



The Skin: Structure and Functions

Chapter: Skin Anatomy & Common Disorders

The skin has three layers and several vital jobs. Know them before you work on it.

Epidermis - The protective outer layer you see and touch; holds melanin, which gives skin its color.

Dermis - The supportive middle layer; collagen and elastin for strength and bounce, plus glands, nerves, and blood vessels.

Subcutaneous layer - The padded base of fatty tissue that cushions and insulates.

Protection - The skin shields the body from the outside world.

Temperature - Sweat (sudoriferous) glands help regulate body heat.

Sensation - Nerves let the client feel touch.

Oil - Sebaceous glands secrete oil that keeps skin and hair supple.