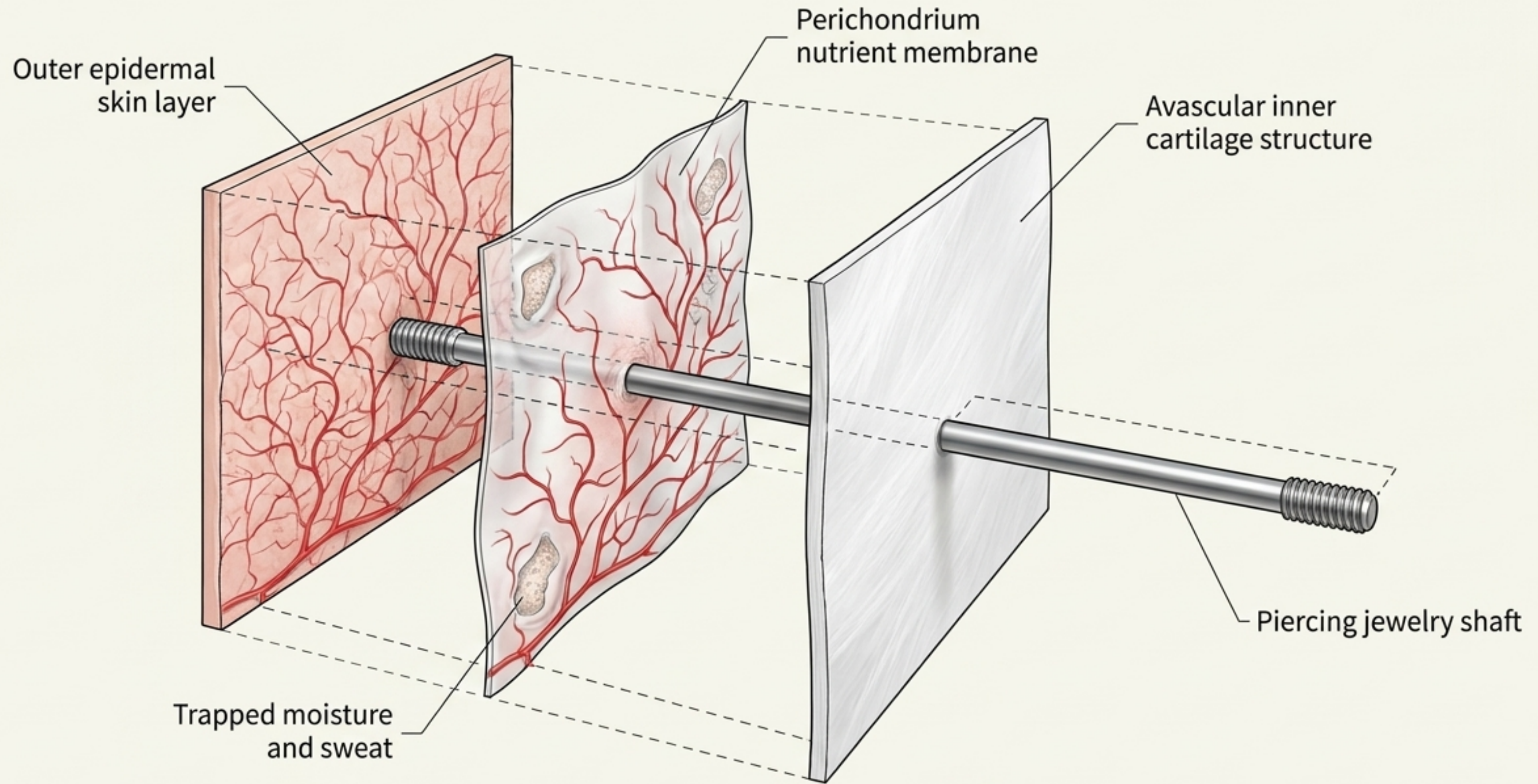




Because the inner cartilage layer has no blood flow, immune cells and systemic antibiotics cannot reach localized infections.

BACTERIA THRIVE IN THE ISOLATED CARTILAGE LAYER.