

This Week's Question

Which of the following changes in tissue is common to all of the microvascular complications of diabetes?

1. Thickening of base membrane
2. Endothelial cell changes
3. Pericyte cell death
4. **All of the above**

There is a common pathologic change no matter whether you look at the retina, the kidney, or the nerve. The changes that one sees are related to base membrane, endothelium, and pericytes. This shows the retina, the glomerulus, and the nerve. The changes are those of thickening of base membrane, endothelial cell changes, and pericyte cell death. These are common to all the so-called microvascular complications of diabetes.

And we know that the progression of this abnormality relates to the severity of the complication. The more severe the base membrane thickening, whether it's in the kidney or the nerve, the more severe the nerve and renal damage.

[The Common Pathophysiology of Diabetic Microvascular Complications](#)

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The Link Between Diabetes and Its Complication

The Molecular Basis for Vascular Changes

The Functional/Physiologic Basis for Vascular Changes

Microangiopathy Is Present in Early-Stage Disease

Pericyte Apoptosis in Diabetes

Diabetic Nephropathy

Treatment of Microvascular Complications