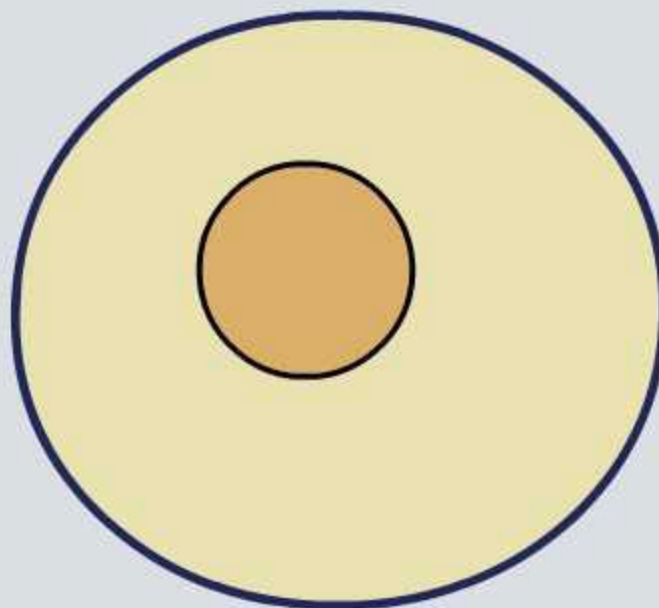
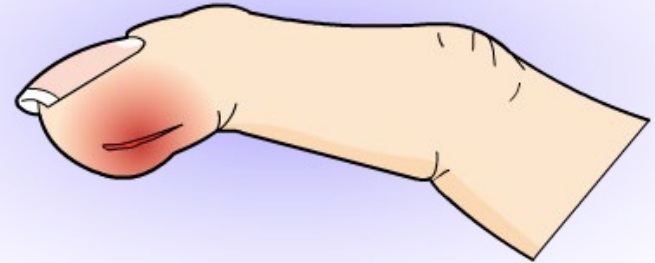


Where Do Cells Come From?



When does the body need new cells?

- **Growth** – your body loses cells because they are constantly dying, but your skin doesn't disappear and you don't get smaller.
- **Repair** – you cut your finger, it heals, and weeks later you cannot even see where the cut used to be.
- **Reproduction** – your body can make sex cells. In humans, these cells are the sperm or egg cells. These cells contain genetic information.

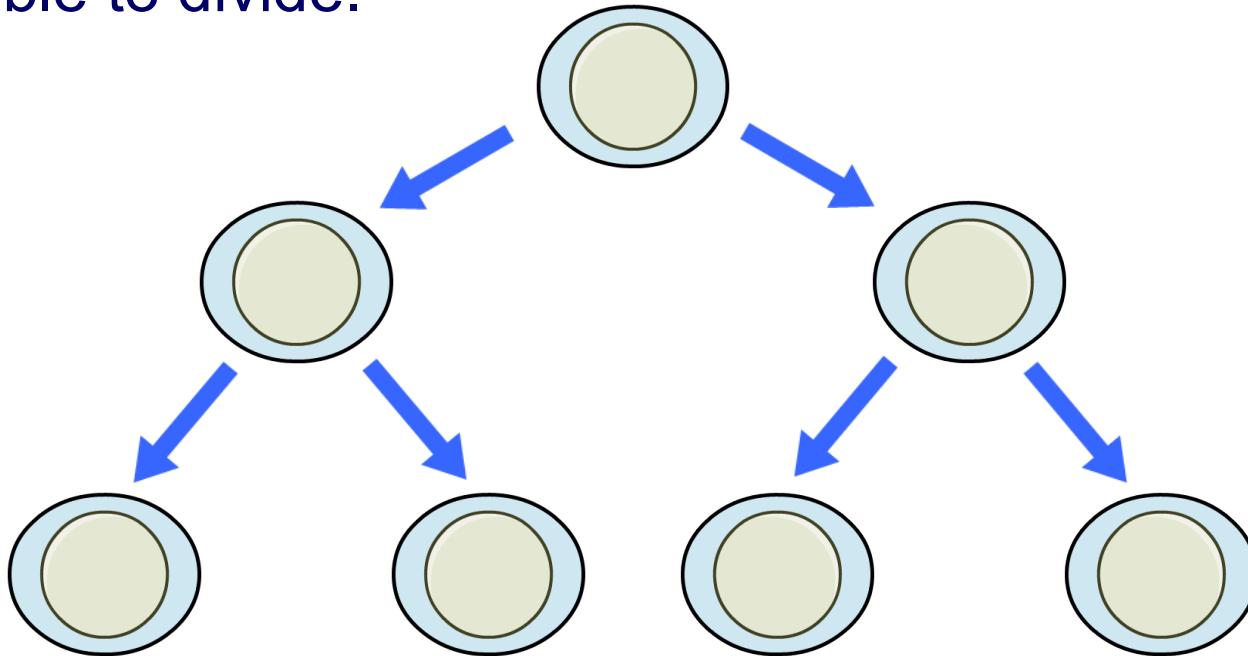


Where do new cells come from?

How does the body produce new cells?

The body is constantly producing new cells from old cells. This process is called **cell division**.

Cell division occurs extremely quickly and each new cell is also able to divide.



What is cell division?

New cells are produced by cell division, but this doesn't mean that cells split in half.

What would be the problem if cells did split in half to produce new cells?

There wouldn't be much of the cells left!

What actually happens is that cells have to make new copies of the material inside them, as well as new membranes, before they divide.



Just before a cell divides, it appears to grow slightly as it reproduces everything inside itself. The nucleus doubles in size and then divides into two equal halves.



What happens during cell division?

New copies of cells are made by cell division.

Click the cell or "**play**" to find out what happens during the process of cell division.

