



Physiology (code)-year 2

Renal physiology

Lecture 1 (Functional unit of the kidney)

By Dr. Rafida AL-Amiri

Basic Science Department

college of dentistry

University of Basrah

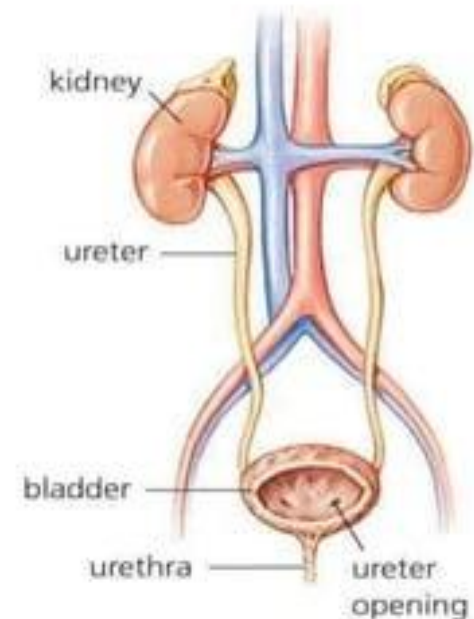
Learning objectives

- ▶ To describe parts of Renal System
- ▶ To describe the structure and function of building unit for kidney (nephron)
- ▶ Study how can nephron filter the urine

• **The Urinary System** : is also known as the renal system or urinary tract, “The urinary system consists of organs, muscles, tubes, and nerves that are responsible for producing, transporting, and storing urine”

Parts of Renal system: The urinary tract is made up of the following organs:

- A pair of Kidneys – forms the urine
- A pair of Ureters – transports the urine
- A urinary Bladder – stores urine
- A Urethra – carries urine out side the body



Kidney is the major organ of urinary system .It is situated in the retro peritoneal position in the superior lumbar region . The right kidney present slightly lower than the left.

- Mass of an adult kidney is 150 -250 g
- It is about 12 cm long and 6 cm wide & 3 cm thick
- The superior wall of the kidney is attached to the adrenal gland
- They produce urine through which waste materials such as **urea** & **ammonium** are excreted
- They also reabsorbs **glucose** and **amino acids**
- Also, it performs some secretory functions E.g.: ***Calcitriol, erythropoietin & renin***

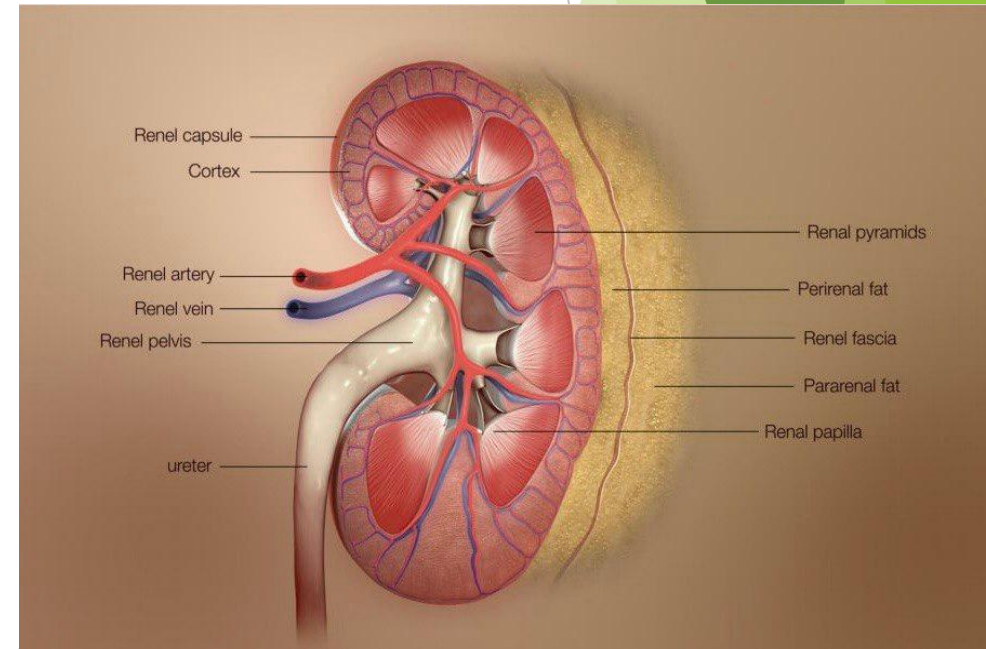
Functions of Kidney

- 1) Regulate the concentration of Na^+ , K^+ , Ca^{2+} , Cl^- in the blood
- 2) Regulation of blood pH
- 3) Regulation of blood volume
- 4) Regulation blood pressure
- 5) Regulation blood osmolarity
- 6) Regulation blood glucose level
- 7) Production of hormones
- 8) Excretion of waste and foreign substances

Layers of the kidney:

Kidney is covered by three connective tissue layers :

- **Renal Fascia** – outer layer, made up of dense connective tissue – Attaches kidney to peritoneum and posterior abdominal wall.
- **Adipose capsule:** it is the middle layer – contains thick adipose tissue – holding the kidney in place & protect it from physical trauma.
- **Renal capsule:** innermost layer – consist of thin layer of dense irregular connective tissue – protect kidney from infection & physical trauma.



Internal Structure of the Kidney : The kidney is divided into three different zones **RENAL CORTEX, RENAL MEDULLA, RENAL PELVIS**

RENAL CORTEX:

This is the outer most zone

- It is light in colour
- Has granular appearance

RENAL MEDULLA:

- This zone lies beneath the cortex
- It is darker in colour
- It consists of medullary and renal pyramids - a cone shaped tissue mass the broad bases facing towards the cortex
- It consists of apex/ papilla – sharp base - Facing internally

RENAL PELVIS:

It is the funnel shaped tube :

- Which joins the ureter at the hilum
- The branches emerging from pelvis form two or three major calyces
- Which further divided in to cup shaped minor calyces
- Urine is collected by the calyces & continuously drained from the papillae
- Emptied in to renal pelvis – ureter and finally in to the bladder for storage
- The walls of the calyces, pelvis & ureter are smooth muscles
- These smooth muscles undergoes rhythmic contraction to propel urine.

Internal Kidney Anatomy

Papilla of Renal Pyramid

Renal Pyramid

Cortex

Medulla

Hilum

Renal Pelvis

Major Calyx

Minor Calyx

Renal Column

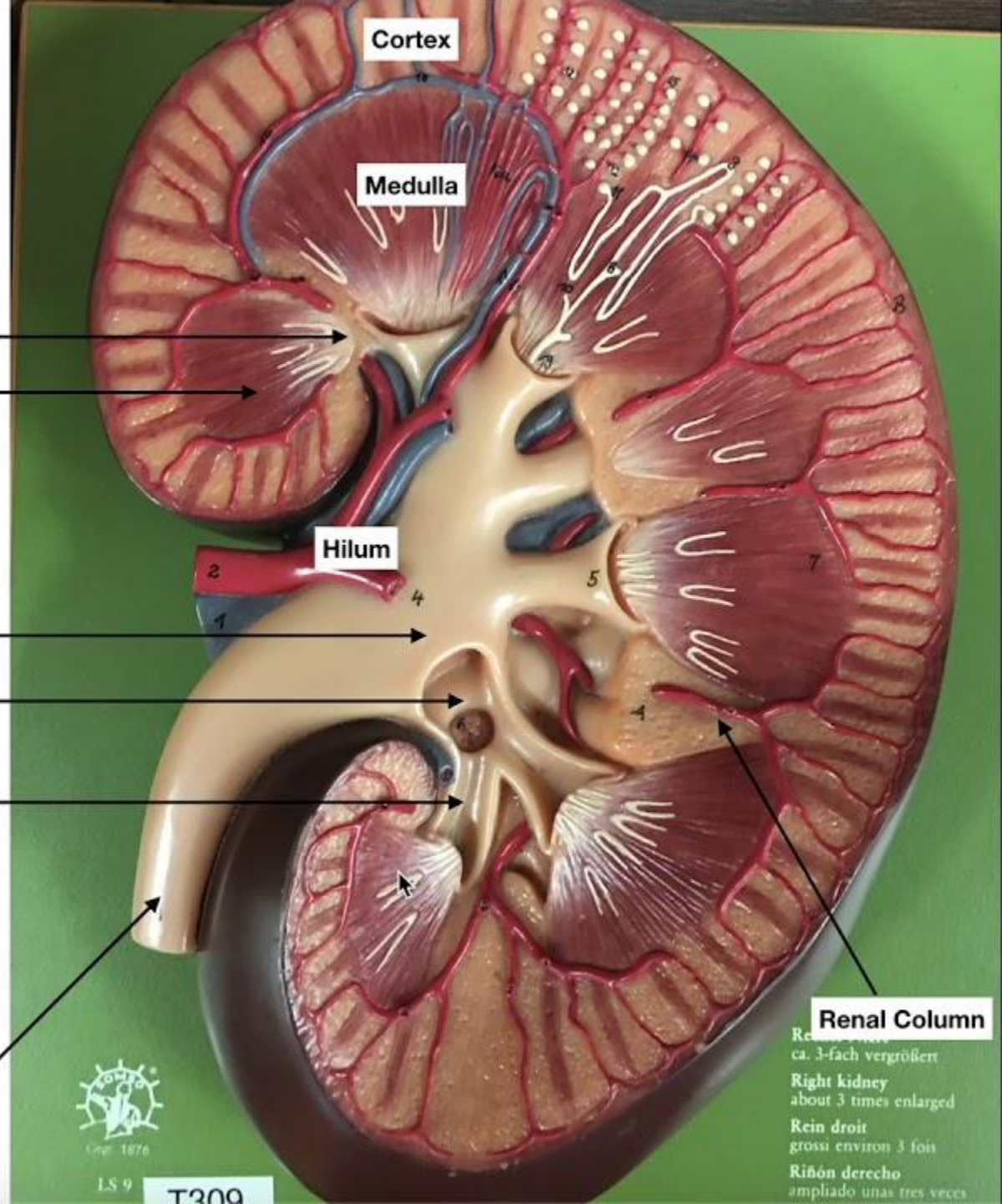
Ureter



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Rein droit
ca. 3-fach vergrößert
Right kidney
about 3 times enlarged
Rein droit
gros environ 3 fois
Riñón derecho
ampliado unas tres veces



•**NEPHRONS** : It is the basic structural and functional unit of the kidney.

•It have many functions:

- 1) It filters the waste products from the blood.
- 2) Reabsorbs the required nutrients in to the body.
- 3) Excrete the remaining things in the urine.
- 4) Thereby it regulates the water and sodium salt concentration in the blood.

Types of Nephron:

•**Cortical Nephrons:** renal corpuscles present near the renal cortex

•**Juxtamedullary Nephrons:** Renal corpuscles present near the renal medulla

Nephrons are made up of :

RENAL / MALPIGHIAN CORPUSCLES

- Filtration of larger waste solute molecules out of the body.

RENAL TUBULES

- Reabsorption of water and small waste solute molecules and secretion of waste material

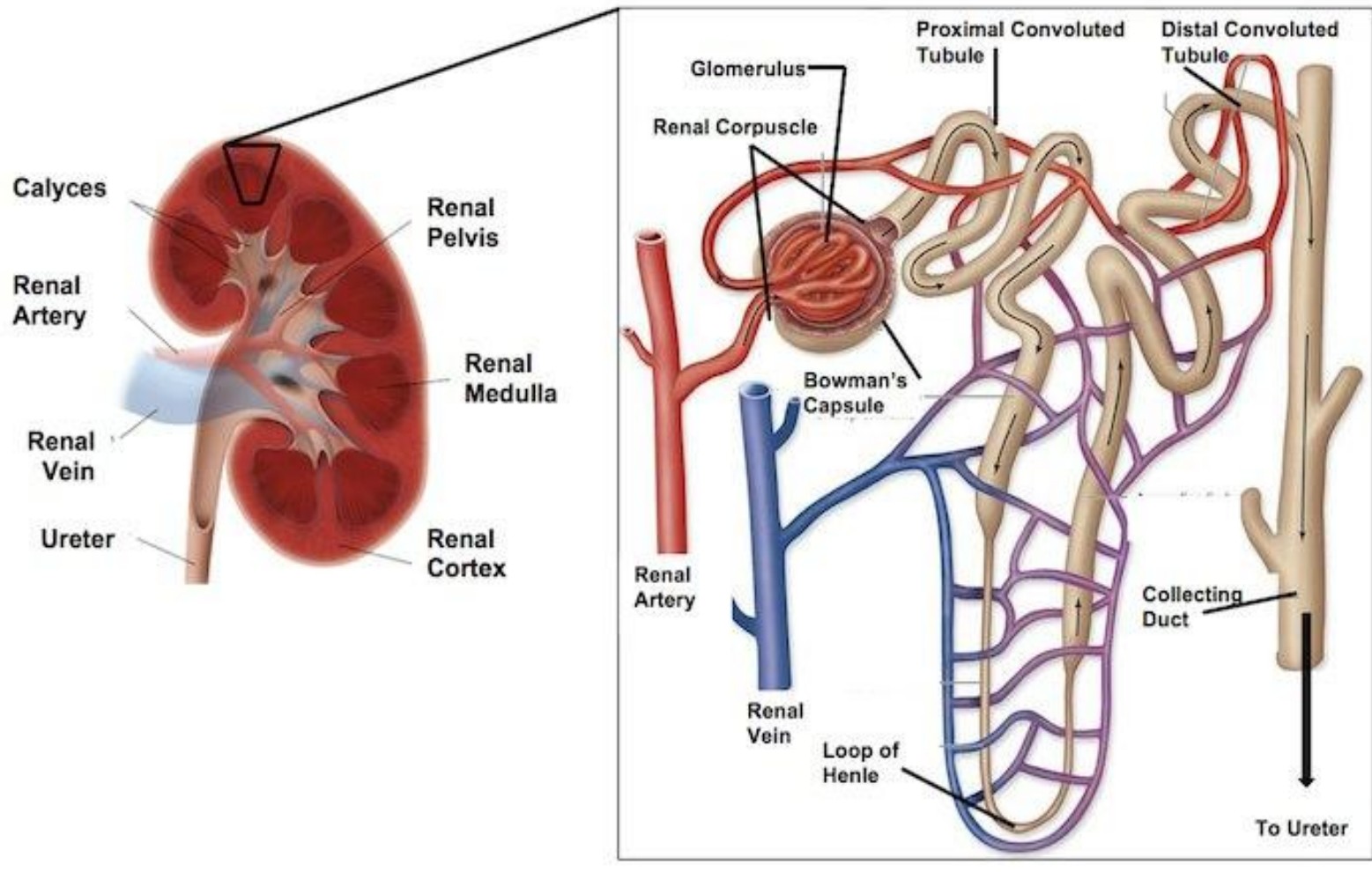
MALPIGHIAN CORPUSCLES: It is also known as **Malpighian body / Renal corpuscle**

Each Malpighian corpuscle is made up of

1. Glomerulus &

2. Bowman's/ Glomerular Capsule

Nephron



• Glomerulus

- It is a mass of capillaries which is supplied with blood by an afferent arteries of the renal circulation.
- Blood pressure within the glomerulus provides the driving force for water and solutes to be filtered out of the blood and reach the Bowman's capsule.
- The remaining blood passes into the efferent arteriole (narrower than the afferent arteriole) blood along with reabsorbed substances reaches the vasa recta (collecting capillaries attached to the convoluted tubules).
- The vasa recta and the efferent venules coming from other nephrons combine to join the **Renal Vein** and the main blood circulation .

Bowman's OR Glomerular Capsule

It is the capsule surrounds the glomerulus

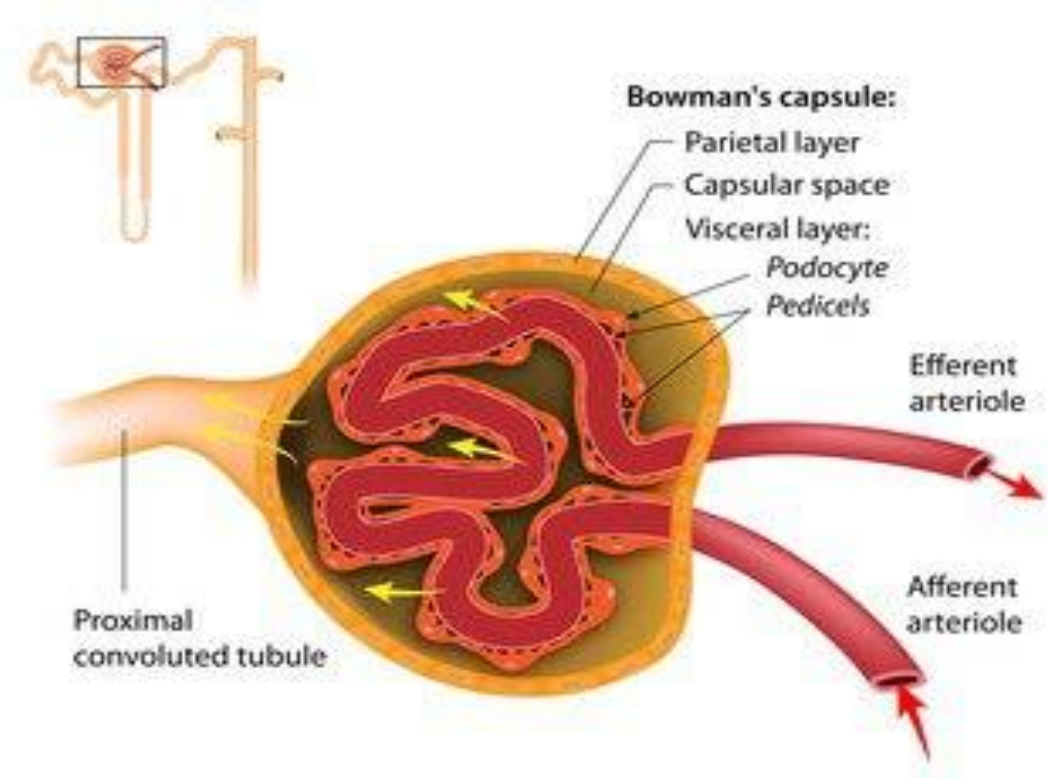
It is made up of :

Visceral inner layer - contains specialized cells called **podocytes** &

Parietal outer layer - contain single layer of flat cells called simple squamous epithelium.

Fluids from the glomerulus blood for filter through the podocytes

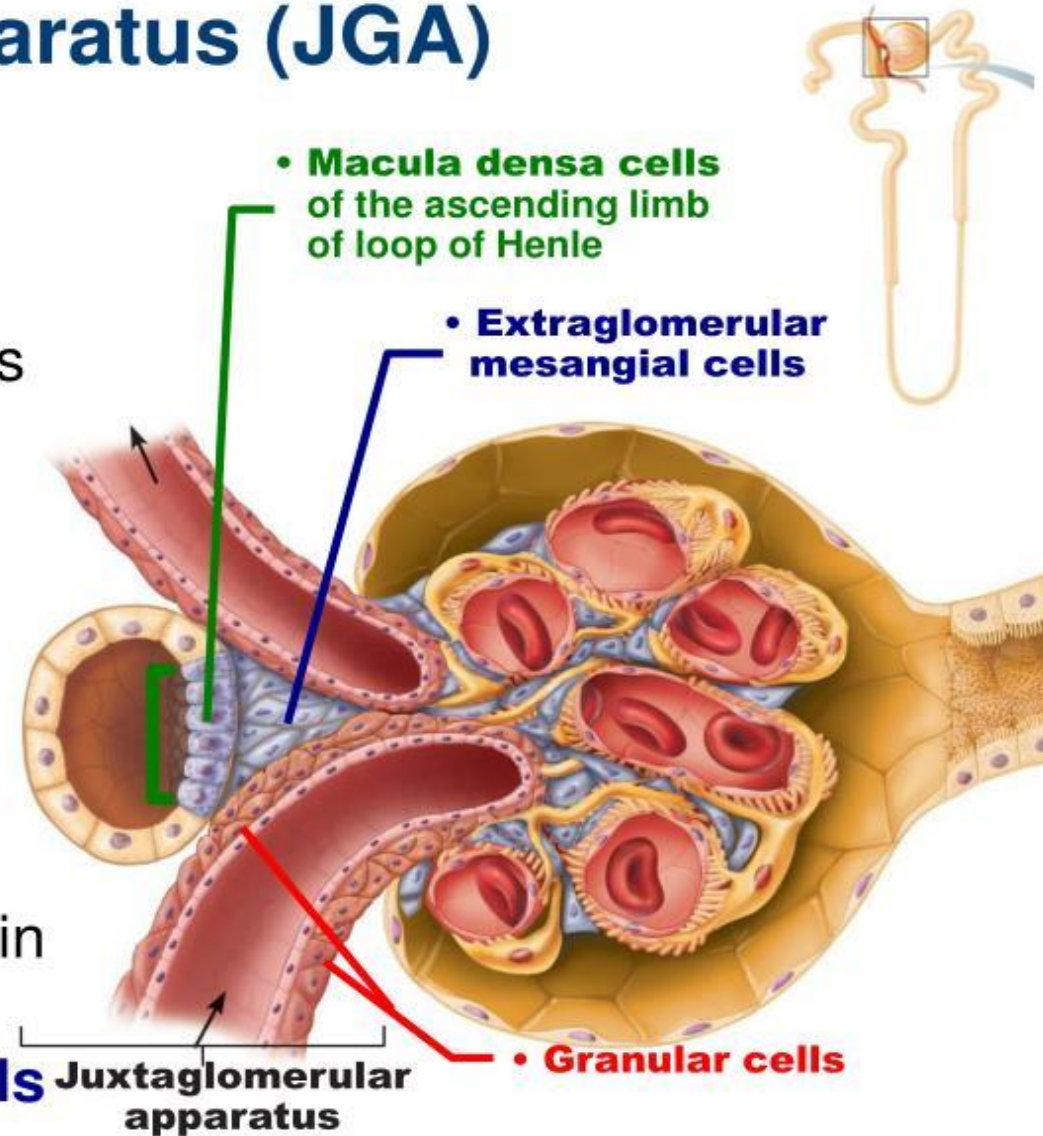
The glomerular filtrate is then processed along the nephron to form urine .



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Juxtaglomerular Apparatus (JGA)

- Regulates filtration and b. p.
- **Granular cells** (juxtaglomerular, or JG cells)
 - Enlarged, smooth muscle cells of arteriole(s)
 - Granules contain renin
 - Sense blood pressure (baroreceptors)
- **Macula densa**
 - Tall, closely packed cells of ascending limb
 - Chemoreceptors sense NaCl in filtrate
- **Extraglomerular mesangial cells**
 - May pass signals b/n macula densa/granular cells



RENAL TUBULE

This 3cm long tubule exits the glomerular capsule

- A renal tubule is made up of :
 - a. PROXIMAL CONVOLUTED TUBULE (PCT)
 - b. LOOP OF HENLE
 - c. DISTAL CONVOLUTED TUBULE (DCT)
 - d. COLLECTING DUCT

Proximal Convoluted tubule (PCT):

It is the initial and longest sub-division of the renal tubule through which the glomerular filtrate flows.

- It is made up of **simple cuboidal epithelium cells**.
- They have prominent microvilli projecting into the lumen of the proximal tubule.
- These microvilli forms brush border - which increases the surface area.

THE LOOP OF HENLE

This hairpin-bend structure has a **descending limb** and an **ascending limb** and is found in the medulla of the kidney.

The descending limb contains **simple squamous epithelium** and has thin walls permeable to water and penetrates deep into the medulla but the ascending limb has thicker **simple cuboidal epithelium**, relatively impermeable walls that returns to the cortex.

Surrounding the loop is a network of capillaries, one part of which has the same hairpin structure and is called the **vasa recta**.

•**Distal Convoluted Tubule (DCT)**

- It is the final sub-division of the renal tubule
- Through which the glomerular filtrate flows.
- It contains **simple cuboidal epithelium**; but lacks the brush border.

•**COLLECTING DUCT:**

- Each collecting duct travels through the medullary pyramids ,
- The collecting tubules after receiving glomerular filtrate from many nephrons , approach the renal pelvis , where they fuse together and empty urine into the minor calyces via papillae of the pyramids .

