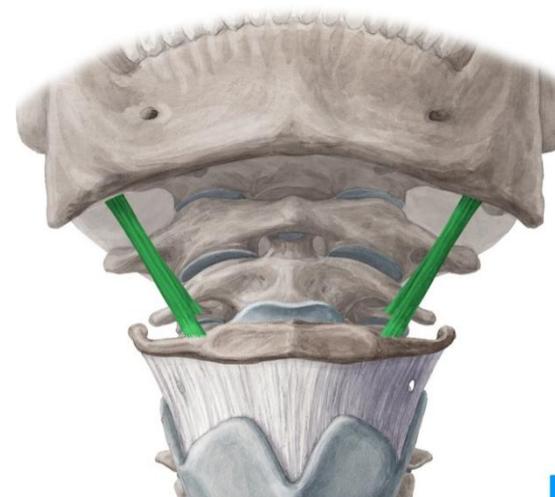
Muscle of facial expression



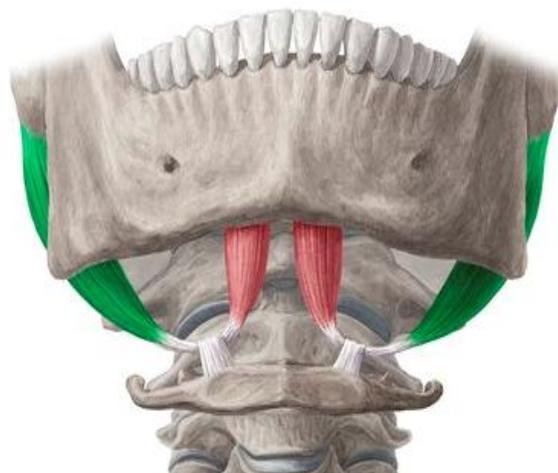
Stapedius



Stylohyoid



Posterior belly of the digastric



## Derivatives of third pharyngeal arch

The cartilage of the third pharyngeal arch produces:

- 1- Lower part of the body of hyoid
- 2- Greater horn of hyoid bone

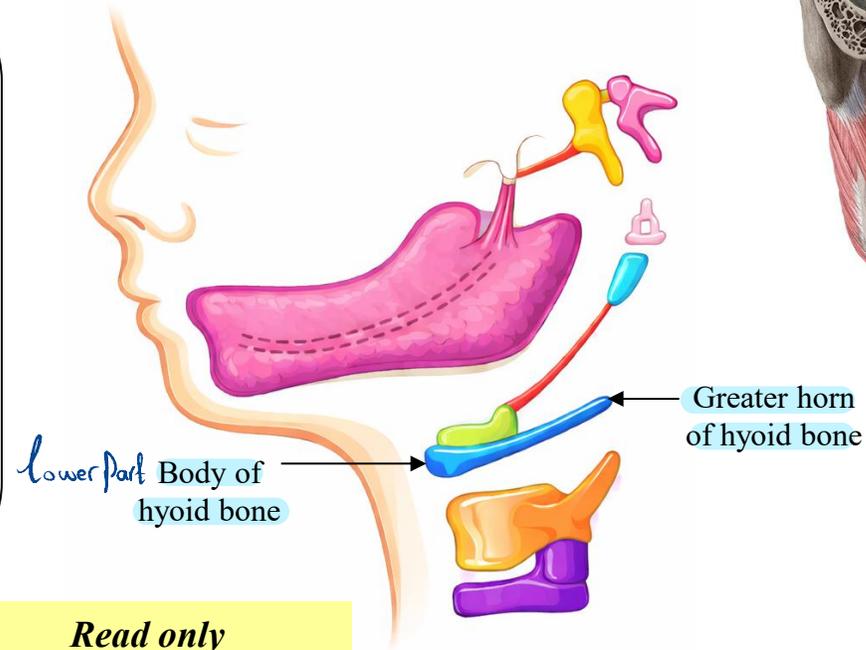
*No ligaments*

**Muscles of third pharyngeal arch:**

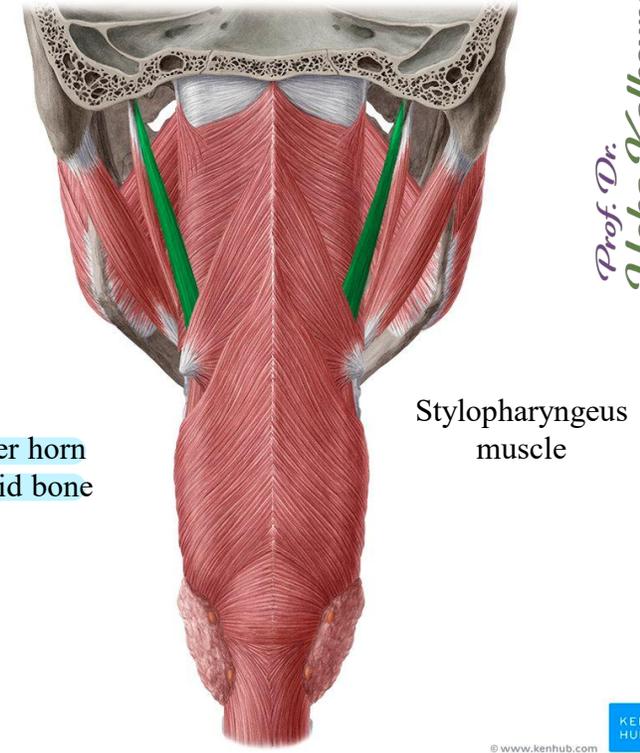
Only one muscle supplied by

**Glossopharyngeal nerve:**

**Stylopharyngeus muscle**



*Read only  
(For Digestive System)*



## Derivatives of fourth pharyngeal arch

The cartilage of the fourth pharyngeal arch produces:

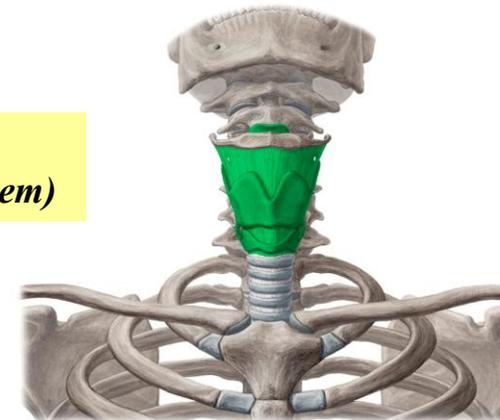
Laryngeal cartilages

**Muscles of fourth pharyngeal arch:**

Only one muscle (Cricothyroid muscle)

Supplied by **Superior laryngeal nerve (vagus)**

*Read only  
(For Respiratory System)*

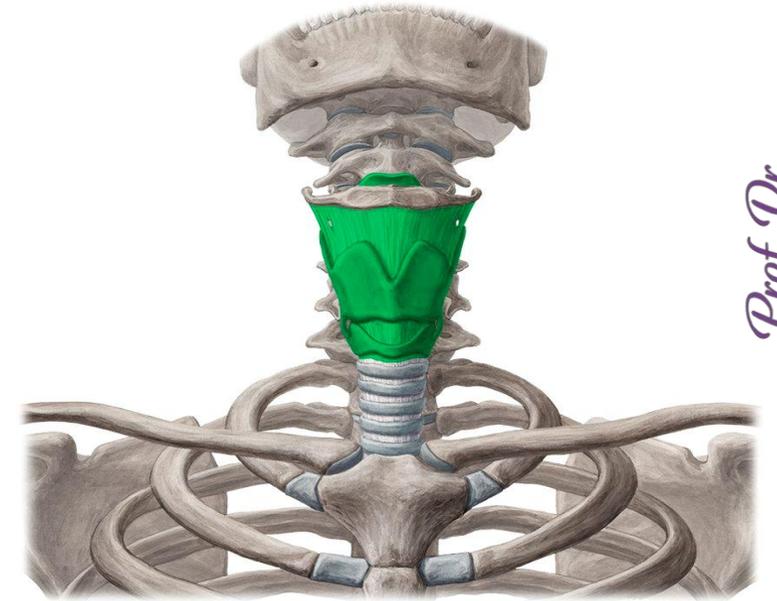


## Derivatives of sixth pharyngeal arch

The cartilages of the sixth pharyngeal arch produce:  
Laryngeal cartilages

**Muscles of sixth pharyngeal arch:**

All laryngeal muscles (except cricothyroid)  
Supplied by **Recurrent laryngeal nerve (vagus nerve)**



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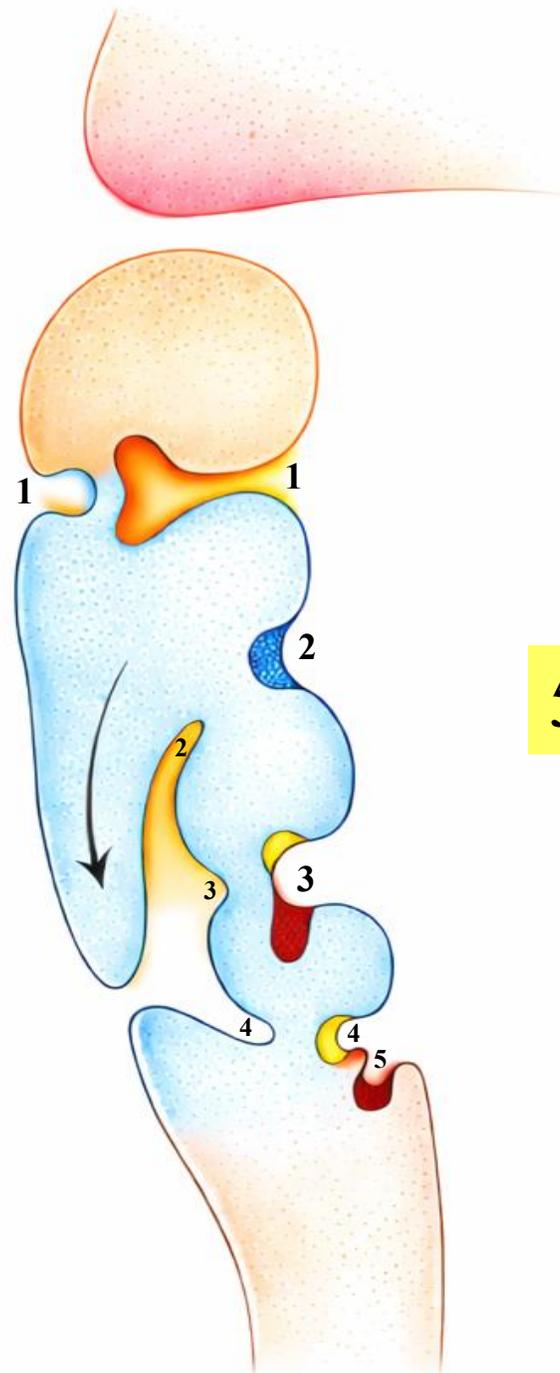
*Read only  
(For Respiratory System)*



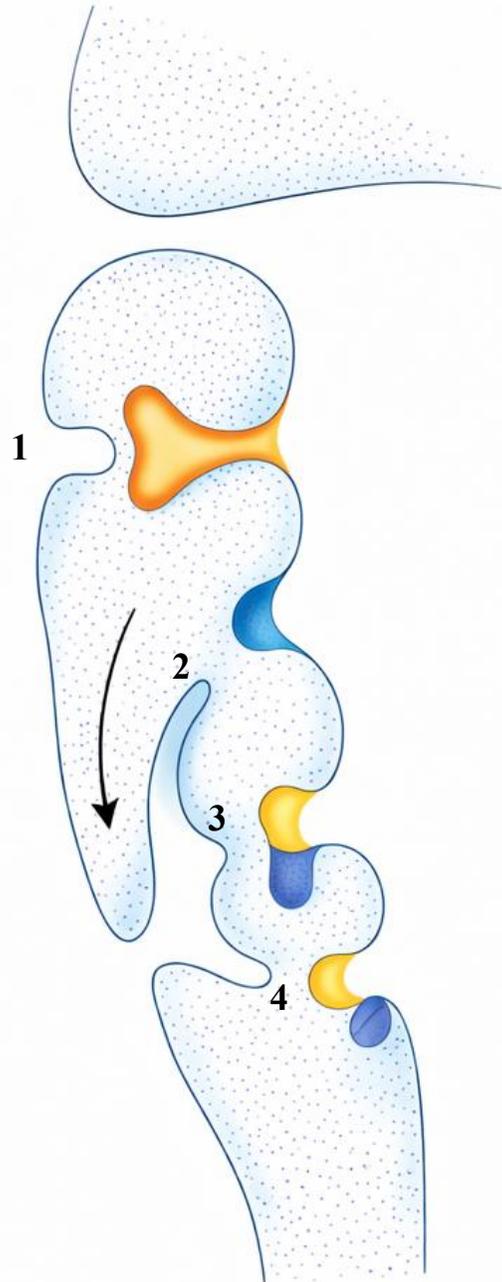
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4 pharyngeal clefts



5 pharyngeal pouches



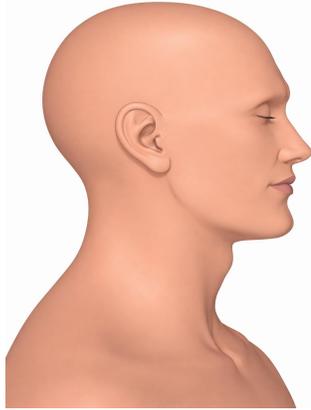
# Fate of pharyngeal clefts

Clefts are **four** in number

# First pharyngeal cleft

Forms:

- 1- External auditory meatus → its dorsal end
- 2- Outer layer of tympanic membrane (skin)



As the cleft is an Ectoderm → the layer which will form the skin

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> pharyngeal clefts

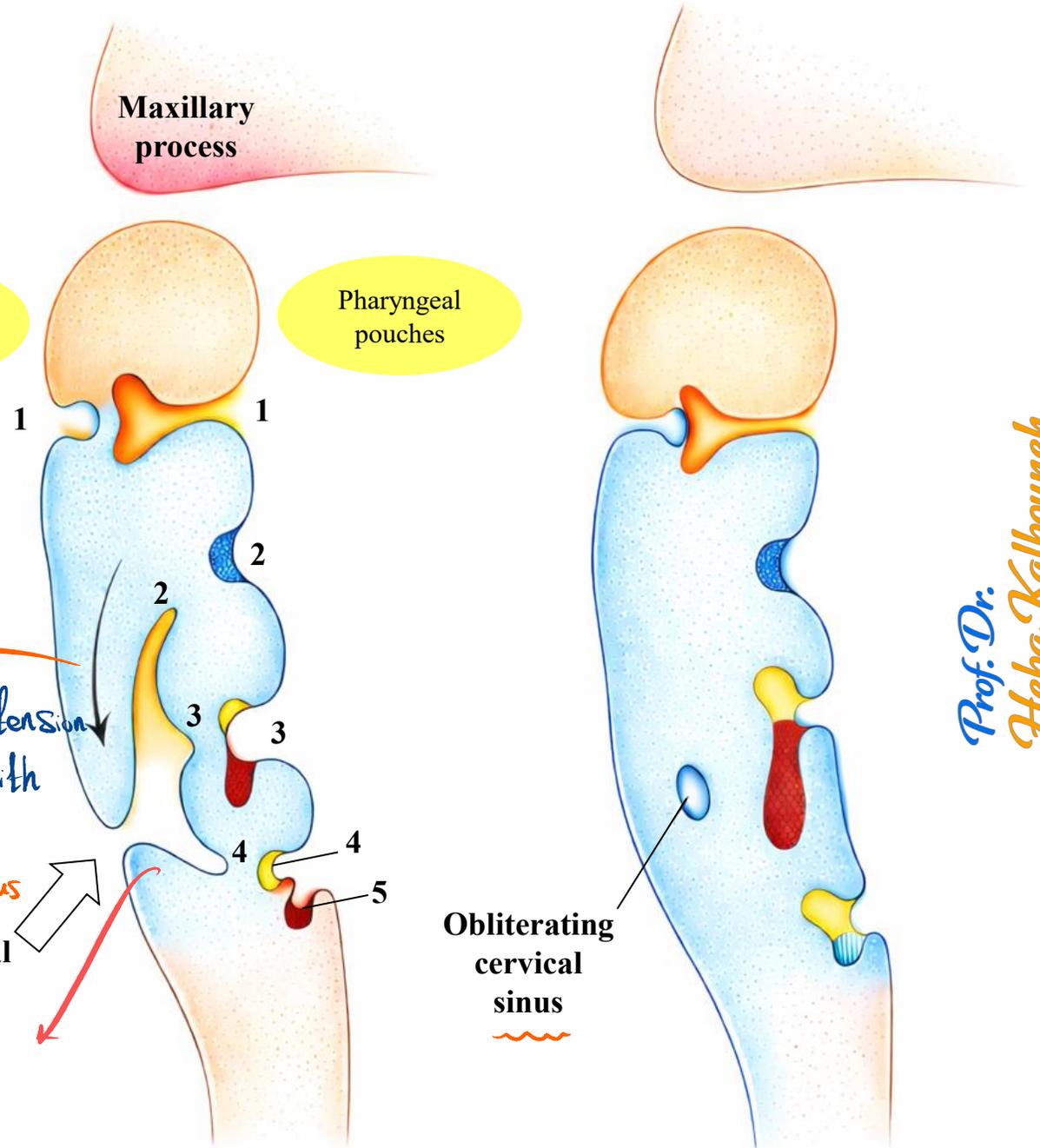
Note the downward growth of 2<sup>nd</sup> arch

- Downward and backward growth of 2<sup>nd</sup> arch will cover the other clefts with a space in between called **cervical sinus**.
- Cervical sinus becomes smaller till it is completely obliterated

this enlarged expansion is going to fuse with Epicardial ridge converting the Sinus into a cyst

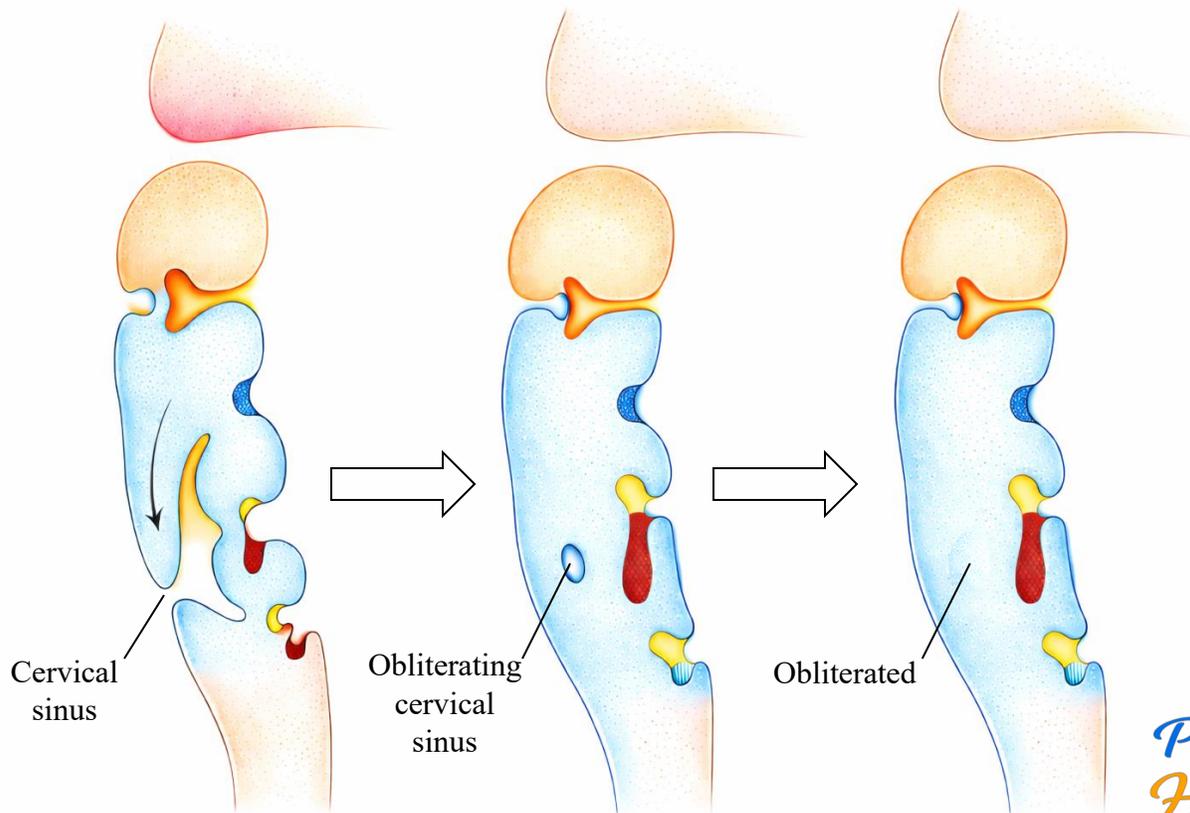
Cervical sinus

Epicardial ridge

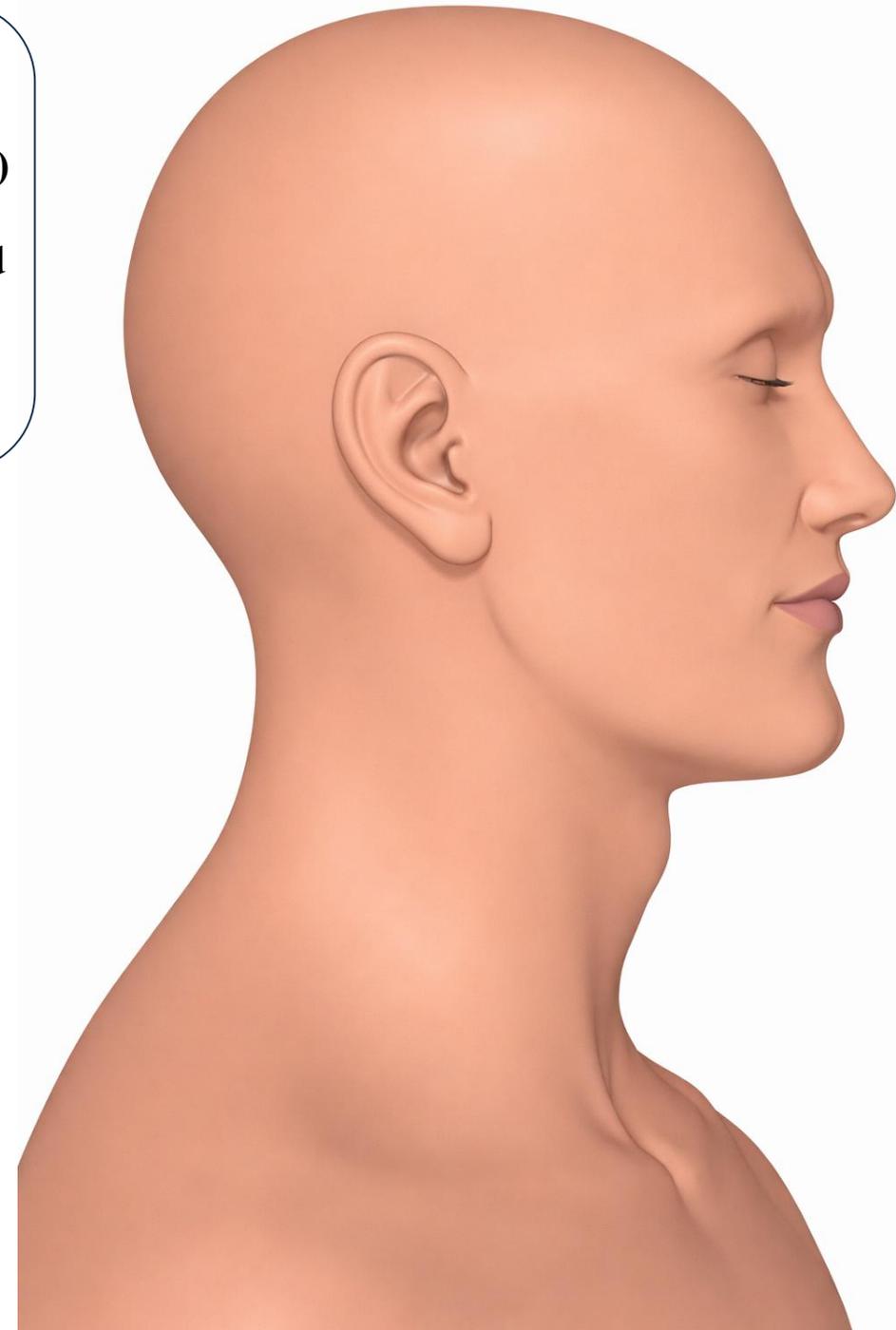


Obliterating cervical sinus

During early embryonic development, the lateral surface of the neck initially shows a segmented appearance due to the presence of the pharyngeal arches separated by pharyngeal clefts. As development progresses, the **second pharyngeal arch (hyoid arch)** grows caudally and posteriorly, extending over the third and fourth arches. This downward expansion covers the intervening clefts and forms a temporary ectoderm-lined cavity known as the **cervical sinus**, which later disappears as the tissues fuse and remodel. As a result, the initially segmented pharyngeal region becomes smooth, producing the **characteristic smooth contour of the neck** seen in normal anatomy.



*Prof. Dr.  
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## Cervical (branchial) cyst

- Remnant of cervical sinus
- Can form a fluid filled cyst in the neck

## Cervical (branchial) fistula

Results from persistence of the cervical sinus, forming an epithelial-lined tract. If the tract opens to the skin of the neck, it is called an external fistula; if it opens into the pharynx, it is called an internal fistula.

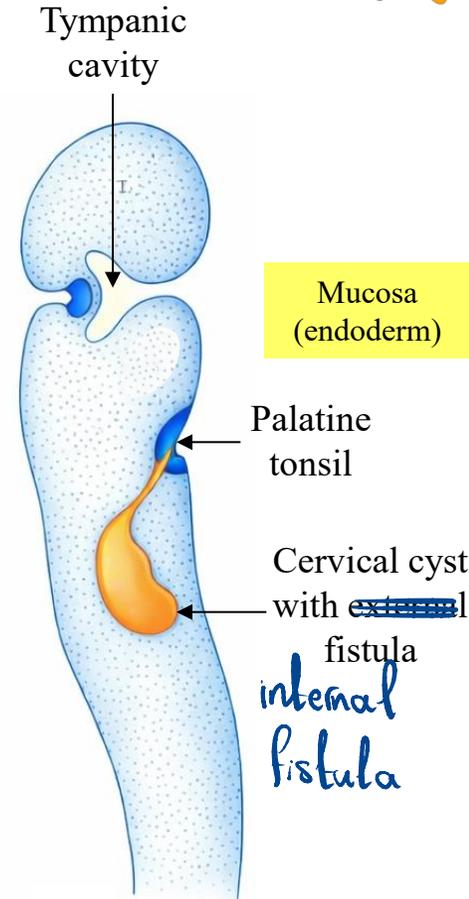
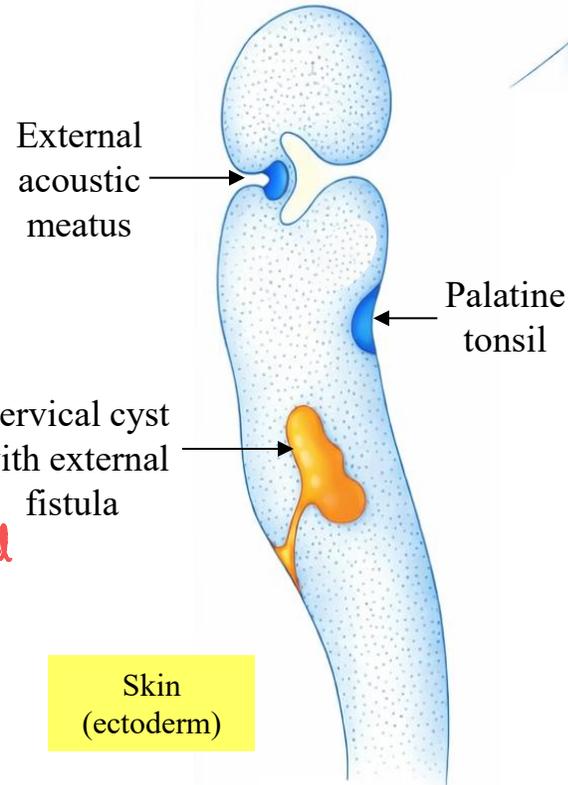
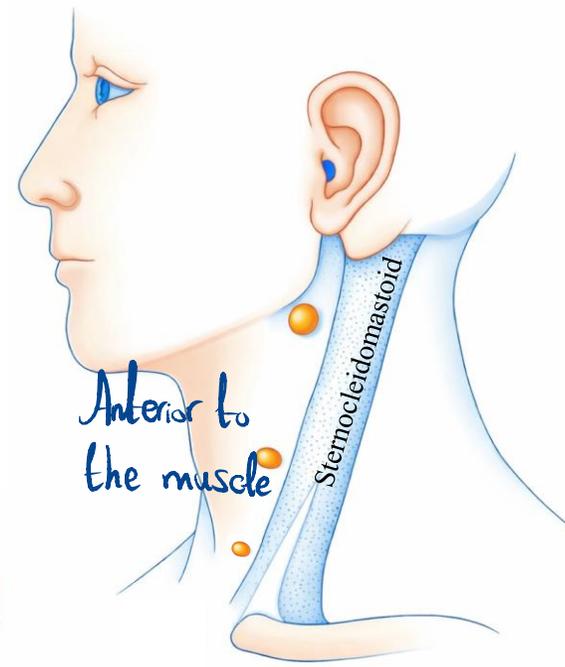
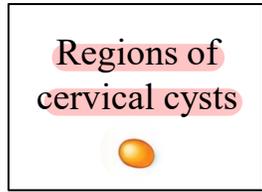
*The cervical cyst is usually not visible at birth but becomes evident as it enlarges during childhood.*



Presents as slowly enlarging lateral neck mass on the lateral side of the neck in front of the sternocleidomastoid



*At any point at the anterior border of Sternocleidomastoid*



**Ectodermal tubercles forming the auricle**

these tubercles will be formed above & below the 1<sup>st</sup> cleft  
in certain locations & then they fuse to the special shape of  
auricle



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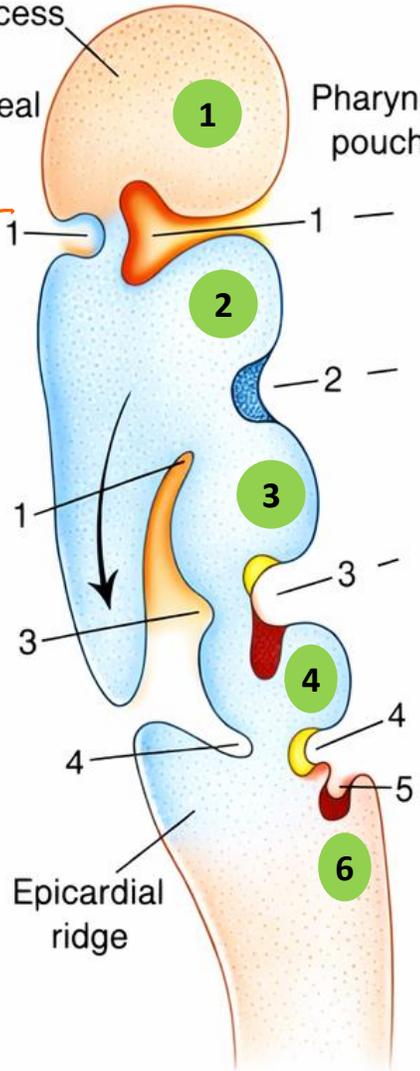
Maxillary process

Mandibular process

Pharyngeal clefts

Pharyngeal pouches

Area of tympanic membrane



Prim. tympanic cavity

Auditory tube

Ext. auditory meatus

Palatine tonsil

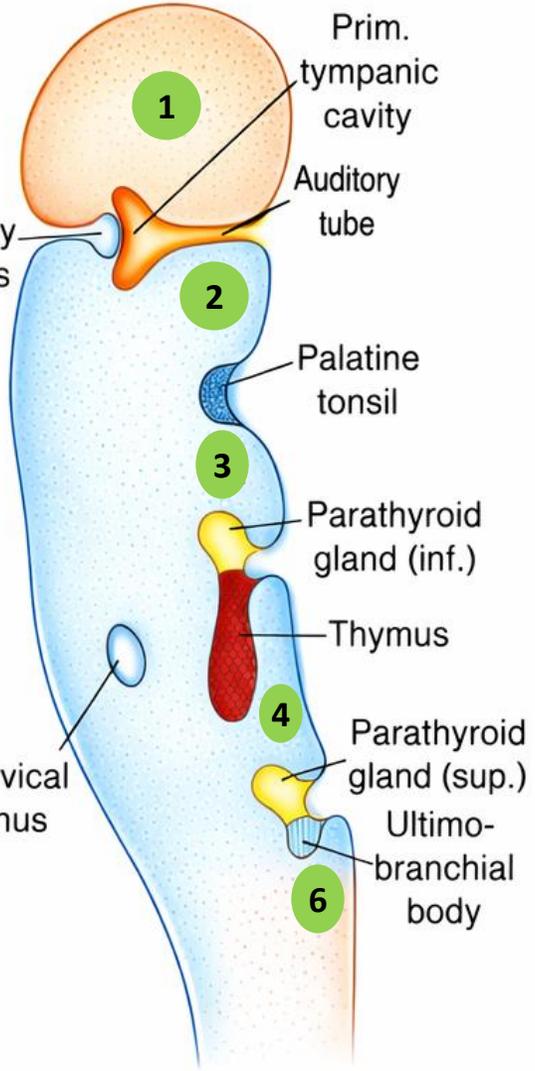
Parathyroid gland (inf.)

Thymus

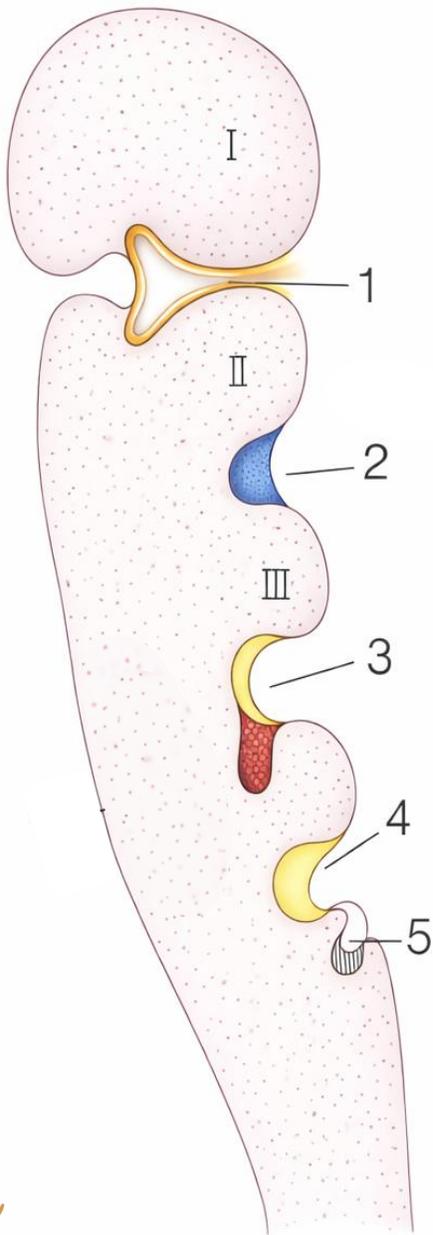
Parathyroid gland (sup.)

Ultimobranchial body

Cervical sinus



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# Fate of pharyngeal pouches

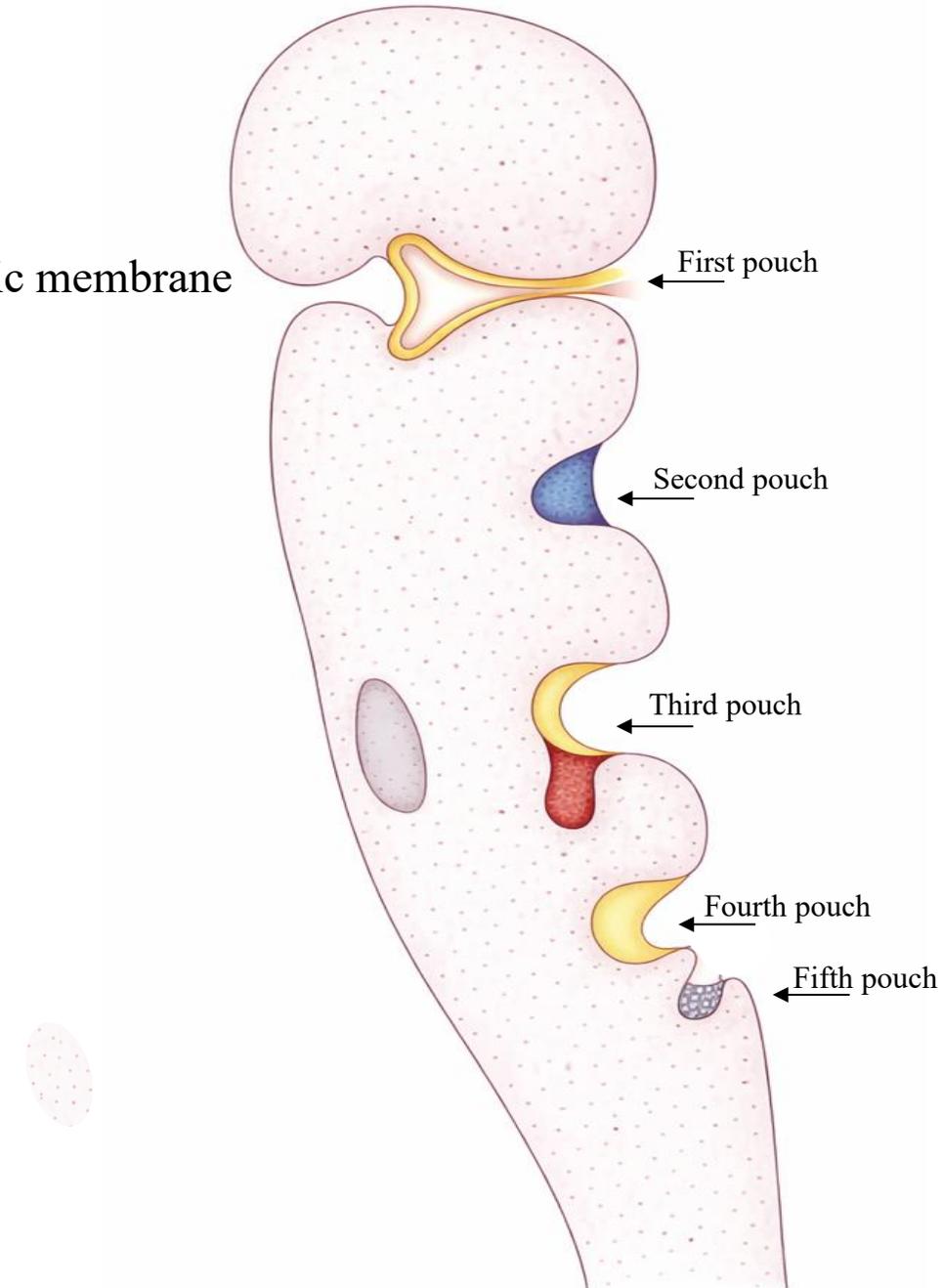
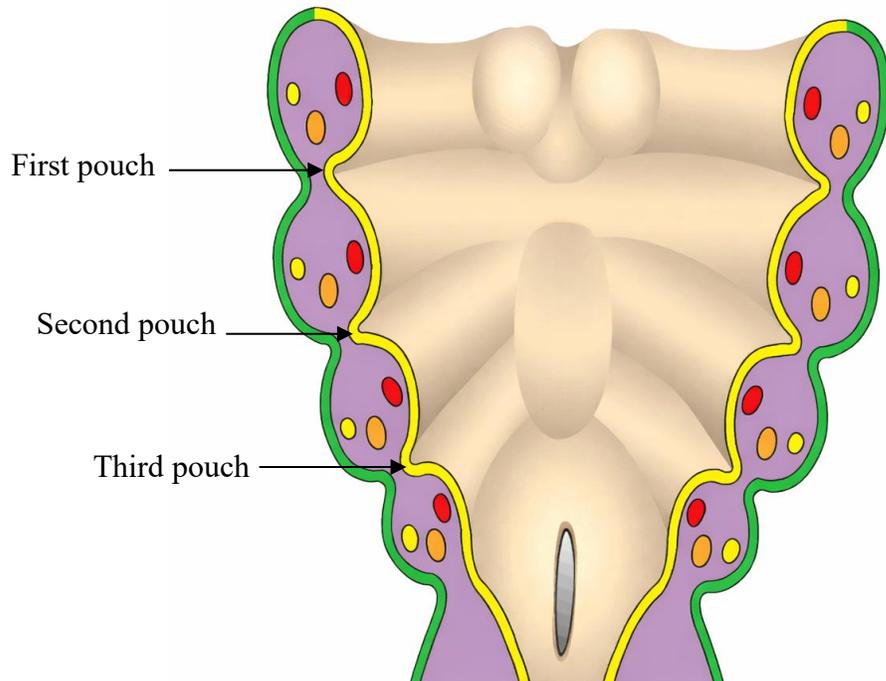
Pouches are **five** in number

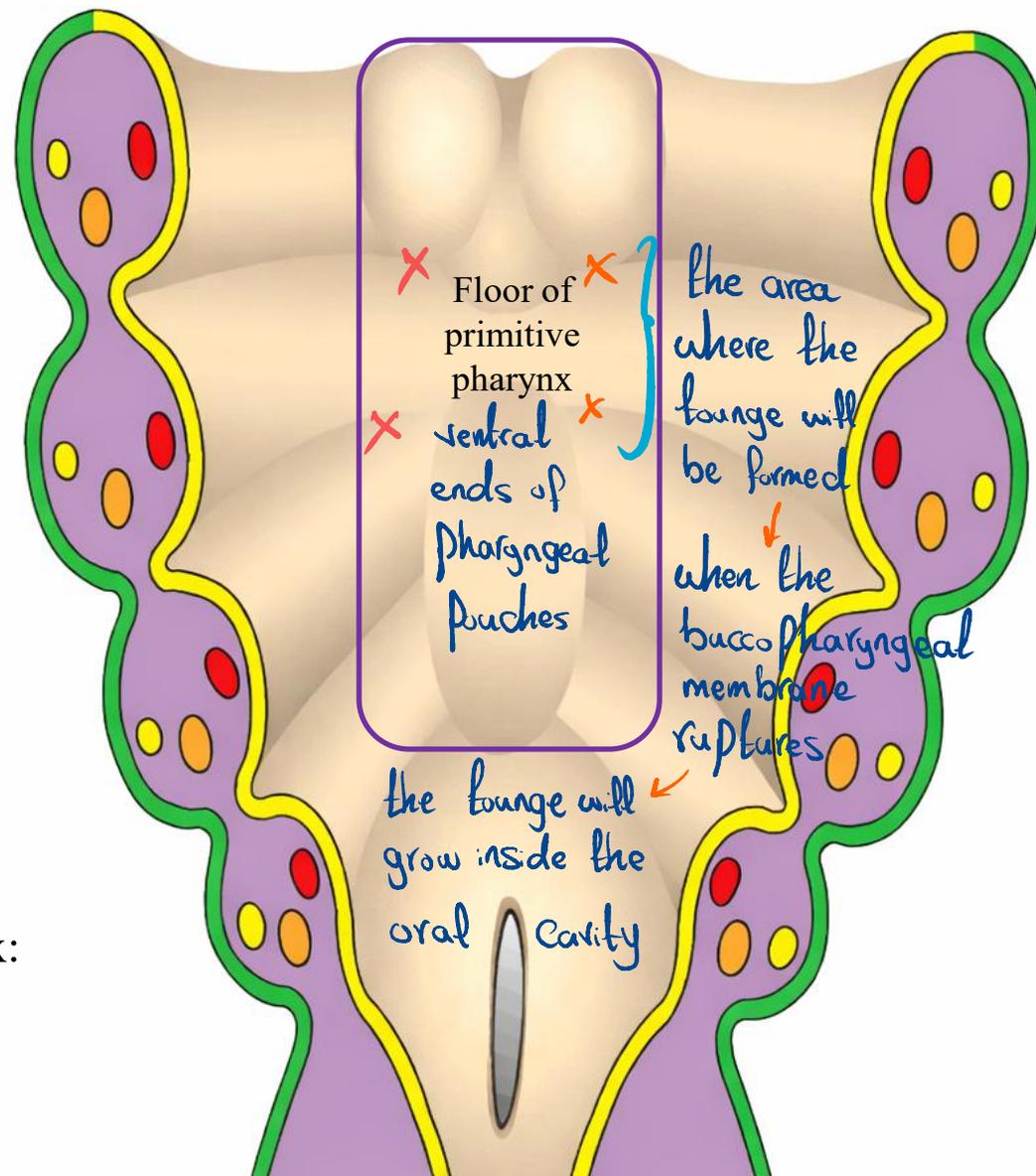
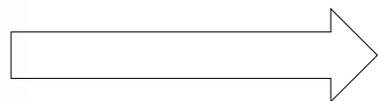
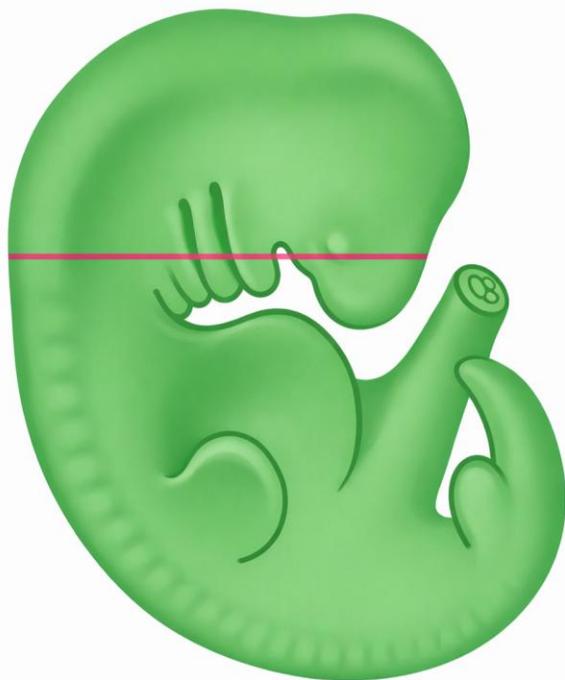
# Fate of pharyngeal pouches

Only first and second pouches are covered in MSS

Pouch	Derivatives
1	Middle ear cavity, auditory tube, inner layer of tympanic membrane
2	Palatine tonsil
3	Thymus, inferior parathyroid glands
4	Superior parathyroid glands
5	Ultimobranchial body → thyroid parafollicular cells

For  
Endocrine  
System





Note:

Three major structures originate from the floor of the primitive pharynx:

1. Tongue
2. Thyroid gland
3. Respiratory tract

*Arise from endodermal proliferations in the floor of the primitive pharynx during the 4th week of development.*

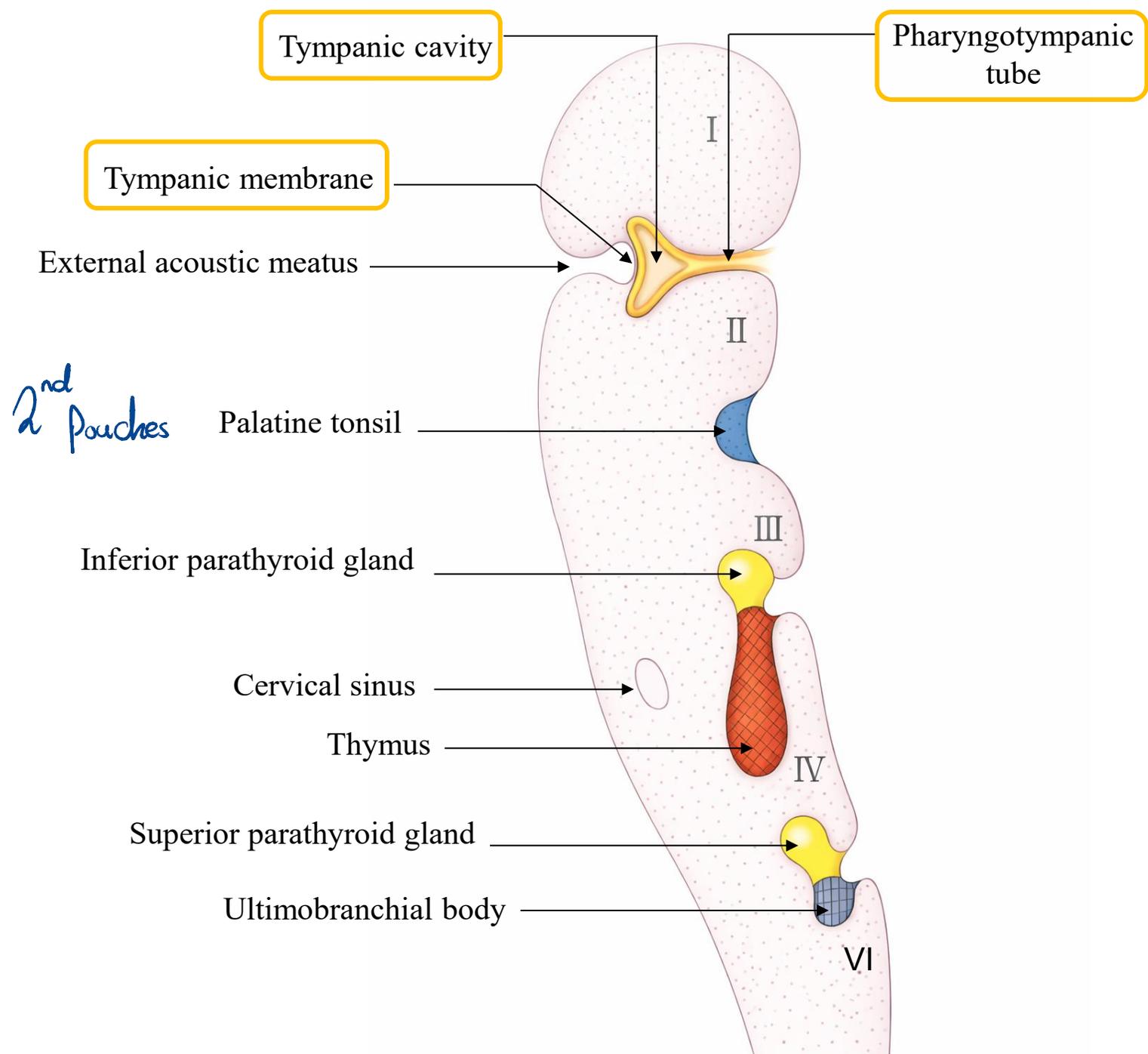
**Coronal section of neck showing structure of pharyngeal arches**

## First pharyngeal pouch

Forms:

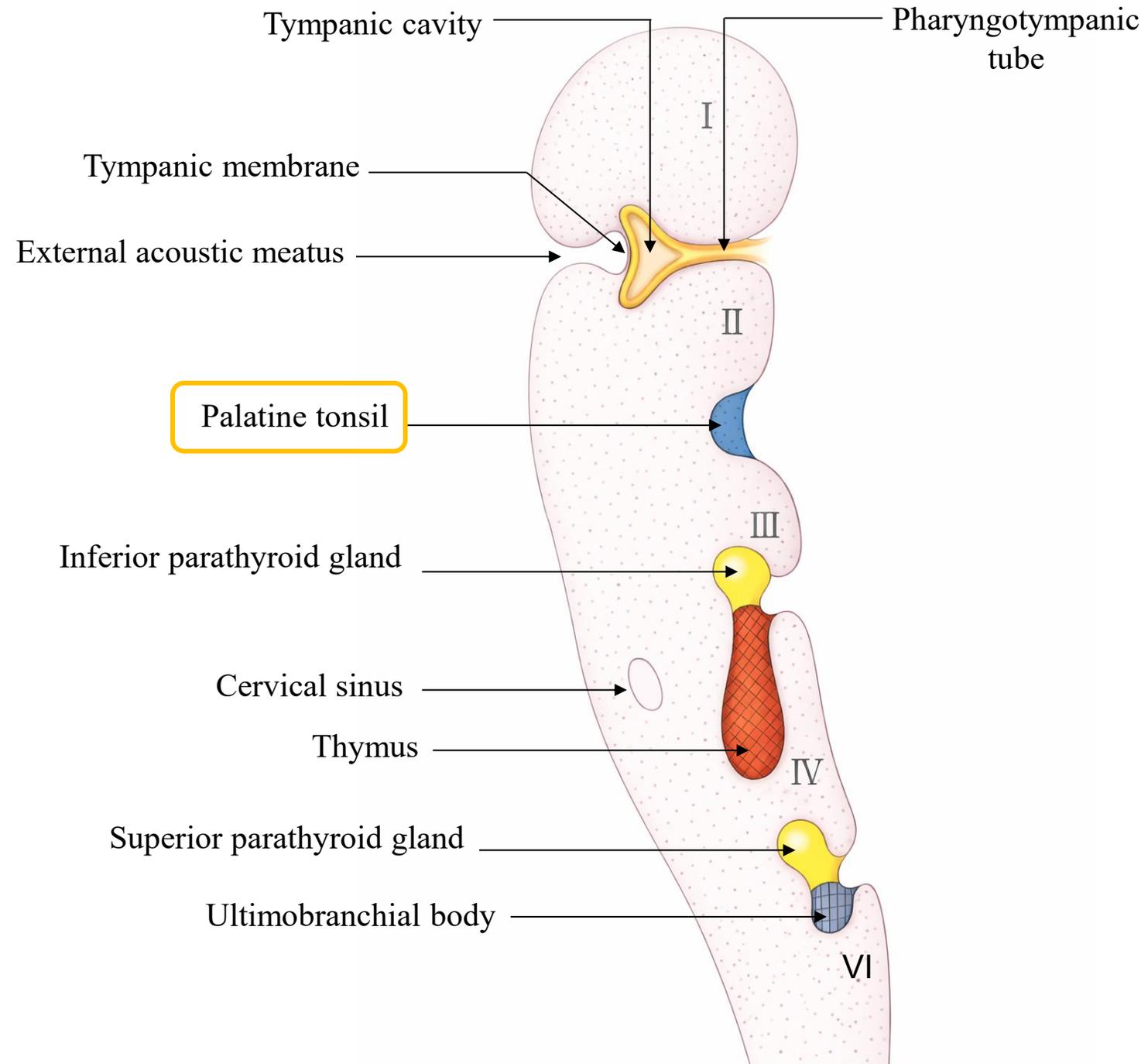
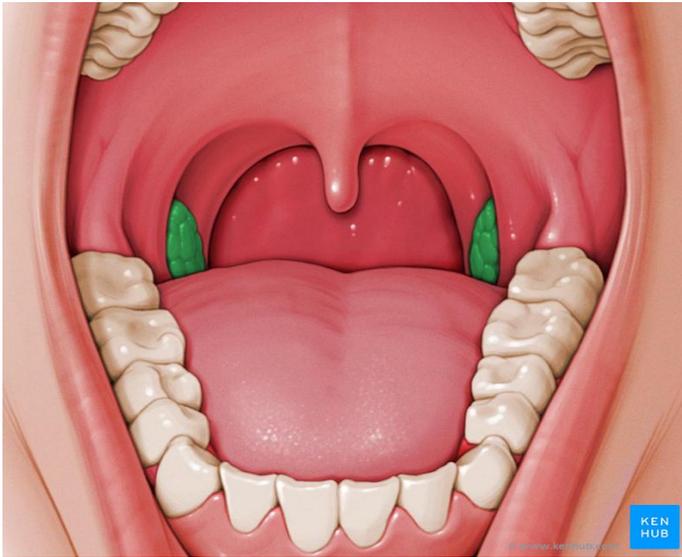
- 1- Inner layer of tympanic membrane (mucous membrane)
- 2- Middle ear (tympanic cavity)
- 3- Eustachian tube (pharyngotympanic tube)

↳ Opens into the Anterior wall of the middle ear



# Second pharyngeal pouch

Forms:  
**Palatine tonsils**



## Third pharyngeal pouch

Forms:

**Thymus**

**Inferior thyroid gland**

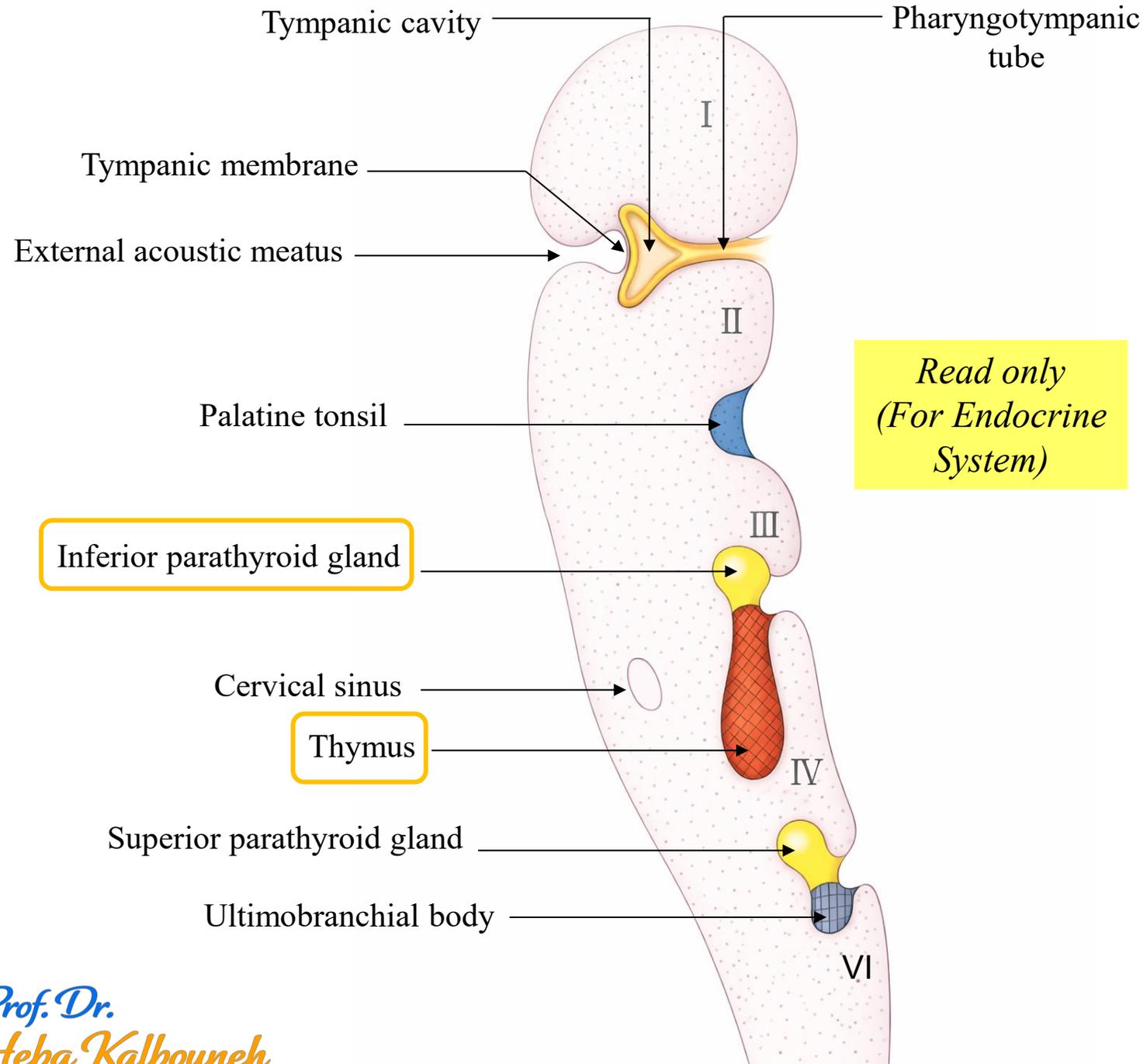
Note: The thymus migrates in a caudal and a medial direction, pulling the inferior parathyroid with it.

*Note:*

**Postnatal**

**Thymus:** lies in the thorax behind the sternum

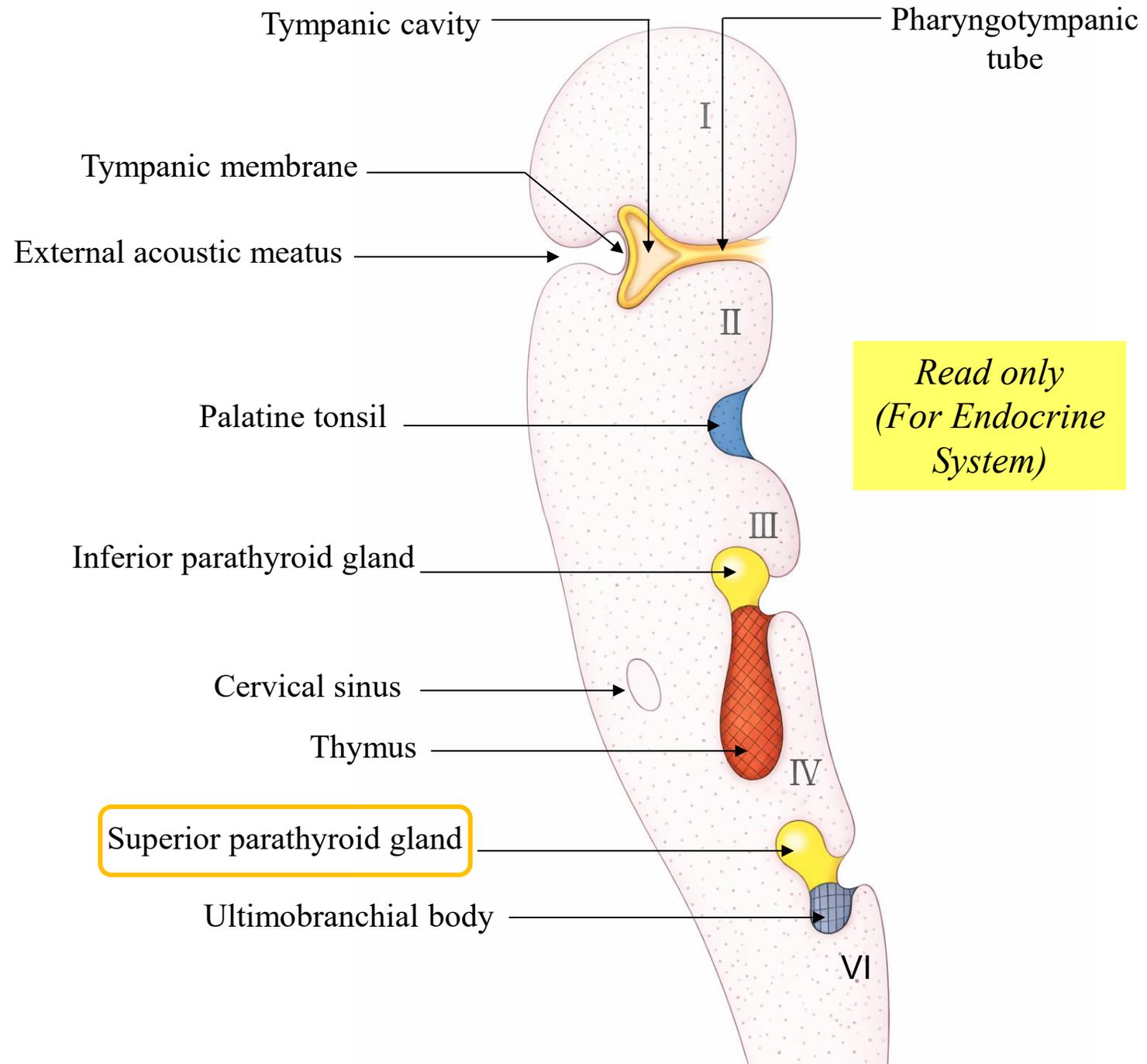
**Inferior thyroid glands:** lie on the posterior surface of thyroid gland



## Fourth pharyngeal pouch

Forms:  
**Superior thyroid gland**

*Note:*  
*Superior thyroid glands: lie on the posterior surface of thyroid gland*

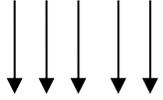


## Fifth pharyngeal pouch

Forms

### Ultimobranchial body:

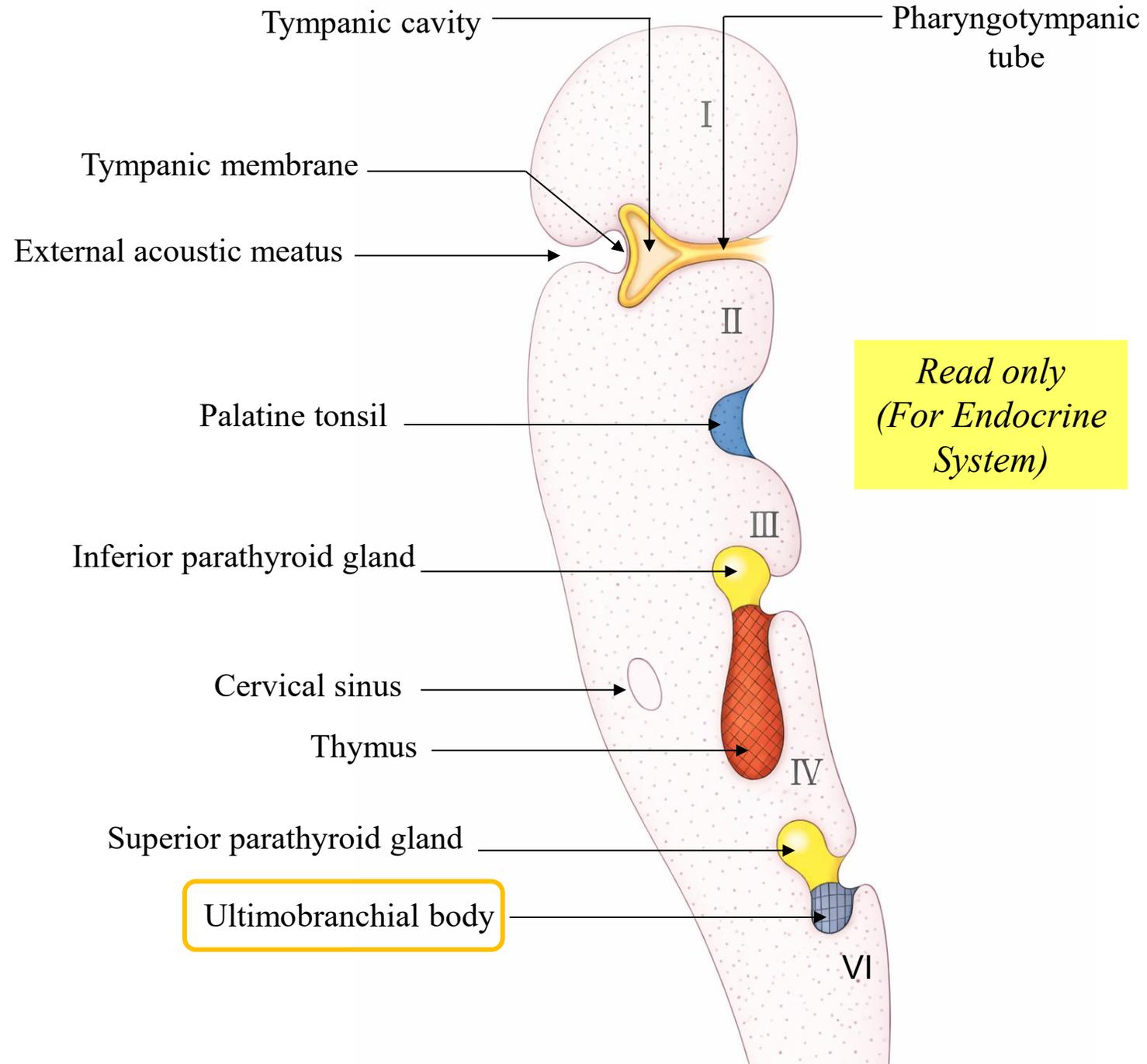
Is incorporated into the thyroid gland.

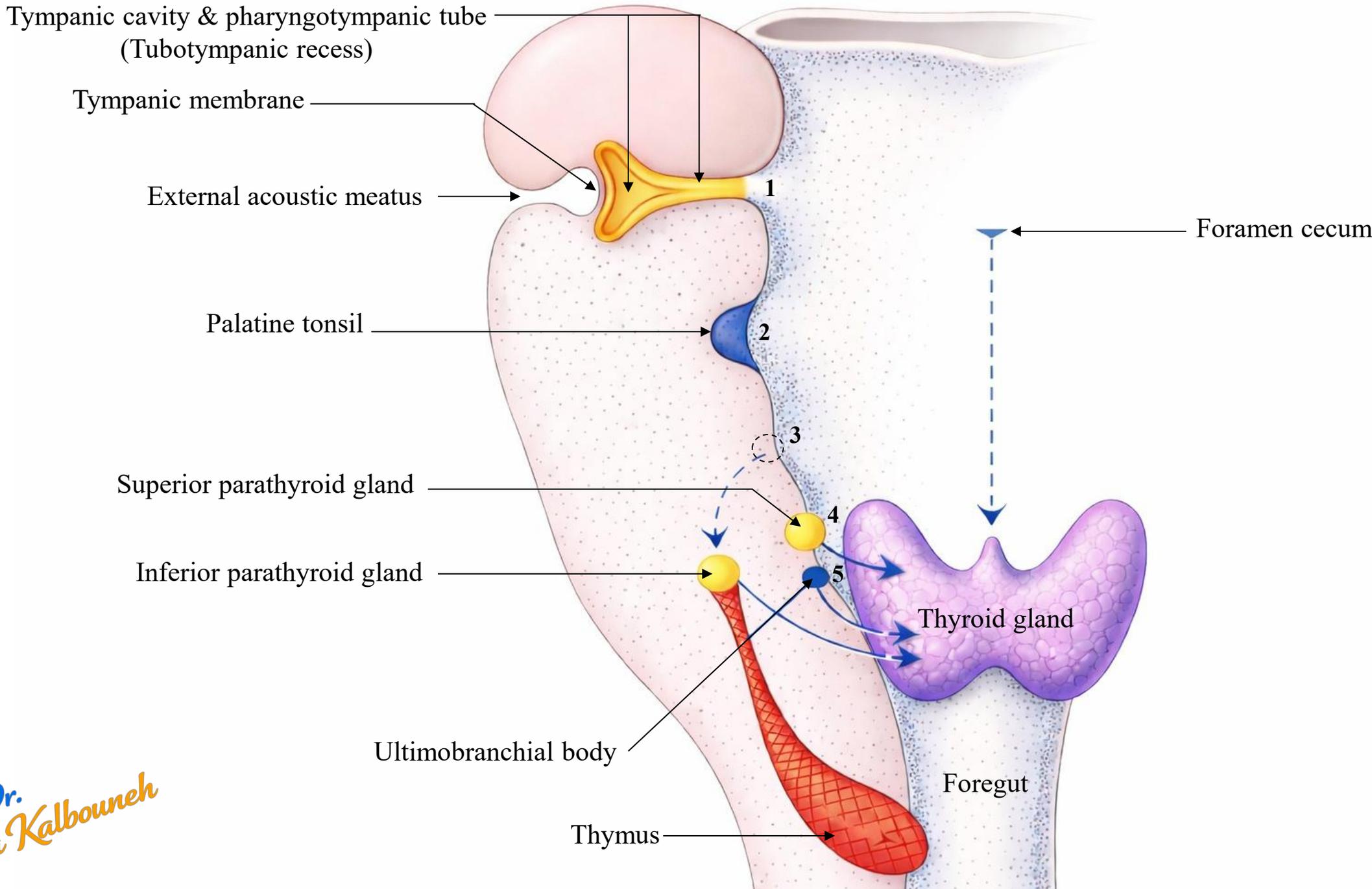


Cells of the ultimobranchial body give rise to the parafollicular of the thyroid gland

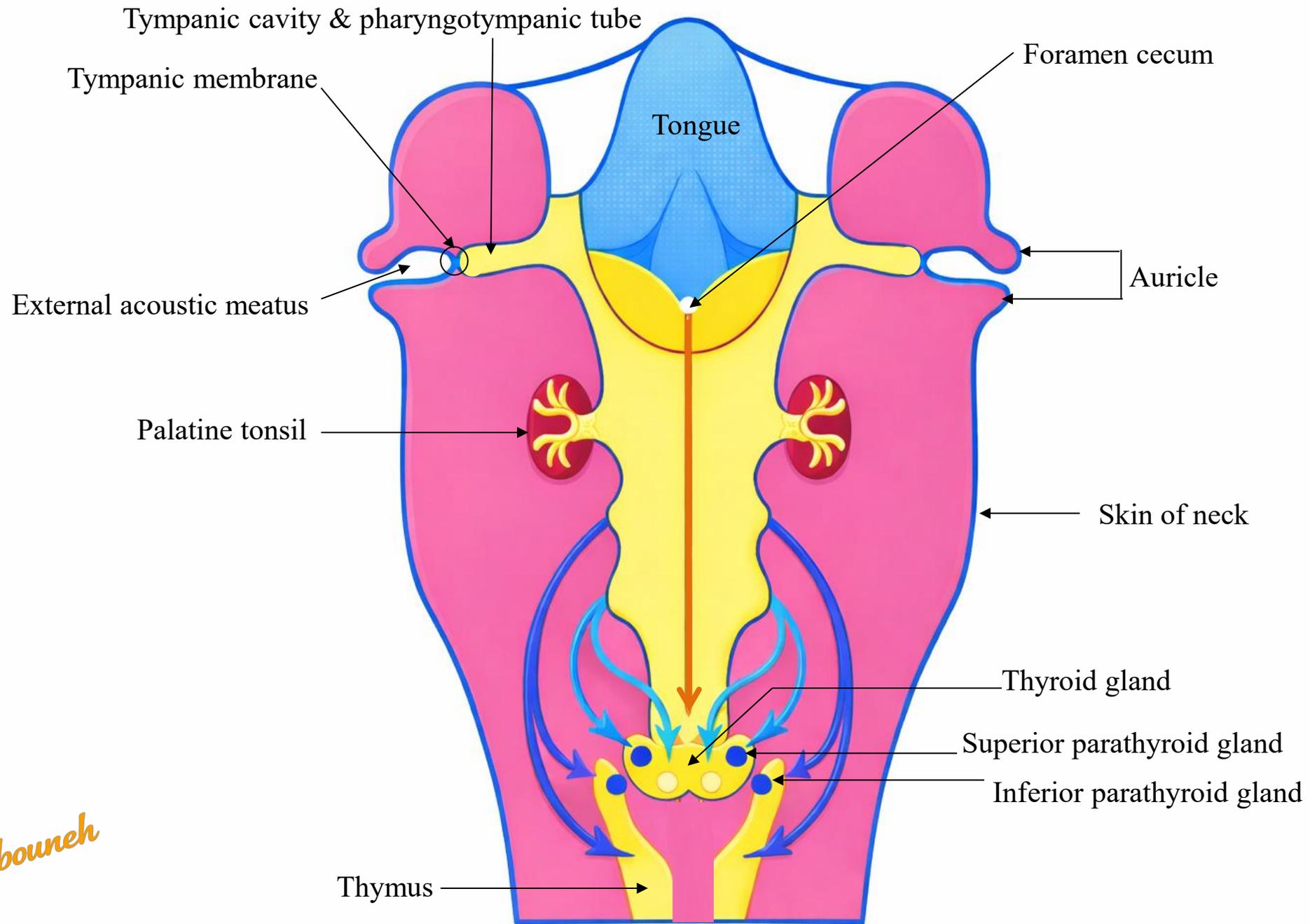
*Note:*

*The thyroid tissue is made up of two types of cells: follicular cells and parafollicular cells.*

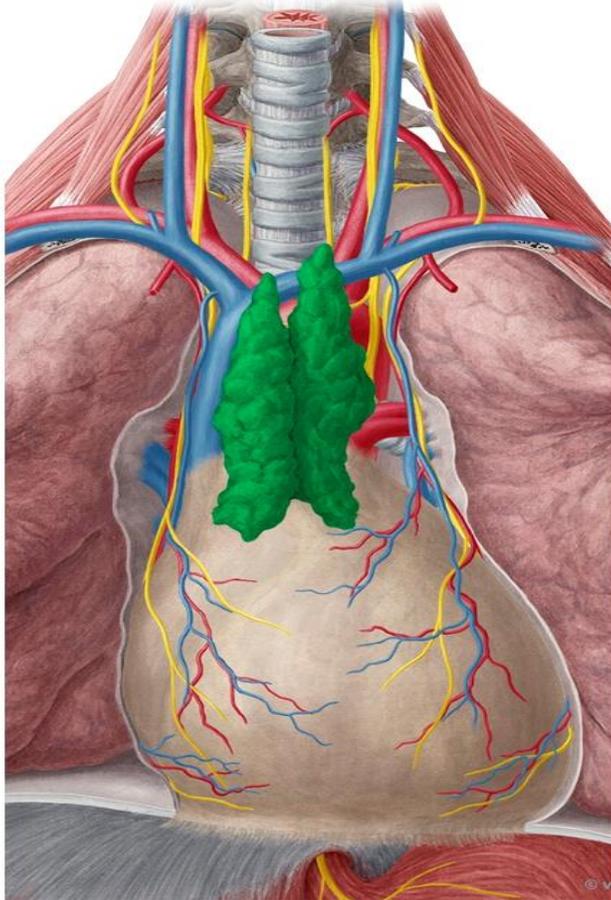




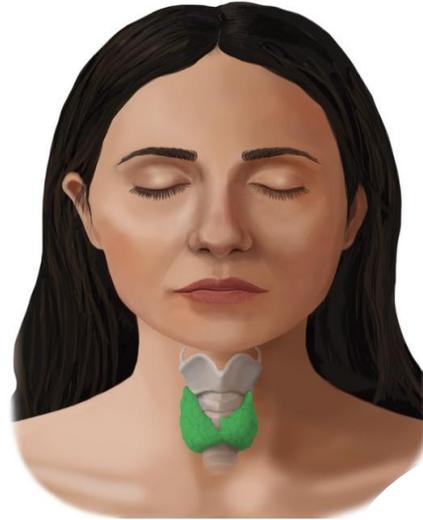
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## Thymus gland



## Thyroid gland



## Parathyroid glands



## Cervical branchial cyst



[Branchial Cysts - Dr Murali Mahadevan - ENT Surgeon](#)

A cervical branchial cyst is a congenital cyst in the lateral neck caused by persistence of the cervical sinus, which normally disappears during development when the second pharyngeal arch grows downward and covers the third and fourth arches.

It usually appears as a painless swelling along the anterior border of the sternocleidomastoid muscle.

Treatment: surgical removal of the cyst.

## Congenital Anomalies

*Read only  
(For Endocrine System)*

- 1- Ectopic thymus: in the neck
- 2- Ectopic parathyroid : especially the inferior parathyroid (in thorax)
- 3- Cervical branchial cyst