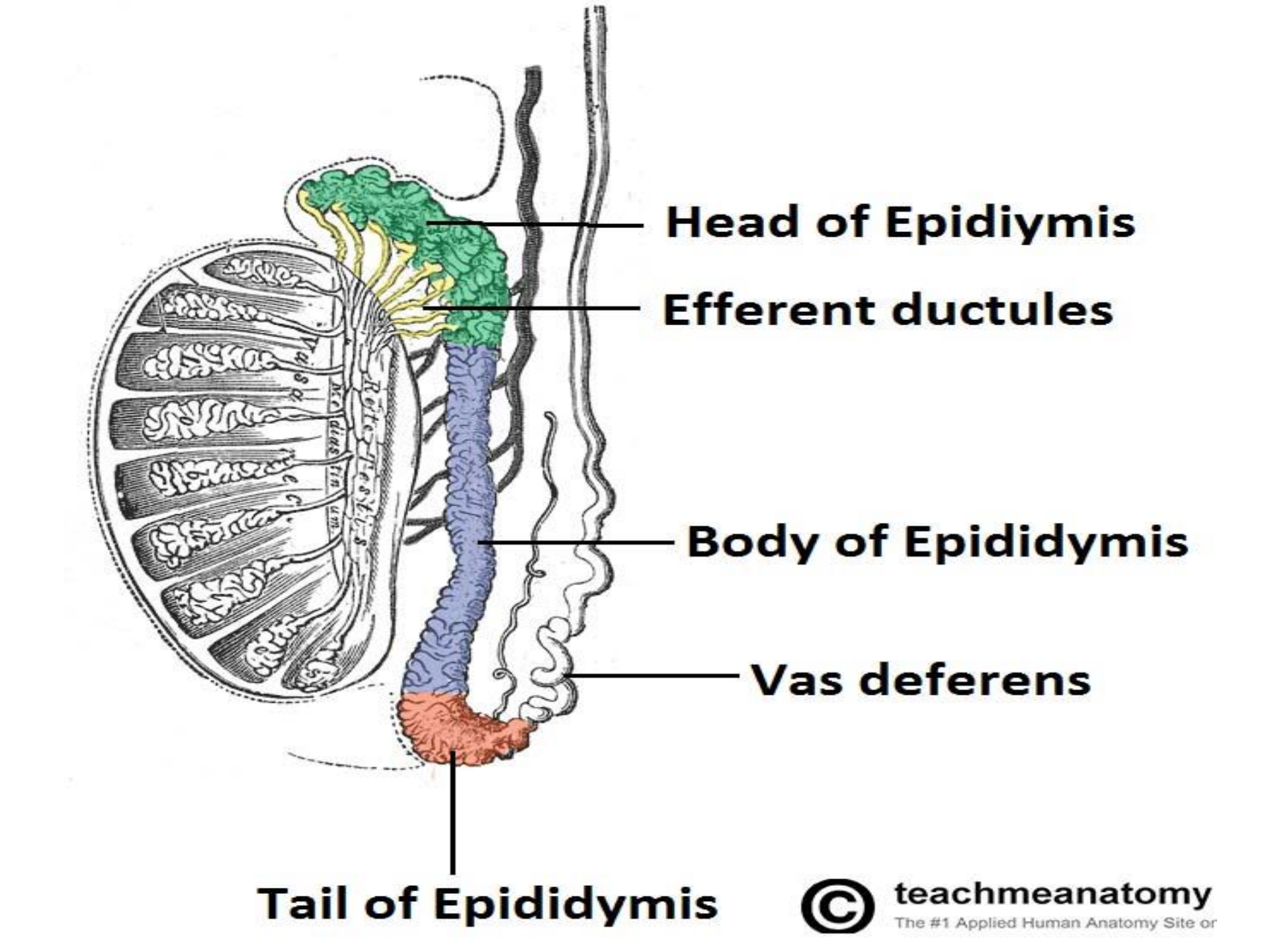
EPIDIDYMIS

- **The epididymis is a tube that connects a testicle to a vas deferens in the male reproductive system**
- **Comma shaped**
- **It is a single, narrow, tightly-coiled tube (in adult humans, 6cm in length) connecting the efferent ducts each testicle to its vas deferens.**
- **Position- located on superior extremity and posterior border of testis**



The epididymis can be divided into three main part

Head (Latin: *Caput*)

- **The head of the epididymis receives spermatozoa via the efferent ducts of the mediastinium of the testis**
- **Sperm cells mature primarily in the head .**
- **The concentration of the sperm here is dilute.**

Body (Latin: *Corpus*)

- **This has an intermediate epithelium and smooth muscle thickness**

Tail (Latin: *Cauda*)

- **This has the thinnest epithelium of the three regions and the greatest quantity of smooth muscle**

NOTE- At the lower end of the tail this duct becomes continuous with the ductus deferencs

FUNCTION

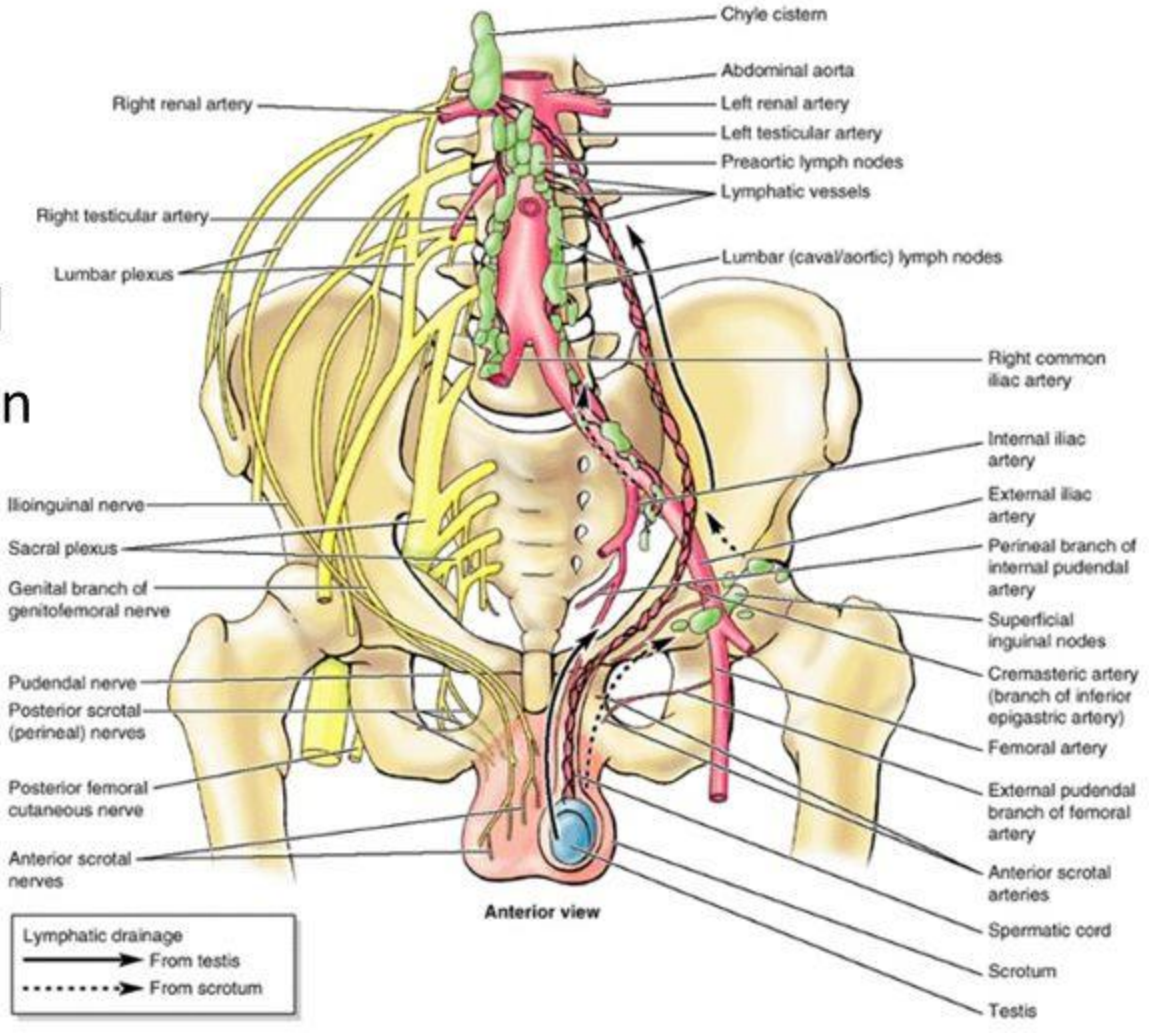
- **Spermatozoa formed in the testis enter the caput epididymis, progress to the corpus, and finally reach the cauda region, where they are stored.**
- **Sperm entering the caput epididymis are incomplete—they lack the ability to swim forward (motility) and to fertilize an egg.**
- **It stores the sperm for 2–3 months.**
- **During their transit in the epididymis, sperm undergo maturation processes necessary for them to acquire these functions.**
- **Expels of sperm with contraction of muscle in the epididymis walls to the vasa deferance**

- **Final maturation is completed in the female reproductive tract (*capacitation*).**
- **During ejaculation, sperm flow from the lower portion of the epididymis (which functions as a storage reservoir).**
- **They have not been activated by products from the prostate gland, and they are unable to swim, but are transported via the peristaltic action of muscle layers within the vas deferens, and are mixed with the diluting fluids of the seminal vesicles and other accessory glands prior to ejaculation (forming semen)**

Blood Supply of Testis and Epididymis

Arterial supply of testis and epididymis is by testicular artery (a branch of abdominal aorta).

Testicular veins emerge from testis & epididymis as a venous network (**pampiniform plexus**) which becomes reduced to a single vein (**testicular vein**) as it ascends through the inguinal canal. The right testicular vein drains into the inferior vena cava, and the left vein joins the left renal vein.



THANK YOU