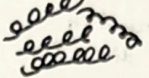


Extracellular Fibers

	Collagen	Elastin	Reticular
Appearance	Long, parallel fibrils 	Coiled bundles 	Net-like, branched fibers (thin) 
Function	Resistant to pulling forces Uni-directional	Stretches <u>and</u> contracts back	Provides Support around complex organs
Location	Tendons and Ligaments	• Vocal Chords • Lungs • Skin • Blood Vessels	• Endocrine glands • Liver • Nerves • Capillaries

Loose Connective Tissue

	Areolar	Adipose	Reticular
Appearance (and fiber types)	All 3 plus cells	All 3 (but sparse) Adipocyte	Reticular fiber Net-like network
Function	Wraps & cushions organs Inflammatory Response	Cushion Insulation Energy Reserve	Framework for internal organ
Location	Widely distributed throughout the body	- Food Stores = Fat ↳ Under Skin ↳ Around Kidneys ↳ In the abdomen ↳ Breast tissue	Framework around organs ↳ spleen ↳ liver ↳ lymph nodes ↳ bone marrow

Dense Connective Tissue

	Regular	Irregular	Elastic
Appearance (and fiber types)	Mainly Collagen Some Elastic Tightly bound in same direction	Collagen (denser than regular) All over the place	Elastin parallel or interwoven
Function	One directional forces can be applied	Force can be applied in any direction	Allows for recoil of tissue
Location	Tendons Ligaments Fascia	Around Soft Tissue Organs. ↳ Kidneys ↳ Testes ↳ Liver ↳ Spleen Joint Capsule Dermis of Skin	Between vertebrae Artery walls Stomach Bladder Heart