

What structure prevents all the water and solutes that enter a root from streaming freely into the plant's vascular cylinder?

- A epidermis
- B pericycle
- C cortex
- D Casparian strip

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This waxy layer runs through the abutting walls of endodermal cells. Water and solutes cannot penetrate the strip. Therefore, to reach the vascular cylinder, water and solutes must be transported into, through, and out of endodermal cells.

Answer **D**.