Principles of Physiology For



Dr. Haitham L. Abdulhadi Assistant Professor of Physiology

Zoology course

Total = 100 marks
 Mid-Term = 15 marks

 [7.5 1st term +7.5 2nd term]

 Practical = 20 marks

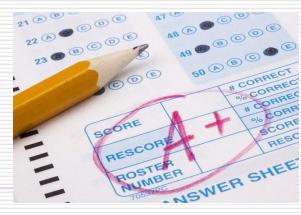
 [10 1st term +10 2nd term]

 Oral = 15 marks









Blood , , , , ILOS

- By the end of the lecture you should be able to:
- State the Function & Composition of Blood
- State the function of red blood cells, Leukocytes and plasma
- State the function of macrophages and lymphocytes

Blood Function

- Nutritional: transport of digested food from gut to tissue.
- Respiratory: Transport O₂ and Co₂ between lung and tissue.
- Excretory: Carries waste (Co₂, Urea and lactic acid) away from cells.

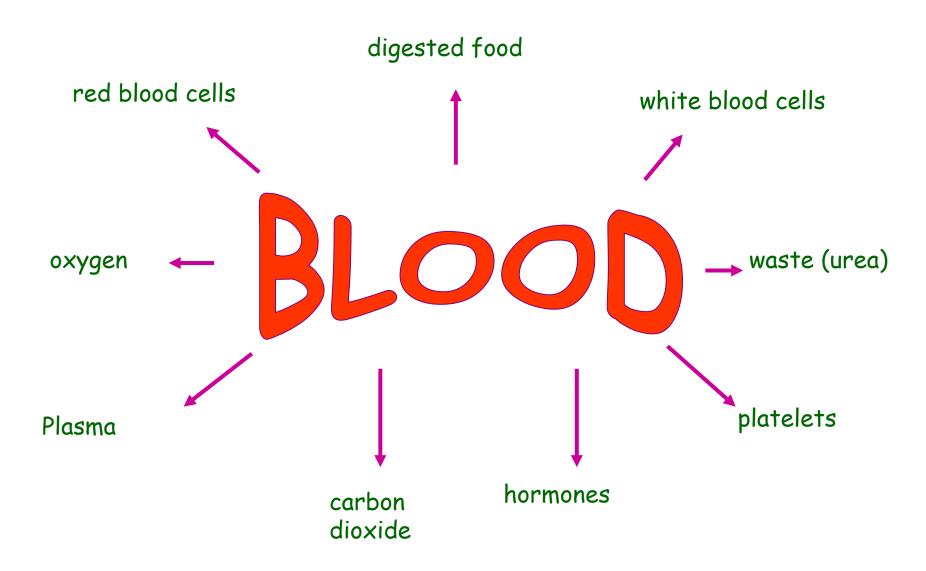
Regulatory: Regulation of body PH. and Regulation of core body temperature.

Blood Function

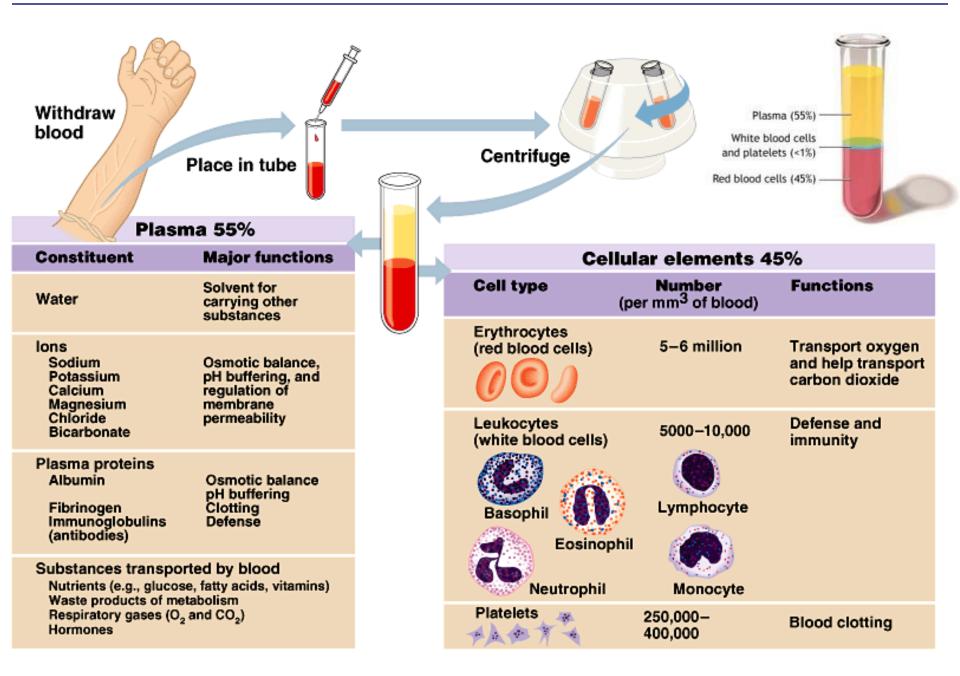
Protective:

- Carries various disease-fighting cells such as the "white" blood cells.
- Part of the body's self-repair mechanism (blood clotting in order to stop bleeding using 'Platelets')

what's in

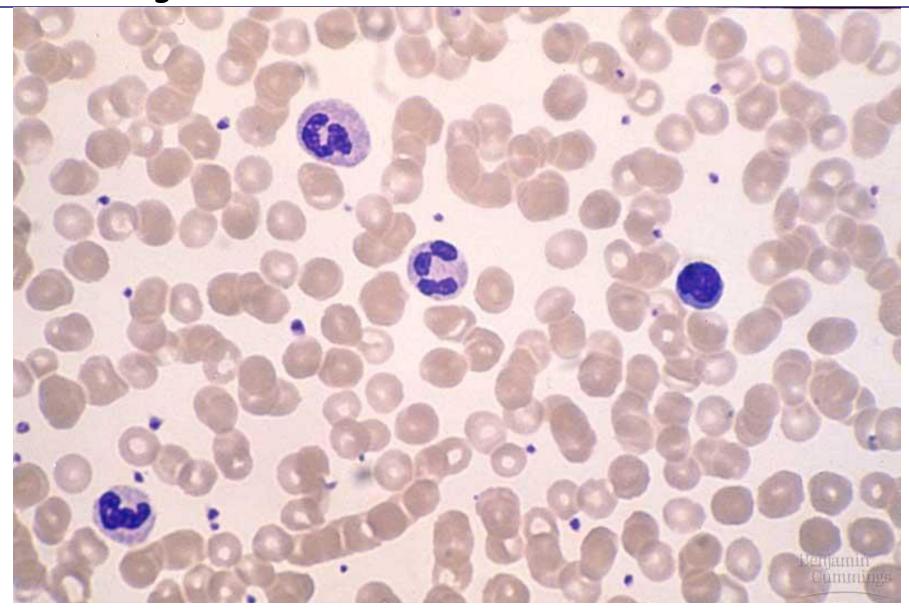


The composition of human blood



In average human has 5 litres of blood

Blood smear



Components of the Blood

- Plasma fluid part of blood made up of dissolved ions and various organic molecules
 - **3 types of plasma proteins**
 - Albumin creates osmotic pressure that moves water from interstitial fluid to capillaries
 - Globulins Alpha, beta, and gamma
 - Fibrinogen helps with clotting and converts to fibrin where the fluid serum is left after clotting

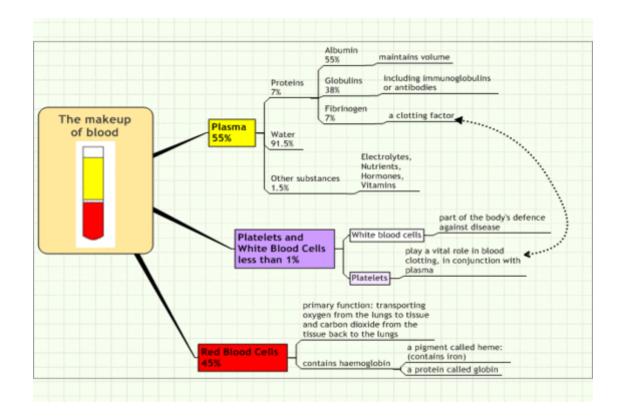
Components of the Blood

Formed elements

- Erythrocytes Red Blood Cells that contain hemoglobin and transport oxygen
- Leukocytes White Blood Cells that help with immunity and can be granular (eosinophils, basophils, and neutrophils) or agranular (lymphocytes and monocytes)
- Platelets required for blood clotting

Important terms

- Hematopoiesis formation of blood cells from stem cells in bone marrow and lymphoid tissue
 - Erythropoiesis forms Red Blood Cells (RBCs)
 - Leukopoiesis forms White Blood Cells (WBCs)



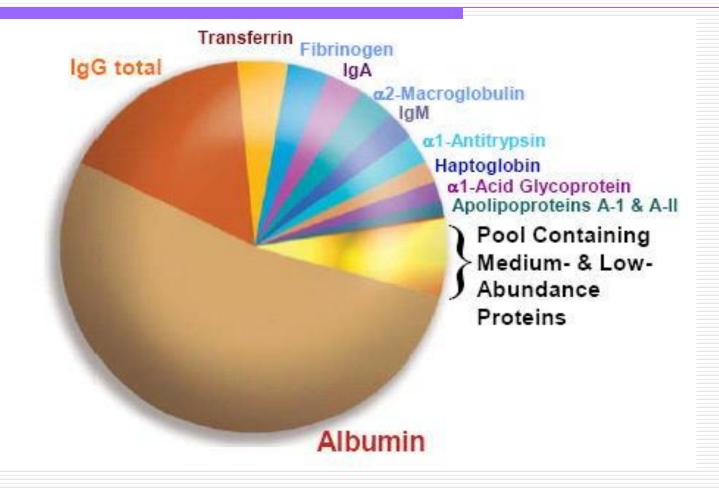
Plasma Proteins

- □Constitute 7-9% of plasma
- Three types of plasma proteins: albumins, globulins, & fibrinogen
 - Albumin accounts for 60-80%
 - Creates colloid osmotic pressure that draws H₂0 from interstitial fluid into capillaries to maintain blood volume & pressure
- Globulins carry lipids
 - Gamma globulins are antibodies
- Fibrinogen serves as clotting factor
 - Converted to <u>fibrin</u>

What is plasma and serum?

- Serum is the liquid part of blood AFTER coagulation (clots) , therefore devoid of clotting factors as fibrinogen.
- Plasma is the liquid, cell-free part of blood, that has been treated with anti-coagulants.

Plasma Proteins

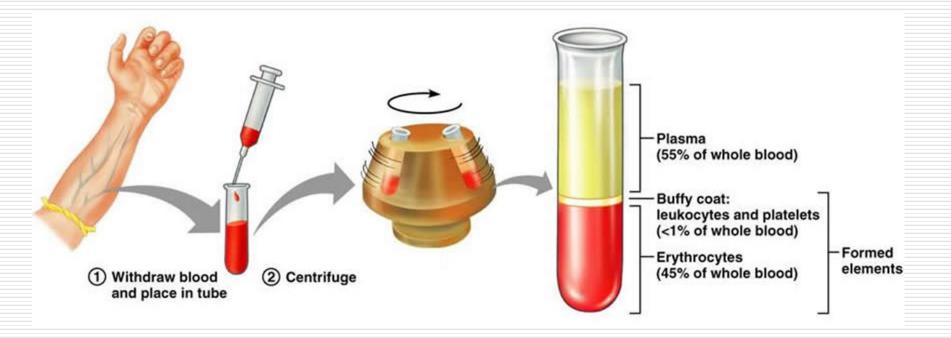


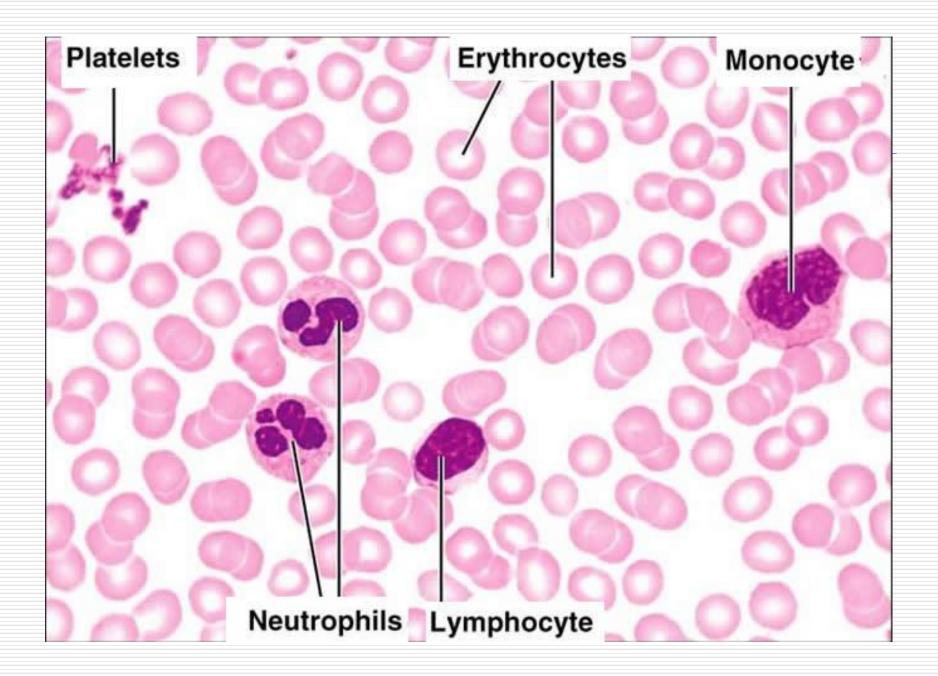
Function of plasma proteins

- Regulate blood osmotic pressure (albumin)
- Transport nutrients and hormones.
- \Box Protection against infection (γ -globulin
- □ Formation of blood clot (fibrinogen)

Blood Physical Characteristics and Volume

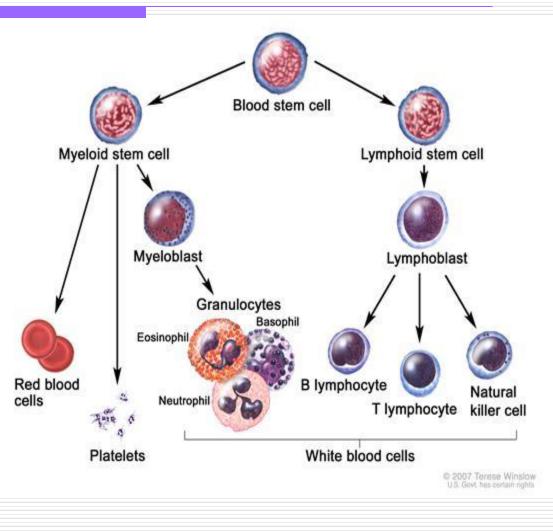
slightly basic (pH = 7.35–7.45) Normal blood volume in males is 5-–6 liters, and 4–5 liters for females.



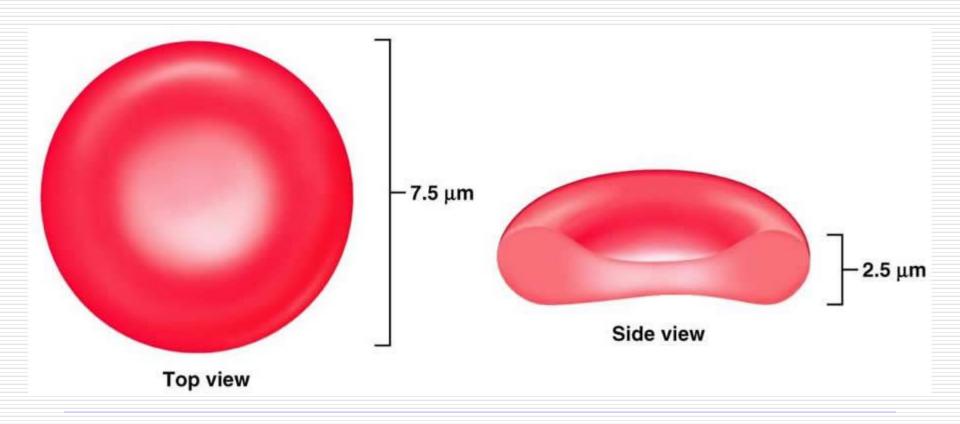


Formed Elements









Red blood cells

1) Flattened & biconcave shape

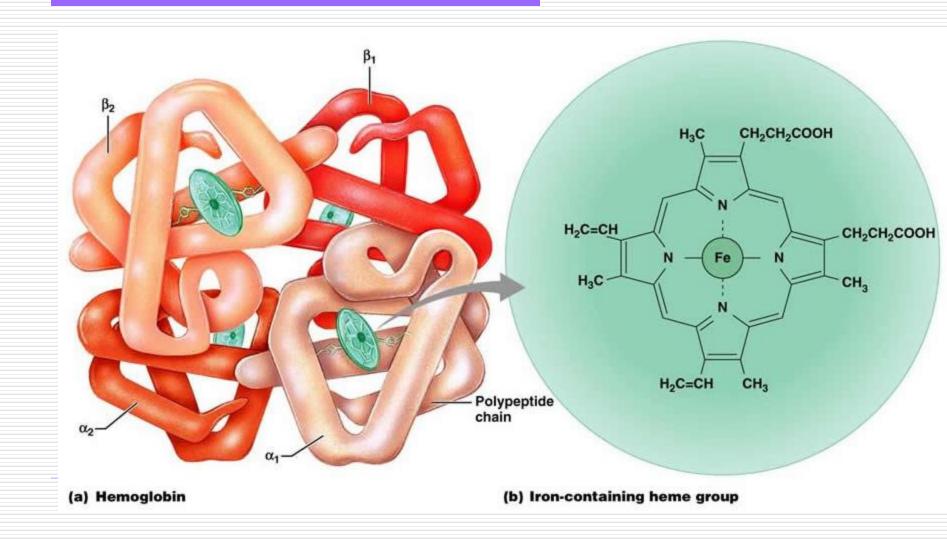
2) <u>no</u> nucleus & mitochondria
 → extra space inside



3) contain <u>haemoglobin</u>
 → the oxygen carrying molecule

increases the surface area so more oxygen can be **4)** Count: **5-6** milions per mm³ carried

Hemoglobin



Red Blood Cells

Red blood cell production

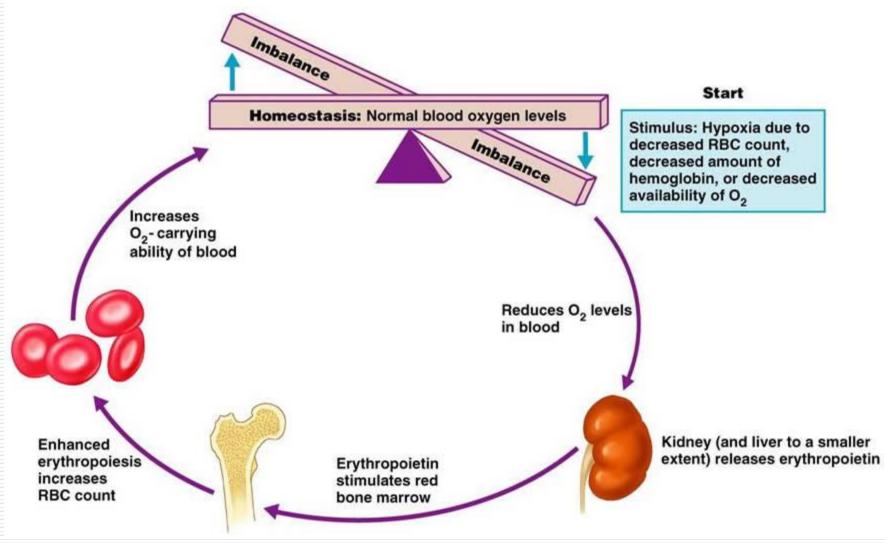
In the embryo and fetus, red blood cell production occurs in the <u>yolk sac</u>, <u>liver</u>, and <u>spleen</u>; after birth, it occurs in the <u>red bone marrow</u>.

The average life span of a red blood cell is 120 days.

Erythrocyte Production

The total number of red blood cells remains relatively constant.. Why?? due to a negative feedback mechanism utilizing the hormone erythropoietin, which is released from the kidneys and liver in response to the detection of low oxygen levels. Any thing else????

Erythrocyte Production



Erythrocyte Production

□ Any thing else????

Erythrocyte Production

> Vit B 9(Folic acid) Vitamins B₁₂, Iron (Fe)

> > The best source of iron is lean red meat. Iron can also be found in chicken, turkey, eggs, and cereals.

> > > MAXIMUM STRENGTH

300 mcg

250 TABLETS

/itamipg

Food sources of folate include beans and legumes, citrus fruits and juices, whole grains, dark green leafy vegetables, poultry, pork, shellfish and liver

> Food sources of vitamin B12: Eggs, meat, poultry shellfish, milk and milk products

ADAM

Red Blood Cells

Red blood cell destruction

With age, red blood cells become increasingly fragile and are damaged by passing through narrow capillaries.

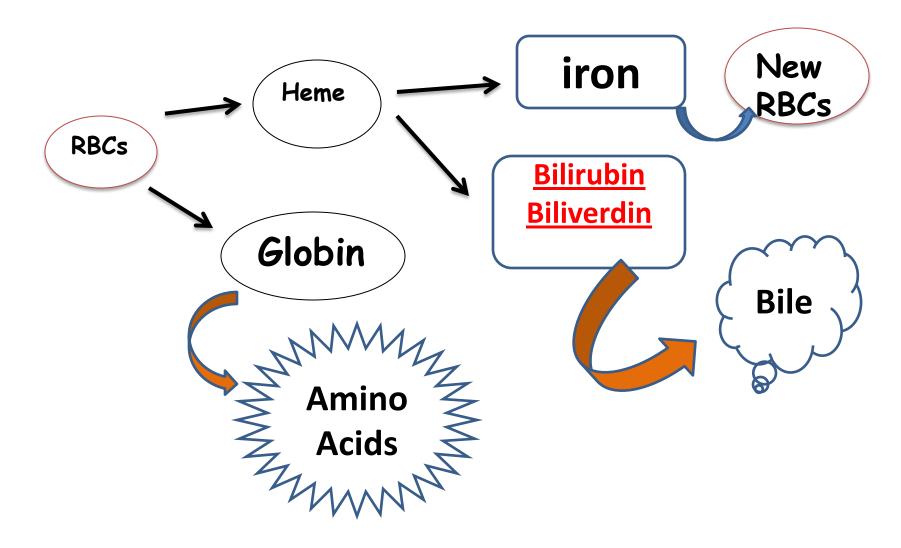
Macrophages in the liver and spleen phagocytize damaged red blood cells.

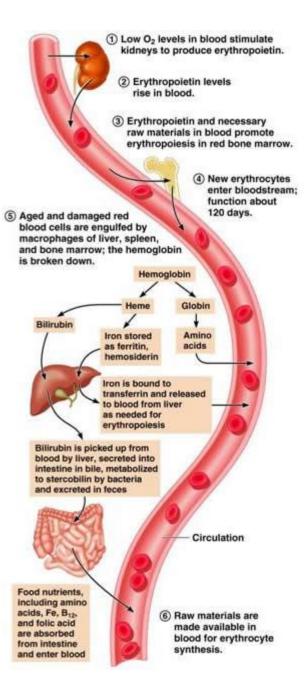
Red Blood Cells

Hemoglobin from the decomposed red blood cells is converted into <u>heme</u> and <u>globin</u>.

Heme is decomposed into <u>iron</u>, which is stored or recycled, and <u>biliverdin</u> and <u>bilirubin</u>, which are excreted in bile.

Fate of RBCs



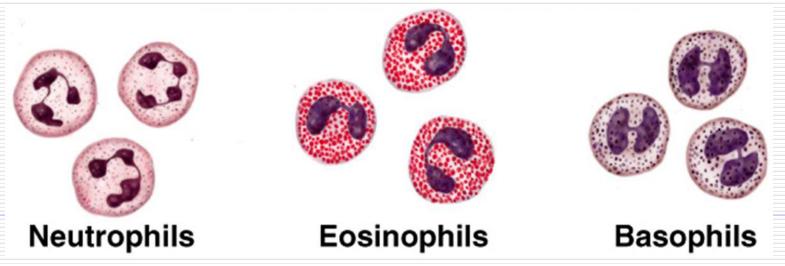


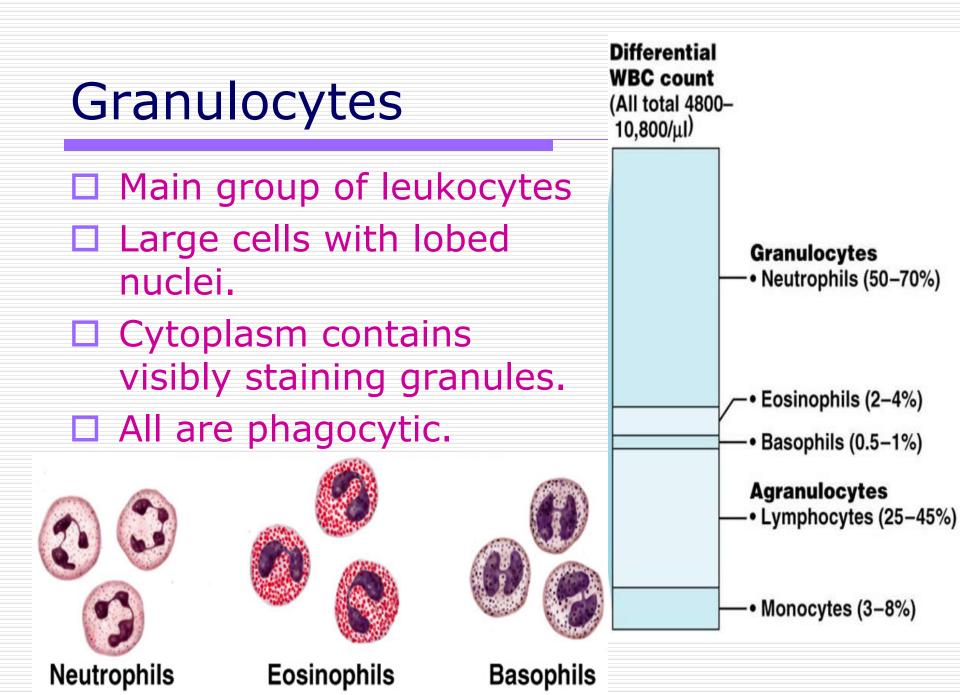
Leukocytes

Complete cells with nucleus & mitochondria

Make up less than 1% of total blood volume

Important for defense against disease.





Granulocytes

Neutrophils

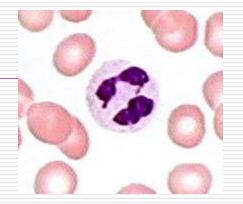
- The most numerous type of leukocyte.
- They are chemically attracted to sites of inflammation (chemotaxis)
- They are active phagocytes.

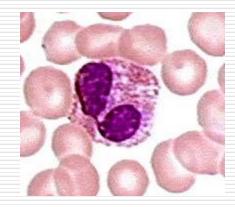
b. Eosinophils

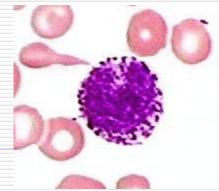
- relatively few
- attack parasitic worms.

🗆 c. Basophils

- the least numerous leukocyte
- Release histamine to promote inflammation.

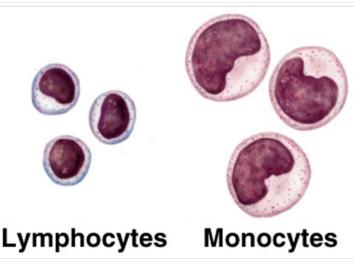


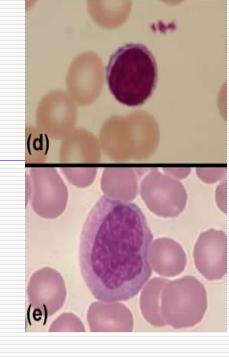




Agranulocytes

- The main group of lymphocytes without staining granules
- Lymphocytes
 - T lymphocytes
 - directly attack viral-infected and tumor cells
 - B lymphocytes
 - produce antibody cells.
- Monocytes
 - become macrophages
 - activate T lymphocytes.





Platelets (thrombocytes)

- The smallest of formed elements
- lack nucleus
- Are fragments of megakaryocytes; amoeboid
- Constitute most of mass of blood clots
- Release serotonin to vasoconstrict & reduce blood flow to clot area
- Secrete growth factors to maintain integrity of blood vessel wall
- Survive 5-9 days



Platelets

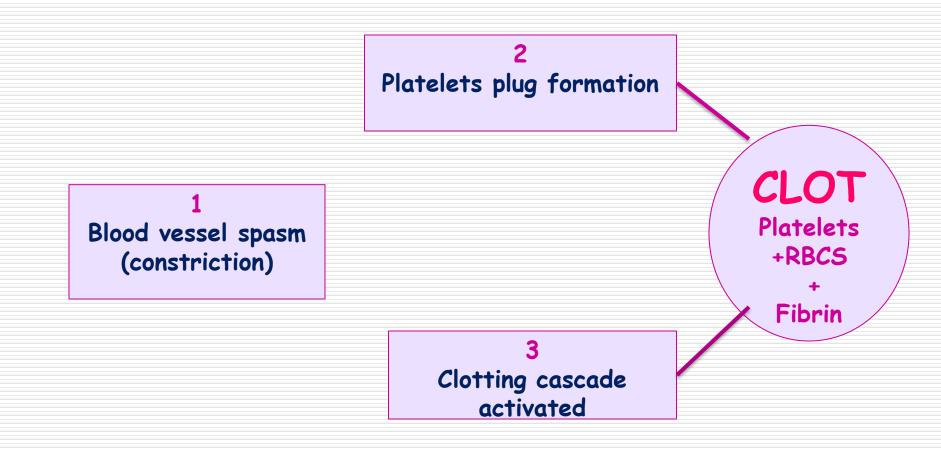
Platelets (thrombocytes)

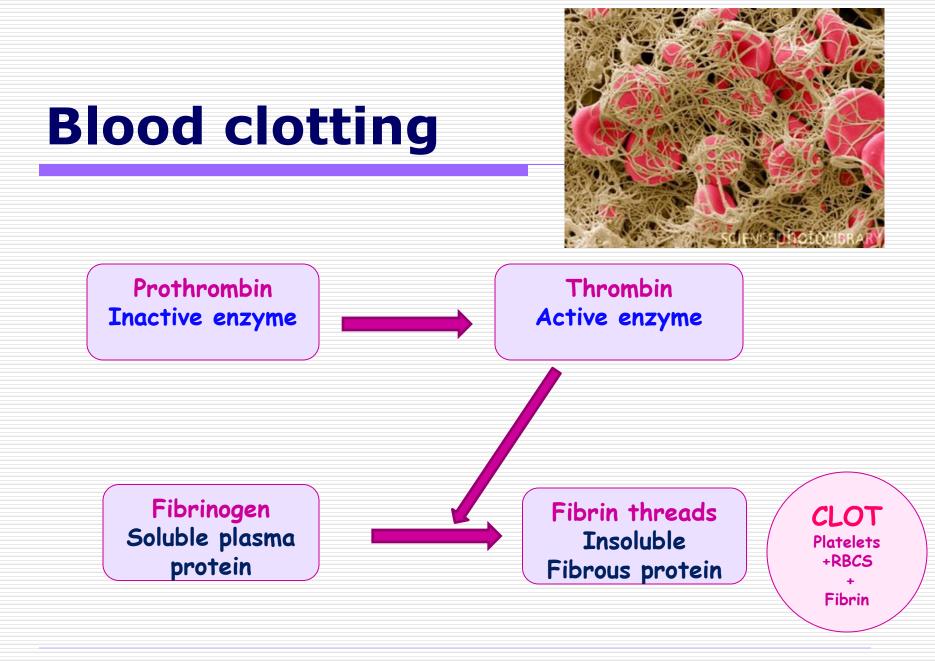
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Platelets

Haemostasis (stop bleeding) Blood Clotting





Blood diseases

🗆 Anemia

Decrease in the number of RBCs or hemoglobin content (due to bleeding or Fe deficiency) symptom

polycythemia

abnormal increase in the number of RBCs in the blood (due to excess production of these cells by the bone marrow).

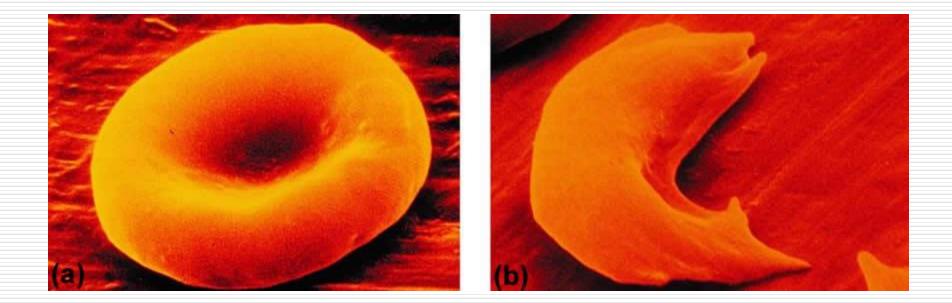
Leucopenia

Decrease in number of WBCs

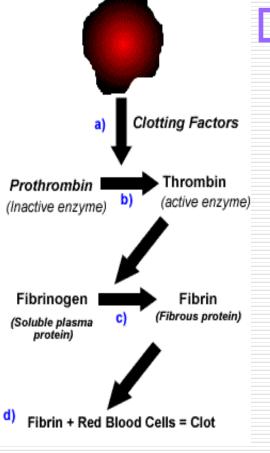
Leucokemia

Abnormal increase in the number of WBCs (due to bone marrow tumor)





Clotting is the mechanism that prevents blood loss from broken blood vessels.



Mechanism

- a) Platelets or damaged cells release a group of proteins called clotting factors.
 These clotting factors are released into the plasma a wound site.
 - b) Clotting factors activate the enzymeThrombin from its inactive formprothrombin
- **c)** Thrombin turns the soluble plasma protein **fibrinogen** into its insoluble fibrous form **Fibrin.**
- **d)** Fibrin binds together platelets and blood cells to form a solid 'plug' for the4 wound. This plug is called a clot.

CELL TYPE	ILLUSTRATION	DESCRIPTION*	CELLS/µl (mm ³) OF BLOOD	DURATION OF DEVELOPMENT (D) AND LIFE SPAN (LS)	FUNCTION
Erythrocytes (red blood cells, RBCs)	Q	Biconcave, anucleate disc; salmon-colored; diameter 7–8 μm	4-6 million	D: about 15 days LS: 100–120 days	Transport oxygen and carbon dioxide
Leukocytes (white blood cells, WBCs)		Spherical, nucleated cells	4800-10,800		
Granulocytes • Neutrophil		Nucleus multilobed; inconspicuous cyto- plasmic granules; diameter 10–12 μm	3000-7000	D: about 14 days LS: 6 hours to a few days	Phagocytize bacteria
 Eosinophil 	0	Nucleus bilobed; red cytoplasmic granules; diameter 10–14 µm	100–400	D: about 14 days LS: about 5 days	Kill parasitic worms; destroy antigen- antibody complexes; inactivate some inflammatory chemicals of allergy
 Basophil 		Nucleus lobed; large purplish-black cyto- plasmic granules; diameter 10–14 µm	20–50	D: 1–7 days LS: a few hours to a few days	Release histamine and other mediators of inflammation; contain heparin, an anticoagulant
Agranulocytes				-	
 Lymphocyte 		Nucleus spherical or indented; pale blue cytoplasm; diameter 5–17 µm	1500–3000	D: days to weeks LS: hours to years	Mount immune response by direct cell attack or via antibodies
 Monocyte 		Nucleus U or kidney shaped; gray-blue cytoplasm; diameter 14–24 µm	100–700	D: 2–3 days LS: months	Phagocytosis; develop into macrophages in the tissues
Platelets		Discoid cytoplasmic fragments containing granules; stain deep purple; diameter 2–4 µm	150,000–400,000	D: 4–5 days LS: 5–10 days	Seal small tears in blood vessels; instrumental in blood clotting

*Appearance when stained with Wright's stain.

The Respiratory System

Oxygen Delivery System

Learning Outcomes

- Describe the primary functions of the respiratory system,
- Explain how the delicate respiratory exchange surfaces are protected from debris, pathogens, and other hazards.
- Identify the structures that conduct air to the lungs, and describe their functions.
- Describe the **functional anatomy of alveoli**, and the superficial anatomy of the lungs

Learning Outcomes

- Define and compare the processes of external respiration and internal respiration
- Describe the physical principles governing the movement of air into the lungs and the actions of the respiratory muscles.
- Describe the physical principles governing the diffusion of gases into and out of the blood.
- Describe how oxygen and carbon dioxide are transported in the blood.

Learning Outcomes

- List the factors that influence the rate of respiration.
- Describe the reflexes that regulate respiration.
- Give examples of interactions between the respiratory system and other body systems



About this Chapter

Structure and function of the respiratory system
 How gasses are exchanged with blood
 How respiration is regulated

Respiration serves the following functions:

- Respiratory functions
- Supply of O₂ and elimination of Co_{2 (Gas Exchnage)}.
 Non-respiratory functions
 - Vocalization (allows humans to speak)
 - The regulation of pH.
 - The maintenance of normal body temperature.
 - Coughing and sneezing

Respiratory System: Overview

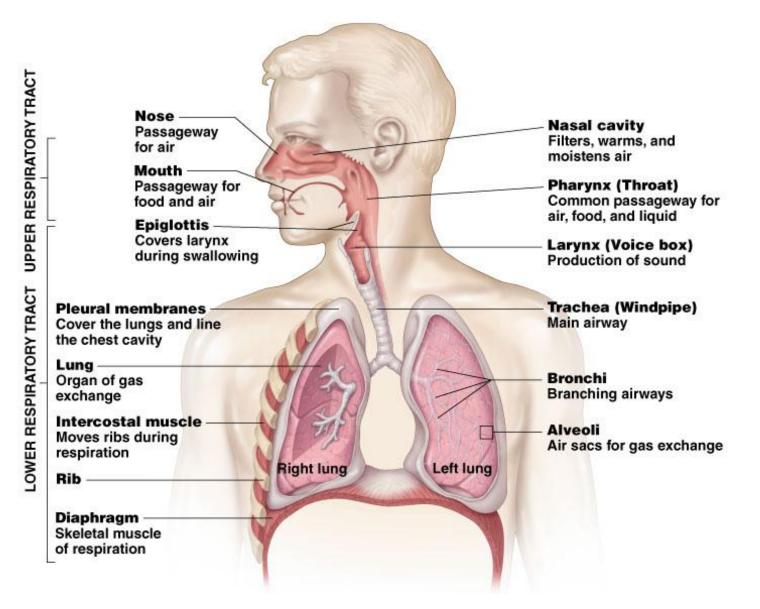
- Lungs: exchange surface
 - 75 m²
 - Thin walled
 - Moist
- Ribs
- Diaphragm & ribs pump air

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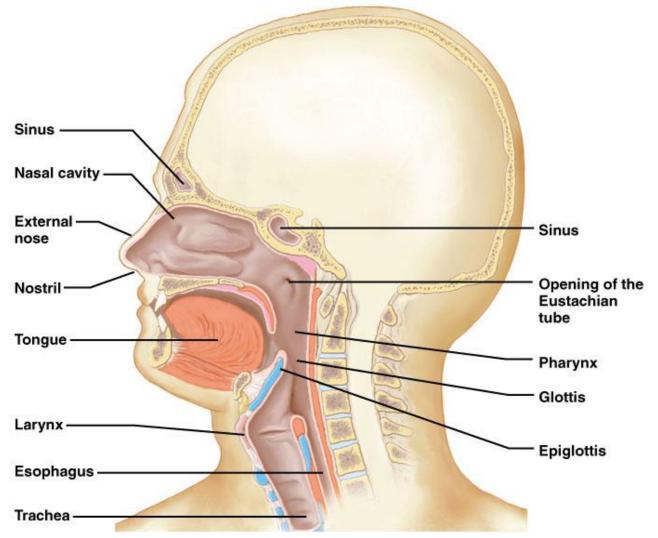
Respiration includes 5 processes:

- Breathing (ventilation): air in to and out of lungs
- External respiration: The exchange of O2 & CO2 between the blood in the pulmonary capillaries and the air in the lungs.
- Transport of respiratory gases: The carriage of O₂
 & Co₂ by the blood (RBCs).
- Internal respiration: The exchange of O₂ & Co₂
 between the blood and tissues.
- Cellular respiration: is a process by which cells harvest the energy stored in food. (Glycolysis, the citric acid cycle, and electron transport)

Human Respiratory System

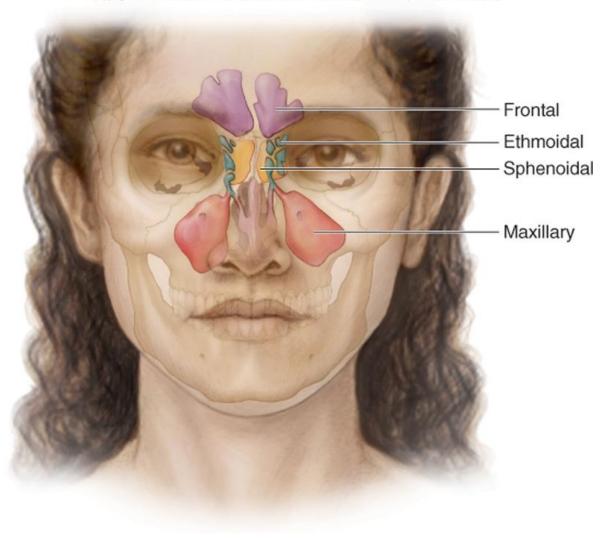


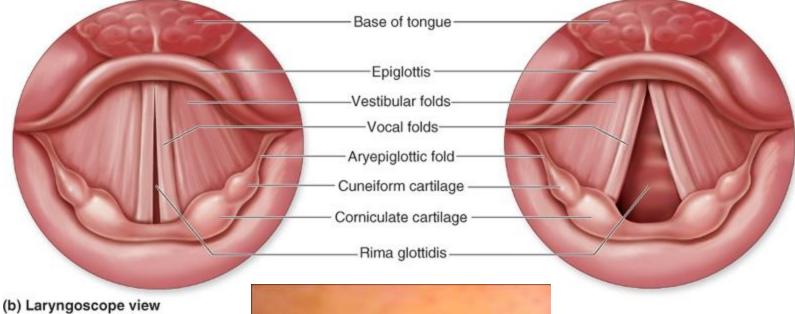
Components of the Upper Respiratory Tract



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Paranasal sinuses frontal maxillary sphenoid ethmoidal





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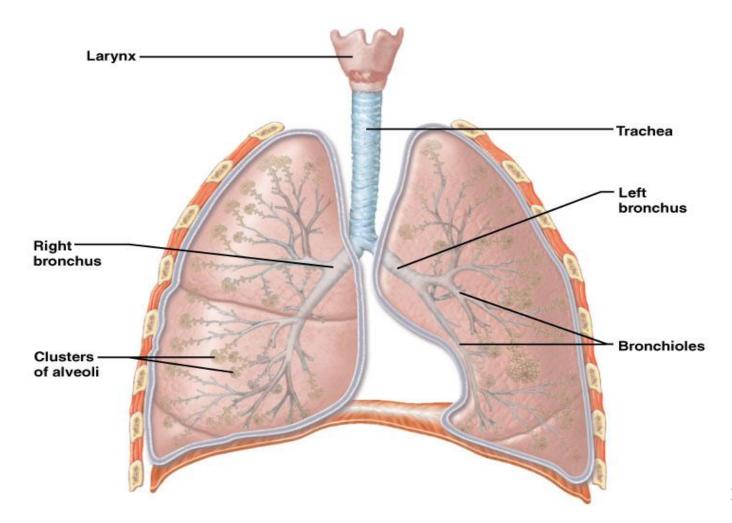
aryngoscope view

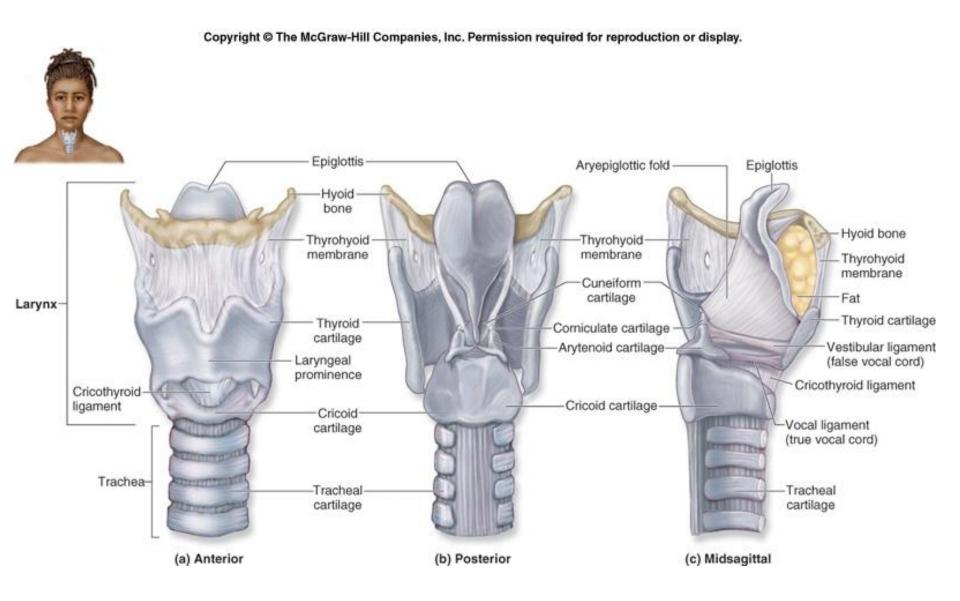


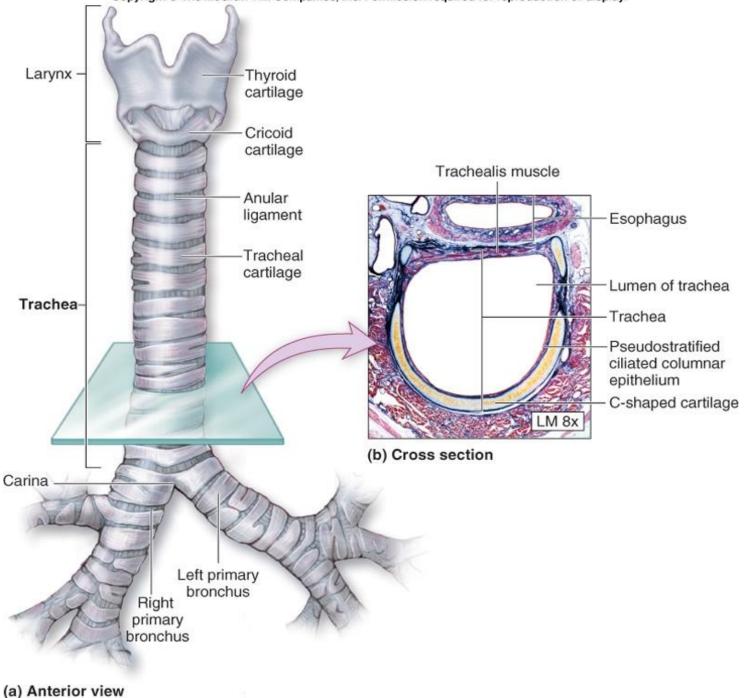
Upper Respiratory Tract Functions

- Passageway for respiration
- Receptors for smell
- Filters incoming air to filter larger foreign material
- Moistens and warms incoming air
- Resonating chambers for voice

Components of the Lower Respiratory Tract





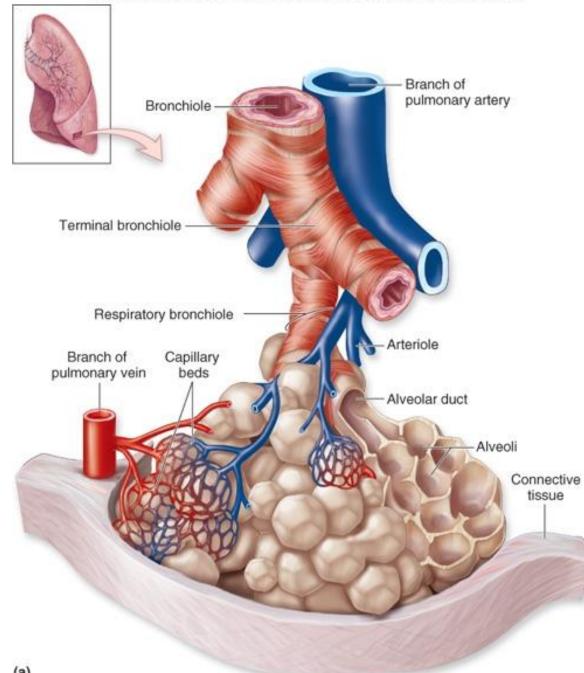


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Lower Respiratory Tract

Functions:

- Larynx: maintains an open airway, routes food and air appropriately, assists in sound production
- Trachea: transports air to and from lungs
- Bronchi: branch into lungs
- Lungs: transport air to alveoli for gas exchange



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Gas Exchange Between the Blood and Alveoli

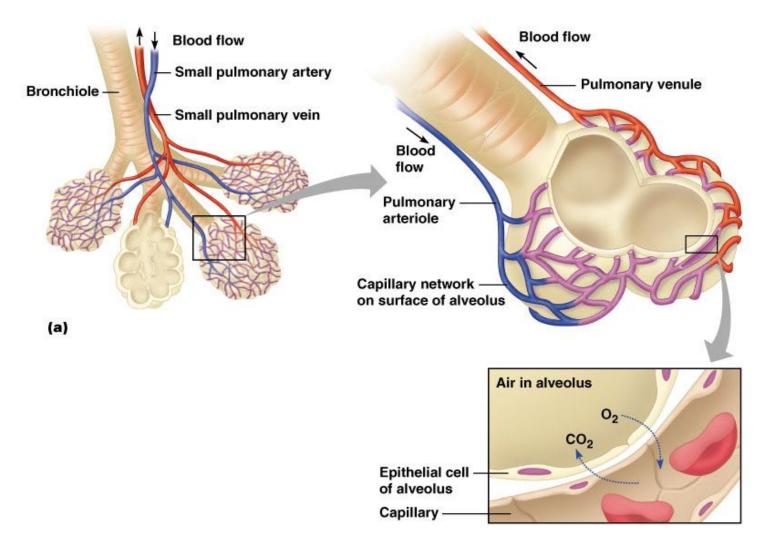
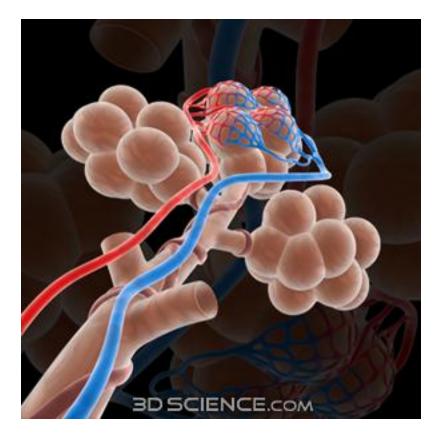
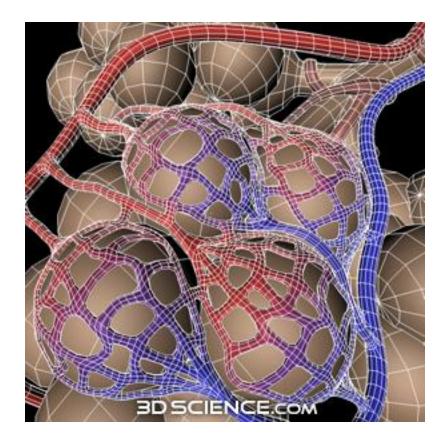
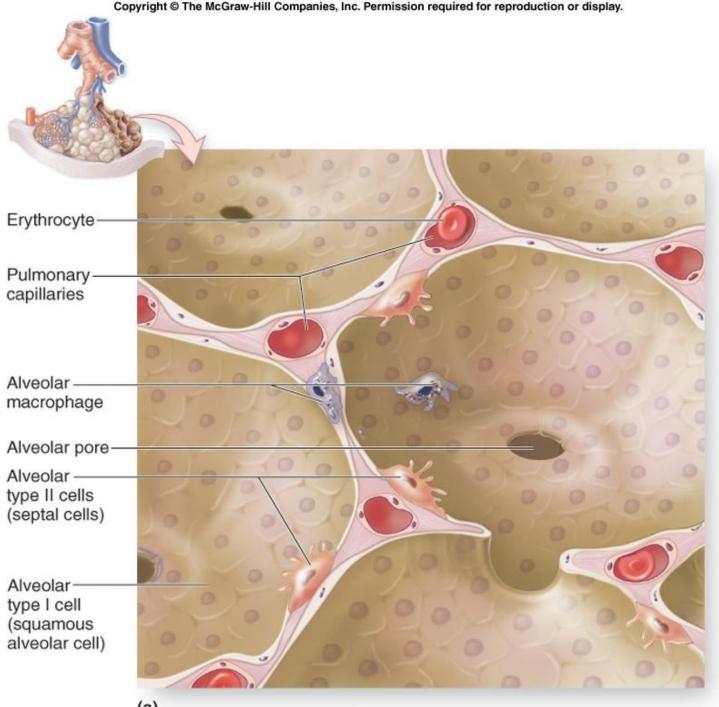


Figure 10.8A

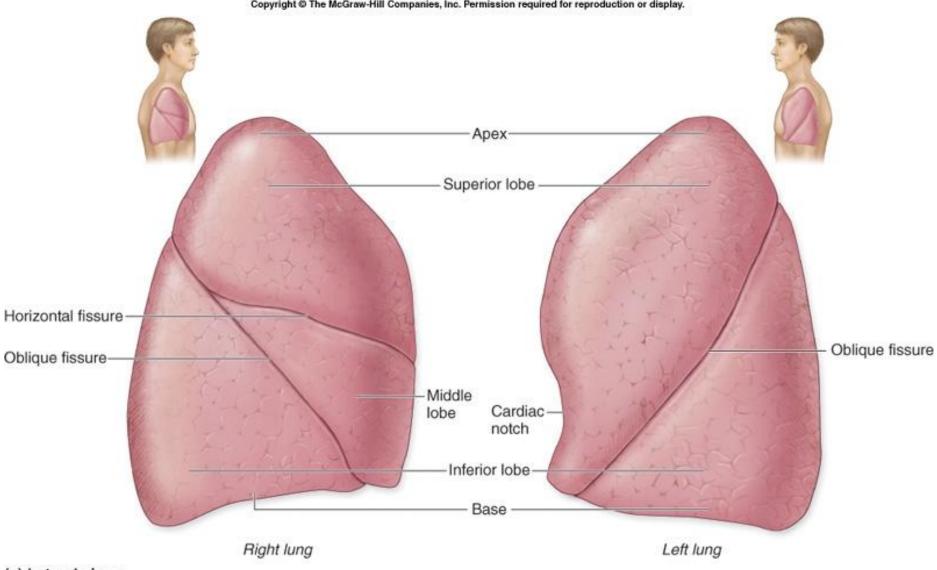
Gas Exchange Between the Blood and Alveoli







(a)



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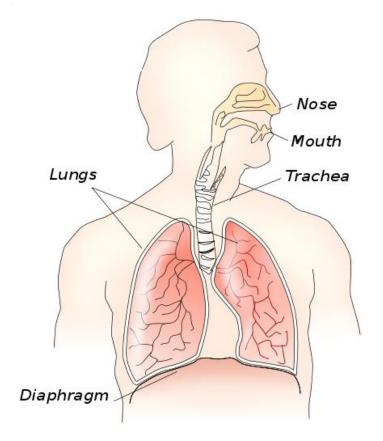
(a) Lateral views

Gas Exchange Between the Blood and Alveoli

- Actual gas exchange takes place Only in the alveoli does.
- There are some 300 million alveoli in two adult lungs.
- These alveoli provide a surface area of some 160 m².

The diaphragm

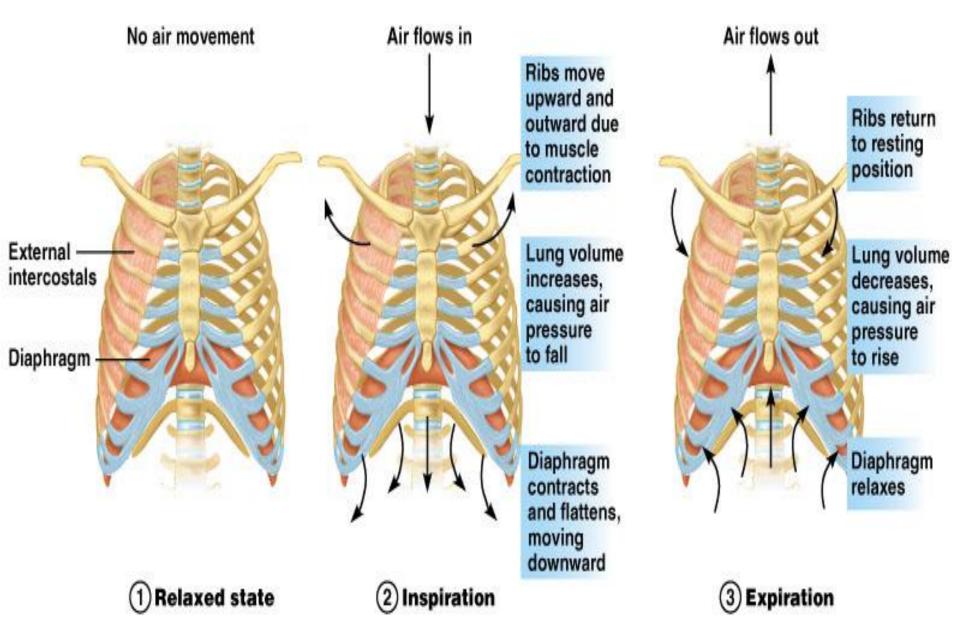
- The diaphragm divides the body cavity into the
 - Abdominal cavity
 - Thoracic cavity



The diaphragm

- The diaphragm is a sheet of muscles that lies across the bottom of the chest cavity.
- As the diaphragm contracts and relaxes, breathing takes place.
- When the diaphragm contracts, air (O2) is pulled into the lungs.
- When the diaphragm relaxes, air CO2 is pumped out of the lungs.

Respiratory Cycle



Process of Breathing: Pressure Gradient

- Inspiration/Expiration: air in/air out
- Cycle:
 - Relaxed state: diaphragm and intercostal muscles relaxed
 - Inspiration: diaphragm contracts, pulling muscle down, intercostal muscles contract elevating chest wall and expanding volume of chest, lowering pressure in lungs, pulling in air
 - Expiration: muscles relax, diaphragm resumes dome shape, intercostal muscles allow chest to lower resulting in increase of pressure in chest and expulsion of air

Pleural membranes

- The inner surface of the thoracic cavity and the outer surface of the lungs are lined with pleural membranes which adhere to each other.
- Because of this adhesion, any action that increases the volume of the thoracic cavity causes the lungs to expand, drawing air into them.
- If air is introduced between them, the adhesion is broken and the natural elasticity of the lung causes it to collapse. This can occur from trauma.

Pleural membranes Parietal pleura Visceral pleura

Pleural cavity

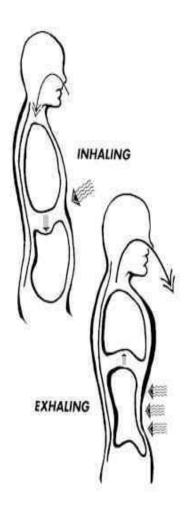
Parietal pleura-Visceral pleura Pleural cavity-Parietal pleura Visceral pleura Pleural cavity Diaphragm

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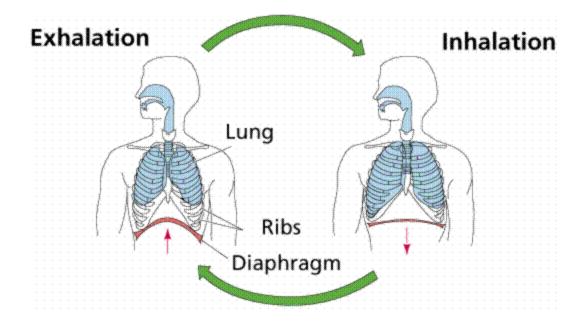
Pleural membranes

 If air is introduced between them, the adhesion is broken and the natural elasticity of the lung causes it to collapse. This can occur from trauma.

Breathing



• At rest, we breath 15-18 times a minute exchanging about 500 ml of air.



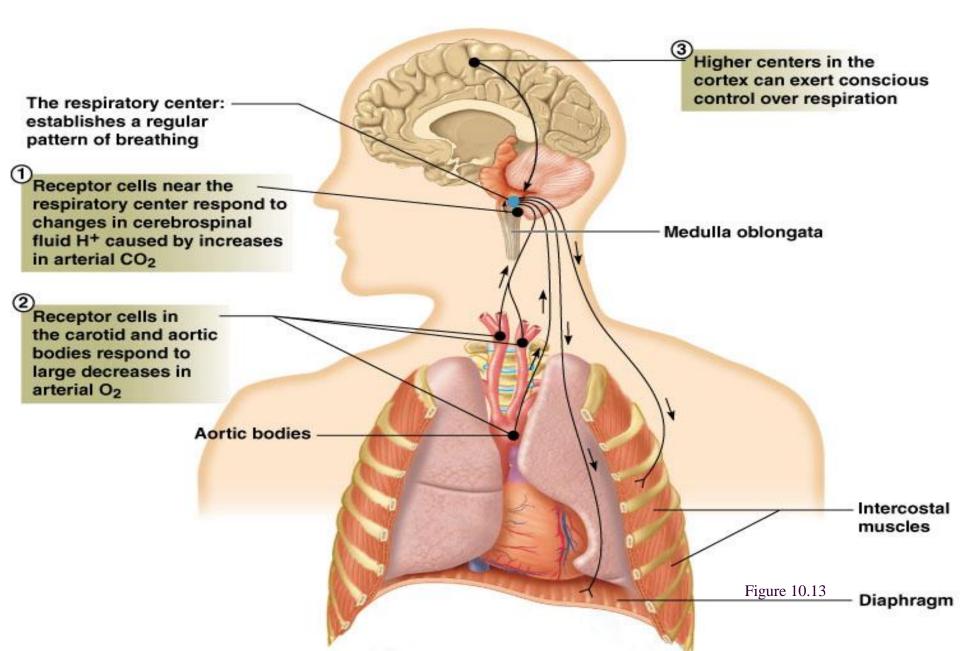
Breathing

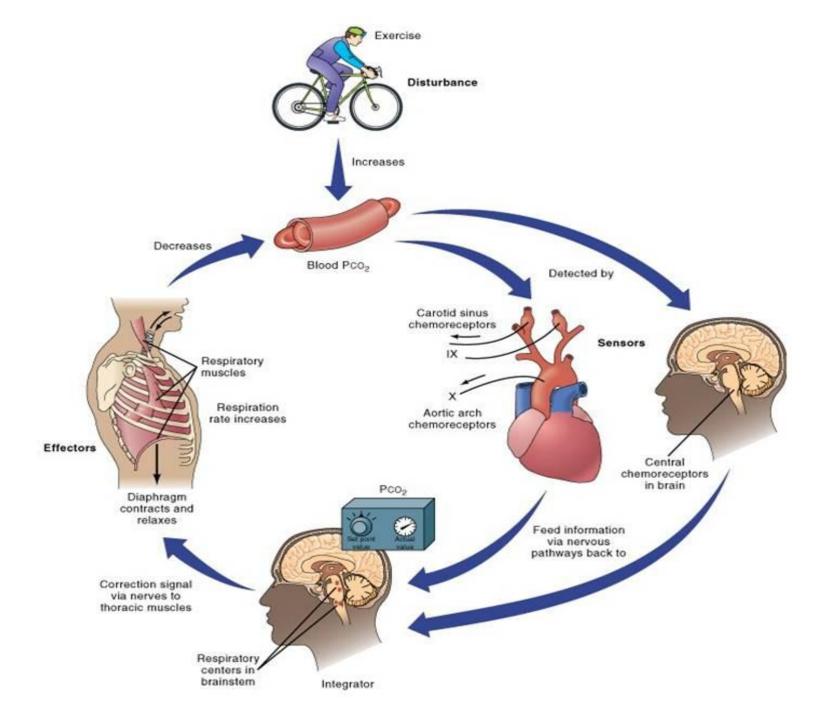
- In more vigorous expiration,
 - The internal intercostal muscles draw the ribs down and inward
 - The wall of the abdomen contracts pushing the stomach and liver upward.
- <u>Under these conditions</u>, an average adult male can flush his lungs with about 4 liters of air at each breath. This is called the **vital capacity**. Even with maximum expiration, about 1200 ml of **residual air** remain.

Breathing

 Under these conditions, an average adult male can flush his lungs with about 4 liters of air at each breath. This is called the vital capacity.
 Even with maximum expiration, about 1200 ml of residual air remain.

Regulation of Breathing





Regulation of Breathing: Nervous System Involvement

- Carotid and aortic bodies:
 - sensitive to CO₂, pH, and O₂ levels
- Conscious control: resides in higher brain centers; ability to modify breath is limited

Central Control of Breathing

- The rising concentration of CO₂ in blood not a declining concentration of oxygen plays the major role in regulating the ventilation of the lungs.
- The concentration of CO₂ is monitored by cells in the medulla oblongata.
- If the level of CO₂ rises, the medulla responds by increasing the activity of the motor nerves that control the intercostal muscles and diaphragm.

Nerve signals trigger contraction of muscles

Diaphragm **Rib muscles**

Breathing control centers stimulated by CO2 increase in blood

Central Control of Breathing

- The carotid body in the carotid arteries have receptors that respond to a drop in O₂.
- Their activation is important in situations (e.g., at high altitude) where oxygen supply is inadequate but there has been no increase in the production of CO₂.

Local Control of Breathing

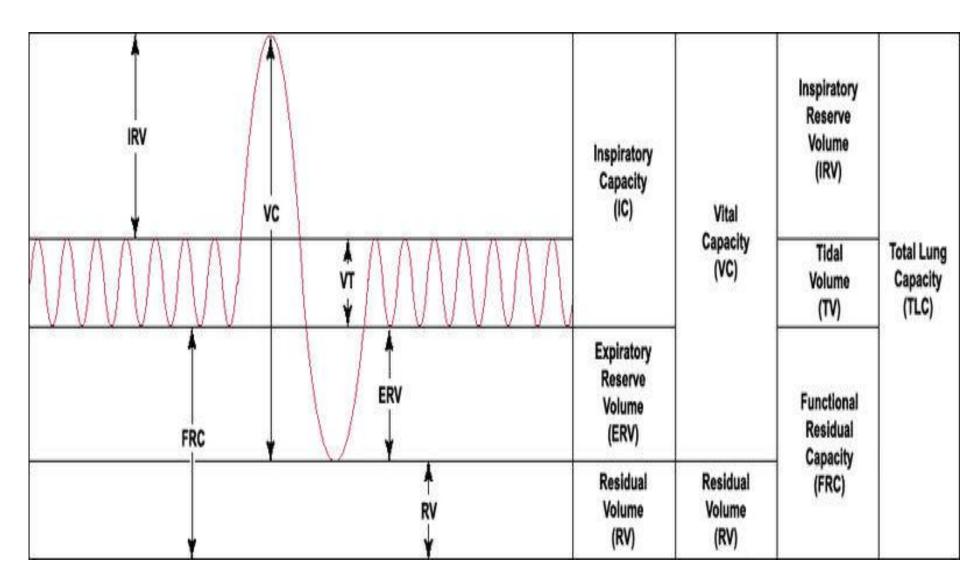
- The smooth muscle in the walls of the bronchioles is very sensitive to the concentration of carbon dioxide.
- A rising level of CO₂ causes the bronchioles to dilate. This lowers the resistance in the airways and thus increases the flow of air in and out.

The Lung volumes and capacities

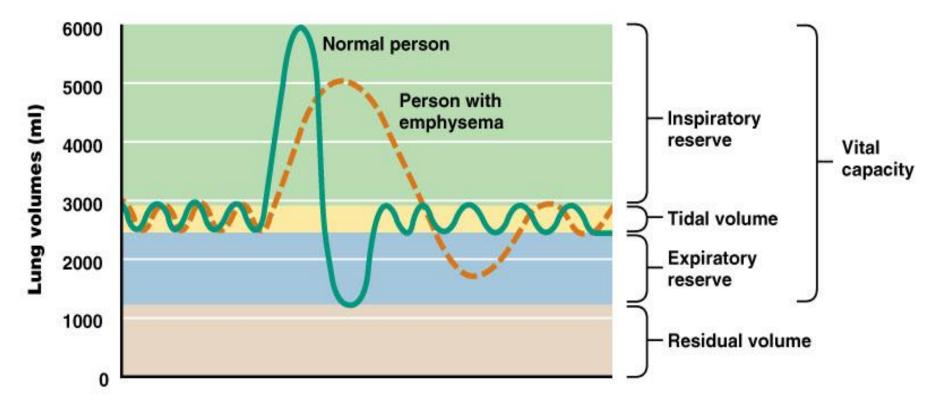
- Lung volumes refer to physical differences in lung volume.
- Lung capacities represent different combinations of lung volumes, usually in relation to inhalation and exhalation.
- Most of the lung volumes and capacities are determined by the Spirometer







Measurement of Lung Capacity





Lung volumes:

- 1) Tidal volume: (T.V) 500 c.c.
 - It is the volume of air inspired or expired during rest.
- 2) Inspiratory Reserve volume: (I.R.V) 3000cc.
 - It is the maximum volume of air which can be inspired after normal inspiration.
- 3) **Expiratory reserve volume**: (E.R.V) 1000 c.c.
 - It is the maximum volume of air which can be expired after normal expiration.
- 4) **Residual volume**: (R.V) 1200 c.c.
 - It is the volume of air remaining in the lungs after maximal expiration.
 It can't be expelled to atmosphere except after opening of the chest wall and squeezing the lungs.

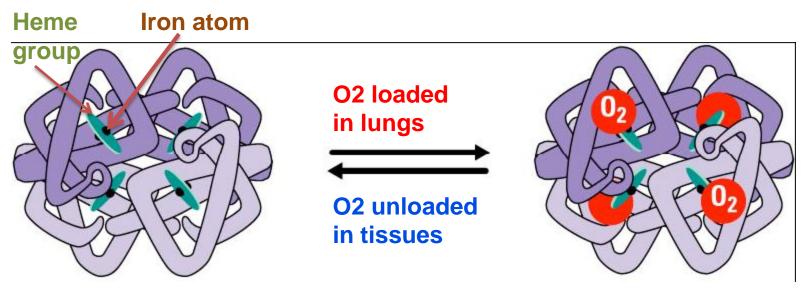
Lung capacities

- 1. Inspiratory capacity: 3500 c.c.
 - It is the maximum volume of air which can be inspired after normal expiration. It equals T.V (500) + I.R.V (3000) = 3500 c.c.
- 2. Functional Residual capacity: 2200 c.c.
 - It is the volume of air remaining in the lung after normal expiration. It equals E.R.V (1000) + R.V (1200) = 2200 c.c.
- 3. Vital capacity: (V.C) 4500 c.c.
 - It is the volume of air given out by maximal expiration after maximal inspiration. It equals I.R.V (3000) + T.V (500) + E.R.V (1000) = 4500 c.c. VC = IRV+TV+ERV=TLC-RV
- 4. **Total lung capacity**: (T.L.C) 5700 c.c.
 - It is the volume of air contained in the lungs after deepest inspiration.
 It equals all lung volumes = 5700 c.c.
 - Total lung capacity = vital capacity (VC) + residual volume (RV)

- Tidal volume
 - The amount of air that moves in or out in one normal breath (~500 ml.)
- Inspiratory reserve volume
 - The amount of air that can be inhaled beyond the normal indrawn breath (~2900 ml.).
- Expiratory reserve volume
 - The amount of air that can be exhaled beyond the normal exhaled breath (~1100 ml.).
- Vital capacity
 - The amount of air that can be inhaled in the deepest breath and exhaled completely (~4500 ml.).
 - Vital capacity = tidal volume + inspiratory reserve volume + exploratory reserve volume.
- Residual volume
 - The amount of air that cannot be expelled from the lungs no matter how hard one tries (~1200 ml.).
- Total lung capacity
 - The amount of air that can be accommodated by the lungs. Total lung capacity = vital capacity + residual volume

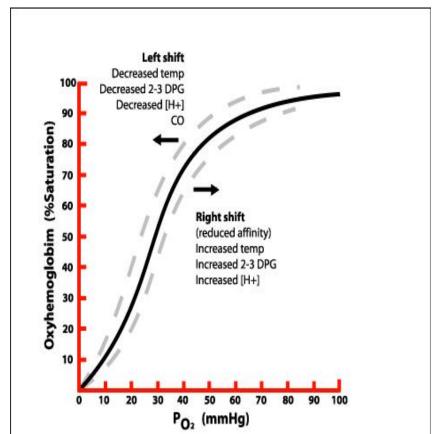


Hemoglobin loads up when O2 concentration is high and unloads when it is low. Four oxygens per hemoglobin max.

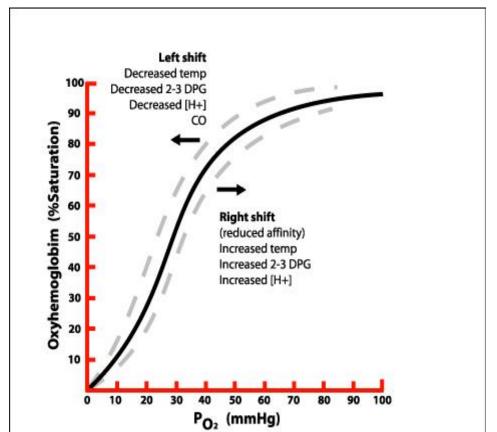


Polypeptide chain

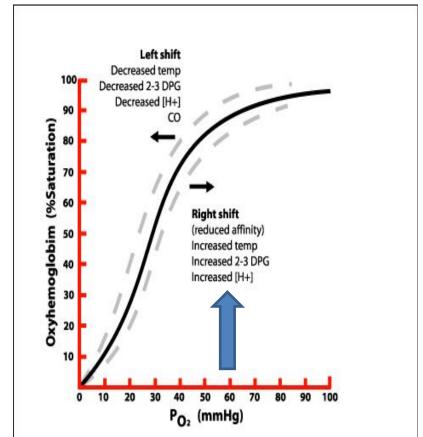
- Describes the relationship between available oxygen and amount of oxygen carried by hemoglobin.
- Shows the percent saturation of haemoglobin at various partial pressures of oxygen.



- The horizontal axis is
 P O₂, or the amount of oxygen available.
- The vertical axis is
 SO₂, or the amount of hemoglobin saturated with oxygen.



- Once the PO₂ reaches 60 mm Hg the curve is almost flat, indicating there is little change in saturation above this point.
 - So, PO₂ of 60 or more is usually considered adequate.
 - But, at less than 60 mm Hg the curve is very steep, and small changes in the PO₂ greatly reduce the SO₂.



- The term "affinity" is used to describe oxygen's attraction to hemoglobin binding sites.
 - Affinity changes with:
 - variation in pH,
 - temperature,
 - **CO**₂ (PCO₂) and,
 - **2,3,-DPG** (a metabolic by-product which competes with O2 for binding sites).

- Normally, the curve starts with:

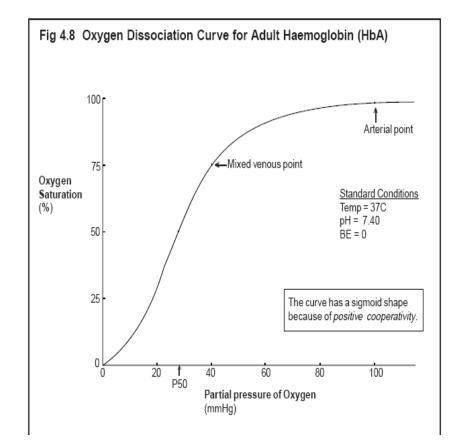
- pH at 7.4,
- temperature at 37 C,
- PCO2 at 40 mm Hg.

- Changes from these values are called "shifts".

- A left shift will increase oxygen's affinity for hemoglobin.
 - oxygen will have a higher affinity for hemoglobin.
 - S O₂ will increase at a given P O₂, but more of it will stay on the hemoglobin and travel back through the lungs without being used. This can result in tissue hypoxia even when there is sufficient oxygen in the blood.
 - Left shift condition (eg. alkalosis, hypothermia)

- A right shift decreases oxygen's affinity for hemoglobin.
 - oxygen has a lower affinity for hemoglobin. Blood will release oxygen more readily.
 - This means more O_2 will be released to the cells, but it also means less oxygen will be carried from the lungs in the first place.
 - In a right shift (acidosis, fever)

- shows the % saturation of Hb at various partial pressures of oxygen.
- Expressed as P50 value.
 - the pressure at which the red blood cells are 50% saturated with oxygen



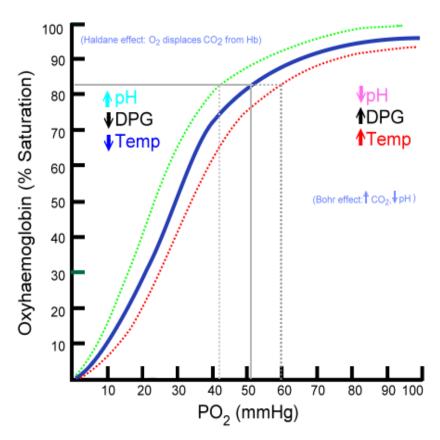
- shows the equilibrium of oxyhaemoglobin and nonbonded haemoglobin at various partial pressures.
- At Lungs (high P O2), Hb binds to O₂ to form oxyhaemoglobin.
 - When the blood is fully saturated all the red blood cells are in the form of oxyhaemoglobin.
- At Tissues (P O2 will decrease).
 - the oxyhaemoglobin releases the oxygen to form haemoglobin.

- Carbon monoxide (CO) interferes with the O₂ transport function of blood by combining with Hb to form carboxyhaemoglobin (COHb).
- CO has about 240 times the affinity of O₂ for Hb.
- small amounts of CO can tie up a large proportion of the Hb in the blood, thus making it unavailable for O₂ carriage.
- COHb also shifts the O₂ dissociation curve to the left, thus interfering with the unloading of O₂ (toxicity of CO).

Factors that Influence Oxygen Binding

Temperature

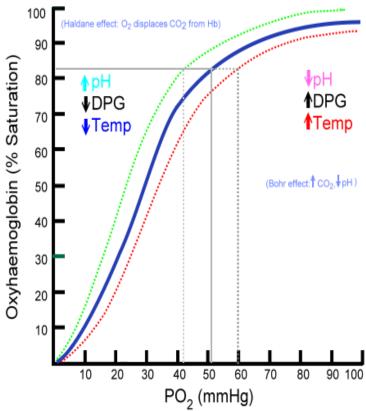
- Increasing the temperature denatures the bond
 between O₂ and Hb, which increases the amount of O₂
 and Hb and decreases the concentration of oxyhemoglobin.
- The dissociation curve shifts to the right.



Factors that Influence Oxygen Binding

• pH

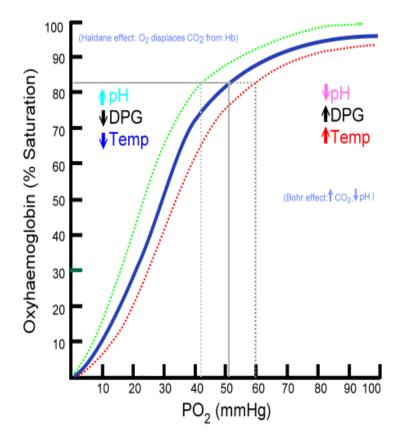
- A decrease in pH by addition of CO₂ or other acids causes a Bohr Shift.
- A Bohr shift is characterized by causing more oxygen to be given up as P O₂ increases.
- The dissociation curve shifts to the right.



Factors that Influence Oxygen Binding

• (DPG) 2,3-Diphosphoglycerate

- DPG binds to haemoglobin which rearranges the haemoglobin molecules, thus decreasing the affinity of oxygen for haemoglobin.
- The curve shifts to the right.

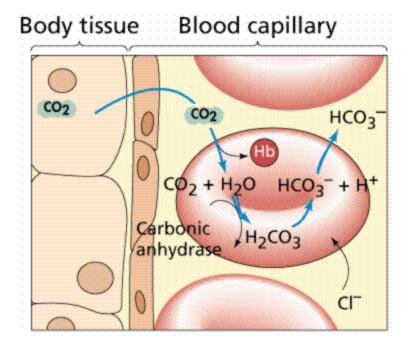


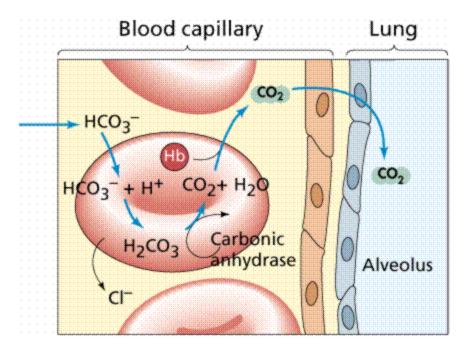
Bohr Effect

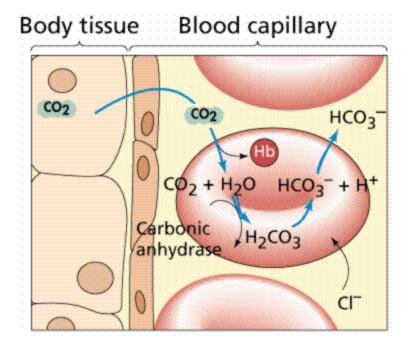
- CO2 diffuses into alveoli when the blood passes through the lungs, this result in a
 - decrease in the blood pCO2 and also
 - decreases H ion concentration (due to the decrease in blood carbonic acid).
 - This shifts the dissociation curve to the left.
- The amount of oxygen that binds with hemoglobin at any given alveolar PO2 increases and provides for greater O2 transport to the tissues.

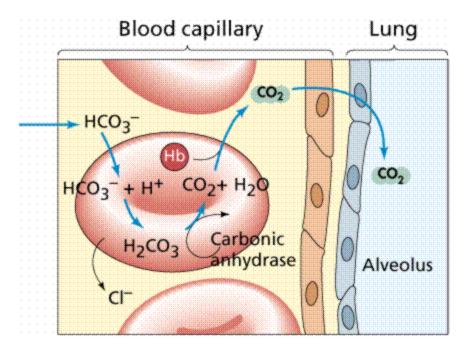
Boher effect function:

 Boher effect facilitates oxygen transport as hemoglobin binds to oxygen in the lungs, then releases it in the tissues.









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Respiratory system

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Oxygen Delivery System

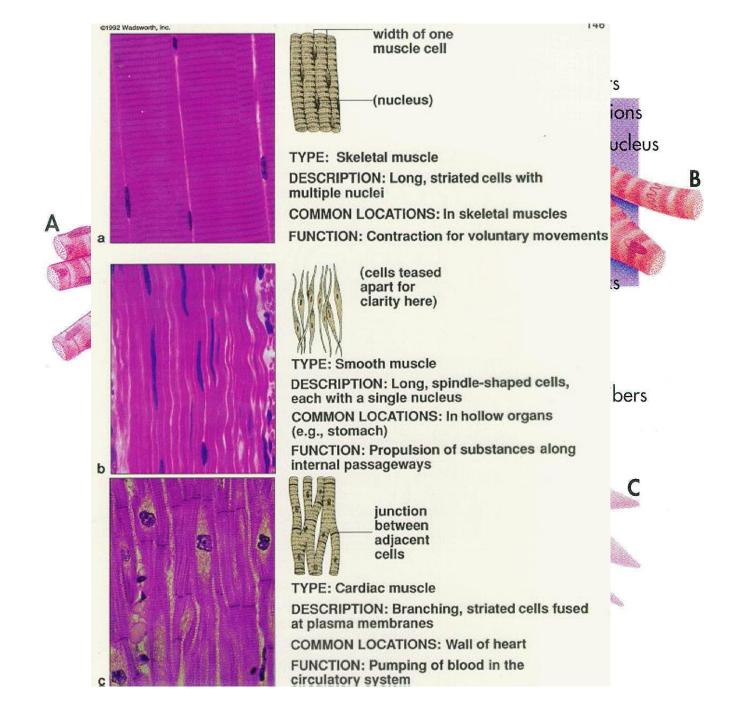
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Effectors

Muscle structure and function

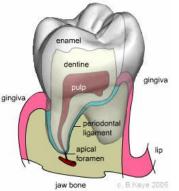
Effectors

- Effectors are muscles and glands.
- Excitable cells
 - neurons
 - muscle cells
 - gland cells
 - receptor cells



Human muscular system

- 600 skeletal muscles
- Skeletal muscles transmit contractile force to bones for movement.
- **Tendons:** strap of dense connective tissue, attaches some **muscle to bone**.
- Ligament: bone to bone



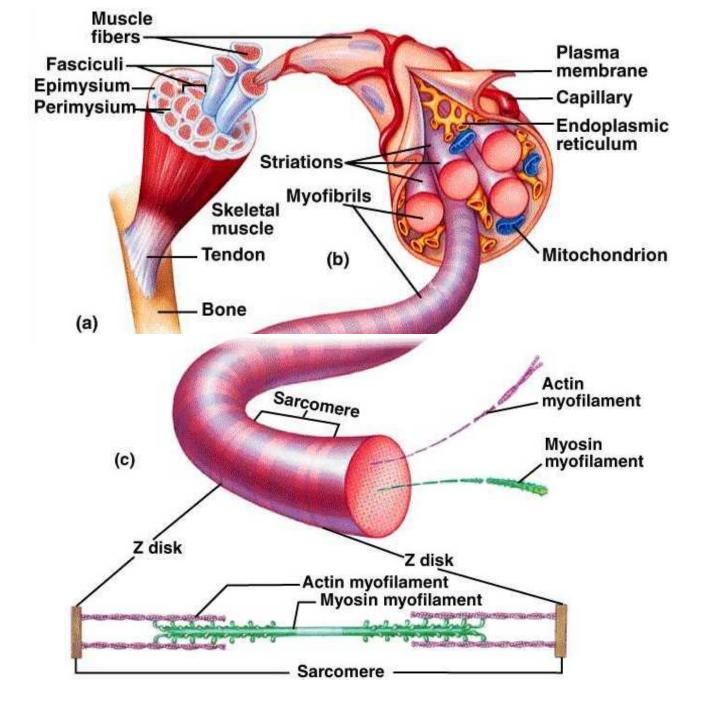


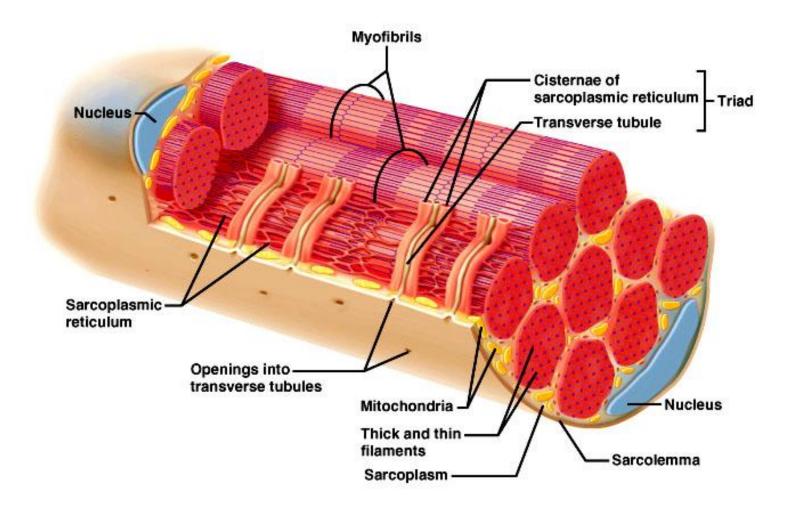
Characteristics of muscle:

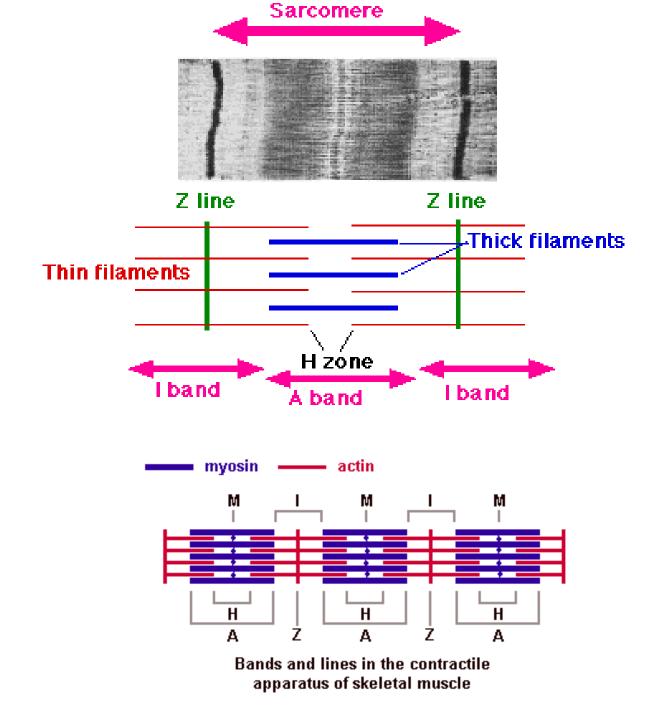
- **excitability** = responds to stimuli
- **contractility** = able to shorten in length
- extensibility = stretches when pulled
- elasticity = tends to return to original shape & length after contraction or extension

Functions of muscle:

- motion
- maintenance of posture
- heat production



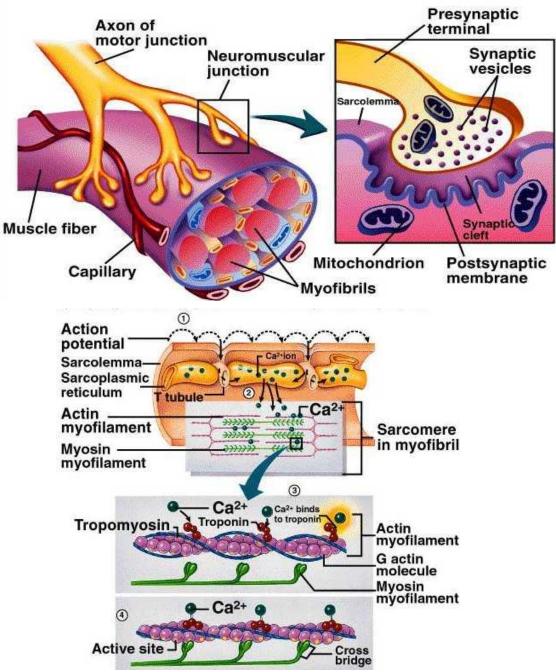




Skeletal muscle structure and function

- A muscle has bundles of muscle cells
- A muscle cell has many myofibrils.
- Myofibril has many sarcomers.
- Sarcomer has many myofilaments [thick & thin[
- Sarcomer is the basic unit of contraction





Neuromuscular junction

- The branch of a motor nerve fiber terminates on muscle fiber.
- Nerve impulse travel down a motor fiber cause synaptic vesicles to release Neurotransmitter acetylecholine (Ach) which diffuse across synaptic cleft.
- When ACh is received by the sarcolemma of a muscle fiber, impulses begin and lead to muscle fiber contraction, and finally, muscle contraction.

Changes occurring during muscle contraction

1- Electrical changes

 Nerve impulse (electrical stimulus) cause release of neurotransmitters that leads to depolarization of sarcolemma.

2- Chemical changes

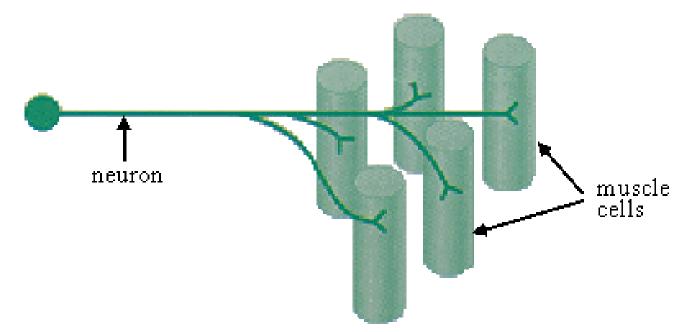
- Breakdown of glycogen to glucose to produce ATP

• 3- Mechanical changes

 Sliding filament mechanism whereby the sarcomeres shorten (the Z-lines come closer together) by the action of the actin filaments sliding over the myosin filaments

MOTOR UNITS

The combination of the motor nerve cell (neuron) and all the muscle cells it innervates is known as a motor unit



When an electrical impulse travels down the axon, all muscle cells attached to the motor unit contract simultaneously

