

Glomerulonephritis

APPROVED

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Kidney Anatomy Review

afferent arteriole that branches into capillaries, blood comes into the kidney through here

the capillaries have fenestrated endothelial cell lining

JGA or juxtaglomerular apparatus is here. it is made up of part of the afferent arteriole, distal tubule, and cells in between called JGA cells which produce renin which is important for blood pressure homeostasis

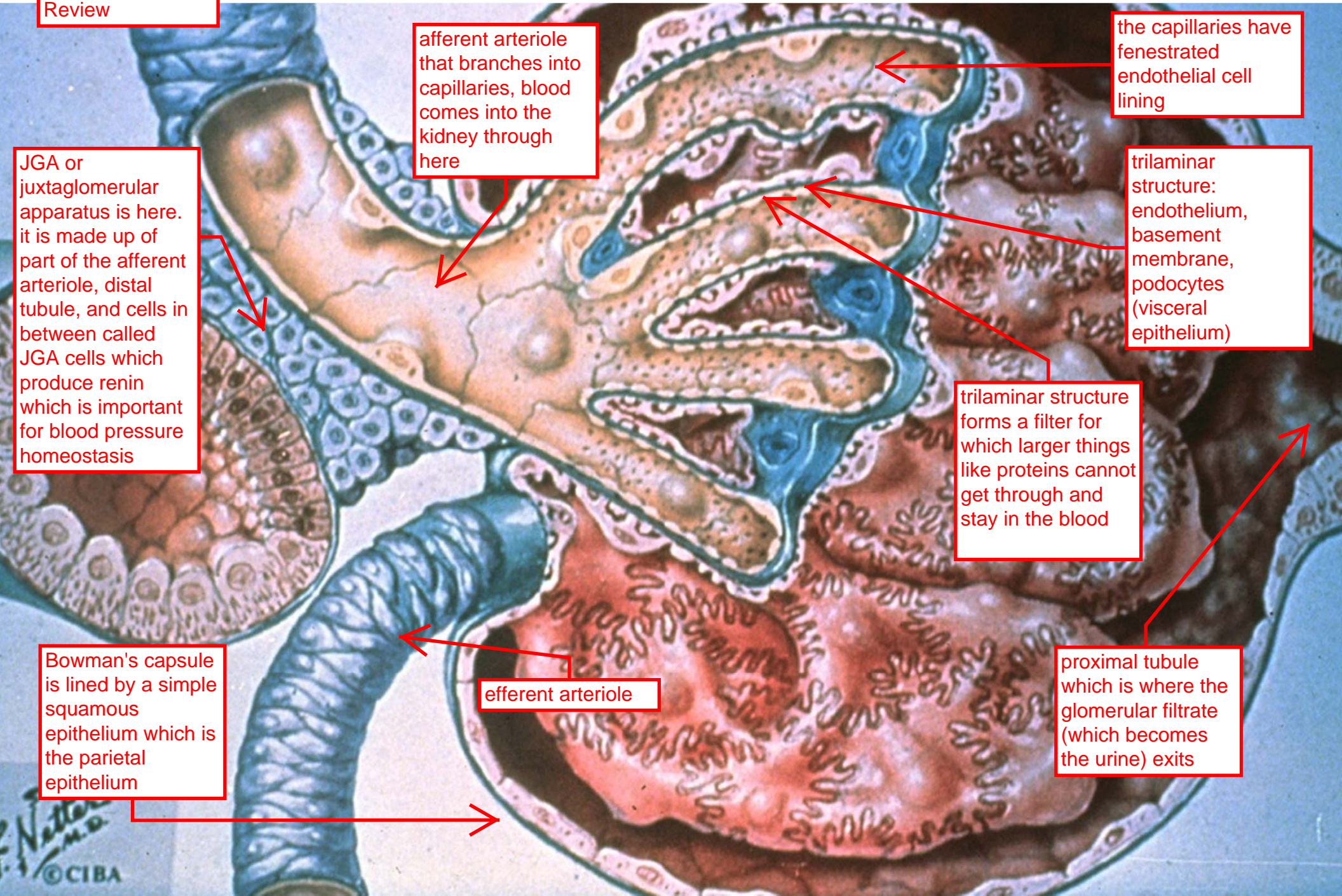
trilaminar structure: endothelium, basement membrane, podocytes (visceral epithelium)

trilaminar structure forms a filter for which larger things like proteins cannot get through and stay in the blood

Bowman's capsule is lined by a simple squamous epithelium which is the parietal epithelium

efferent arteriole

proximal tubule which is where the glomerular filtrate (which becomes the urine) exits



cross section view

Bowman's capsule

urinary space

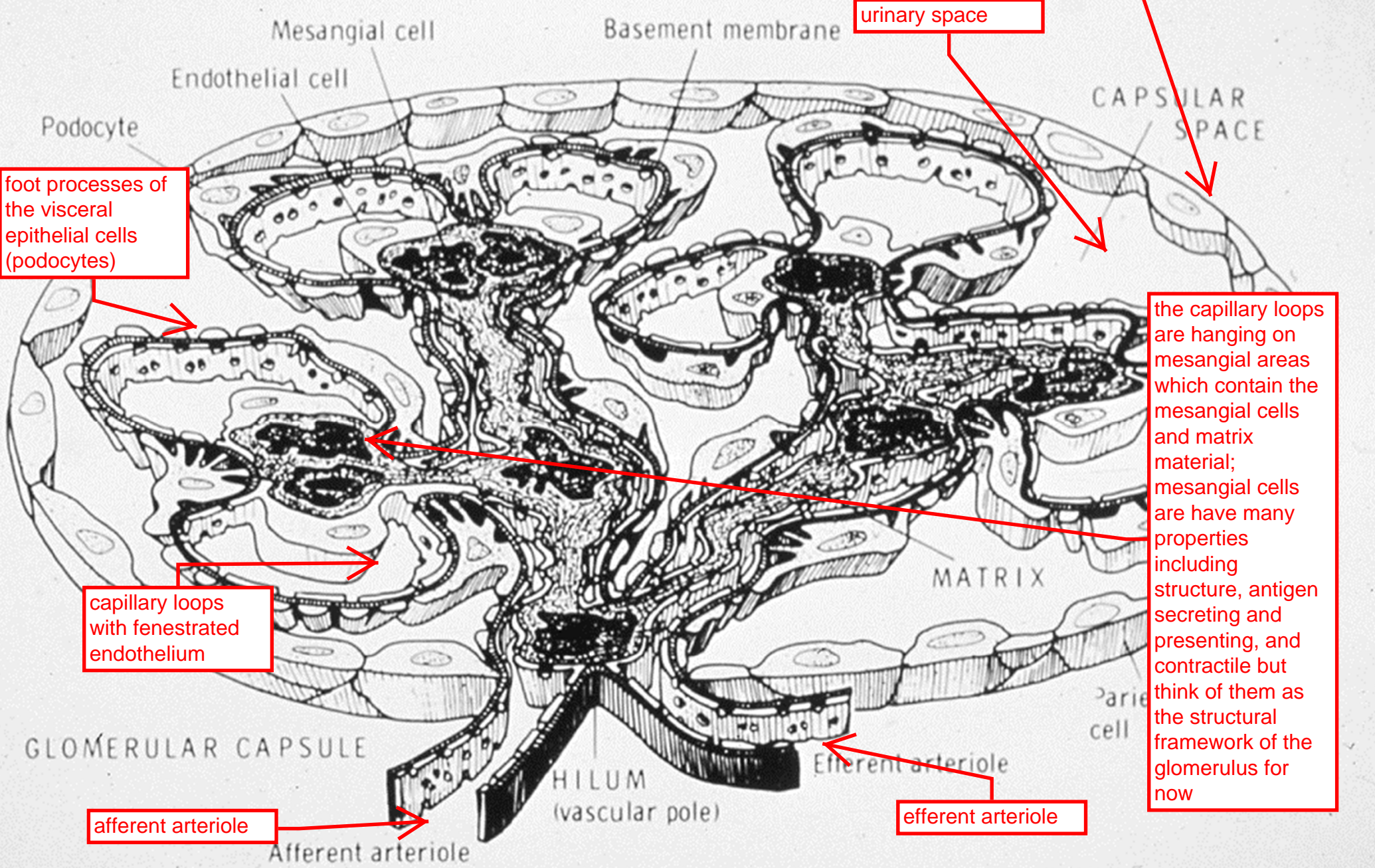
foot processes of the visceral epithelial cells (podocytes)

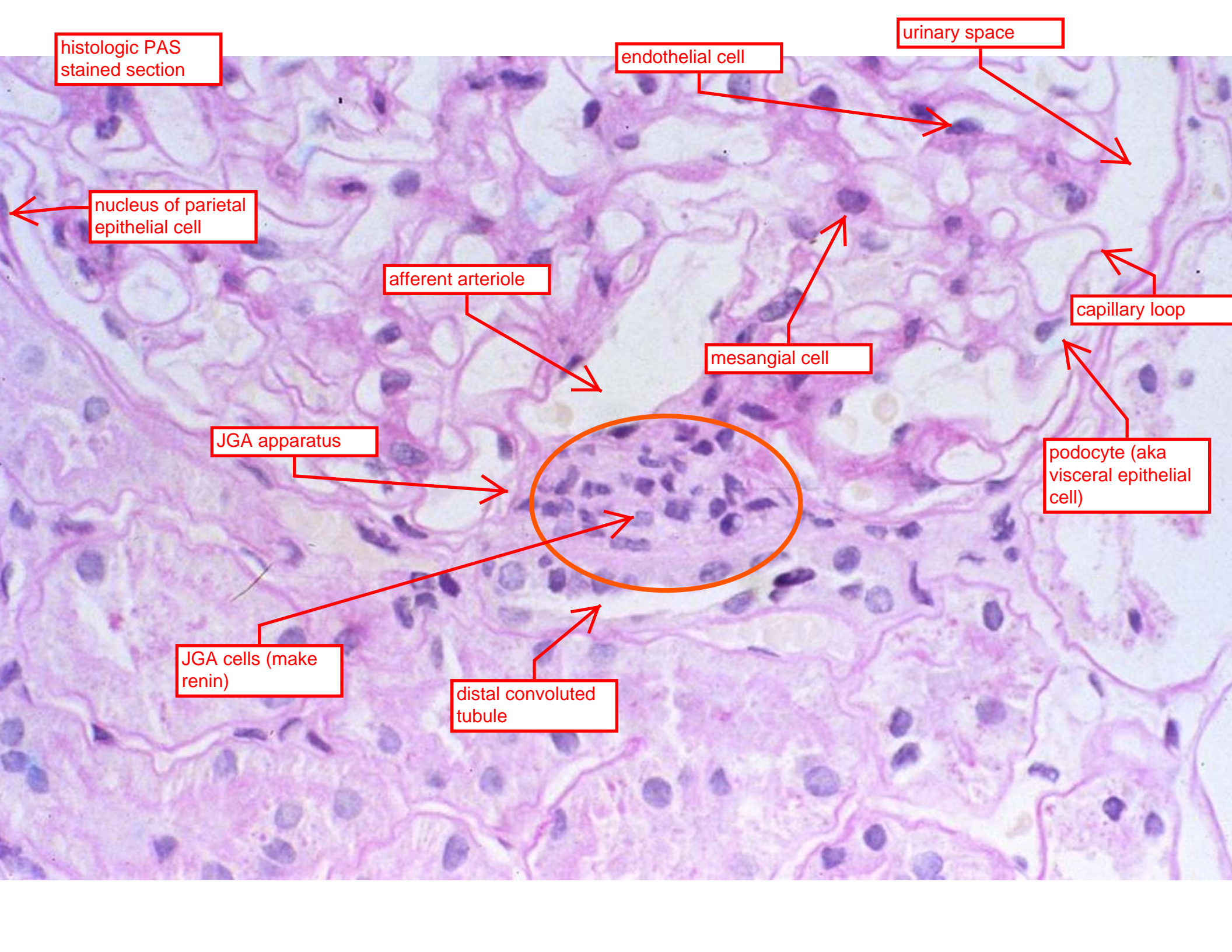
the capillary loops are hanging on mesangial areas which contain the mesangial cells and matrix material; mesangial cells are have many properties including structure, antigen secreting and presenting, and contractile but think of them as the structural framework of the glomerulus for now

capillary loops with fenestrated endothelium

afferent arteriole

efferent arteriole





histologic PAS stained section

endothelial cell

urinary space

nucleus of parietal epithelial cell

afferent arteriole

mesangial cell

capillary loop

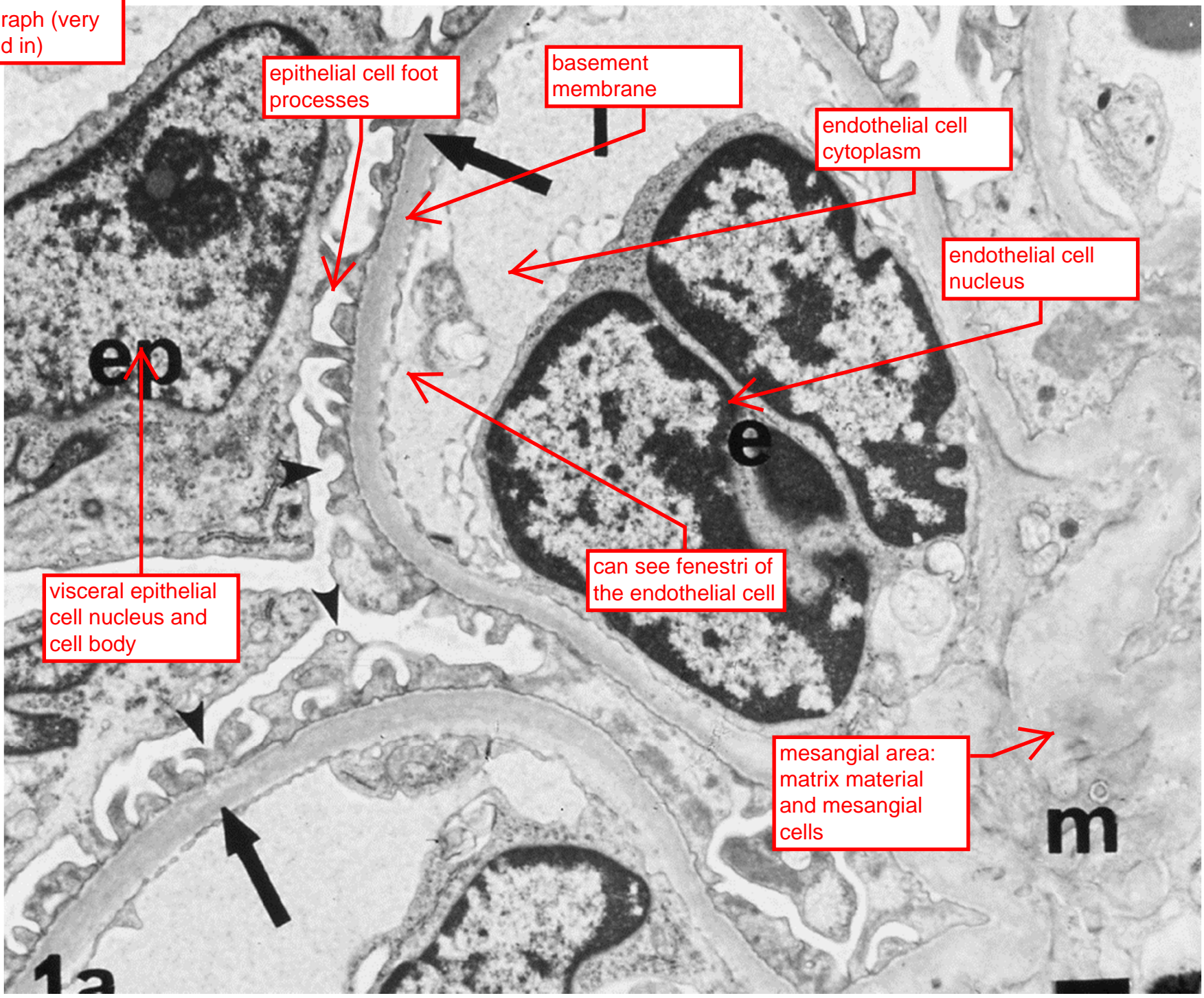
JGA apparatus

podocyte (aka visceral epithelial cell)

JGA cells (make renin)

distal convoluted tubule

Electron micrograph (very zoomed in)



epithelial cell foot processes

basement membrane

endothelial cell cytoplasm

endothelial cell nucleus

visceral epithelial cell nucleus and cell body

can see fenestri of the endothelial cell

mesangial area: matrix material and mesangial cells

ep

e

m

1a

will now talk about 3 ways to classify glomerular disease

protein in the urine: main cause, damage to the filtration barrier for example, podocyte is damaged and allows protein to get through

Classifications of glomerular disease

By clinical presentation

blood in the urine: caused by gross abnormalities for example inflammation of the glomerulus lets blood into the urine, also heritable disorders of the basement membrane causing breaks in it

very bad hematuria

• Symptom complexes

- Proteinuria
- Hematuria
- Nephrotic syndrome (severe proteinuria, hypoalbuminemia, edema)
- Nephritic syndrome (hematuria, variable degree of renal insufficiency)
- Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis (severe form of nephritic syndrome)
- Acute renal failure (oliguria, azotemia)
- Chronic renal failure

very bad proteinuria

because peeing out the albumin

don't put out much urine

build up of nitrogenous wastes in the blood

• Acute vs. chronic

• Primary (renal) vs. secondary (systemic)

diabetes and hypertension are major causes of this

possible causes include drug reaction in acute interstitial nephritis, renal calculus blocking the urethra, prostatic disease (by blocking the bladder outlet)

because low albumin in the blood (cannot maintain colloid osmotic pressure of the blood serum)

Classifications of glomerular disease

By histologic pattern

proliferation of cells in the glomerular tuft

do it a lot

some

not as much

can happen in a lot of diseases but mainly in immune complex diseases, immune complexes deposit in the glomerulus

Acute alterations

- Intrinsic (~~mesangial~~, endothelial, visceral epithelial) cell proliferation
- Extrinsic (parietal epithelial) cell proliferation (crescent formation)
- Inflammatory cell infiltration
- Necrosis

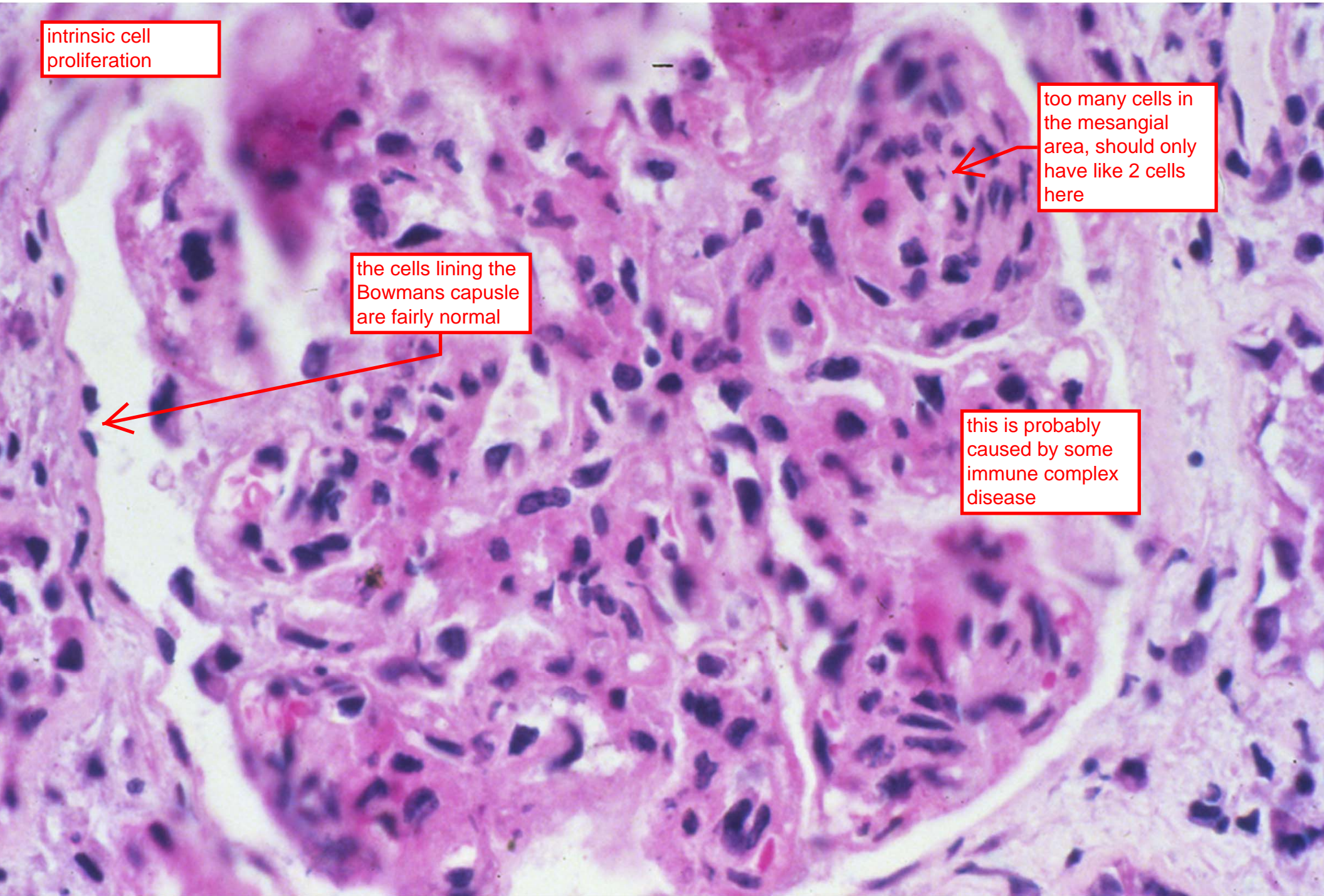
Chronic alterations

- Mesangial matrix/capillary basement membrane expansion
- Fibrosis (scarring in areas of antecedent necrosis)
- Sclerosis (collapse of glomerular tufts)

overgrowth of the glomerulus with fibrous tissue

these two look similar but are different

crescent formation results from necrosis to the glomerular tuft and liberation of fibrin into the Bowman's capsule and excites the epithelial cells



intrinsic cell proliferation

too many cells in the mesangial area, should only have like 2 cells here

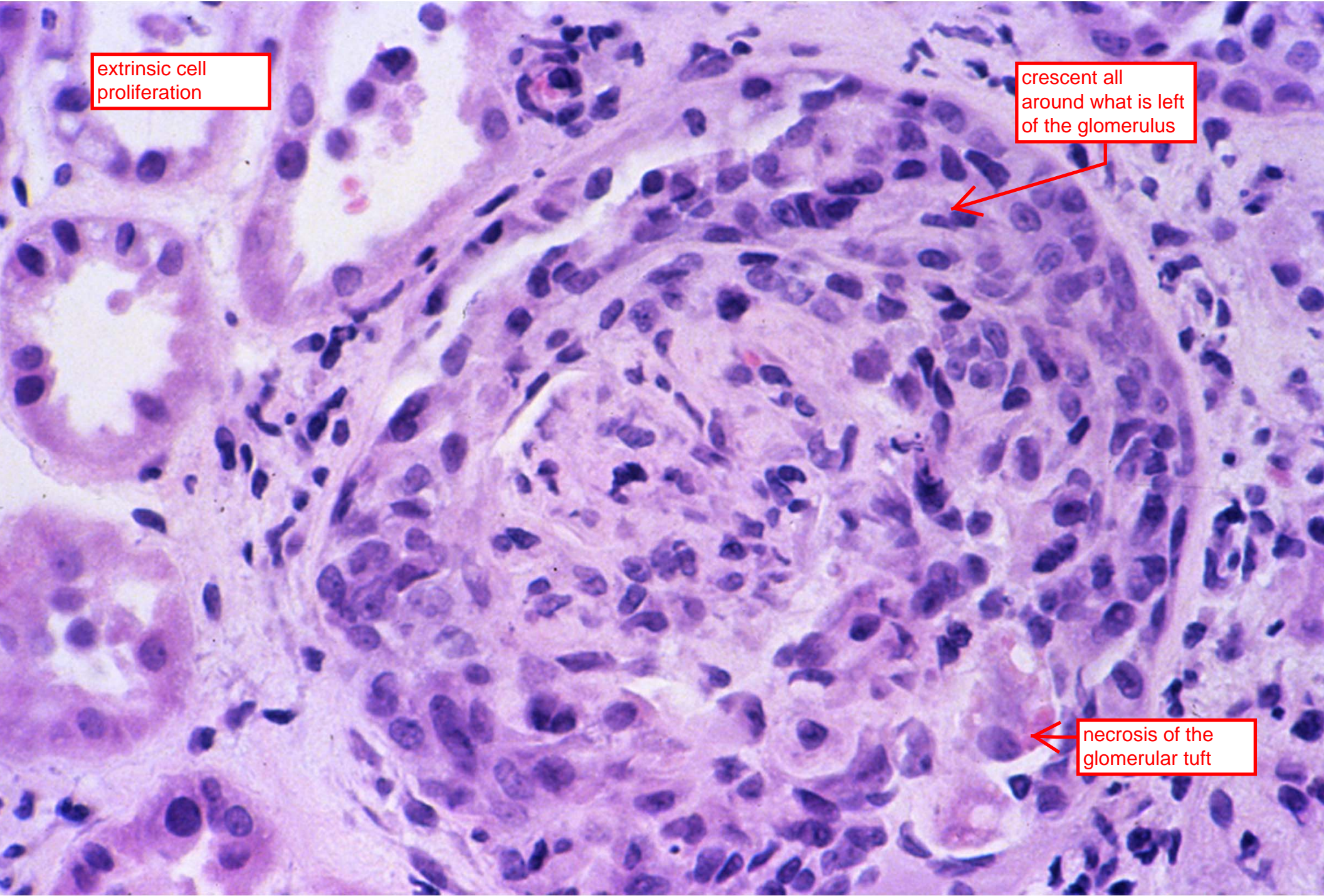
the cells lining the Bowmans capsule are fairly normal

this is probably caused by some immune complex disease

extrinsic cell proliferation

crescent all around what is left of the glomerulus

necrosis of the glomerular tuft

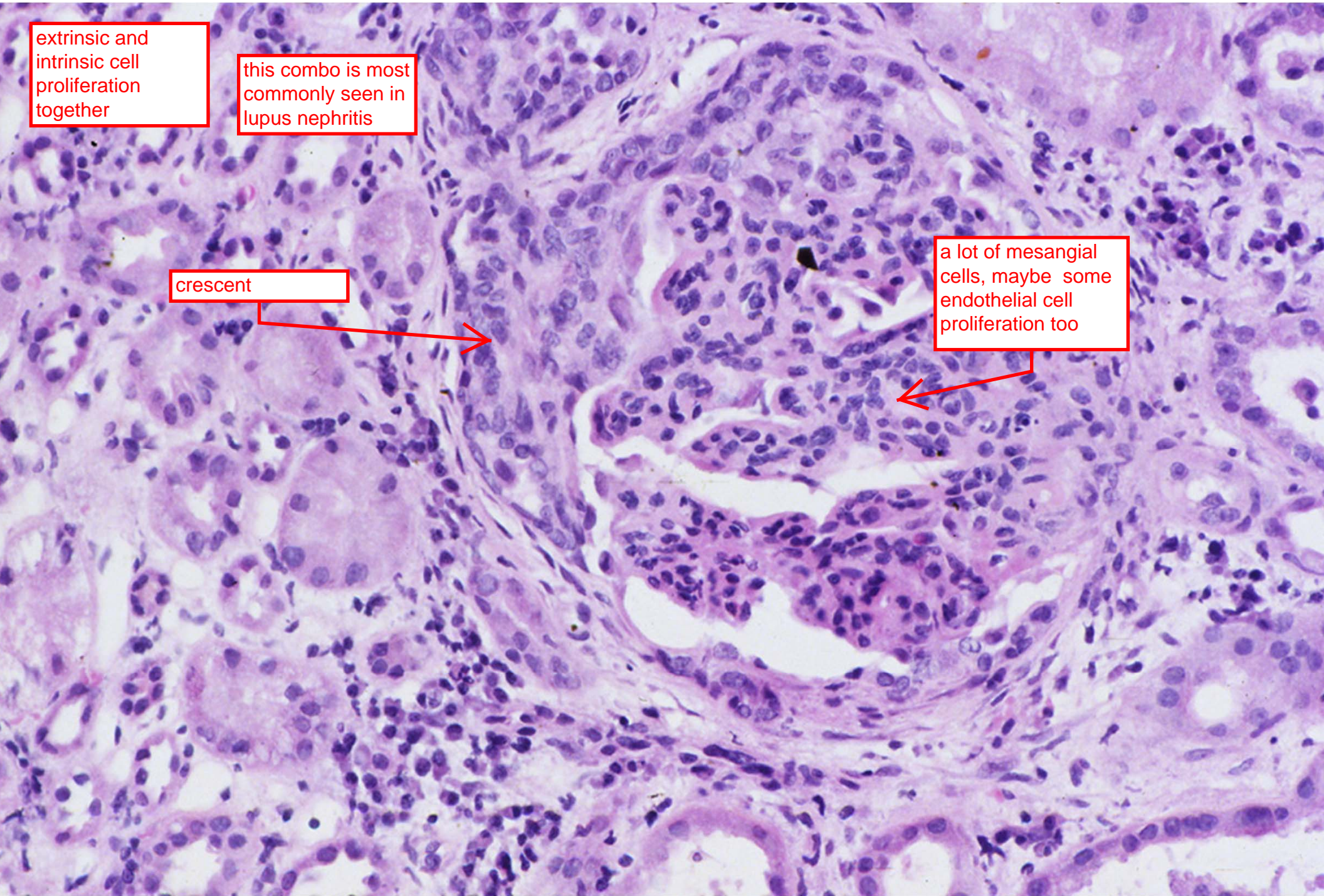


extrinsic and
intrinsic cell
proliferation
together

this combo is most
commonly seen in
lupus nephritis

crescent

a lot of mesangial
cells, maybe some
endothelial cell
proliferation too

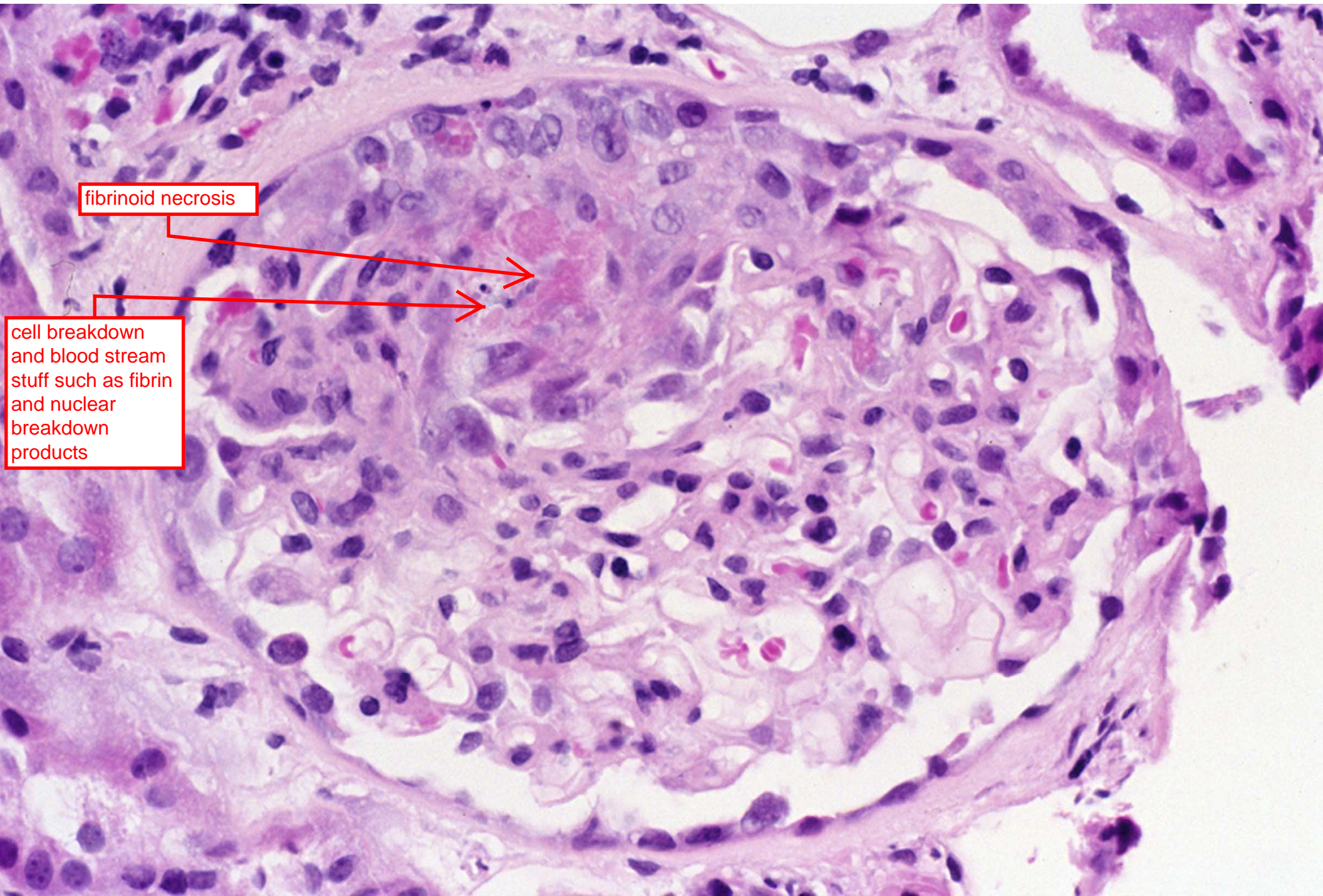




inflammatory cell
infiltration

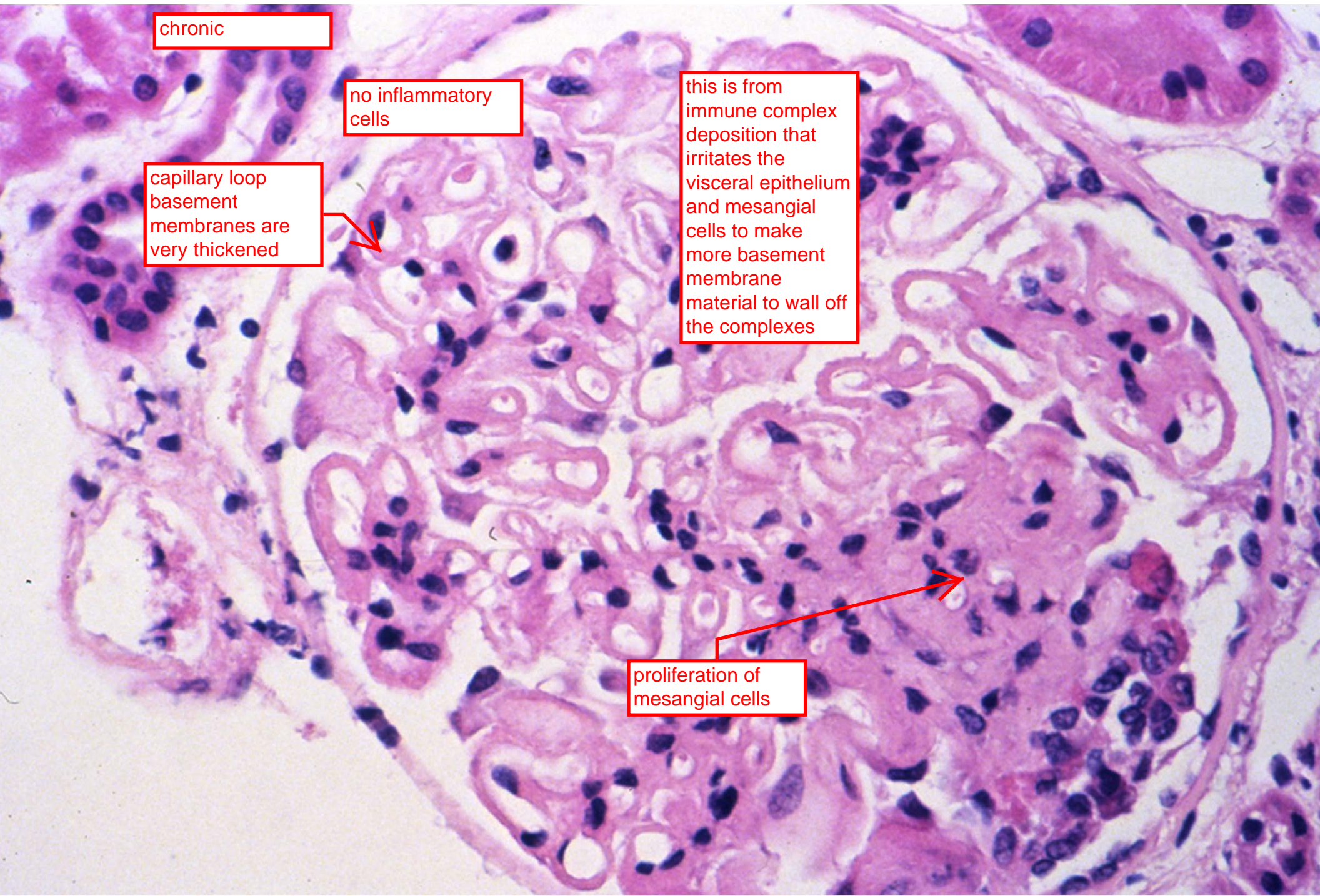
neutrophils

almost always
reflects some sort
of immune
complex process,
probably post
infection
glomerular
nephritis



fibrinoid necrosis

cell breakdown
and blood stream
stuff such as fibrin
and nuclear
breakdown
products



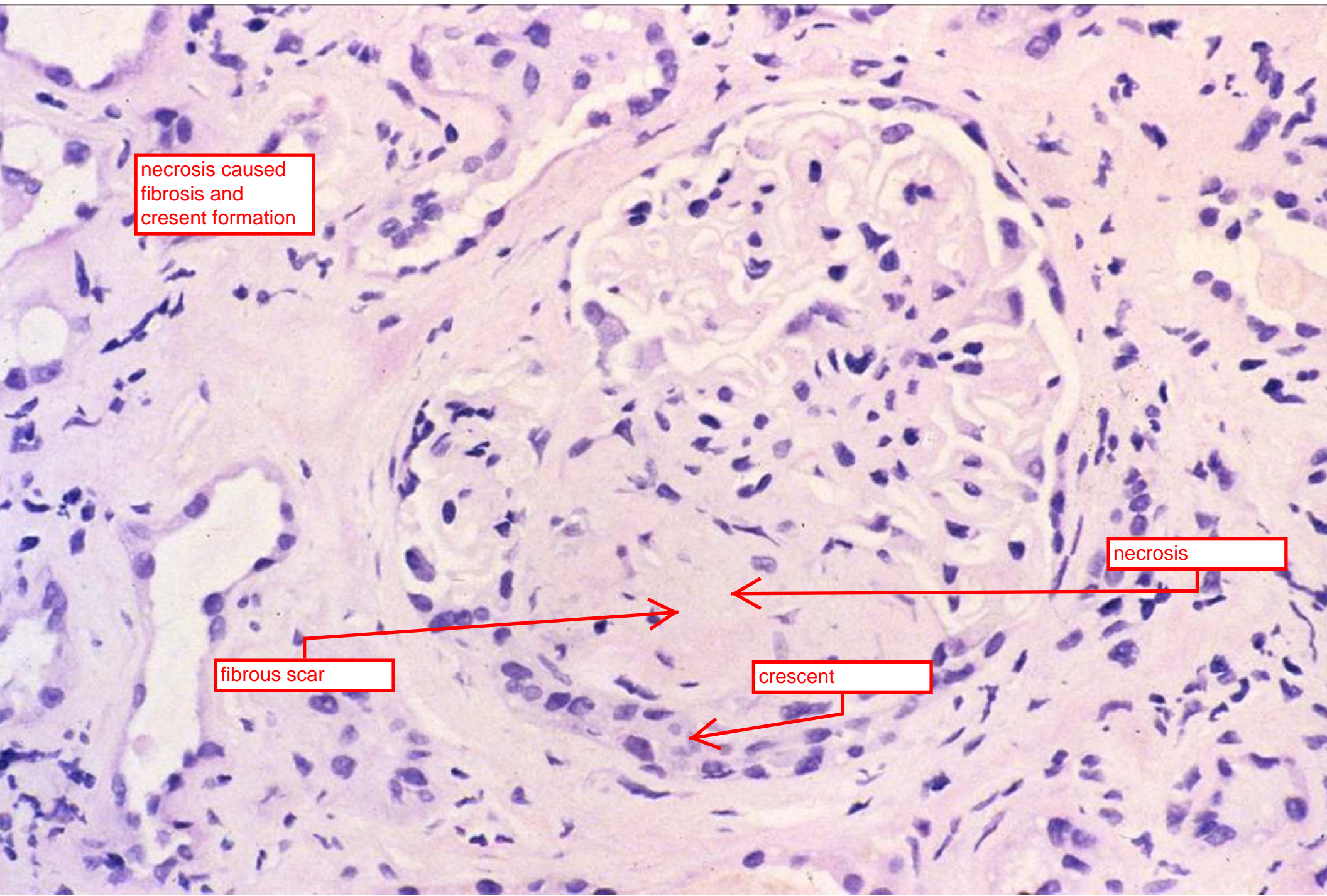
chronic

no inflammatory cells

capillary loop basement membranes are very thickened

this is from immune complex deposition that irritates the visceral epithelium and mesangial cells to make more basement membrane material to wall off the complexes

proliferation of mesangial cells

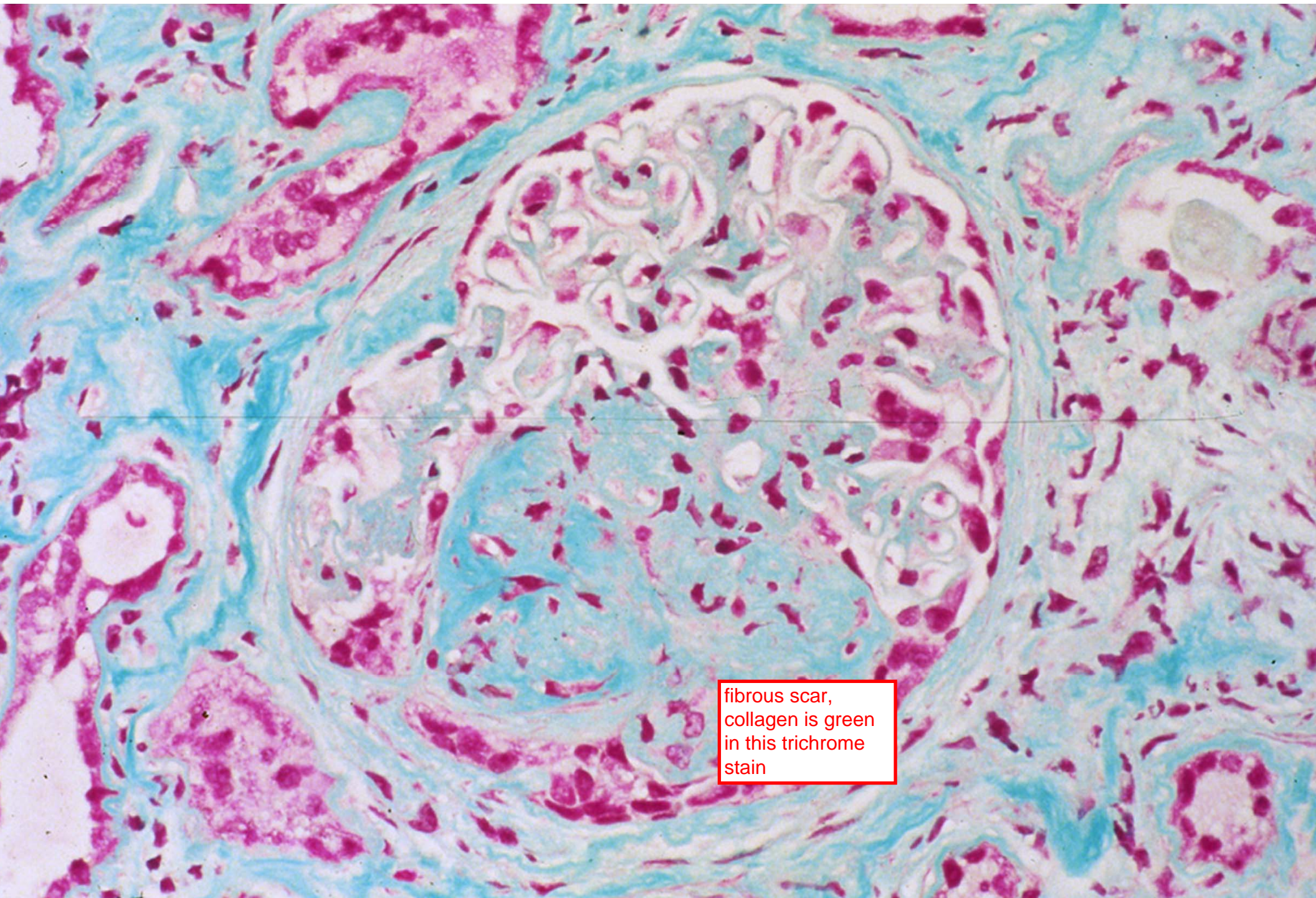


necrosis caused
fibrosis and
crescent formation

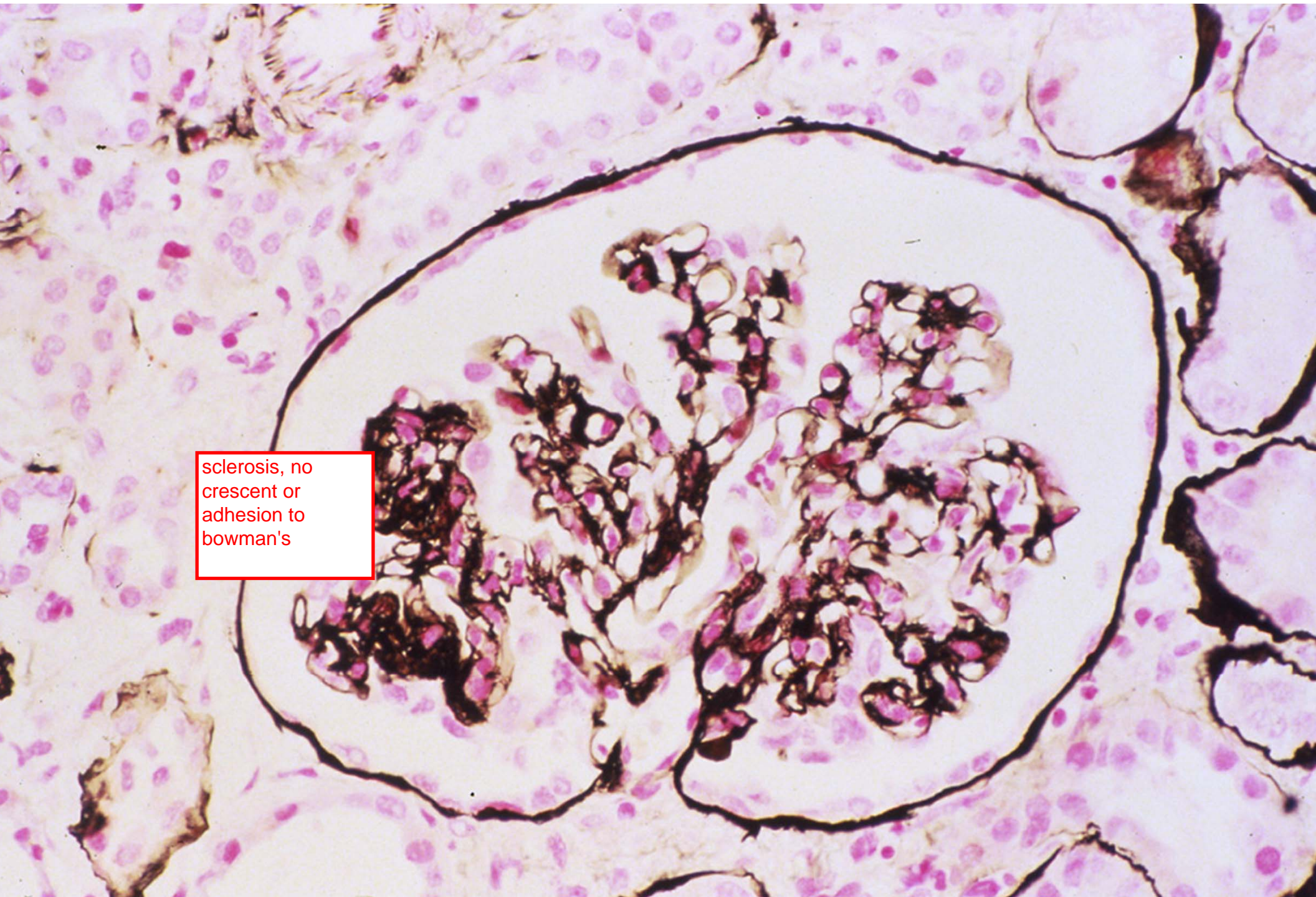
necrosis

fibrous scar

crescent



fibrous scar,
collagen is green
in this trichrome
stain

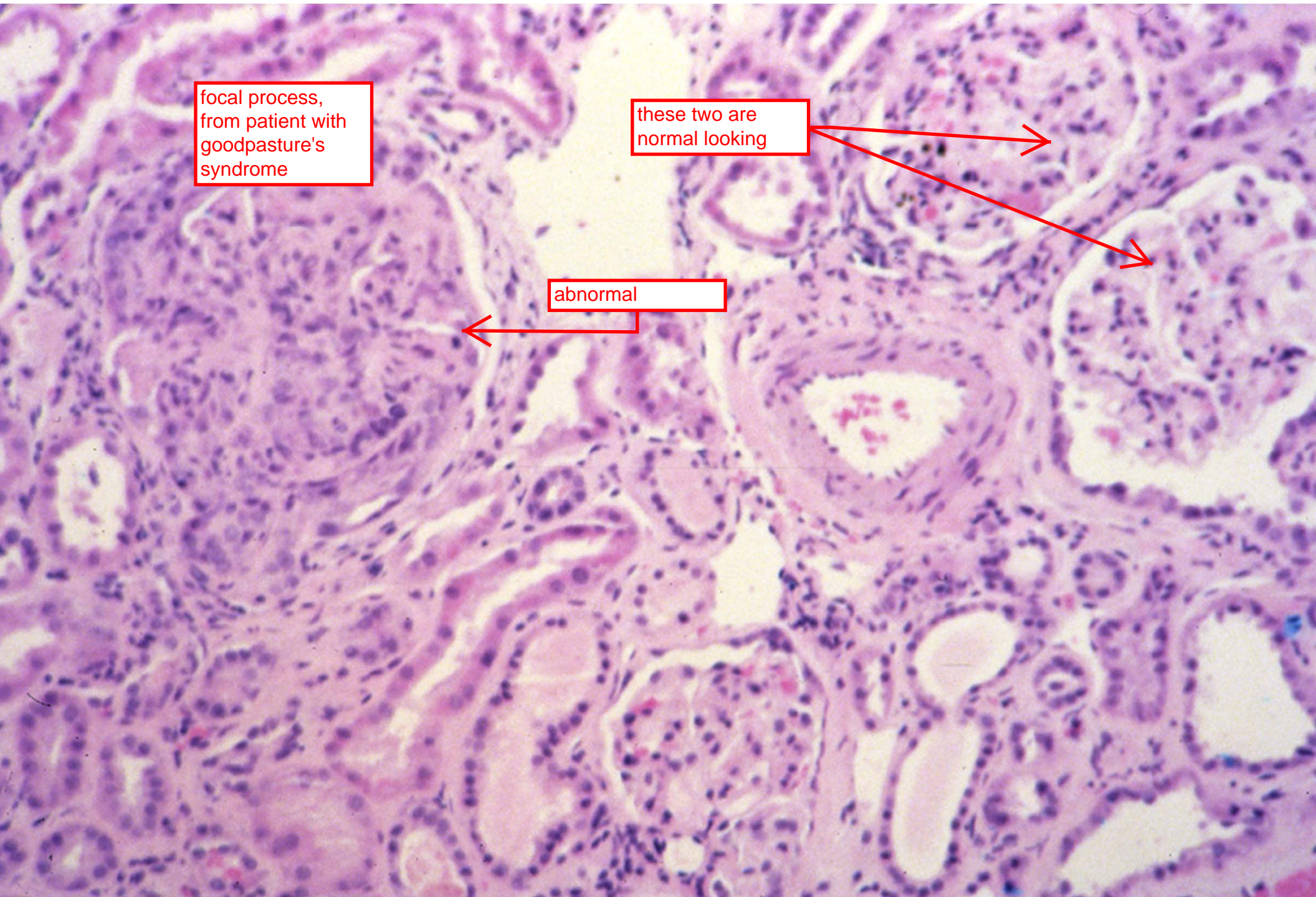


sclerosis, no
crescent or
adhesion to
bowman's

read it

Classifications of glomerular disease By histologic pattern

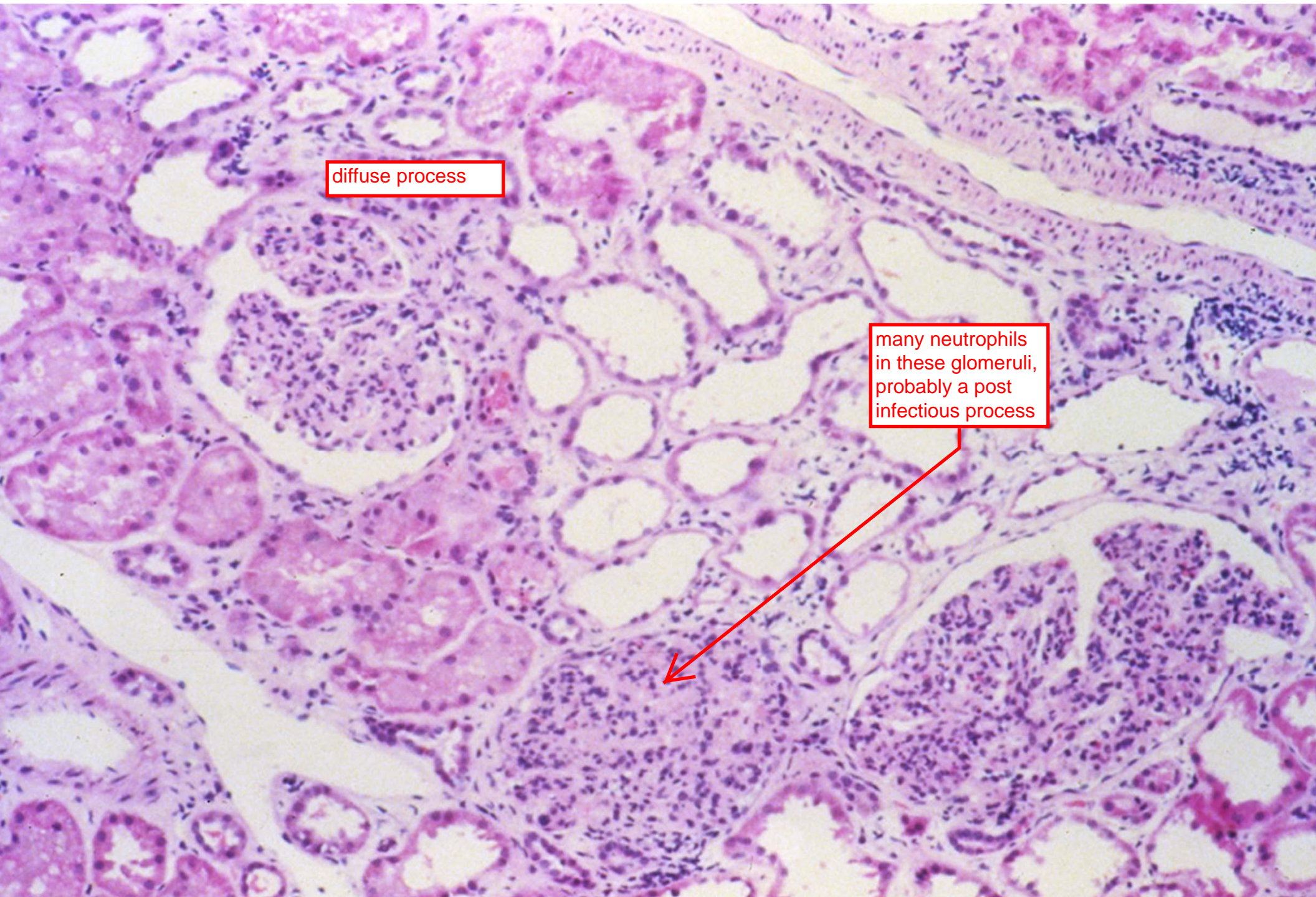
- **Percentage of glomeruli involved**
 - **Focal (less than 75%)**
 - **Diffuse (75% or more)**



focal process,
from patient with
goodpasture's
syndrome

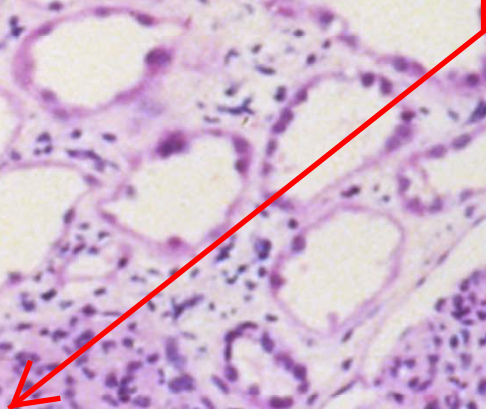
these two are
normal looking

abnormal



diffuse process

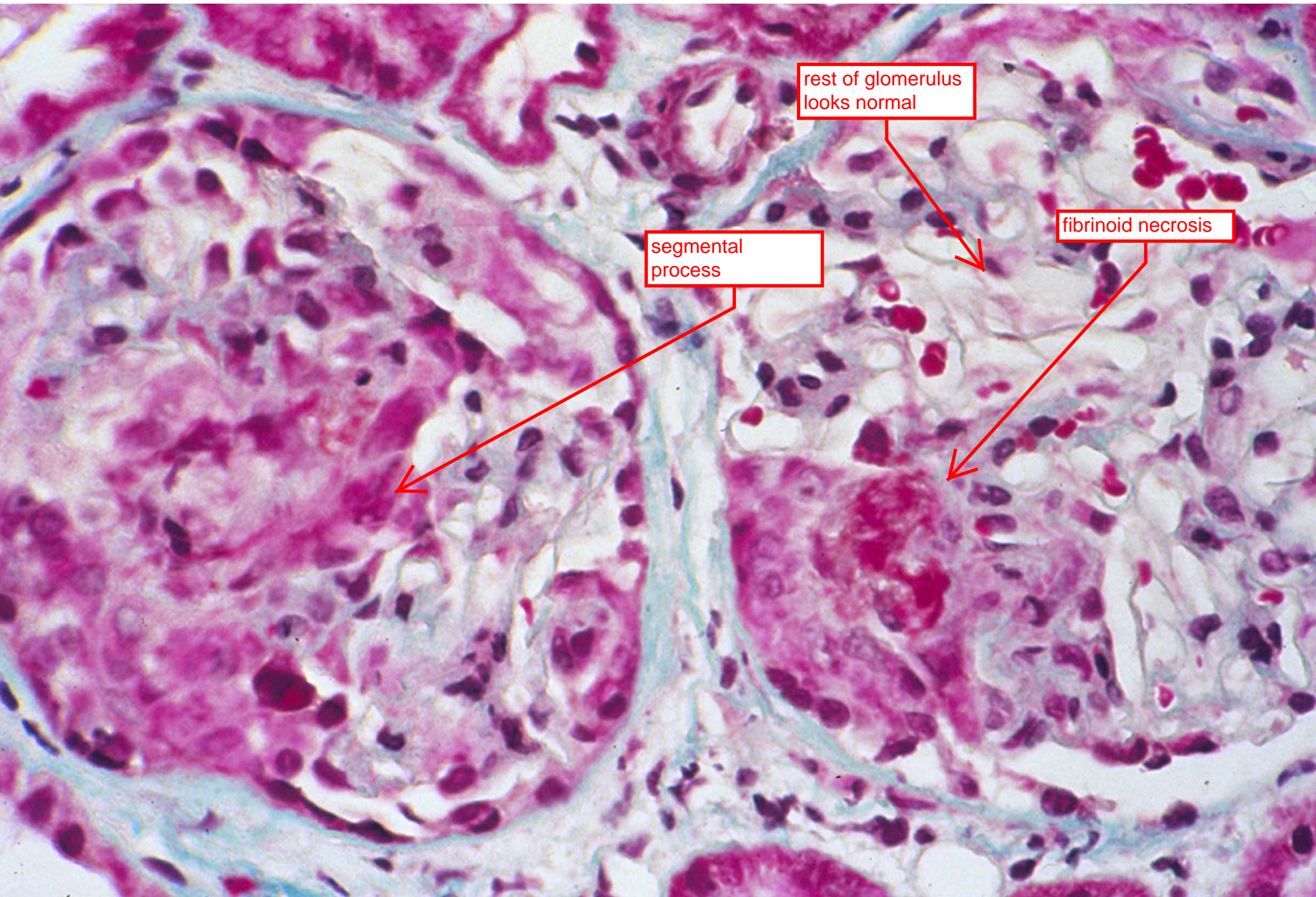
many neutrophils
in these glomeruli,
probably a post
infectious process



read slide

Classifications of glomerular disease By histologic pattern

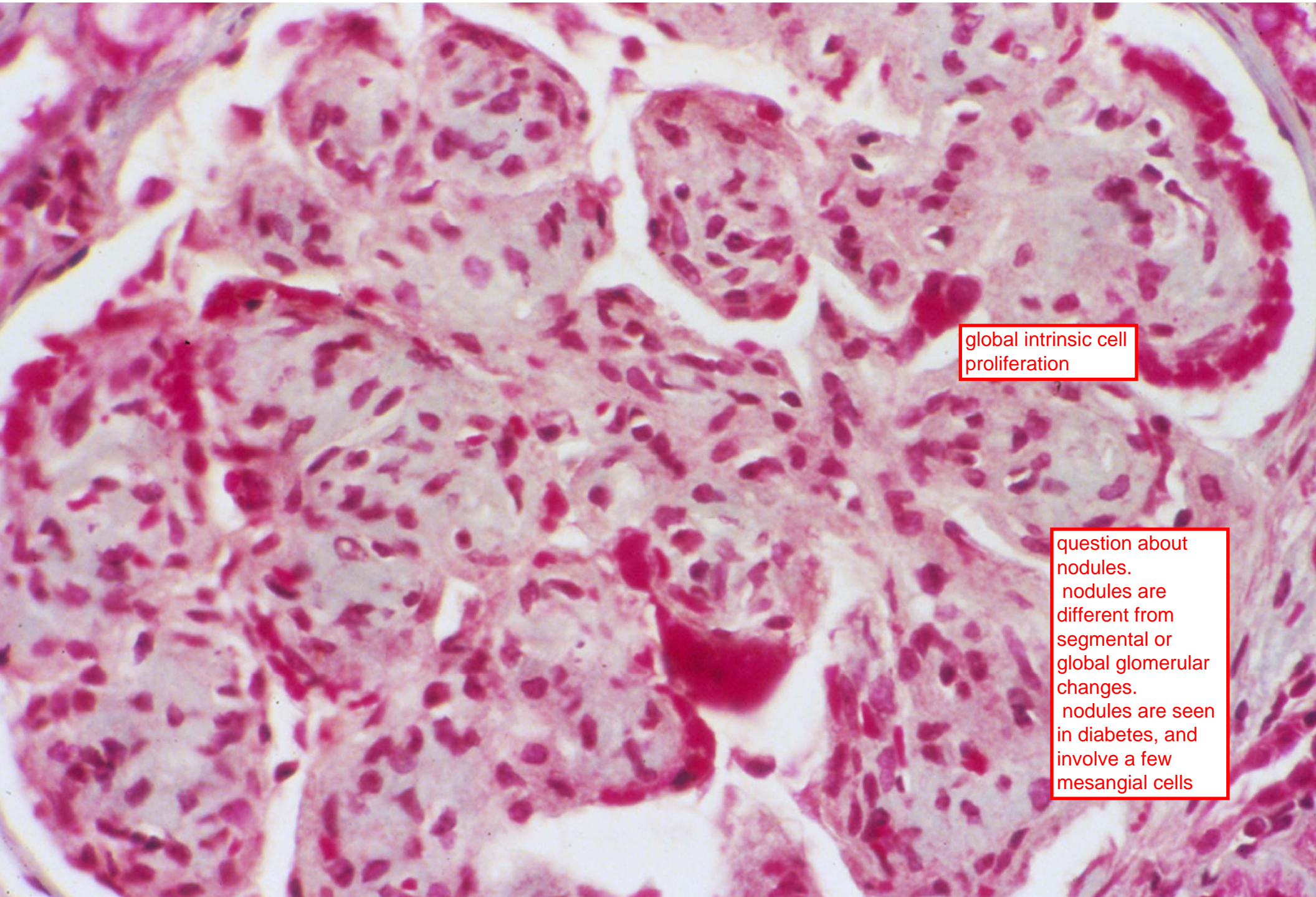
- **Extent of involvement of individual glomeruli**
 - **Segmental (portions of glomeruli affected)**
 - **Global (entire glomeruli affected)**



rest of glomerulus
looks normal

segmental
process

fibrinoid necrosis



global intrinsic cell proliferation

question about nodules.
nodules are different from segmental or global glomerular changes.
nodules are seen in diabetes, and involve a few mesangial cells

read slide

Classifications of glomerular disease By histologic pattern

- **Glomerular compartment(s) involved**
 - **Capillary loops**
 - **Mesangium**
 - **Bowman's space**

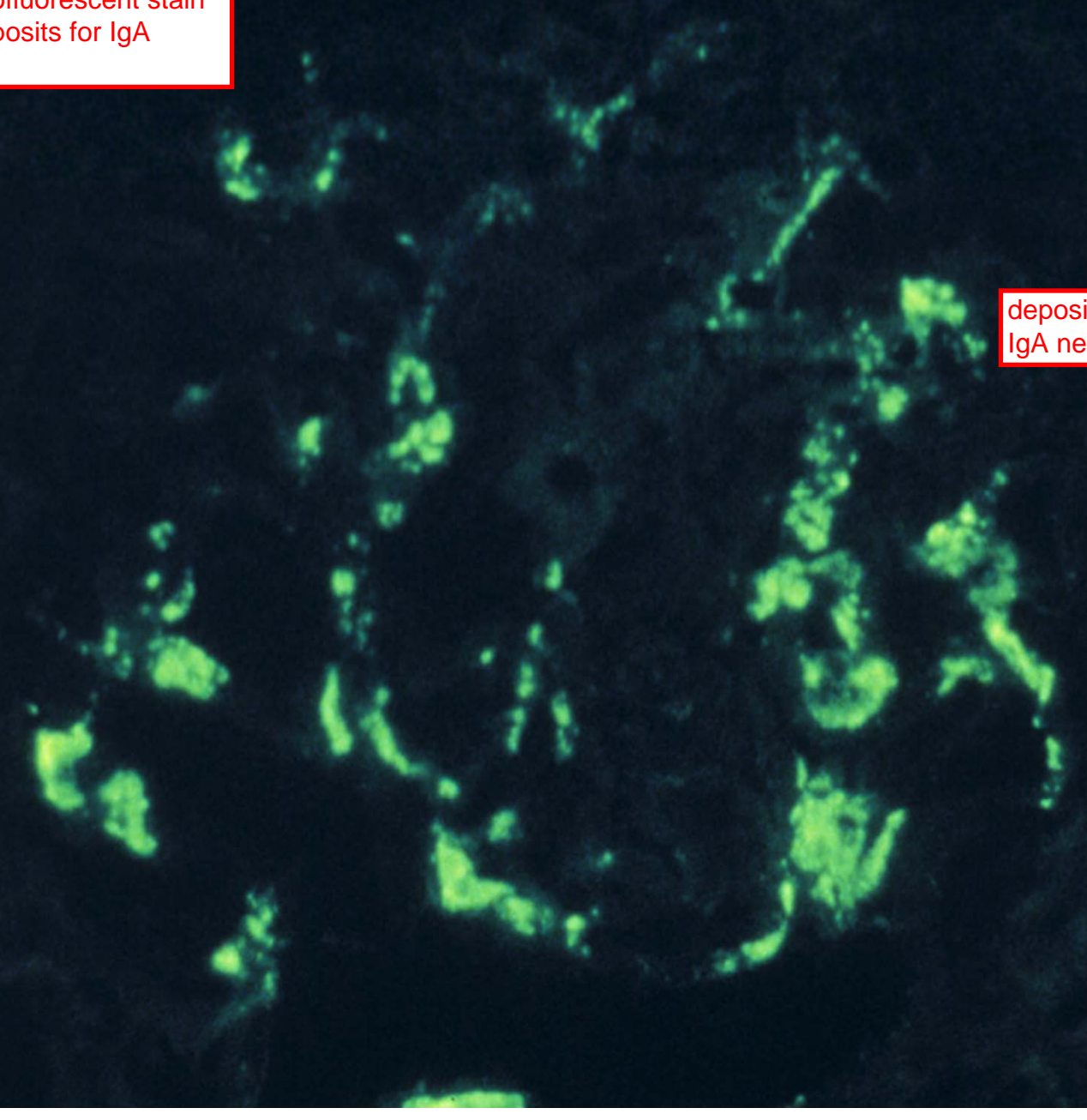


PAS stain

This is a high-magnification photomicrograph of a glomerulus stained with Periodic acid–Schiff (PAS). The glomerular capillary loops are visible as thin, pink-stained structures. The mesangial space between these loops is significantly expanded and filled with a dense, pink-stained matrix, indicating mesangial expansion. Numerous dark-staining nuclei are scattered throughout the mesangial area, suggesting hypercellularity. The overall appearance is consistent with a form of glomerulonephritis.

mesangial areas
problem, capillary
loops look ok

immunofluorescent stain
see deposits for IgA



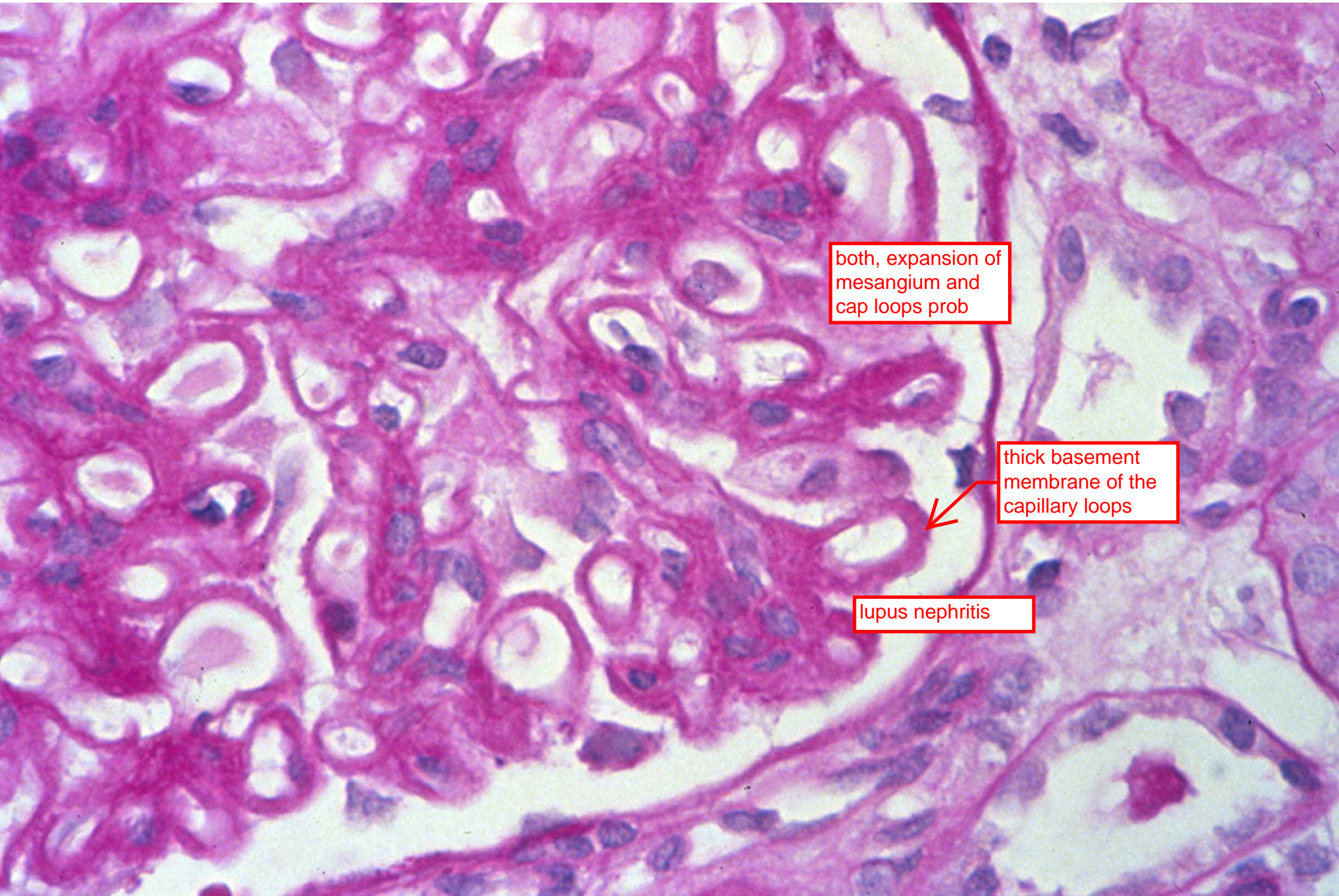
deposits for IgA,
IgA nephropathy



this capillary loop looks good

mesangial immune complex disease

dark deposits in mesangium

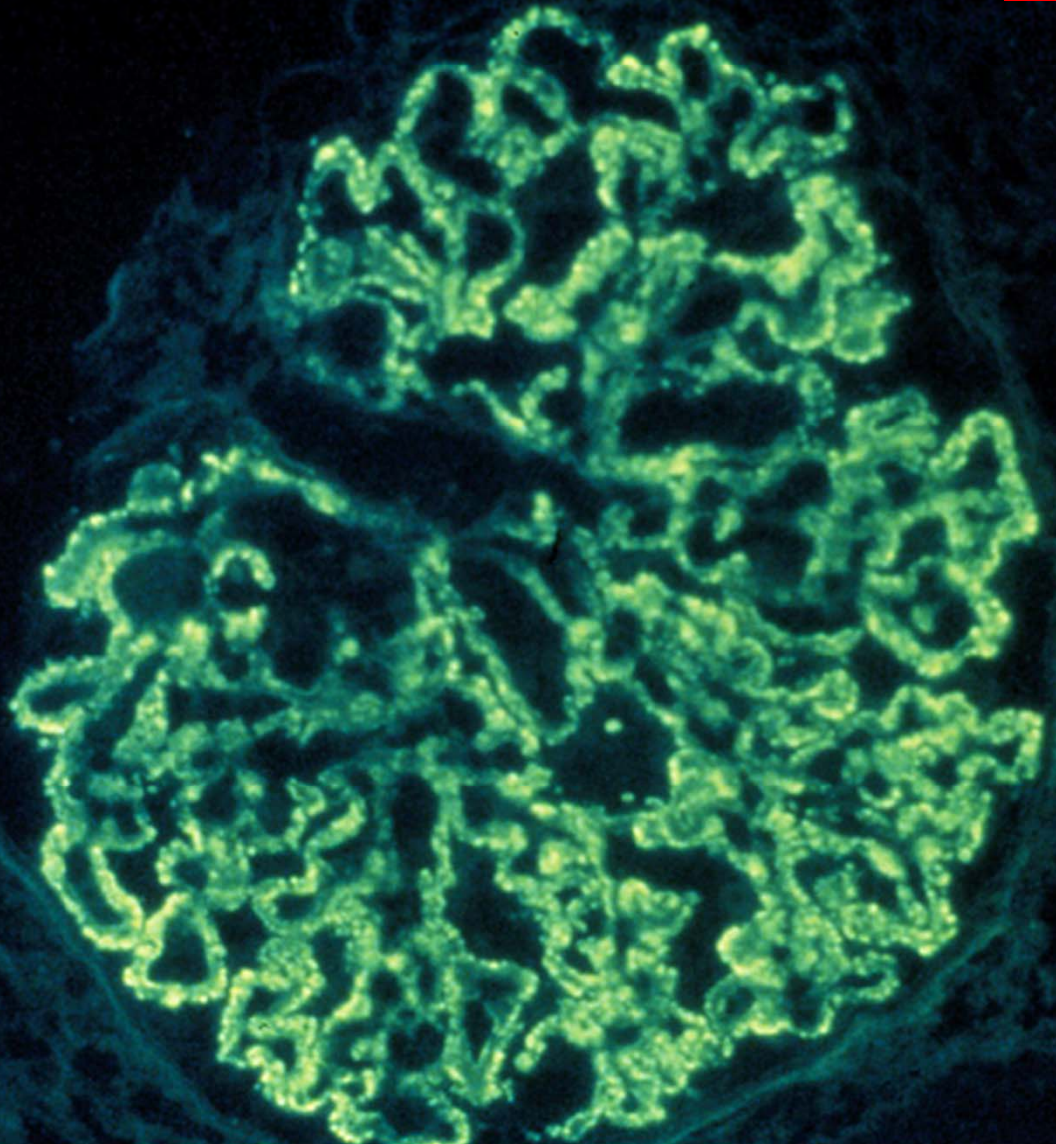


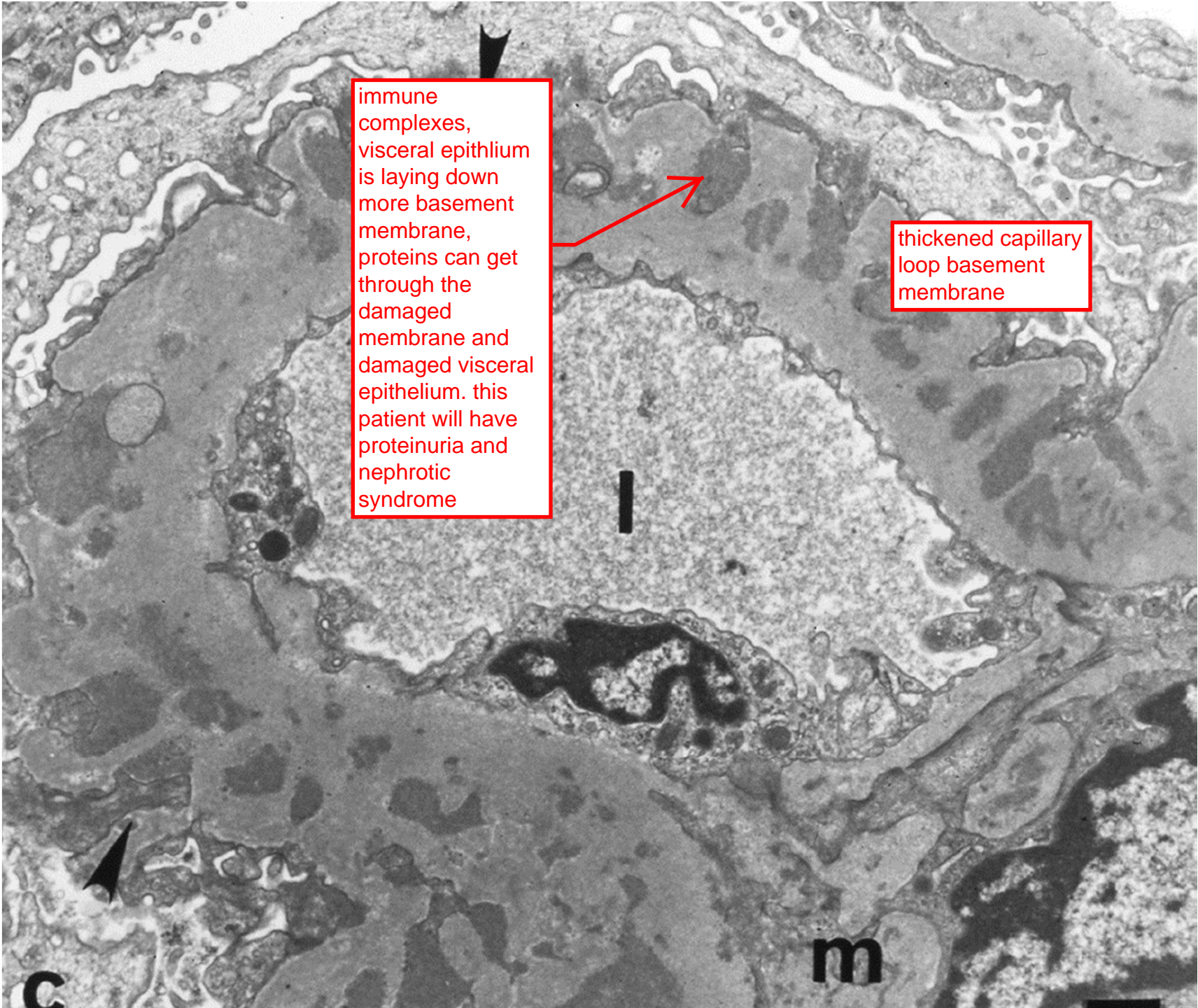
both, expansion of
mesangium and
cap loops prob

thick basement
membrane of the
capillary loops

lupus nephritis

IgG





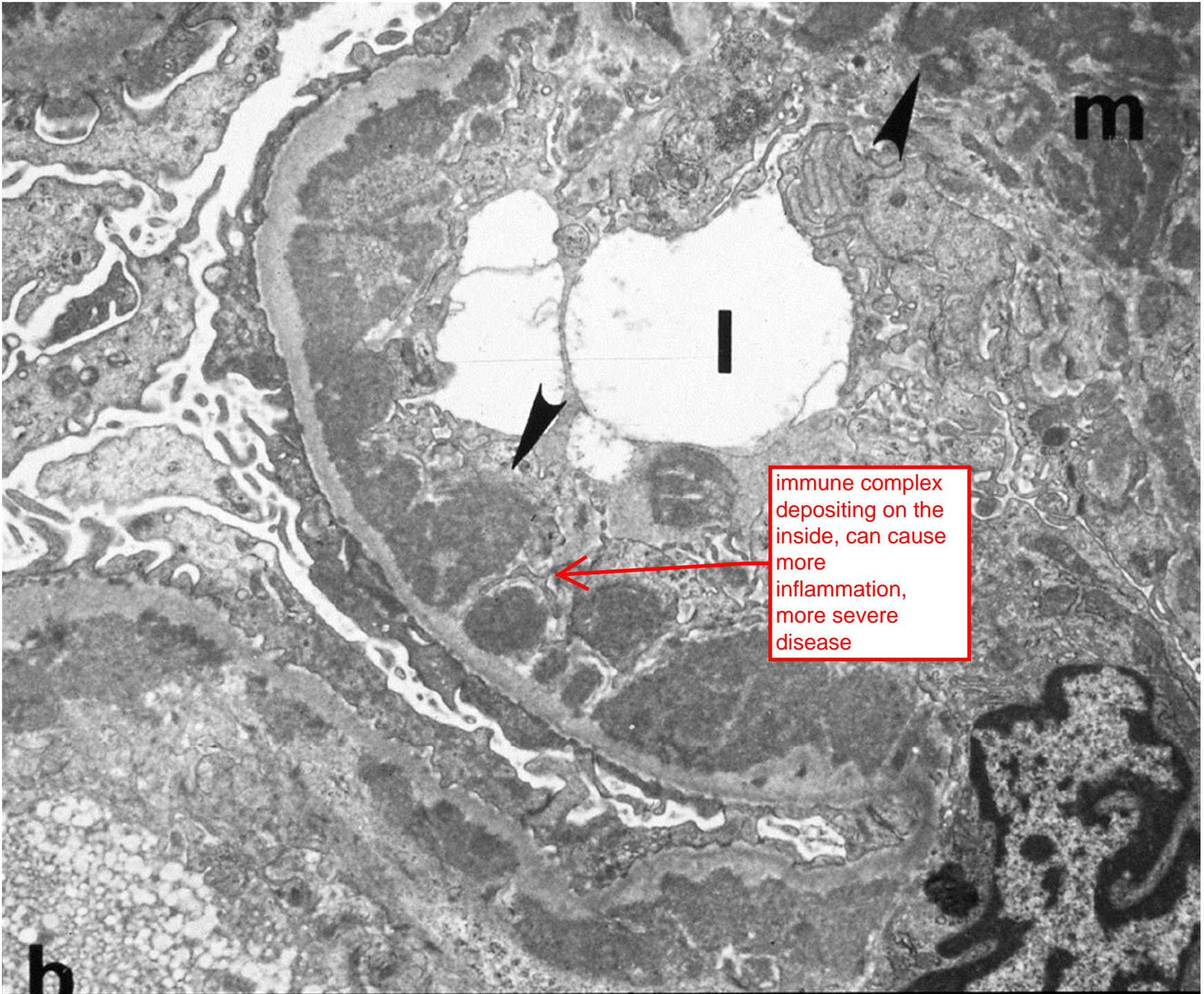
immune complexes, visceral epithelium is laying down more basement membrane, proteins can get through the damaged membrane and damaged visceral epithelium. this patient will have proteinuria and nephrotic syndrome

thickened capillary loop basement membrane

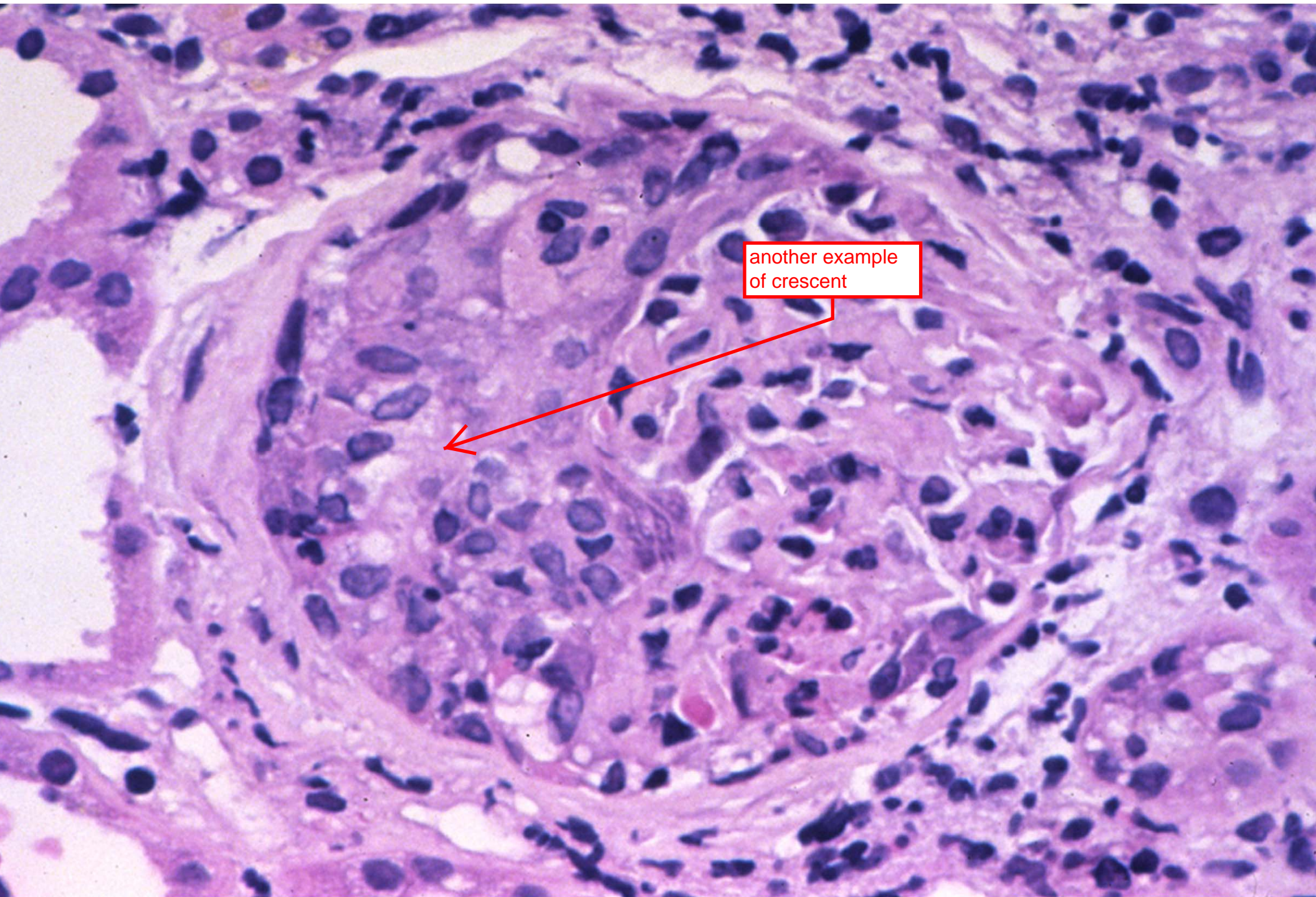
c

m

l



immune complex
depositing on the
inside, can cause
more
inflammation,
more severe
disease



another example
of crescent



Classifications of glomerular disease

By pathogenesis

- Immune complex deposition
- Monoclonal protein deposition/plasma cell dyscrasias
- Epithelial cell damage
- Intrinsic defects of glomerular basement membrane
- Antibodies against glomerular basement membrane
- Endothelial cell damage
- Other vascular damage (e.g., diabetes)

example:
amyloidosis

example: heritable
collagen
biosynthesis
diseases

example: minimal
change disease

example: HUS

type II
hypersensitivity
reactions

Immune complex diseases

Classification of Immune Complex Diseases

• Antigen source

– Autoantigens

Intrinsic glomerular antigens

Non-glomerular antigens (e.g. DNA)

– Exogenous antigens (e.g. bacterial components)

in post infectious
glomerulonephritis

• Immune components

– Immunoglobulins (IgG, IgM, IgA)

– Complement components (e.g. C1q, C4, C3)

unknown why some
antibodies in some
diseases and not
others, can often
see all three in
lupus

• Location

– Mesangial

in IgA
nephropathy

– Subendothelial (between endothelial cell and basement membrane)

– Subepithelial (between epithelial cell and basement membrane)

– Intramembranous

as in membranous
nephritis

fairly common

Membranous glomerulonephritis

protein found on
surface of visceral
epithelial cell

between the
subepithelial cell
and basement
membrane,
unknown how viral
antigens get there
but they do

- **Pathogenesis**

- **Antigens:**

- M-type phospholipase A₂ receptor (primary)**

- Viral antigens (hepatitis B, C) (secondary)**

- **Immune reactants: IgG, C3**

- **Complex location: subepithelial**

- **Histologic: Diffuse, global expansion of capillary basement membranes**

- **Clinical: Proteinuria/nephrotic syndrome; chronic course which may progress to chronic renal failure; most common in adult males**

foot processes of podocytes are gone and allows protein to get through

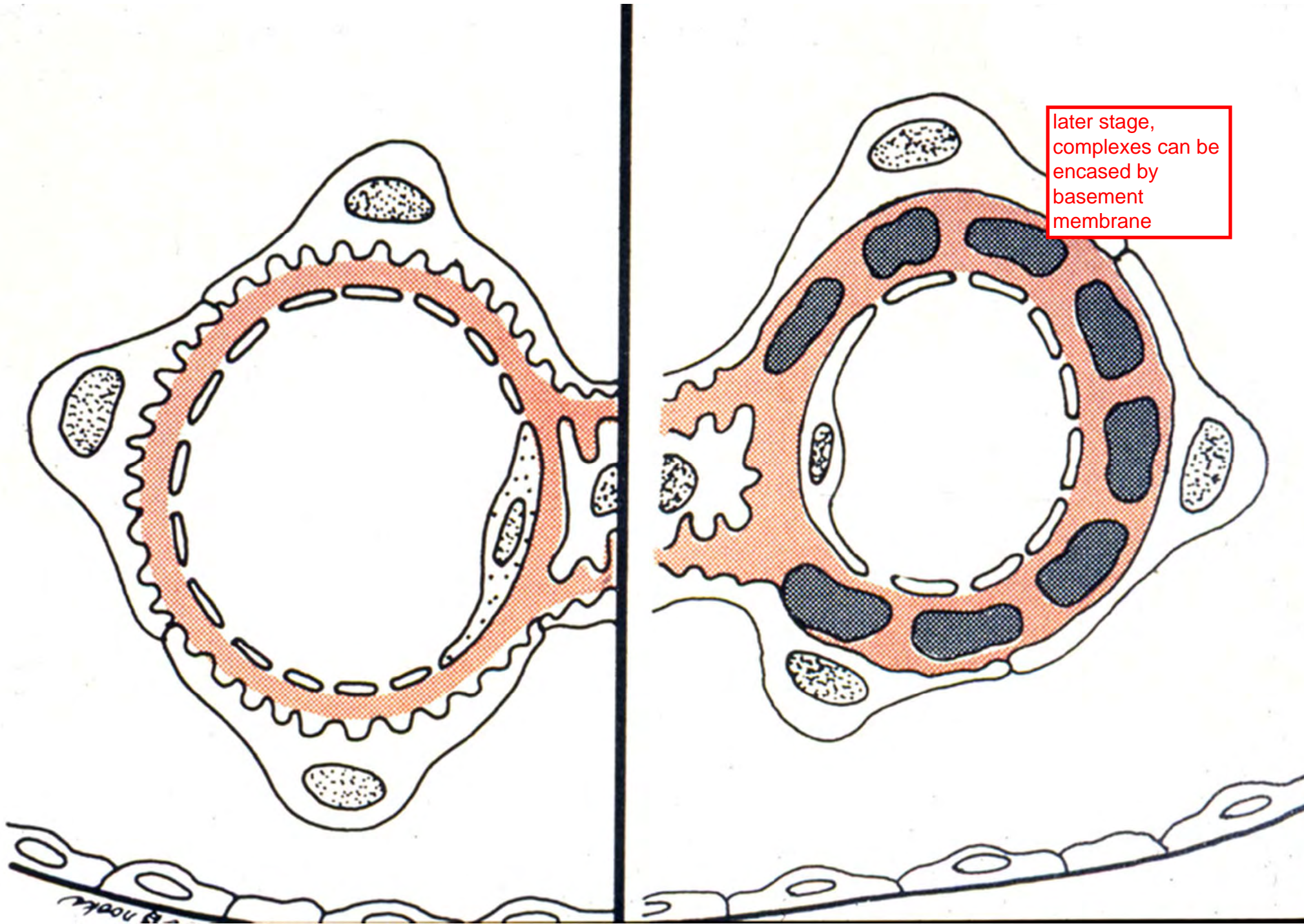
abnormal

normal

basement membrane thickened

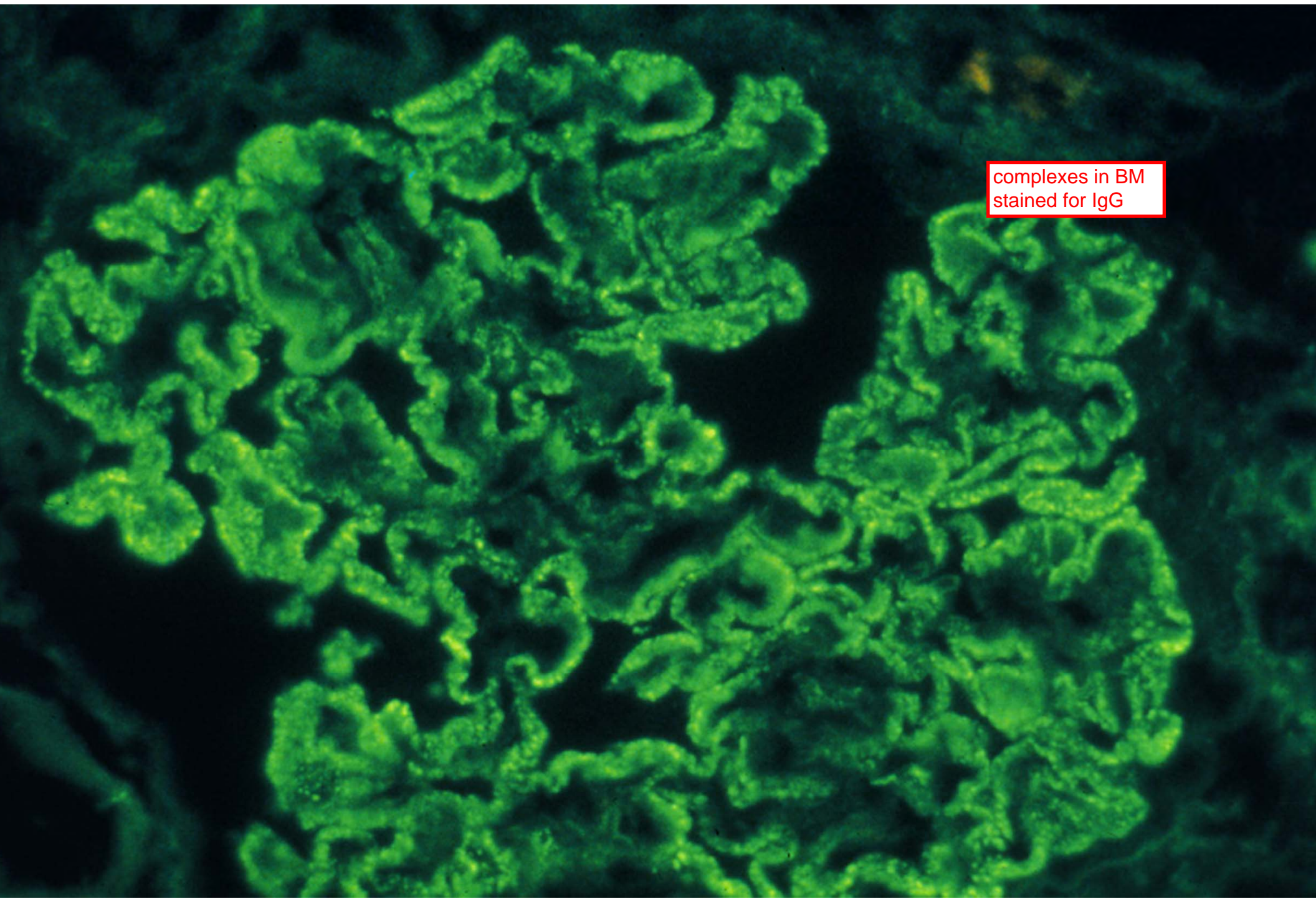
immune complexes



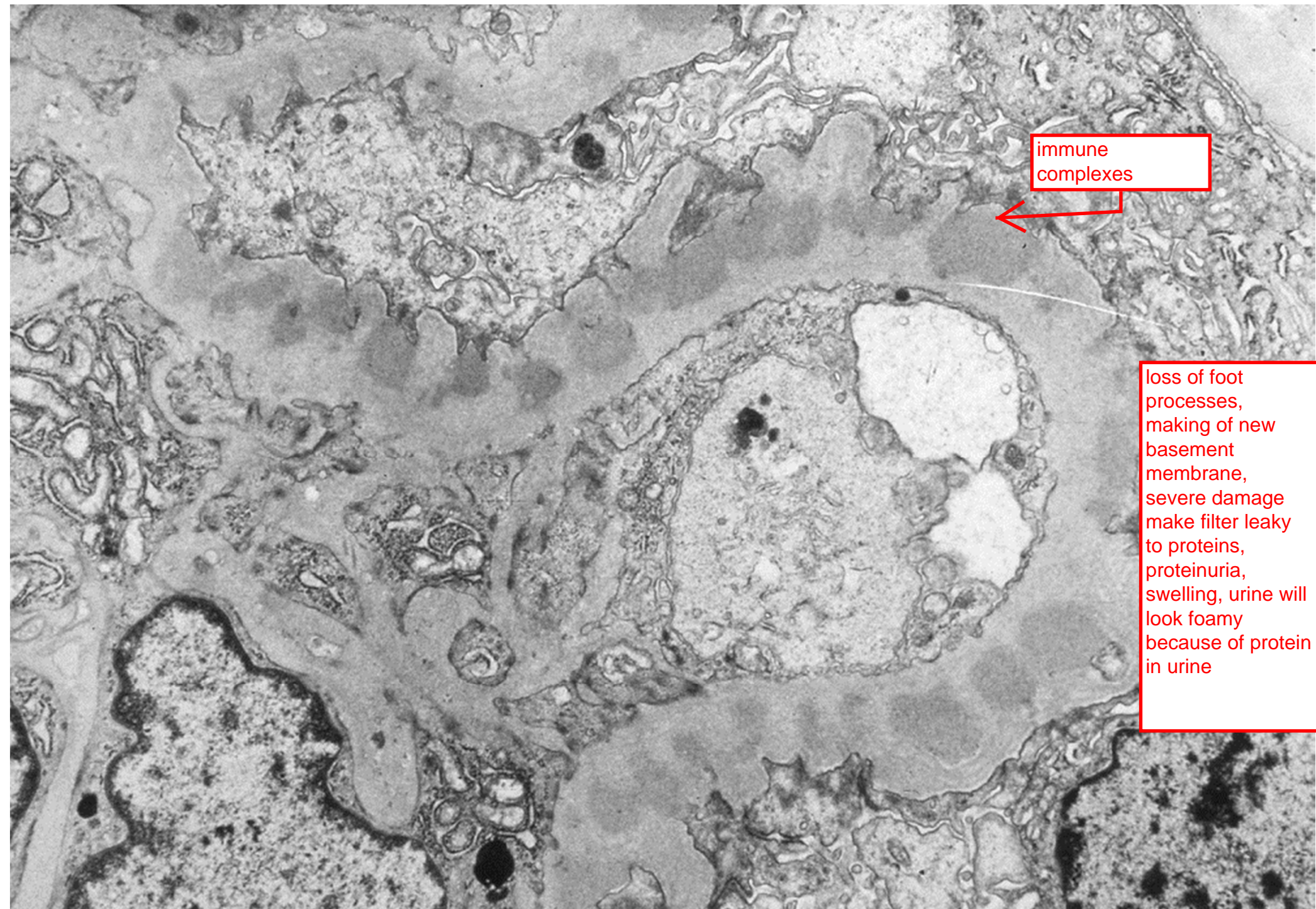




silver stain stains BM but not complex material, here, the membrane is looking like swiss cheese indicates immune complexes are there



complexes in BM
stained for IgG



immune complexes



loss of foot processes, making of new basement membrane, severe damage make filter leaky to proteins, proteinuria, swelling, urine will look foamy because of protein in urine


Postinfectious glomerulonephritis

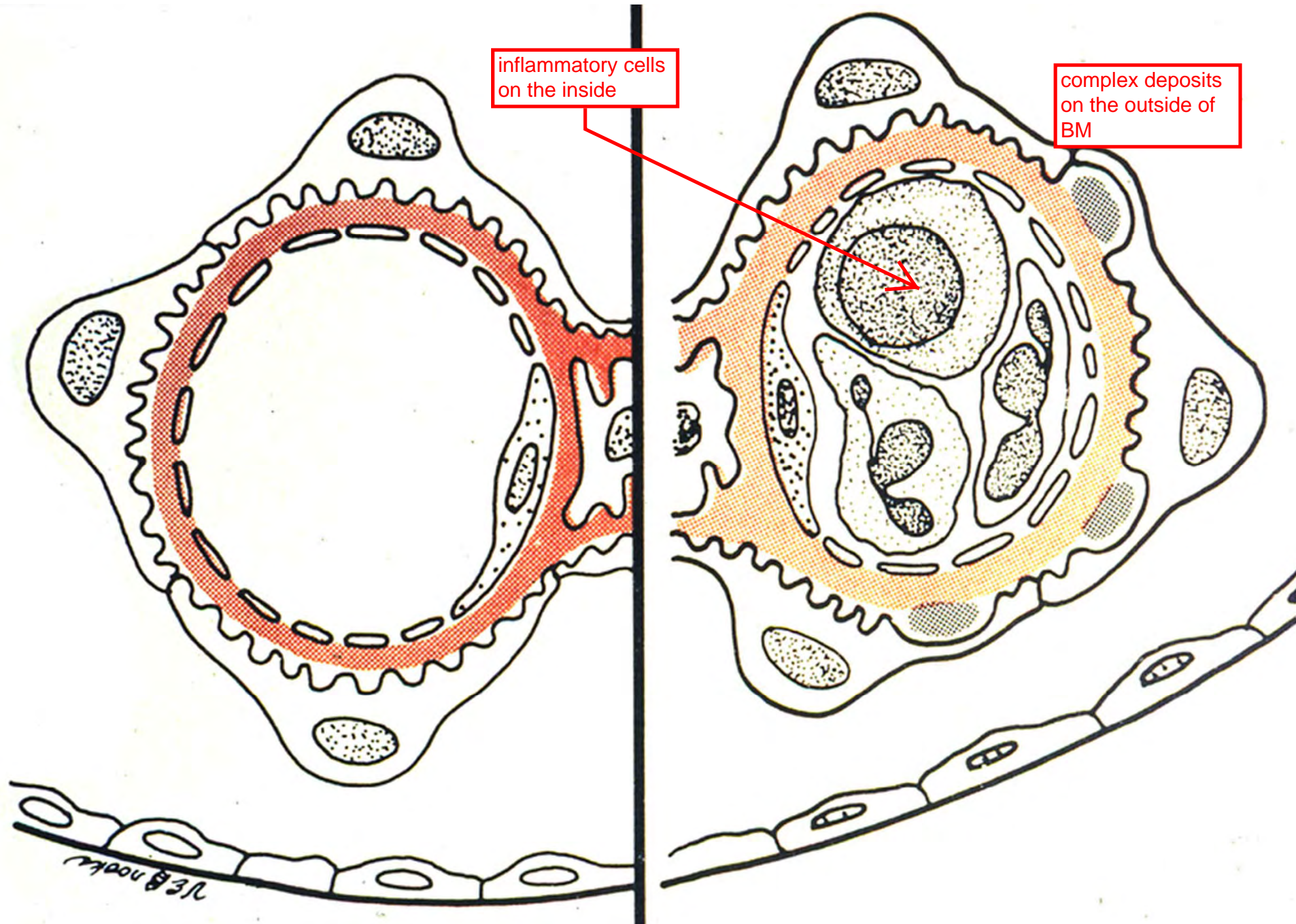
- **Pathogenesis**
 - Antigen: bacterial components
 - Immune reactants: IgG, C3
 - Complex location: subepithelial ("**humps**")
- **Histologic: Diffuse, global intrinsic cell proliferation with neutrophil infiltration**
- **Clinical: Acute onset hematuria/nephritic syndrome 1-2 weeks following infection (particularly with nephritogenic streptococci); usually resolves spontaneously; occasionally progresses to chronic renal failure; most common in children**

blood in urine
because of
damage due to
inflammation



chronic renal
failure in adults

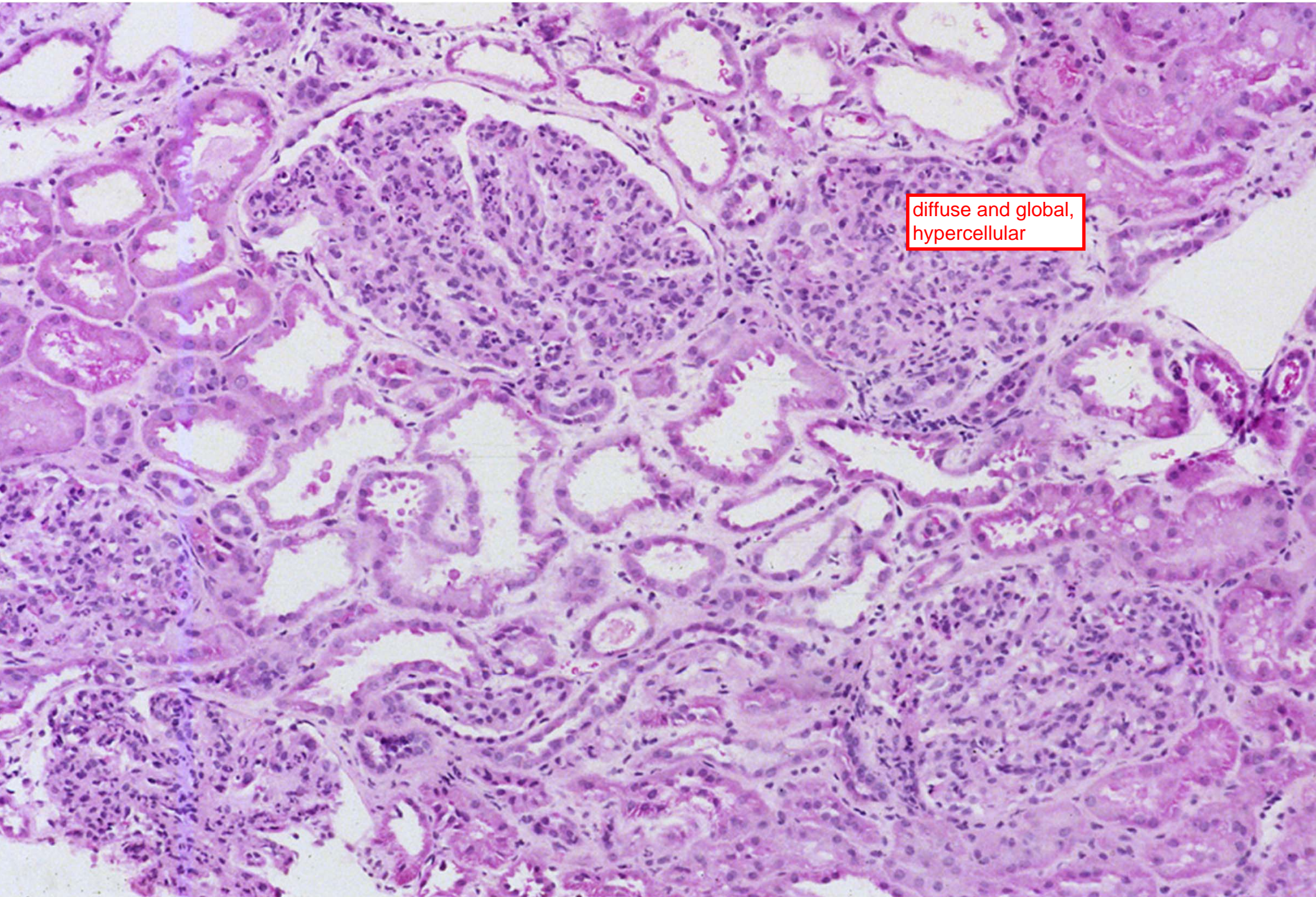




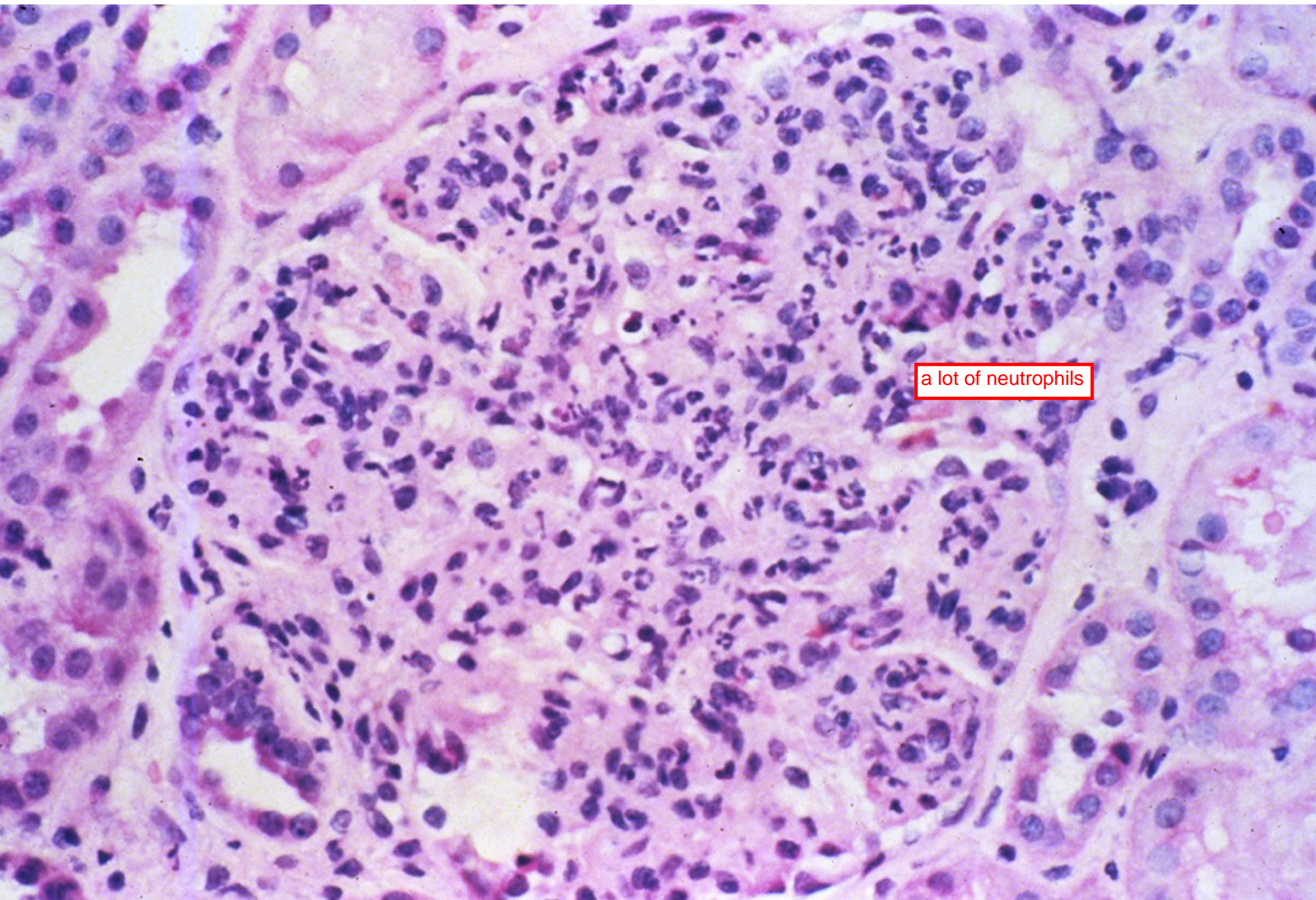
inflammatory cells
on the inside

complex deposits
on the outside of
BM

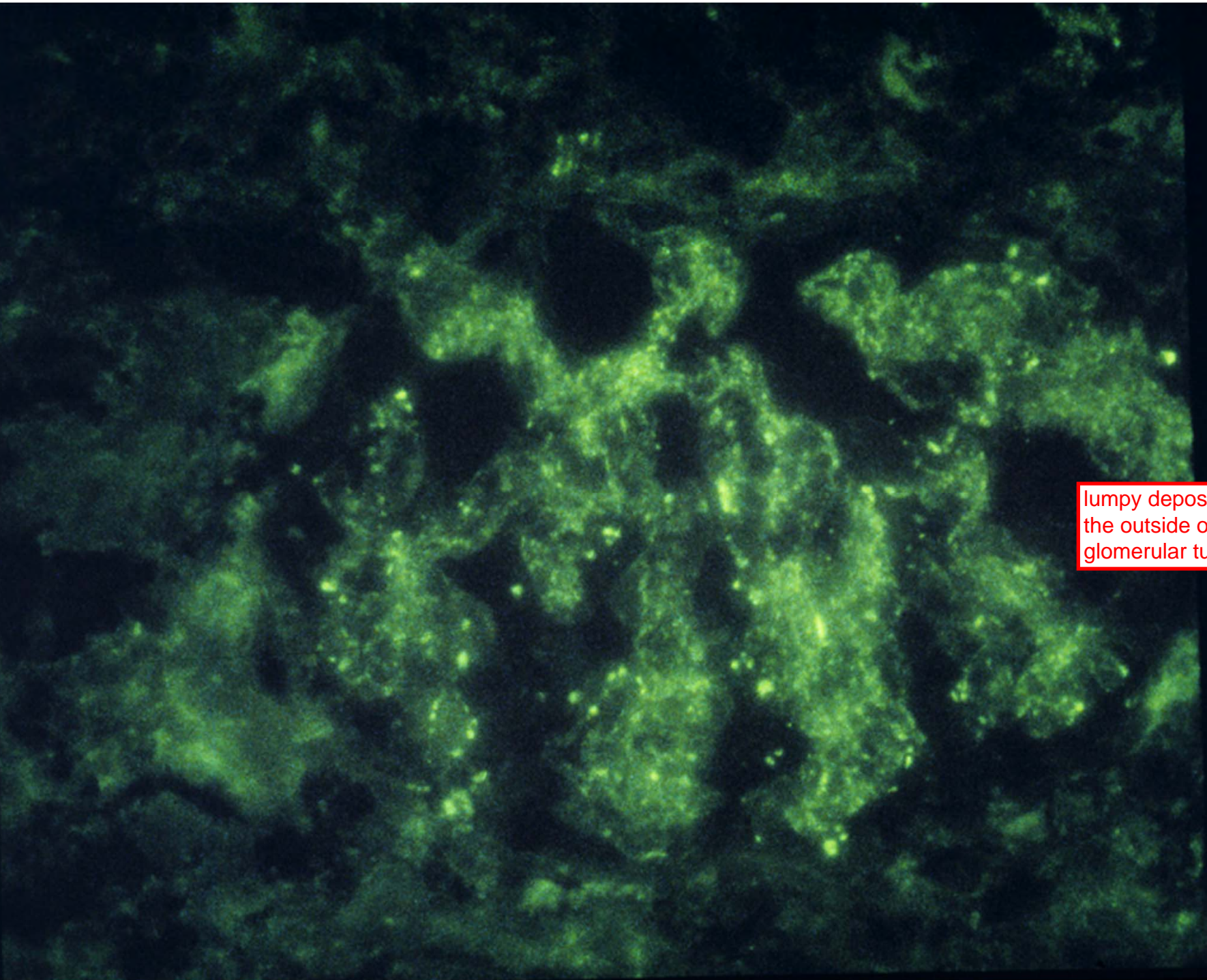
N.E. Nook



diffuse and global,
hypercellular



a lot of neutrophils



lumpy deposits on
the outside of the
glomerular tufts



humps or lumps
on the outside of
BM

2a

Mesangiocapillary (membranoproliferative) glomerulonephritis (MPGN) type I

- **Pathogenesis**

- **Antigens:**

- Unknown (primary)**

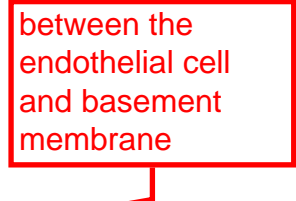
- Viral antigens (hepatitis C) (secondary)**

- Complement dysregulation (C3 nephritic factors)**

- **Immune reactants: variable, usually including C3**

- **Complex location: subendothelial**

between the endothelial cell and basement membrane



- **Histologic: Diffuse intrinsic cell proliferation, with encroachment of mesangial cells into capillary lumens (mesangial interpositioning)**

- **Clinical: Nephrotic or nephritic syndrome with hypocomplementemia; often progresses to chronic renal failure**

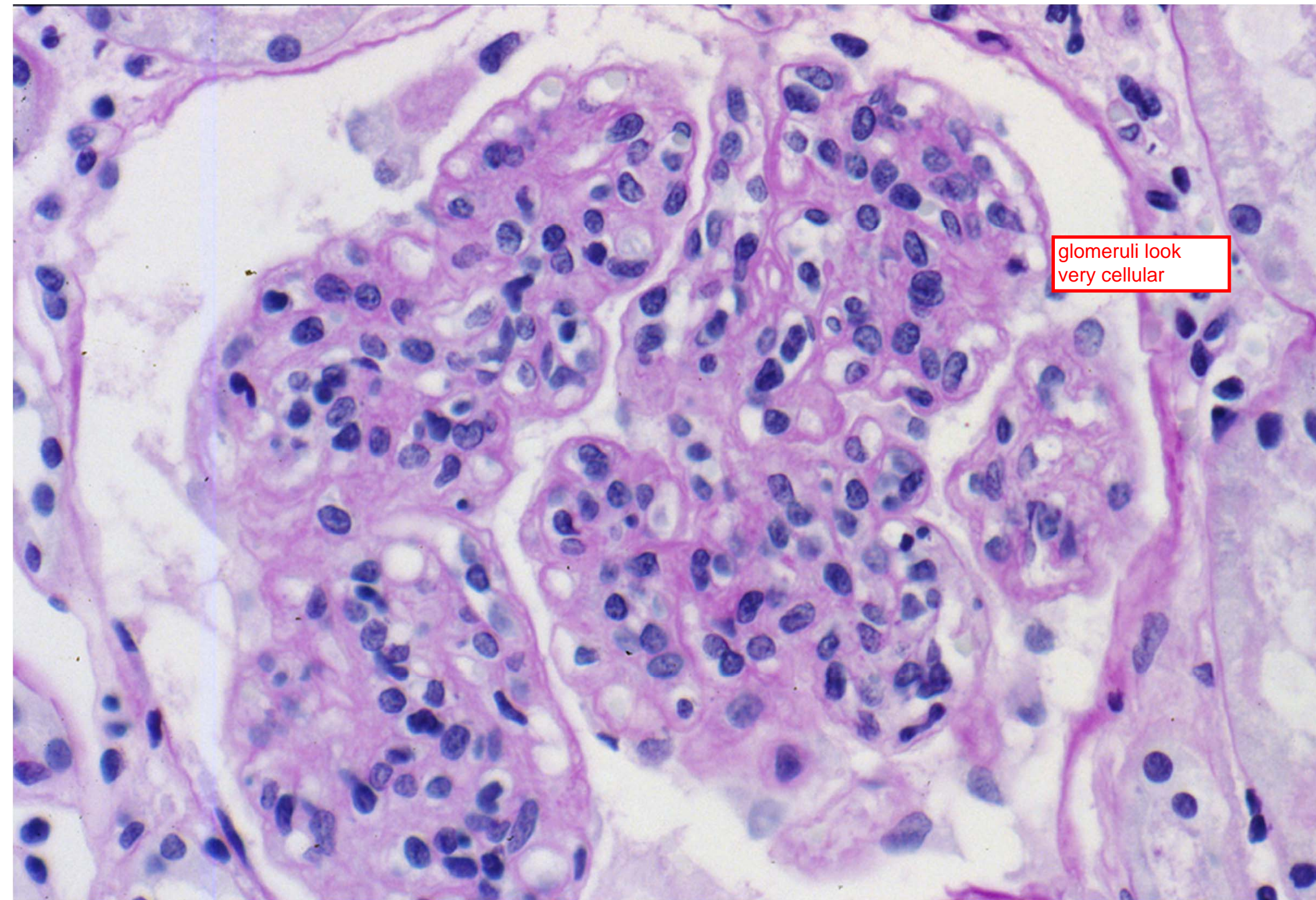
mesangial cells try to get to the deposits



MEMBRANO-PROLIFERATIVE GN



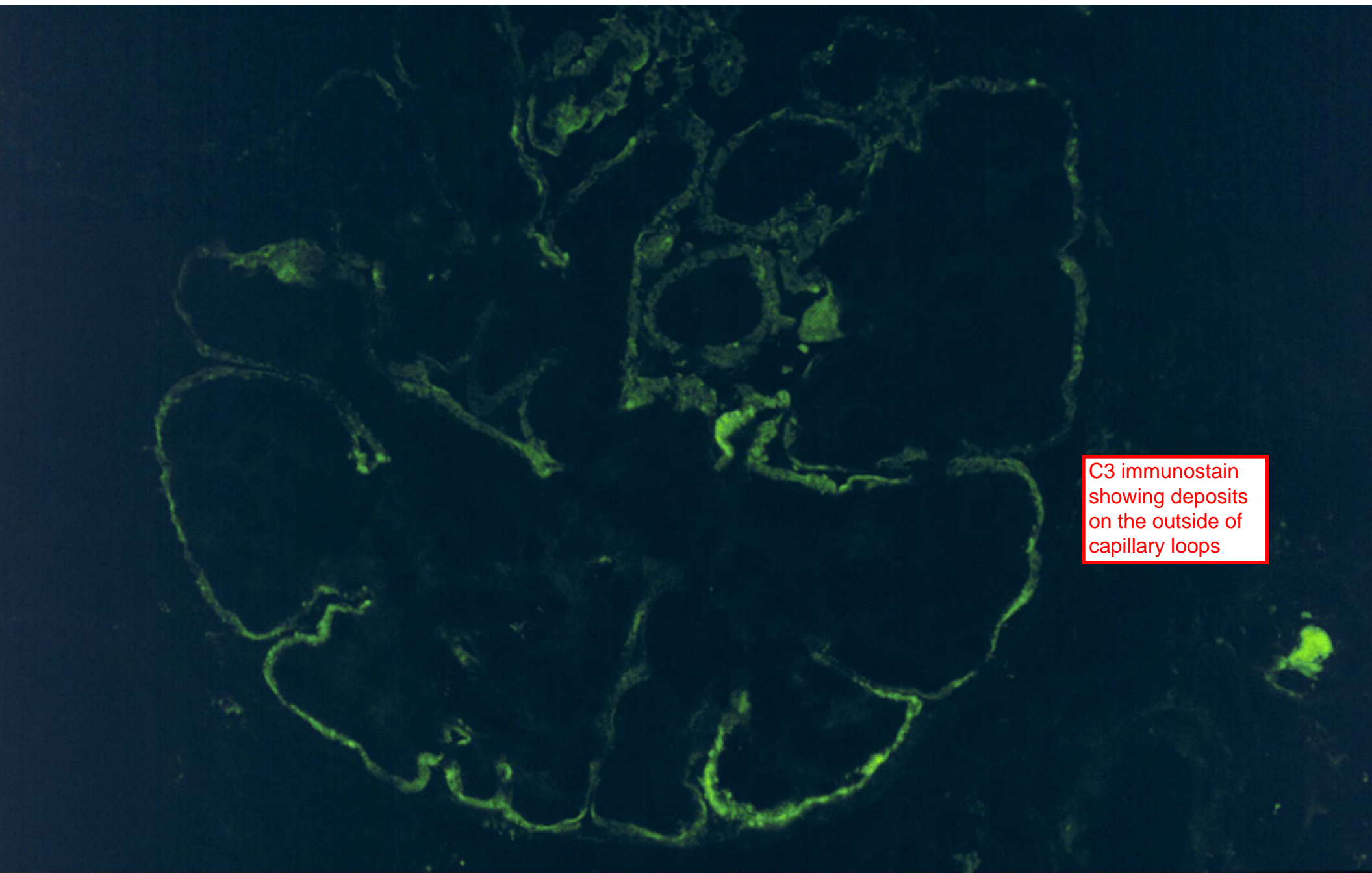
lumen,
subendothelial
deposits,
mesangial cell
crawls out on the
capillary loop, lays
down a basement
membrane layer
visceral epithelial
cell looks pretty
good so damaging
inside and not
outside of the loop



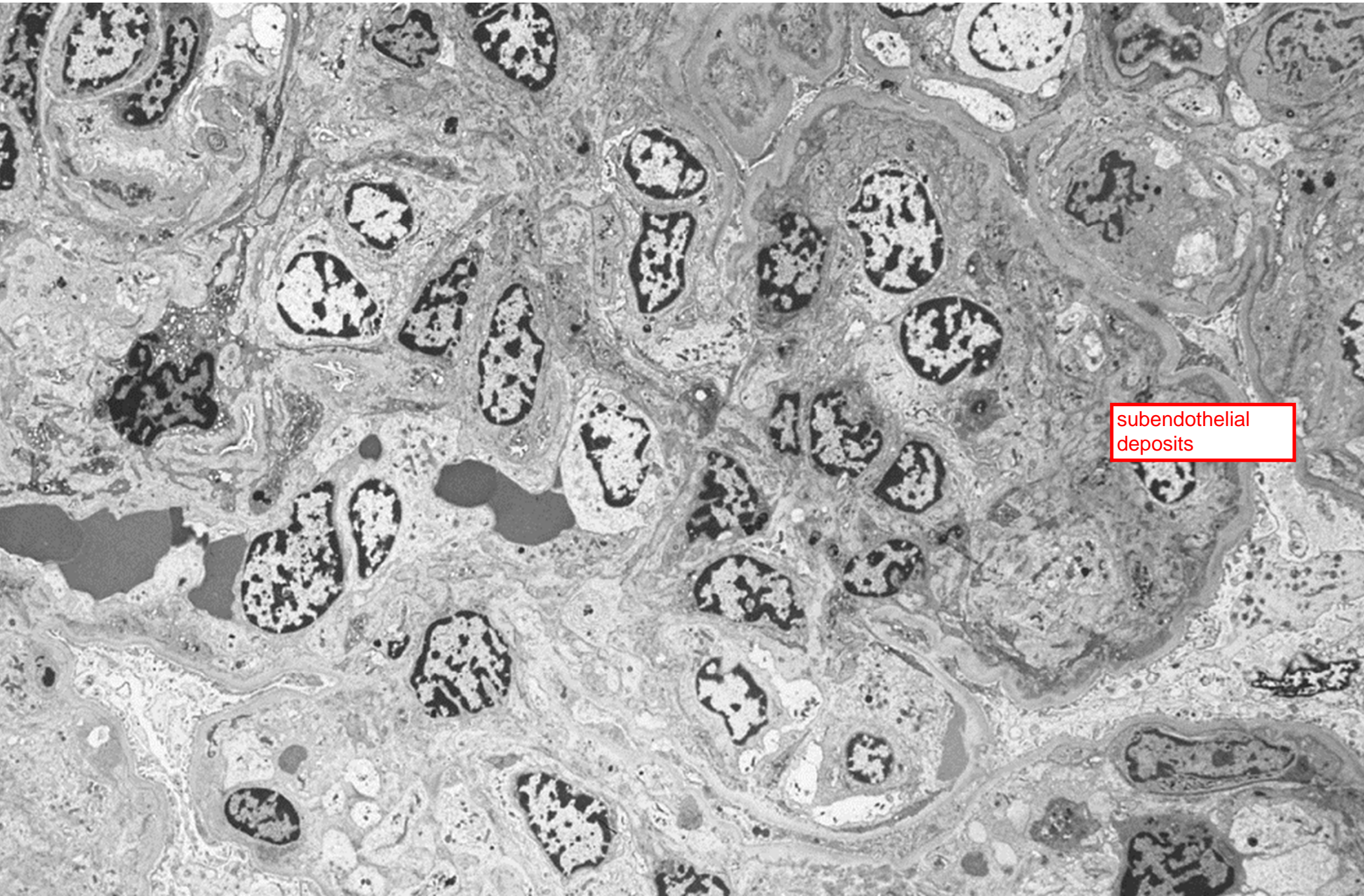
glomeruli look very cellular



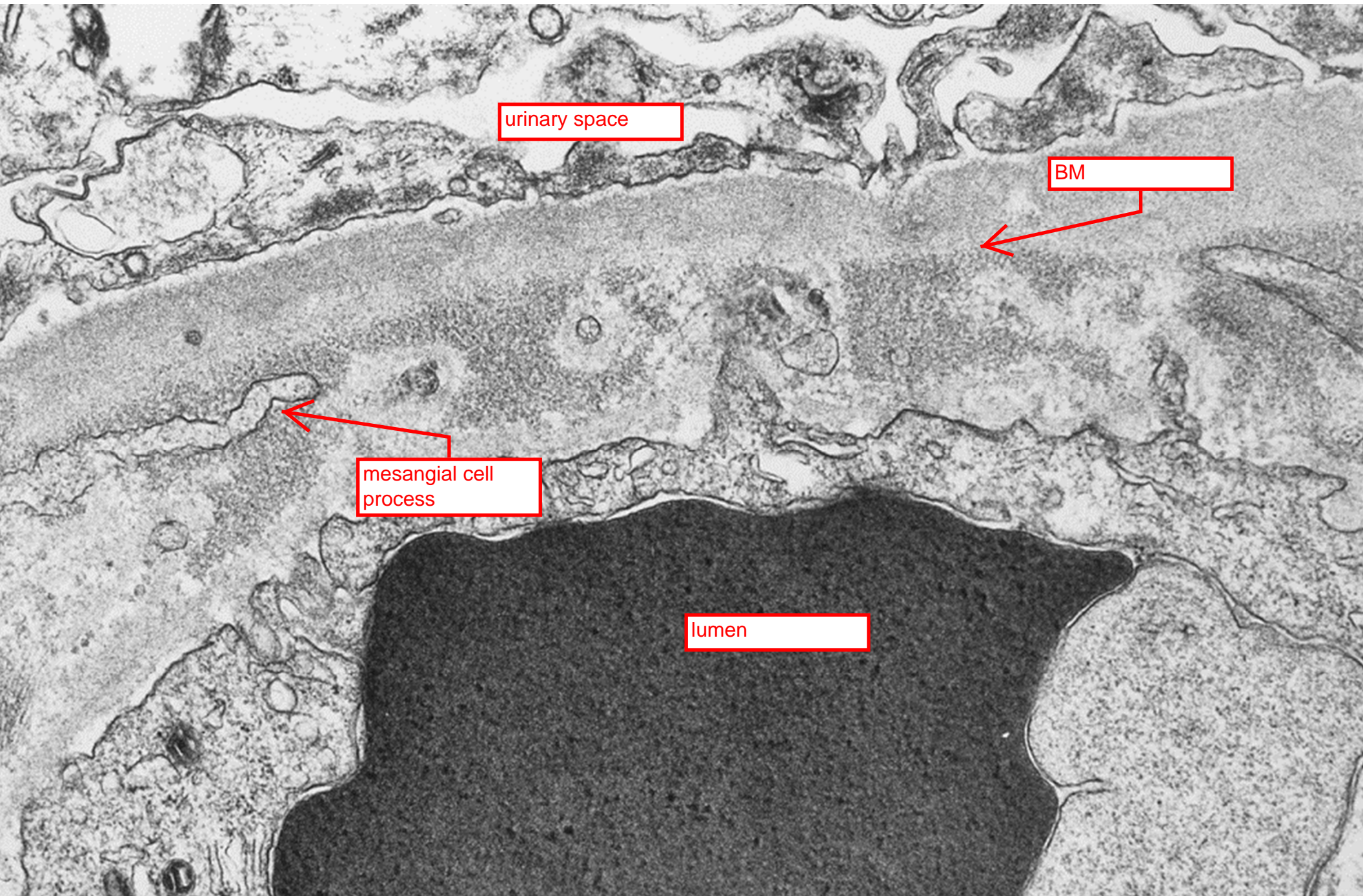
reduplication of
the basement
membrane



C3 immunostain showing deposits on the outside of capillary loops



subendothelial
deposits



urinary space

BM

mesangial cell process

lumen

MPGN Type II (Dense Deposit Disease)

