

# SCALP 101



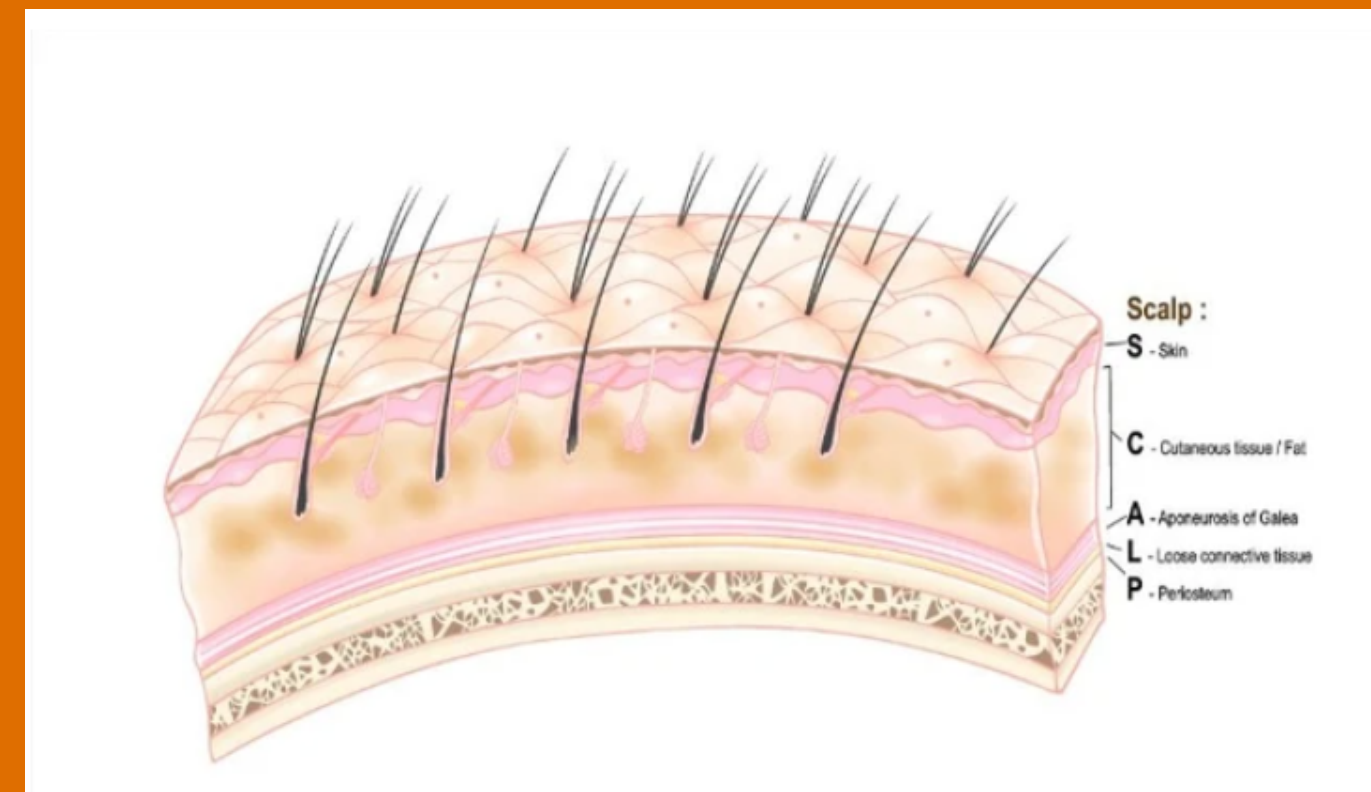
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# The Scalp

Our scalps are formed by 5 layers of skin and subcutaneous tissue that covers the bones of the cranial vault ( heads) .

The scalp is soft tissue and acts as a barrier to protect the cranial vault ( head) from physical trauma or infectious agents.



**S:** The **skin** on the head from which head hair grows. It contains numerous sebaceous glands and hair follicles.

**C: Connective tissue.** A dense subcutaneous layer of fat and fibrous tissue that lies beneath the skin, containing the nerves and vessels of the scalp.

**A:** The **aponeurosis** called epicranial aponeurosis (or galea aponeurotica) is the next layer. It is a tough layer of dense fibrous tissue which runs from the frontalis muscle anteriorly to the occipitalis posteriorly.

**L:** The **loose areolar connective** tissue layer provides an easy plane of separation between the upper three layers and the pericranium. In scalping the scalp is torn off through this layer. It also provides a plane of access in craniofacial surgery and neurosurgery. This layer is sometimes referred to as the "danger zone" because of the ease by which infectious agents can spread through it to emissary veins which then drain into the cranium. The loose areolar tissue in this layer is made up of random collagen I bundles, collagen III. It will also be rich in glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) and will be constituted of more matrix than fibers. This layer allows the more superficial layers of the scalp to shift about in relation to the pericranium.

**P:** The **pericranium** is the periosteum of the skull bones and provides nutrition to the bone and the capacity for repair. It may be lifted from the bone to allow removal of bone windows (craniotomy).