

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

### Blood Vessel Anatomy:

**Capillaries:**

Capillaries do not function independently – Instead they form interweaving networks called **capillary beds**

Not all capillaries are perfused with blood at all times...

- 10 - 100 capillaries / bed
  - a) Vascular shunt
  - b) True capillaries
- Sphincters control blood flow through capillary bed

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 19.4

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### Blood Vessel Anatomy:

**Veins:**

Major groups:

- 1) Venules:**
  - Formed where capillaries unite
  - Extremely porous
- 2) Veins (capacitance vessels):**
  - Large lumen; "volume" sink
  - Low pressure environment

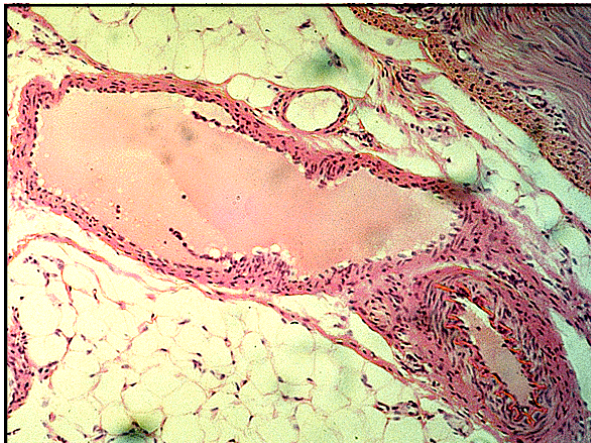
Relative tissue makeup

D: 20.0 μm  
T: 1.0 μm

D: 5.0 mm  
T: 0.5 mm

**Venous sinuses:** Specialized, flattened veins composed only of endothelium; supported by surrounding tissues

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figures 19.3 / 19.5



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### Blood Vessel Anatomy:

**Vascular anastomoses:** Regions where vessels unite, forming interconnections

Arteriovenous anastomosis

Arterial anastomoses provide alternative channels for blood to reach locations

- Joints
- Abdominal organs
- Brain

Retina, spleen, & kidney have limited collateral circulation

Venous anastomoses are common; vein blockages rarely lead to tissue death

Marieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 19.2

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### Pathophysiology:

Most common form of atherosclerosis

**Atherosclerosis:** Formation of atheromas (small, patchy thickenings) on wall of vessel; intrude into lumen

Would you want to find this pipe in your house?

- 1) Endothelium injured**
  - Infection / hypertension
- 2) Lipids accumulate / oxidize**
  - LDLs collect on tunica intima

**Foam cells:** Macrophages engorged with LDLs; form fatty streak
- 3) Fibrous plaque forms**
  - Collagen / elastin fibers deposited around dying or dead foam cells
- 4) Plaque becomes unstable**
  - Calcium collects in plaque
  - Vessel constricts; arterial wall frays / ulcerates (= thrombus)

**Outcome:**

- Myocardial infarctions
- Strokes
- Aneurysms

**Statins:** Cholesterol-lowering drugs

**Angioplasty / Stent**      **Bypass surgery**

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.4

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

### Hemodynamics:

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

**Blood Flow:** Volume of blood flowing past a point per given time (ml / min)

The velocity of blood flow is not related to proximity of heart, but depends on the diameter and cross-sectional area of blood vessels

$v = Q / A$

$v =$  Velocity (cm / sec)  
 $Q =$  Flow (ml / sec)  
 $A =$  Cross-sectional area (cm<sup>2</sup>)

$A = \pi r^2$

Area (A)	1 cm <sup>2</sup>	10 cm <sup>2</sup>	100 cm <sup>2</sup>
Flow (Q)	10 mL/sec	10 mL/sec	10 mL/sec
Velocity (v)	10 cm/sec	1 cm/sec	0.1 cm/sec

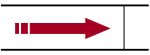
Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.4

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

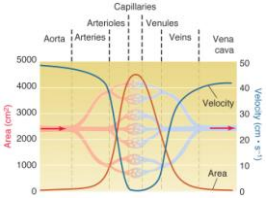
To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

**Hemodynamics:**

**Blood Flow:**  
Volume of blood flowing past a point per given time (ml / min)

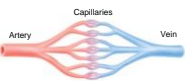


The velocity of blood flow is not related to proximity of heart, but depends on the diameter and cross-sectional area of blood vessels



$v = Q / A$


Blood velocity is highest in the aorta and lowest in the capillaries



Randall et al. (Eckert Animal Physiology, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 12.23

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

$v = Q / A$



A man has a cardiac output of 5.5 L / min. The diameter of his aorta is estimated to be 20 mm, and the total cross-sectional area of his systemic capillaries is estimated to be 2500 cm<sup>2</sup>.

What is the velocity of blood flow in the aorta relative to the velocity of blood flow in the capillaries?

$A = \pi r^2$      $A = (3.14) (10 \text{ mm})^2$      $A = 3.14 \text{ cm}^2$

$v_{\text{capillaries}} = \frac{5500 \text{ mL} / \text{min}}{2500 \text{ cm}^2}$      $v_{\text{aorta}} = \frac{5500 \text{ cm}^3 / \text{min}}{3.14 \text{ cm}^2}$     **800x difference**

$v_{\text{capillaries}} = 2.2 \text{ cm} / \text{min}$      $v_{\text{aorta}} = 1752 \text{ cm} / \text{min}$


Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

**Hemodynamics:**

Blood flow through a blood vessel or a series of blood vessels is determined by **blood pressure** and **peripheral resistance**

**Blood Pressure:**  
Force per unit area on wall of vessel (mm Hg)



- The magnitude of blood flow is directly proportional to the size of the pressure difference between two ends of a vessel

**Blood Flow (Q) = Difference in blood pressure ( $\Delta P$ )**

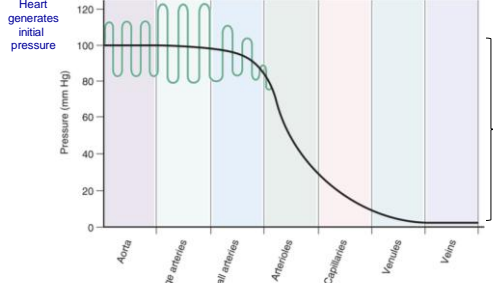
- The direction of blood flow is determined by the direction of the pressure gradient

Always moves from high to low pressure

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

**Hemodynamics:**



Heart generates initial pressure

Vessel resistance generates pressure gradient

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.8

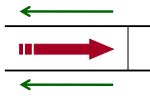
Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

**Hemodynamics:**

Blood flow through a blood vessel or a series of blood vessels is determined by **blood pressure** and **peripheral resistance**

**Peripheral Resistance:**  
Amount of friction blood encounters passing through vessels (mm Hg / mL / min)



- Blood flow is inversely proportional to resistance encountered in the system

$\text{Blood Flow (Q)} = \frac{1}{\text{Peripheral resistance (R)}}$

The major mechanism for changing blood flow in the cardiovascular system is by changing the resistance of blood vessels, particularly the arterioles

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To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

**Hemodynamics:**

$\text{Blood Flow (Q)} = \frac{\text{Difference in blood pressure } (\Delta P)}{\text{Peripheral resistance (R)}}$

(difference in voltage) / (electrical resistance)

Analogous to Ohm's Law ( $\Delta V = I \times R$  OR  $I = \Delta V / R$ )



A man has a renal blood flow of 500 mL / min. The renal arterial pressure is 100 mm Hg and the renal venous pressure is 10 mm Hg.

What is the vascular resistance of the kidney for this man?

$Q = \Delta P / R$   
 $R = \Delta P / Q$

$R = \frac{100 \text{ mm Hg} - 10 \text{ mm Hg}}{500 \text{ mL} / \text{min}}$

$R = 0.18 \text{ mm Hg} / \text{mL} / \text{min}$

Cardiovascular System – Vessels To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

The factors that determine the resistance of a blood vessel to blood flow are expressed by **Poiseuille's (pwā-zwēz) Law**:

$$R = \frac{8L\eta}{\pi r^4}$$

Powerful relationship!  
Slight diameter change equals large resistance change

R = Resistance  
η = Viscosity of blood  
L = Length  
r = Radius

1) Blood viscosity

↑ viscosity = ↑ resistance

2) Vessel Length

↑ length = ↑ resistance

3) Vessel Diameter

↓ diameter = ↑ resistance

Cardiovascular System – Vessels To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

The total resistance associated with a set of blood vessels also depends on whether the vessels are arranged in series or in parallel

A) Series resistance:

Sequential arrangement (e.g., pathway within single organ)

Arterial resistance is the greatest which equates to the area with the greatest decrease in pressure

The total resistance is equal to the sum of the individual resistances

$$R_{total} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + R_4 + R_5$$

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.5

Cardiovascular System – Vessels To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

The total resistance associated with a set of blood vessels also depends on whether the vessels are arranged in series or in parallel

B) Parallel resistance:

Simultaneous arrangement (e.g., pathway among various circulations)

The total resistance is less than any of the individual resistances

$$\frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \frac{1}{R_4} + \frac{1}{R_5} + \frac{1}{R_6}$$

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.5

Cardiovascular System – Vessels To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

Ideally, blood flow in the cardiovascular system is streamlined

1) **Laminar Flow**: Characterized by parabolic velocity profile

- Flow is 0 velocity at wall; maximal at center
- Layers of fluid slide past one another

Viscosity: Measure of the resistance to sliding between adjacent layers

What would you expect to happen to blood viscosity as vessel diameter decreases?

**Fahraeus – Lindqvist Effect:** Relative viscosity of blood decreases with decreasing vessel diameter (< 0.3 mm ~ 1.8x water)

Reduced energy required to drive blood through microcirculation

↑ viscosity in capillaries – Why?

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.6

Cardiovascular System – Vessels To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

Ideally, blood flow in the cardiovascular system is streamlined

1) **Laminar Flow**: Characterized by parabolic velocity profile

- Flow is 0 velocity at wall; maximal at center
- Layers of fluid slide past one another

Viscosity: Measure of the resistance to sliding between adjacent layers

2) **Turbulent Flow**: Blood moves in directions not aligned with axis of blood flow

- More pressure required to propel blood
- Noisy (stethoscope)

**Reynolds Number:** Indicator of whether flow will be laminar or turbulent

↑ Re = turbulence (> 2000)

Anemia  
Thrombi

Factors affecting Reynolds Number:

- Viscosity (↓ viscosity = ↑ Reynolds number)
- Velocity (↑ velocity = ↑ Reynolds number)

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.6

Cardiovascular System – Vessels To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

The **capacitance** of a blood vessel describes the volume of blood a vessel can hold at a given pressure

$$\text{Compliance} = \frac{\text{Volume (mL)}}{\text{Pressure (mm Hg)}}$$

Compliance = slope of line

Compliance is high in **veins** (large blood volumes @ low pressure)

Compliance is low in **arteries** (low blood volumes @ high pressure)

Total blood volume = Unstressed volume + Stressed volume

Changes in compliance of the veins cause redistribution of blood between arteries and veins

- Venoconstriction

Costanzo (Physiology, 4th ed.) – Figure 4.7

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

As noted earlier, blood pressure is not equal throughout system

①

High initial pressure:

- Large volume of blood entering aorta
- Low compliance of aortic wall

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.8

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

Although mean pressure is high and constant, there are pulsations of aortic (and arterial) pressure

Systolic pressure: Pressure from ventricular contraction

Diastolic pressure: Pressure from ventricular relaxation

Dicrotic notch: Brief period following closure of aortic valve where pressure drops due to retrograde flow

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.9

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

Although mean pressure is high and constant, there are pulsations of aortic (and arterial) pressure

Systolic pressure

Mean pressure

Diastolic pressure

Pulse pressure

Pulse Pressure: Systolic pressure – Diastolic pressure

- Reflective of stroke volume

Mean Arterial Pressure: Diastolic pressure + 1/3 Pulse pressure

Why is it not + 1/2 pulse pressure?

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.9

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

Pathophysiology:

Several pathologic conditions alter the arterial pressure curve in a predictable way

Arteriosclerosis:

↓ compliance = ↑ systolic pressure

Aortic stenosis:

↓ Stroke volume = ↓ systolic pressure

Normal Arteriosclerosis Aortic stenosis

Arterial pressure (mm Hg)

Time

$C = V / P$

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.10

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

As noted earlier, blood pressure is not equal throughout system

②

Pressure remains high:

- High elastic recoil of artery walls
- Pressure reservoir

Pulsations in large arteries greater than aorta

- Pressure wave travels faster than blood
- Pressure waves reflected at branch points

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.8

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

To stay alive, blood must be kept moving...

Hemodynamics:

As noted earlier, blood pressure is not equal throughout system

②

Pressure remains high:

- High elastic recoil of artery walls
- Pressure reservoir

③

Dramatic drop in pressure:

- High resistance to flow

④

Pressure continues to drop:

- Frictional resistance to flow
- Filtration of fluid out of capillaries

Energy consumed to overcome frictional forces

Blood return assisted by:

- Large lumen (↓ resistance)
- Valves
- Muscular pumps

Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.8

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

**Blood Pressure Regulation:**

Mean arterial pressure ( $P_a$ ) is the driving force for blood flow, and must be maintained at a high, constant level

$$\text{Blood Flow (Q)} = \frac{\text{Difference in blood pressure } (\Delta P)}{\text{Peripheral resistance (R)}}$$

↓

$$\text{Mean Arterial Pressure (P}_a\text{)} = \text{Cardiac Output (Q)} \times \text{Peripheral Resistance (R)}$$

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

**Blood Pressure Regulation:**

Factors Affecting Blood Pressure:

$$\text{Mean Arterial Pressure (P}_a\text{)} = \text{Cardiac Output (Q)} \times \text{Peripheral Resistance (R)}$$

↑ Blood Volume = ↑ BP

Cardiac Output\* (↑ CO = ↑ BP)

Vessel Diameter\* (↓ D = ↑ R = ↑ BP)

Blood Viscosity (↑ V = ↑ R = ↑ BP)

Vessel Length (↑ L = ↑ R = ↑ BP)

Vessel Elasticity (↓ VE = ↑ R = ↑ BP)

$P_a$  is regulated by two major systems that work via negative feedback to maintain ~ 100 mm Hg

\* Variables that can be readily manipulated

**Note:** Equation deceptively simple; in reality, cardiac output and peripheral resistance are not independent of each other

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

**Blood Pressure Regulation:**

**System 1**

Baroreceptor mechanisms are fast, neurally mediated reflexes that attempt to keep  $P_a$  constant via changes in cardiac output and vessel diameter

**Baroreceptors:**

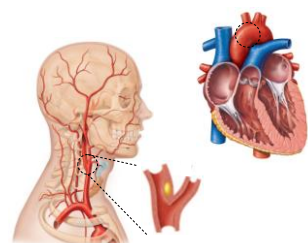
**Function:**

- Mechanoreceptors (respond to stretch)
- ↑  $P_a$  = ↑ stretch = ↑ firing rate
- ↓  $P_a$  = ↓ stretch = ↓ firing rate

While sensitive to absolute level of pressure, they are most sensitive rates of changes in pressure

**Location:**

- Carotid sinus (increase / decrease in  $P_a$ )
- Glossopharyngeal nerve (IX)
- Aortic arch (increase in  $P_a$ )
- Vagus nerve (X)

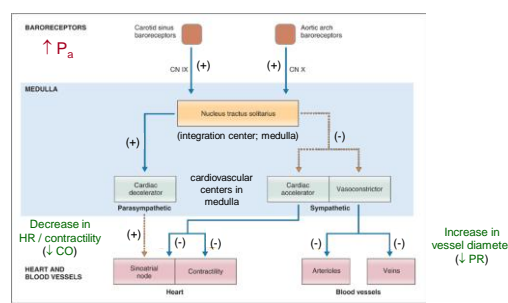


Manieb & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figures 16.4 / 19.22

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**Blood Pressure Regulation:**

Baroreceptor mechanisms are fast, neurally mediated reflexes that attempt to keep  $P_a$  constant via changes in cardiac output and vessel diameter



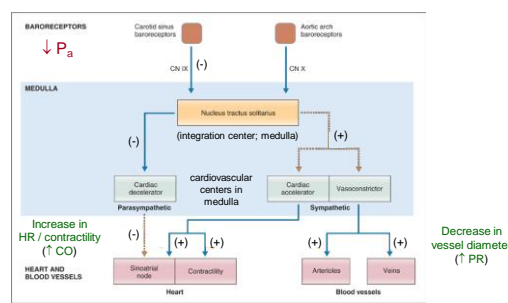
Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.31

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

**Blood Pressure Regulation:**

**Valsalva Maneuver:** Expiring against a closed glottis; used to test integrity of baroreceptor reflex

Baroreceptor mechanisms are fast, neurally mediated reflexes that attempt to keep  $P_a$  constant via changes in cardiac output and vessel diameter



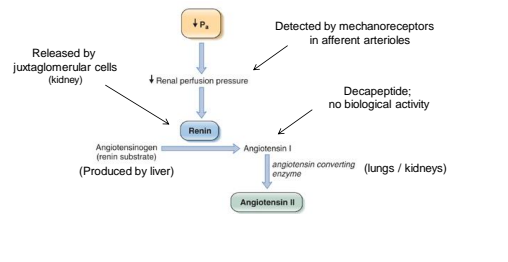
Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.31

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

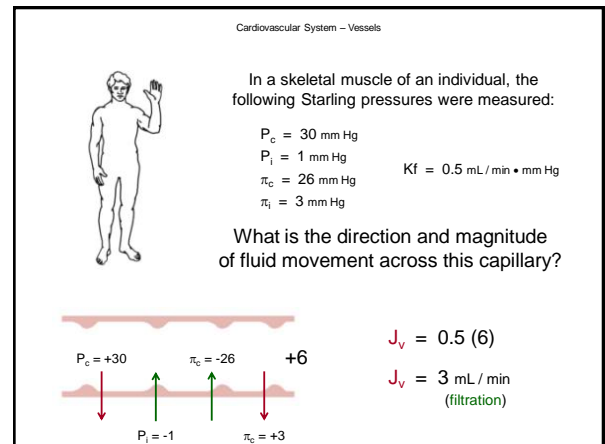
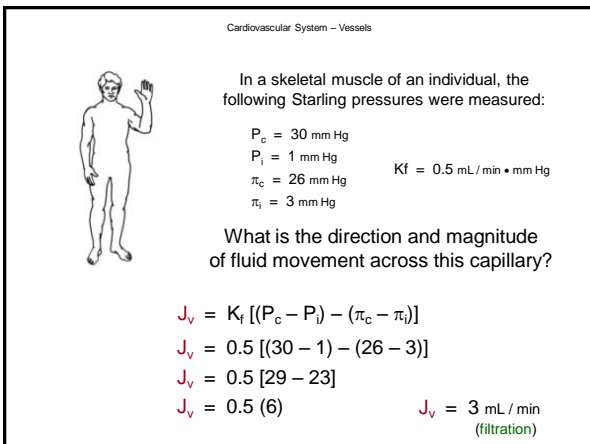
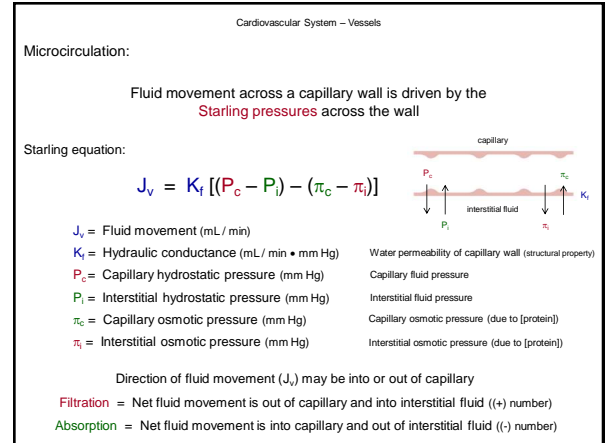
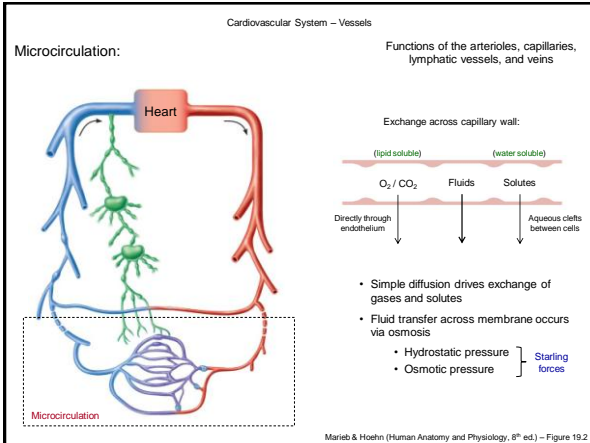
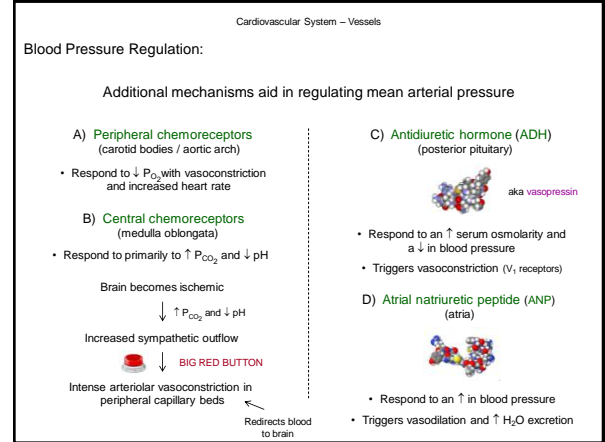
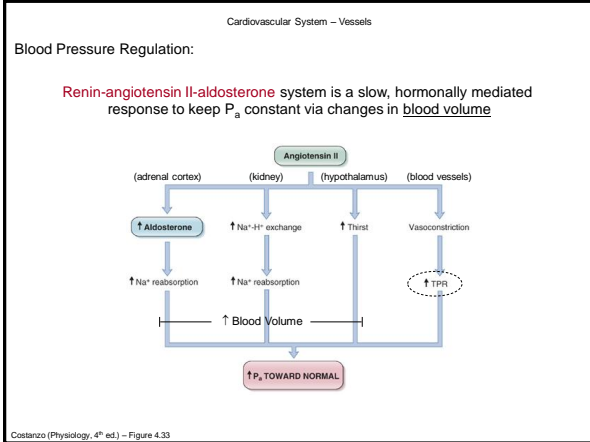
**Blood Pressure Regulation:**

**System 2**

Renin-angiotensin II-aldosterone system is a slow, hormonally mediated response to keep  $P_a$  constant via changes in blood volume



Costanzo (Physiology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 4.33



Cardiovascular System – Vessels

Microcirculation:

Fluid movement across a capillary wall is not equal along the length of a capillary

Arterial end -8  
Venous end

$P_c = +35$   $\pi_c = -26$   $P_c = +17$   $\pi_c = -26$

$P_1 = 0$   $\pi_i = +1$   $P_1 = 0$   $\pi_i = +1$

$J_v = 0.5 (2)$   
 $J_v = 1 \text{ mL / min}$   
(net filtration)

What happens to the fluid not returned to the capillary?

Randall et al. (Eckert Animal Physiology, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 12.37

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

Microcirculation:

Lymphoid system returns excess fluid to bloodstream

Additional Functions:

- Produce / maintain / distribute lymphocytes
- Distributes hormones / nutrients / waste products

Lymph nodes filter fluids (99% purified)

Flow of Lymph:

- Originate as pockets
- Large diameters / thin walls
- One-way valves (external)

Lymphatic ducts ← Lymphatic Trunks

Lymphatic capillaries → Lymphatic vessels → Collecting Vessels

One-way valves (internal)

Marié & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 20.1

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

Microcirculation:

Flow of Lymph:

- Lymph from right side of body above diaphragm
- Lymph from left side of head, neck, and thorax

Thoracic Duct:

- Begins inferior to diaphragm
- Empties into left subclavian vein

Right Lymphatic Duct:

- Empties into right subclavian vein

Drainage of right lymphatic duct

Drainage of thoracic duct

Cisterna chyli: Chamber that collects lymph from abdomen, pelvis, and lower limbs

Similar to Marié & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 20.2

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

Pathophysiology:

Edema (swelling) results from an increase in interstitial fluid volume

Forms when the volume of fluids filtered out of the capillaries exceeds the ability of the lymphatics to return it to circulation

$J_v = K_f [(P_c - P_i) - (\pi_c - \pi_i)]$

Causes:

- Increased capillary hydrostatic pressure
  - Arteriole dilation
  - Deep vein thrombosis
  - Heart failure
- Decreased capillary osmotic pressure
  - Severe liver failure (limited protein synthesis)
  - Protein malnutrition
- Increased hydraulic conductance
  - Severe burn
  - Inflammation (leaky vessels)
- Impaired lymphatic drainage
  - Prolonged standing
  - Removal / irradiation of lymph nodes
  - Parasitic infection

Elephantiasis

Marié & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 20.2

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

Special Circulations:

Blood flow is variable between one organ and another, depending on the overall demands of each organ system

Interorgan differences in blood flow results from differences in vascular resistance

Organ	Flow at rest (mL/min)	Flow during strenuous exercise (mL/min)
Brain	750	750
Heart	250	250
Skeletal muscles	1200	12,000
Skin	800	800
Kidney	1100	1100
Abdomen	1400	1400
Other	200	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>5900</b>	<b>17,500</b>

Blood flow to specific organs can increase or decrease depending on metabolic demands

Changes in blood flow to an individual organ are achieved by altering arteriolar resistance

What about the lungs?

Marié & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 19.13

Cardiovascular System – Vessels

Special Circulations:

The mechanisms that regulate blood flow are categorized as local (intrinsic) control and neural / hormonal (extrinsic) control

Local controls are most important mechanism for regulating coronary, cerebral, skeletal muscle, pulmonary, and renal circulation

1) Local control:

A) Autoregulation

- Maintenance of constant blood flow in face of changing arterial pressure

$Q = \Delta P / R$

Myogenic Hypothesis: When vascular smooth muscle is stretched, it contracts

↑ BP = ↑ smooth muscle stretch = vasoconstriction

ALTERNATIVELY

↓ BP = ↓ smooth muscle stretch = vasodilation

Marié & Hoehn (Human Anatomy and Physiology, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.) – Figure 19.13



Special Circulations:

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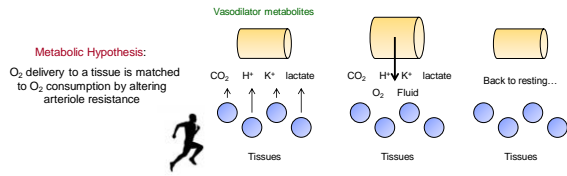
1) Local control:

B) Active hyperemia

- Blood flow to an organ is proportional to its metabolic activity

C) Reactive hyperemia (Repayment of oxygen 'debt')

- Blood flow to an organ is increased in response to a period of decreased blood flow



Special Circulations:

The mechanisms that regulate blood flow are categorized as local (intrinsic) control and neural / hormonal (extrinsic) control

Neuronal / hormonal controls are most important mechanism for maintaining skin circulation

2) Neuronal / Hormonal controls:

A) Neuronal

- Sympathetic innervation of vascular smooth muscle

B) Hormonal

**Histamine**  
• arteriodilator; venoconstrictor  
• ↑ P<sub>v</sub> = local edema

**Serotonin**  
• local vasoconstriction

**Prostaglandins**  
• local vasodilators / vasoconstrictors

**Bradykinin**  
• arteriodilator; venoconstrictor  
• ↑ P<sub>v</sub> = local edema

Pathophysiology:



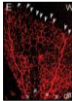
**Circulatory shock** refers to any condition in which the blood vessels are inadequately filled

A) Hypovolemic Shock  
Large-scale blood loss



- Acute hemorrhage
- Severe vomiting / diarrhea
- Extensive burns

B) Vascular Shock  
Abnormal expansion of vascular beds due to extreme vasodilation



- Anaphylaxis (allergies)
- Failure of ANS regulation
- Septicemia (bacteria)

C) Cardiogenic Shock  
Heart malfunctions



- Myocardial infarction