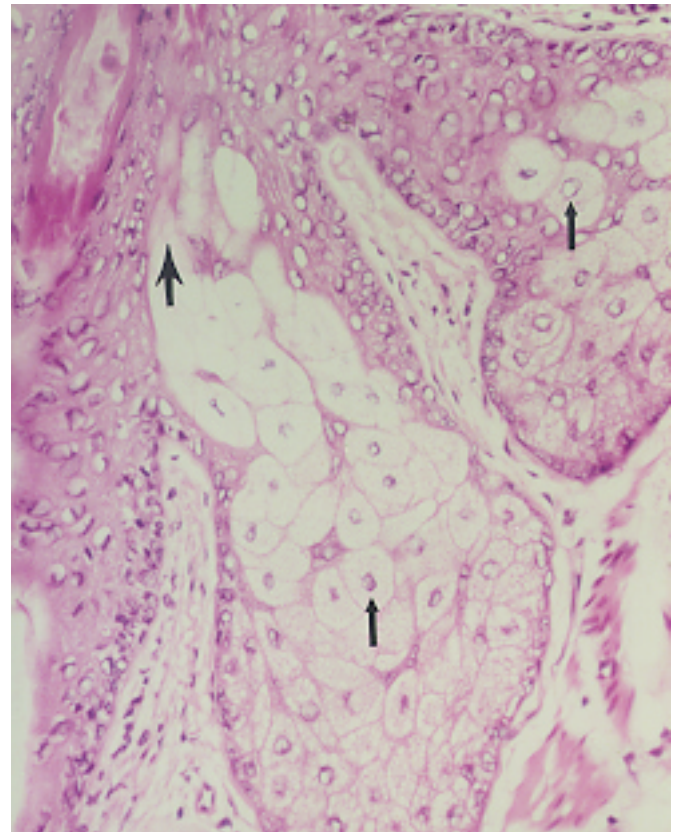


## SEBACEOUS GLANDS

One or more sebaceous glands are associated with each hair follicle and secrete sebum onto the hair surface in the upper part of the follicle. In a few areas such as the lips, sebaceous glands are independent of hair and secrete directly onto the surface of the skin. Sebaceous glands are alveolar saccular glands located in the dermis with a surrounding thin layer of connective tissue. Sebum forms as a result of dying off of the epithelial cells and in the process the cell is expelled nearly totally (holocrine gland-extrusion). The sebaceous gland, the associated arrector pili muscle, and the hair follicle form the pilosebaceous unit. The bulk of the gland and the muscle lie on the downward side of the inclining hair follicle.

Sebaceous glands joining hair follicles show gradual loss of nuclei as sebum forms near the follicle (large arrow). In the mid portion of the alveolus nuclei are centrally located (small arrows) and the cytoplasm is distended with fat droplets.



Sebaceous glands (large arrow) of the lip open directly onto epithelial surface. As seen in the lip and also in the buccal mucosa, these glands produce round faint yellowish areas called Fordyce spots. Minor chronic inflammation is present (double arrows).

