

# Anatomy of the Superficial Fascia System of the Breast: A Comprehensive Theory of Breast Fascial Anatomy

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## Background

It has been two centuries since Petrus Camper identified superficial fascia and over 175 years since Sir Astley Cooper wrote his book on the anatomy of the breast. In the 1990s, Ted Lockwood taught us the importance of the superficial fascia layers in body contouring procedures he pioneered. These descriptions, however, fail to explain the three-dimensional fascial system in the breast. The authors set out to discover and describe a theory of superficial fascia structures responsible for breast shape.

## Objective

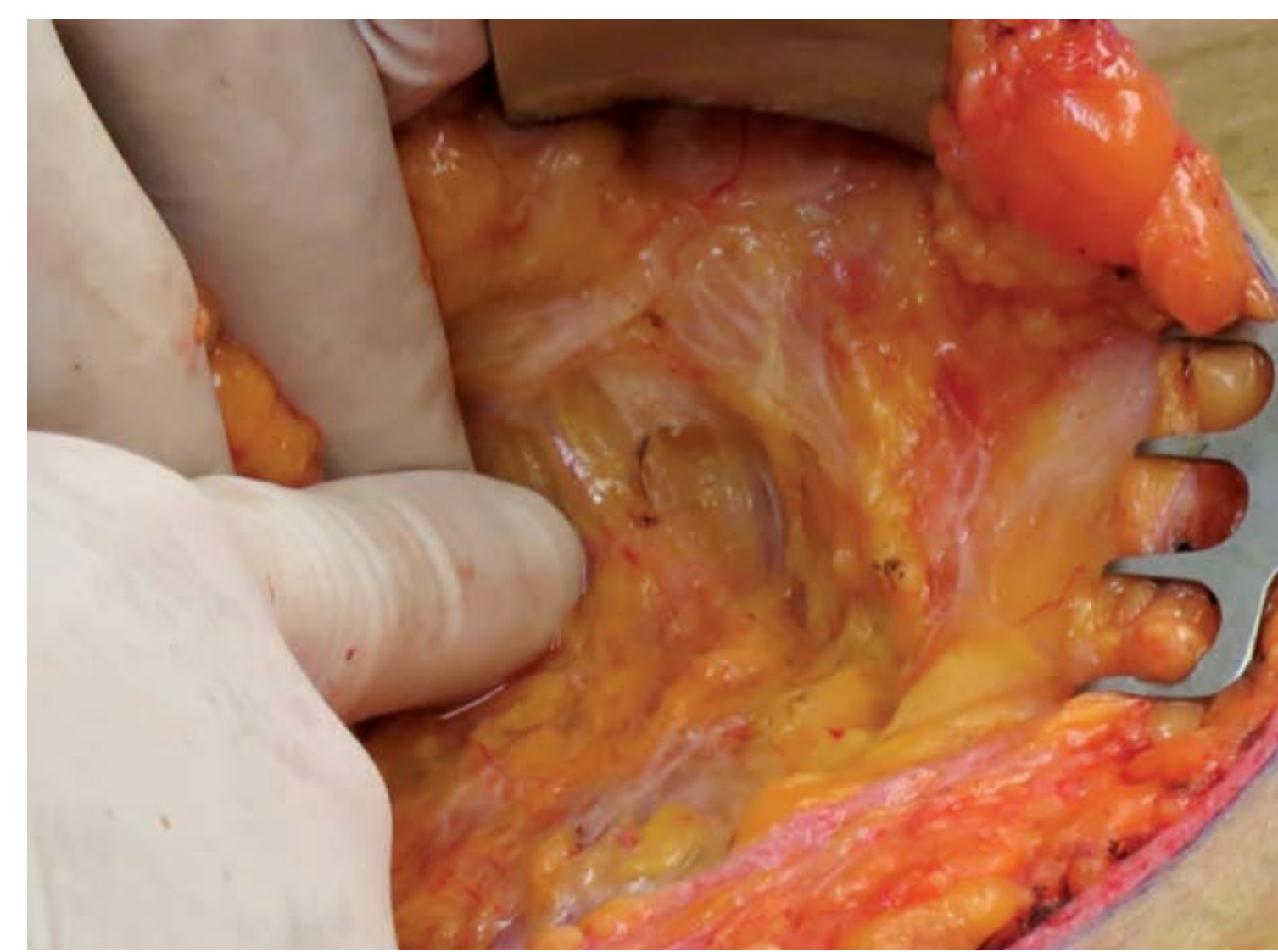
Identify anatomical structures within the superficial fascial system of the breast that can be used in reconstructive and cosmetic plastic surgery.

## Methods

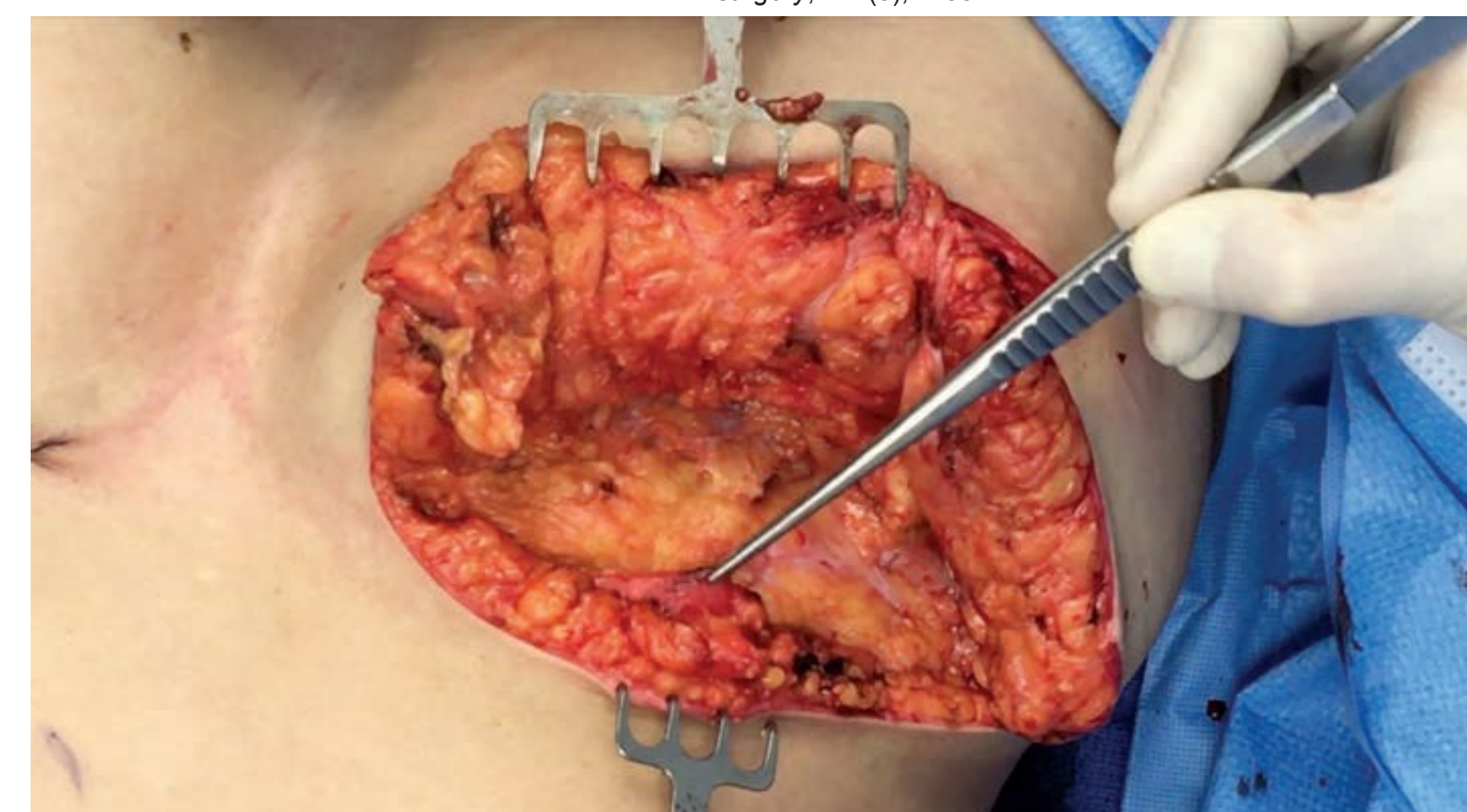
The nature of the superficial fascia system that surrounds the breast and its attachments to the chest were studied in 12 cadaver breast dissections and in clinical cases of both cosmetic and reconstructive breast procedures.



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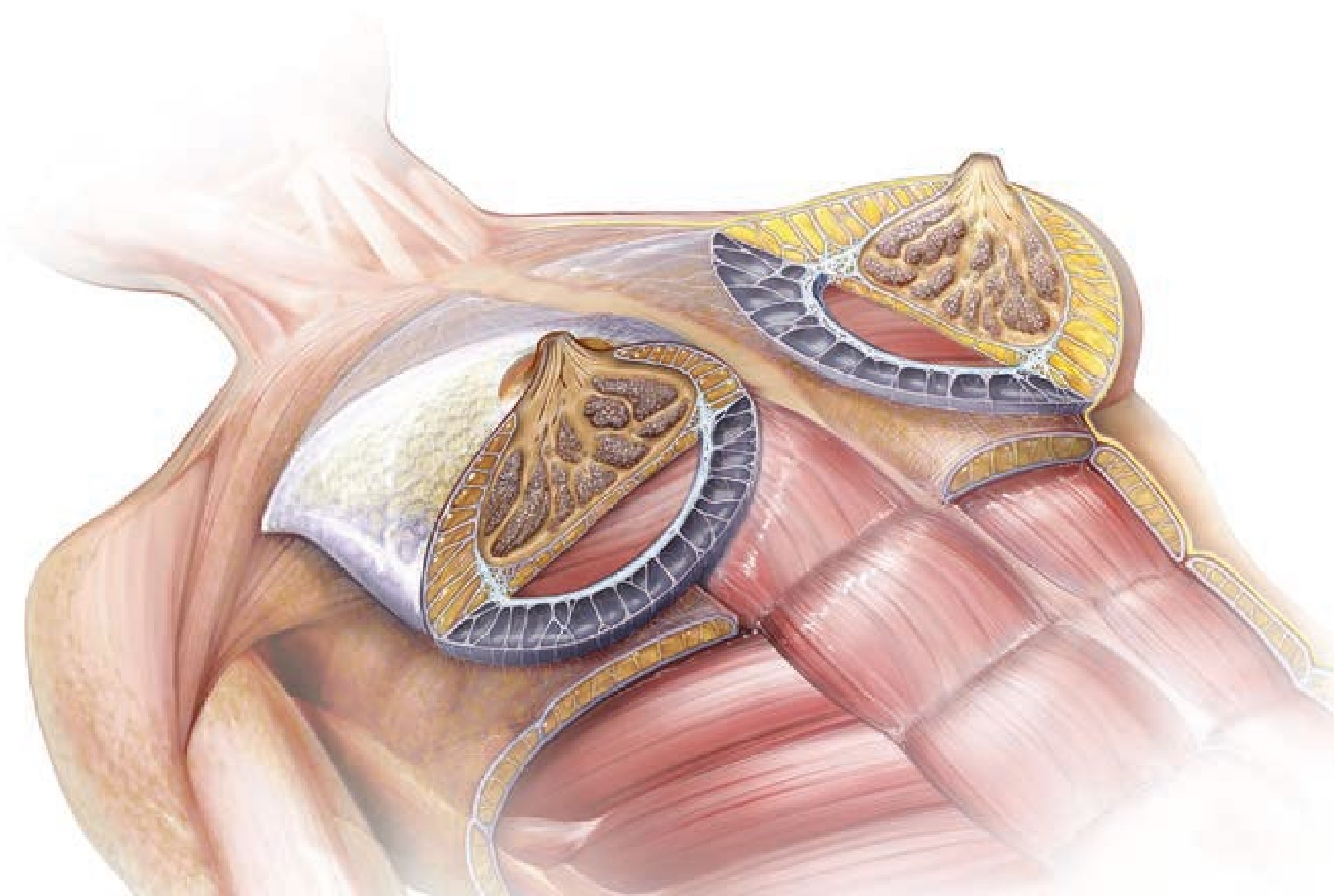


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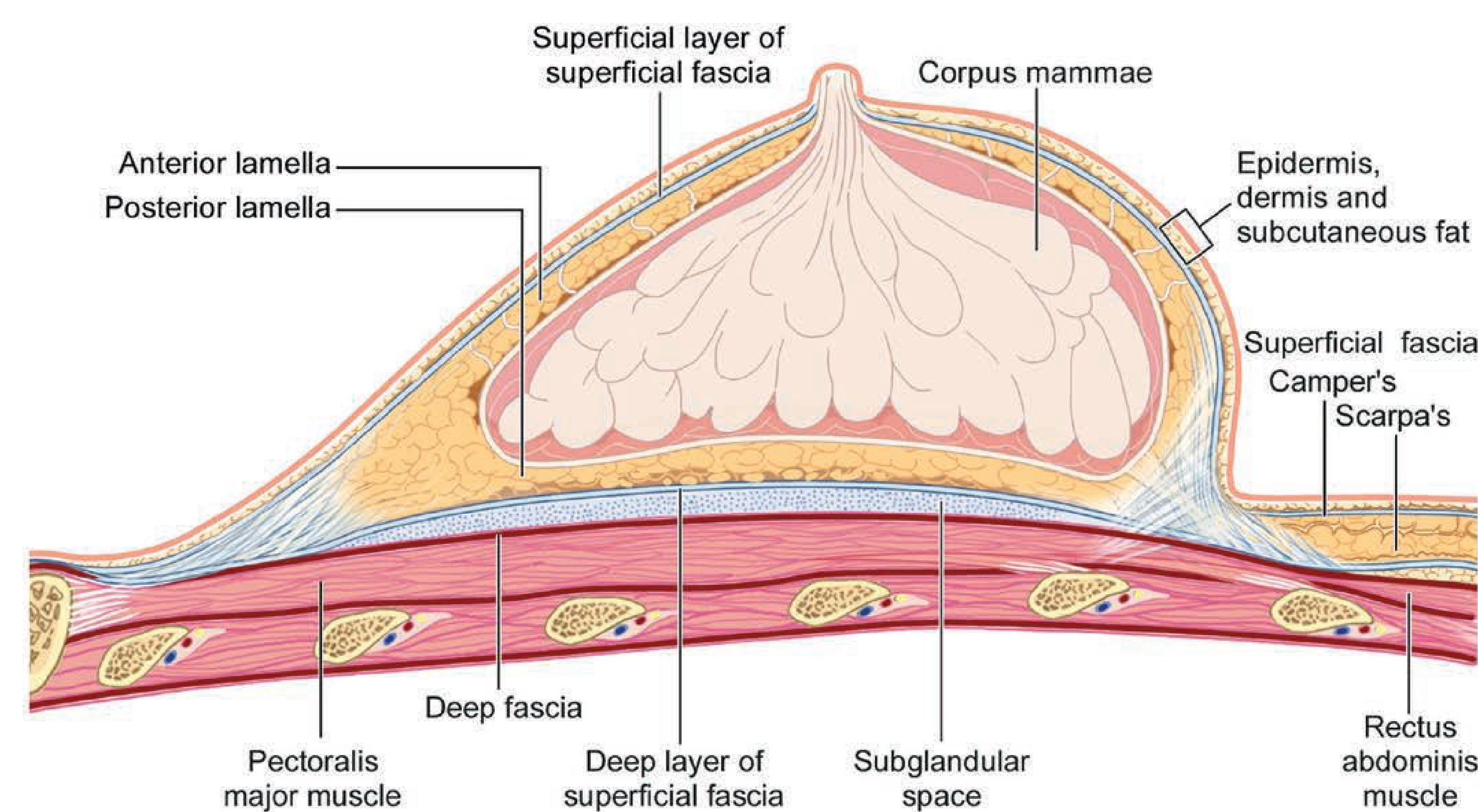
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## Results

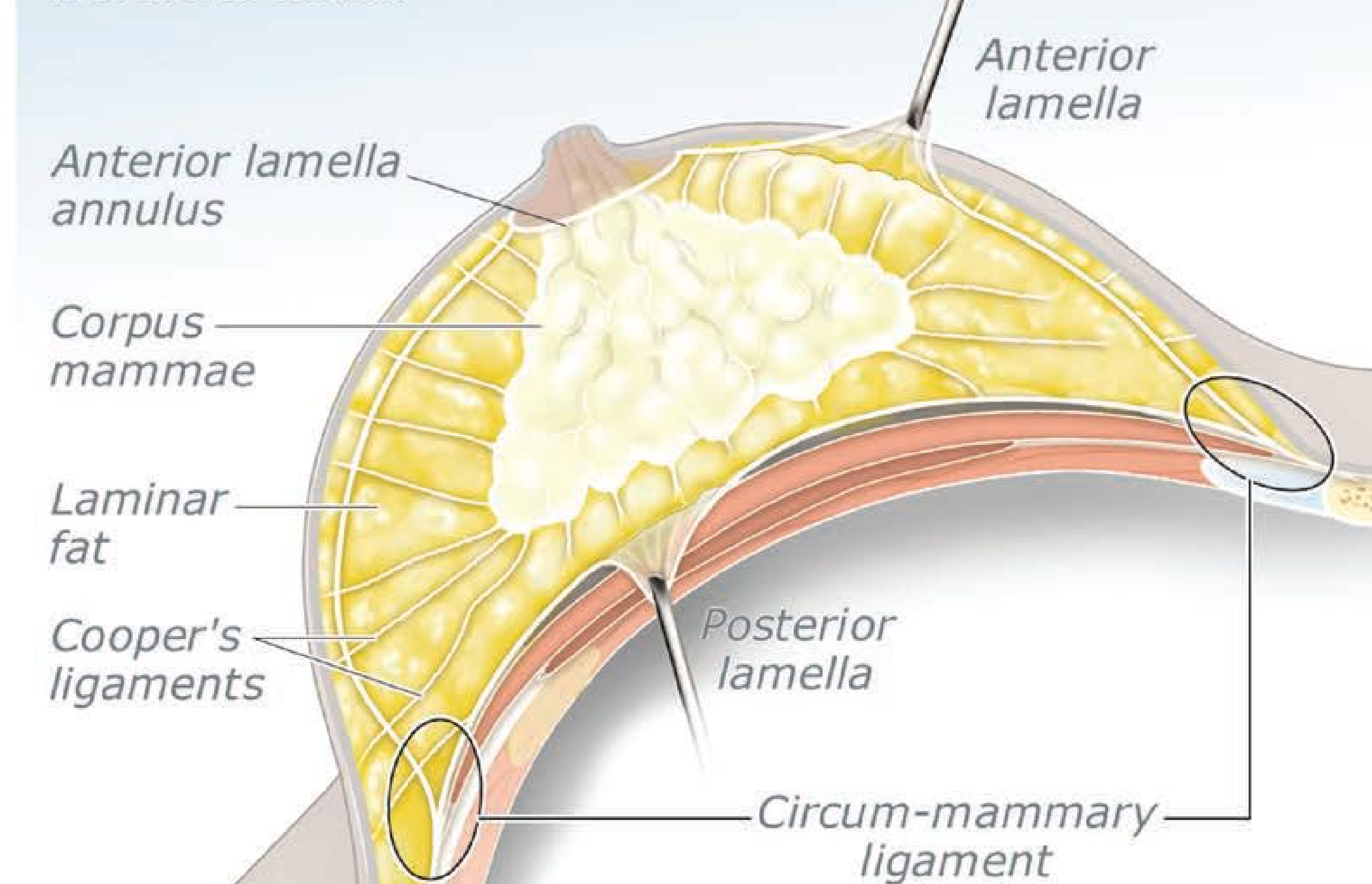
The authors found a three-dimensional, closed system of fascia and fat surrounding the corpus mammae, which attaches to the skin by means of specialized vertical cutaneous ligaments, or Cooper ligaments, and which attaches to the chest wall by means of a three-dimensional zone of adherence at the breast's periphery.



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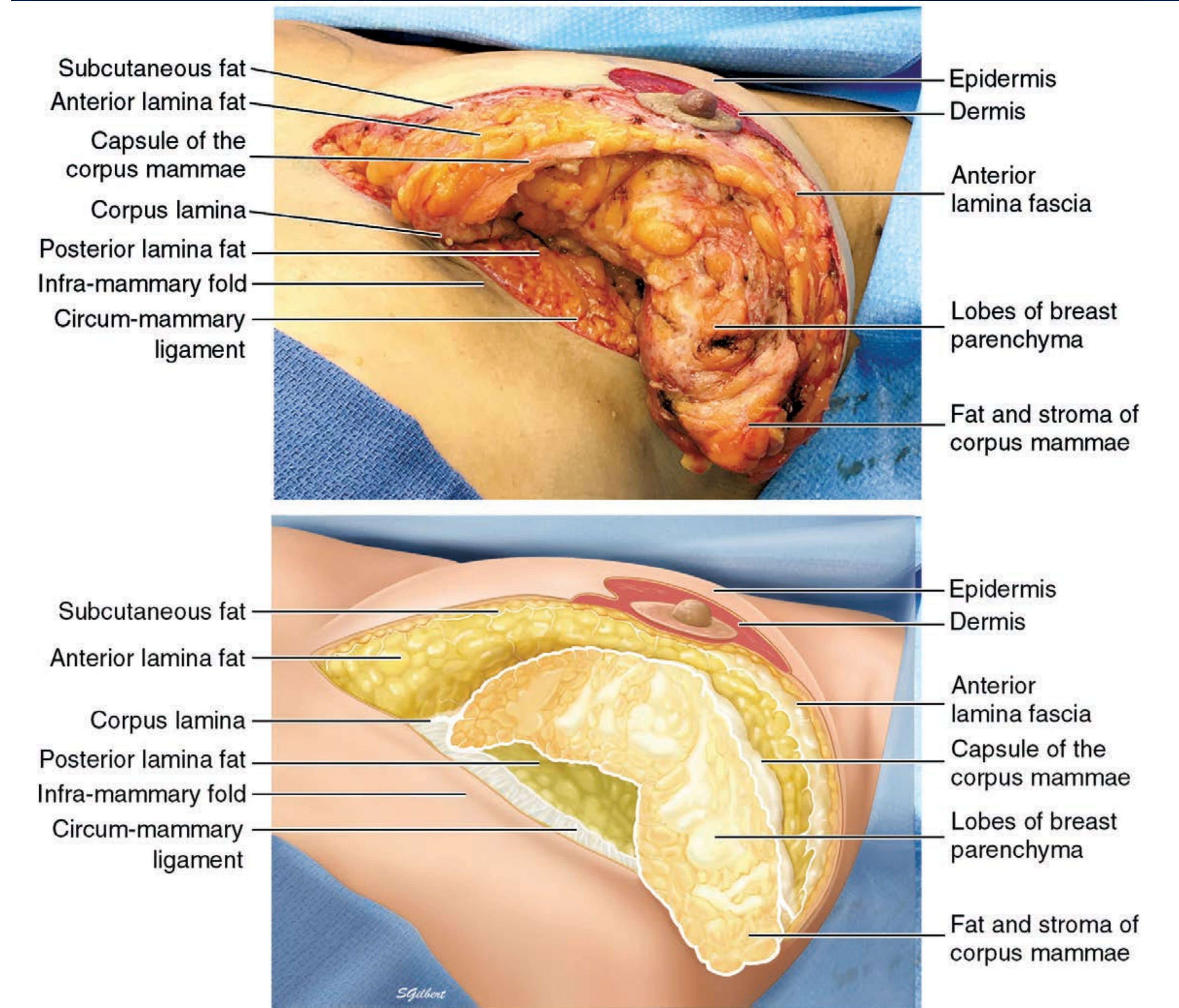


### Superficial Fascial System Transverse section



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## Discussion



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## Conclusion

The breast is shaped by a three-dimensional, fibrofatty fascial system. Two layers of this system surround the corpus mammae and fuse together around it, and anchor it to the chest wall in a structure we have called the circummammary ligament.

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