The Human Body in Health and Illness

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Chapter 18: Anatomy of the Blood Vessels

Lesson 18.1 Objectives

- Describe the pulmonary and systemic circulations.
- Describe the structure and function of arteries, capillaries, and veins.
- List the three layers of tissue found in arteries and veins.
- Explain the functions of conductance, resistance, exchange, and capacitance vessels.

Circles, Circuits, and Circulation



Circles, Circuits, and Circulation (cont'd.)

- Pulmonary circulation: carries blood from the right ventricle of the heart to the lungs and back to the left atrium of the heart
- Systemic circulation: provides the blood supply to the rest of the body

Types of Blood Vessels

- Arteries
 - Smallest are called Arterioles
- Capillaries
- Veins
 - Smallest are called Venules



Arteries

- Structure: thick wall with three layers
- Function: carry blood from the heart to the arterioles
- Arterioles: thinner walls, contract and relax due to muscle changes

• Capillaries:

- Smallest & most numerous, close to every cell of the body
- Structure: layer of endothelium
- Function: exchange vessels, connect arterioles to venules

• Veins

- Structure: three layers, but thinner and less elastic than arteries; contain valves
- Function: collect and return blood from the tissues to the heart
- Venules: thin walls, hold and store blood

Blood Vessel Walls



Blood Vessel Walls (cont'd.)

• Layers:

- Tunica intima: innermost layer; endothelium
- Tunica media: middle layer; elastic tissue and smooth muscle
- Tunica adventitia: outer layer; connective tissue

Blood Vessels: What They Do

Arteries

- Conductance vessels: large arteries conduct blood from heart to arterioles
- Arterioles
 - Resistance vessels: arterioles resist the flow of blood by constricting, or offer less resistance by dilating

Blood Vessels: What They DO (cont'd.)

Capillaries

- Exchange vessels: capillaries allow exchange of nutrients and waste
- Veins and venules
 - Capacitance vessels: collect and return blood, blood storage

Lesson 18.2 Objectives

- List those major arteries of the systemic circulation that are branches of the ascending aorta, aortic arch, and descending aorta.
- List the major veins of the systematic circulation.
- Describe the following special circulations: blood supply to the head and brain, hepatic circulation, and fetal circulation.

Major Arteries of the Systemic Circulation





• Aorta: the mother of all arteries

- Location: originates in the left ventricle of the heart, curves and descends through the thorax and abdomen, then splits into two common iliac arteries
- Branches:
 - Ascending aorta
 - Aortic arch
 - Descending aorta (thoracic aorta)
 - Descending aorta (abdominal aorta)



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- Branches of the ascending aorta:
 - Right coronary artery
 - Left coronary artery

• Branches of the aortic arch:

- Brachiocephalic artery
- Left common carotid artery
- Left subclavian artery
- Right subclavian artery

- Branches of the descending aorta (thoracic aorta):
 - Intercostal arteries
 - Other small arteries supply the organs in the thorax

- Branches of the descending aorta (abdominal aorta):
 - Celiac trunk: gastric artery, splenic artery, and hepatic artery
 - Mesenteric arteries: superior mesenteric artery and inferior mesenteric artery
 - Renal arteries, gonadal arteries, and lumbar arteries
 - Right and left common iliac arteries
 - Major arteries of the thigh, leg, and foot

Major Veins of the Systemic Circulation

Vena cava: the main vein
 – Superior vena cava (SVC)
 – Inferior vena cava (IVC)





- Superior vena cava: receives blood from the head, shoulder, and upper extremities
- Veins that drain into the SVC:
 - Cephalic vein
 - Basilic vein
 - Medial cubital vein
 - Subclavian veins
 - Jugular veins
 - Brachiocephalic veins
 - Azygos vein

- Inferior vena cava: receives blood from all regions of the body below the diaphragm
- Veins that drain into the IVC:
 - Tibial veins
 - Peroneal veins
 - Popliteal veins
 - Femoral veins
 - Iliac veins
 - Great saphenous veins
 - Renal veins
 - Hepatic veins

Special Circulations

- Blood supply to the head and brain
- Blood supply to the liver
- Fetal circulation

Head and brain blood supply:

- Carotid arteries:
 - Right and left common carotid arteries
 - External and internal carotid arteries
- Vertebral arteries:
 - Right and left vertebral arteries
 - Basilar artery

 Circle of Willis: circle of arteries composed of branches from the internal carotid arteries and the basilar artery

Venous drainage of the head and brain:

- External jugular veins: drain blood from the posterior head and neck region
- Internal jugular veins: drain blood from the anterior head, face, and neck



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• Blood supply to the liver:

- Portal vein: carries blood rich in digestive end products from the organs of digestion to the liver
- Hepatic veins: drain blood from the liver and deliver it to the IVC
- Hepatic artery: carries oxygen-rich blood to the liver

 Splanchnic circulation: blood flow to the stomach, spleen, pancreas, intestines, and liver; very adjustable



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Fetal circulation modifications:

 Umbilical blood vessels:
 Umbilical vein: carries blood rich in oxygen and nutrients from the placenta to the fetus
 Umbilical arteries: carry carbon dioxide and other waste from the fetus to the placenta

• Fetal circulation modifications (cont'd.):

- Ductus venosus: vessel that connects the umbilical vein with the IVC in the fetus
- Foramen ovale: opening in the interatrial septum of the heart
- Ductus arteriosus: short tube that connects the pulmonary artery with the aorta



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Pulse

- Pulse: pressure wave caused by the alternating expansion and recoil of the arteries with each beat of the heart
- Helps determine:
 - Heart rate
 - Rhythm
 - Strength
 - Arterial circulatory health

Pulse (cont'd.)



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