

The Circulatory System

222 Descriptive Histology

The circulatory system is subdivided into two functional parts

I. **Blood vascular system**

- a. Distributes nutrients, gases, hormones to all parts of the body; collects wastes produced during cellular metabolism.
- b. Consists of a range of blood **vessels** (arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules, veins) and a **muscular pump (heart)**.
- c. Blood is the fluid found within the blood vascular system.



The circulatory system is subdivided into two functional parts

I. **Lymph vascular system**

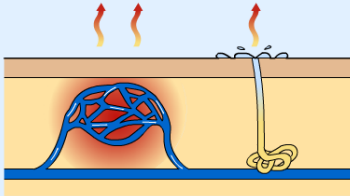
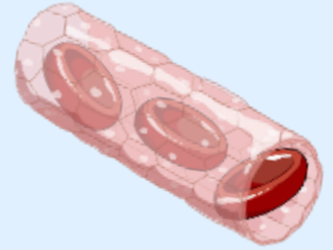
- a. Collects tissue fluid from tissues and returns it to the blood vascular system.
- b. Consists of blind-ended capillaries (**lymphatic capillaries**) connected to venous vessels (**lymphatic vessels**) and various **lymphoid organs** (e.g. lymph nodes).
- c. **The fluid** found within the lymph vascular system is **lymph**.
Composition of lymph in smaller lymphatic vessels is very similar to tissue fluid.



Functions of the circulatory system

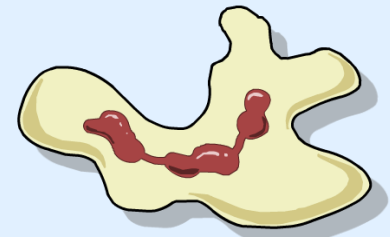
The circulatory system has three functions:

1. **Transporting** substances around the body. These include oxygen, glucose, carbon dioxide, nutrients, water and waste products.



2. **Controlling** body temperature.

3. **Protecting** the body. Blood contains cells and anti-bodies that fight infection and clotting agents to stop bleeding.



Tissue Component of Vascular wall

The vascular wall is composed of three basic structure

1. Endothelium
2. Muscle
3. Connective Tissue

Tunica Intima

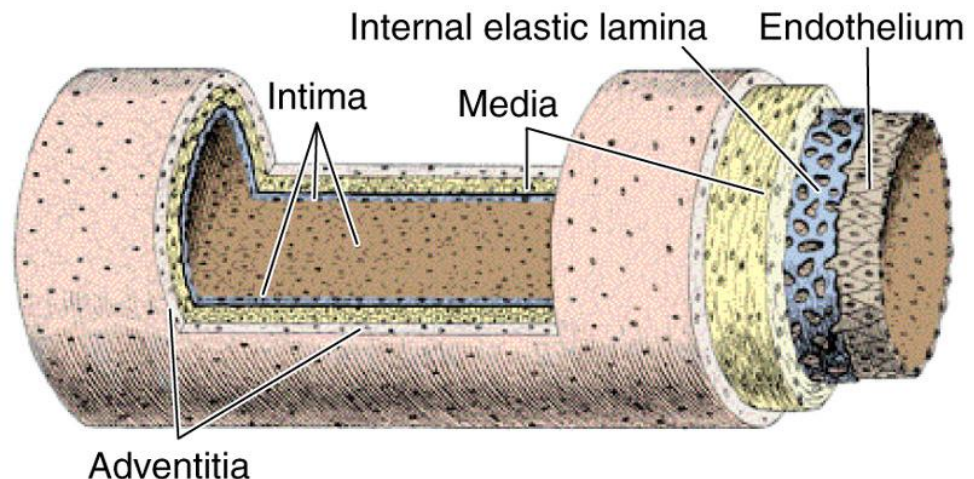
Endothelium supported by basement membrane and delicate collagenous tissue.

Tunica media

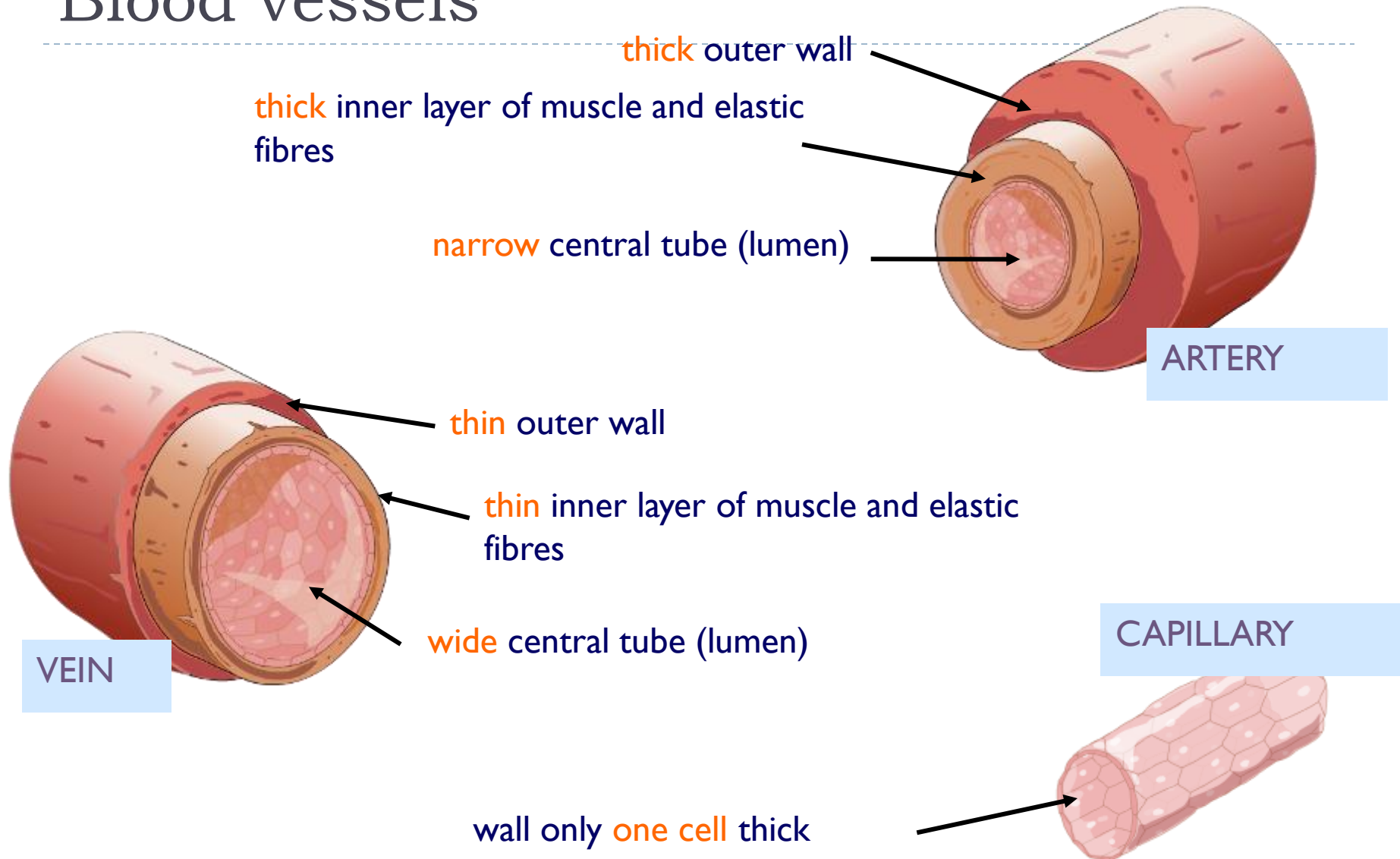
Muscle and CT

Tunica adventitia

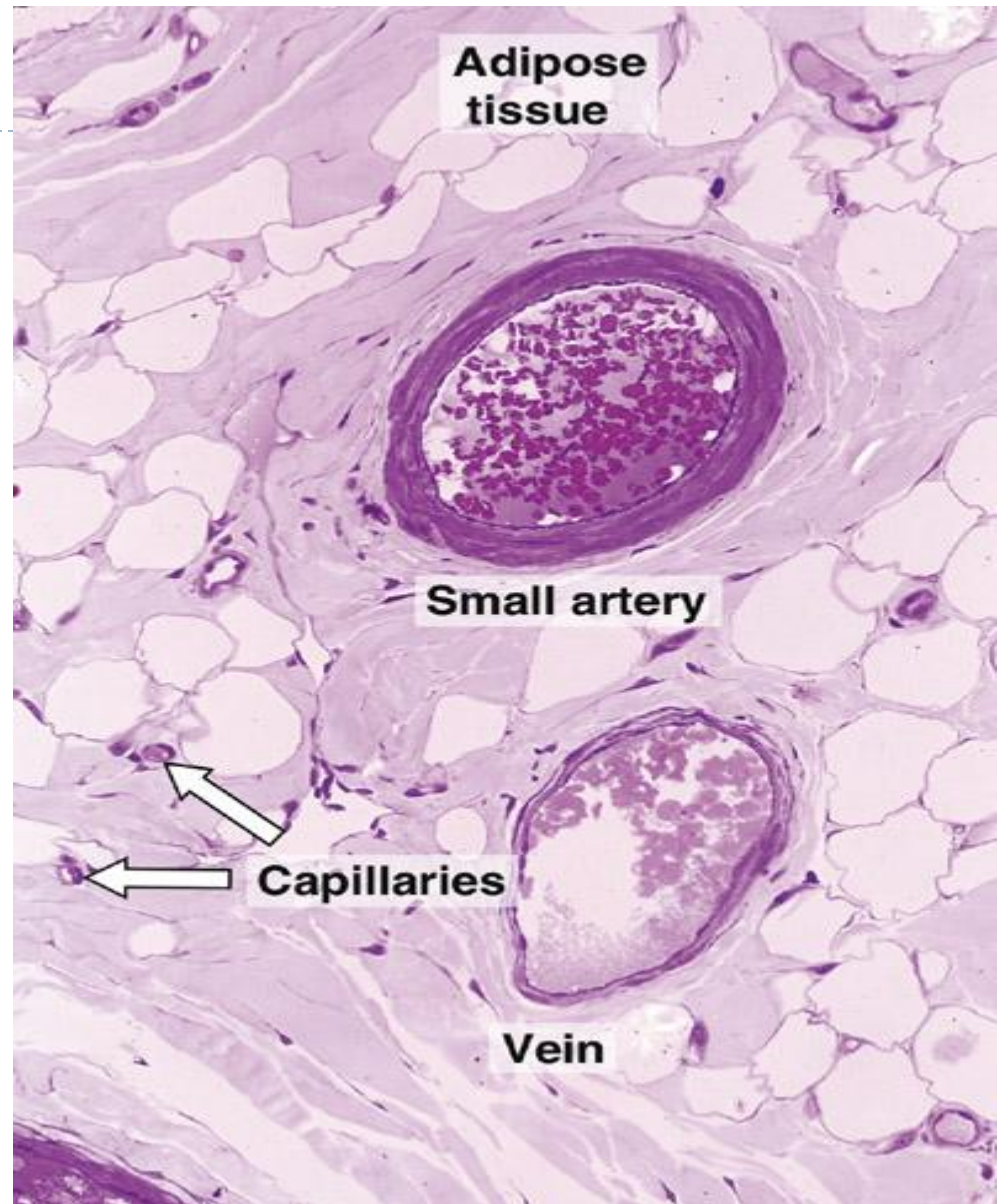
CT



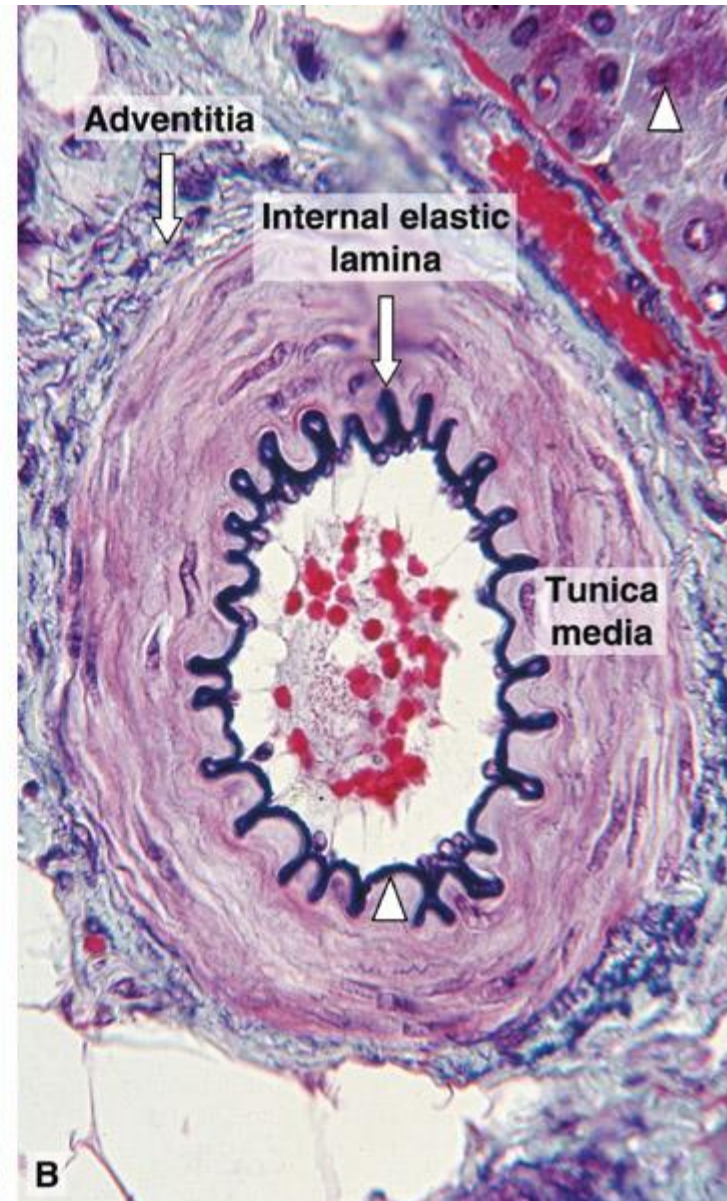
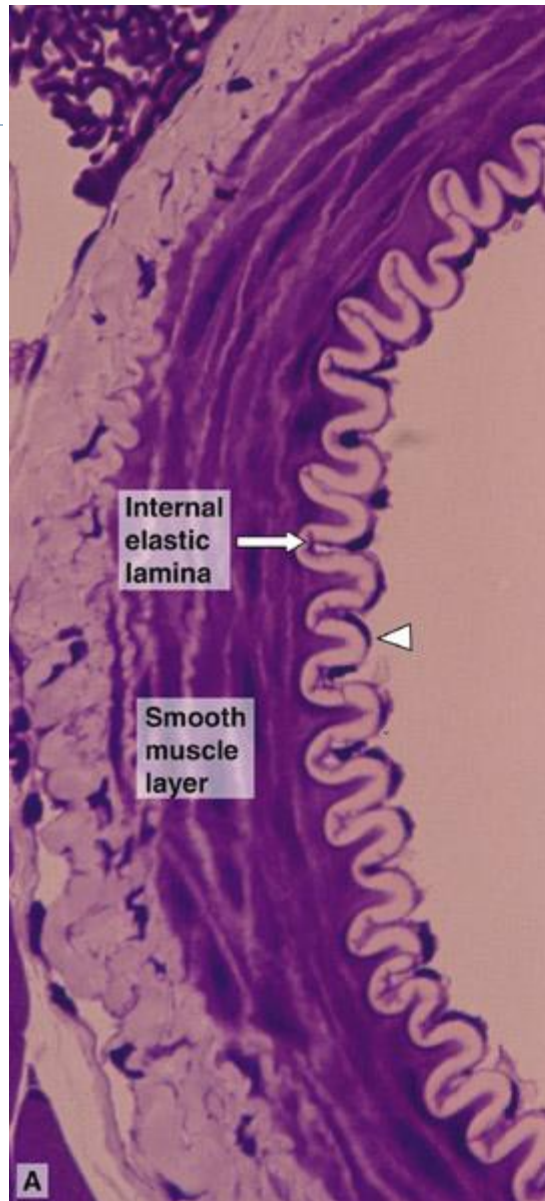
Blood vessels



Cross section through a small artery and its accompanying muscular vein. Because of vasodilatation, the arteriole is unusually filled with blood. At this stage the internal elastic lamina is not distinguished. Many other small arterial branches and capillaries can be seen in the surrounding connective tissue. Pararosaniline—toluidine blue (PT) stain. Medium magnification.



Cross sections of small arteries. A: The elastic lamina is not stained and is seen as a pallid lamina of scalloped appearance just below the endothelium (arrowhead). Medium magnification. B: A small artery with a distinctly stained internal elastic lamina (arrowhead). From a preparation of the late George Gomori. Low magnification.



Heart

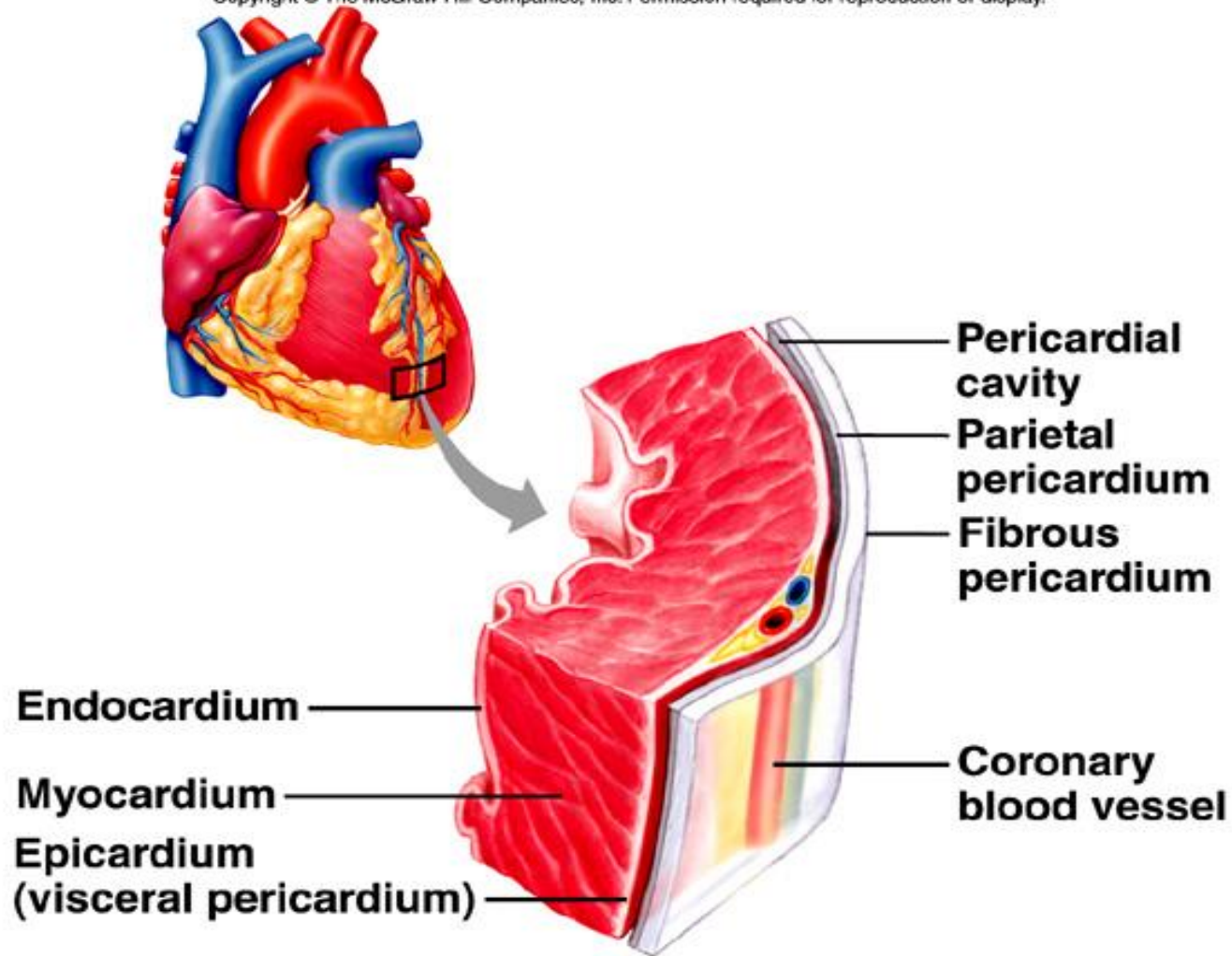
The heart wall can be viewed as a three-layered structure.

- a. Inner layer = **endocardium**
- b. Middle Layer = **myocardium**
- c. Outer layer = **epicardium (also called the pericardium)**

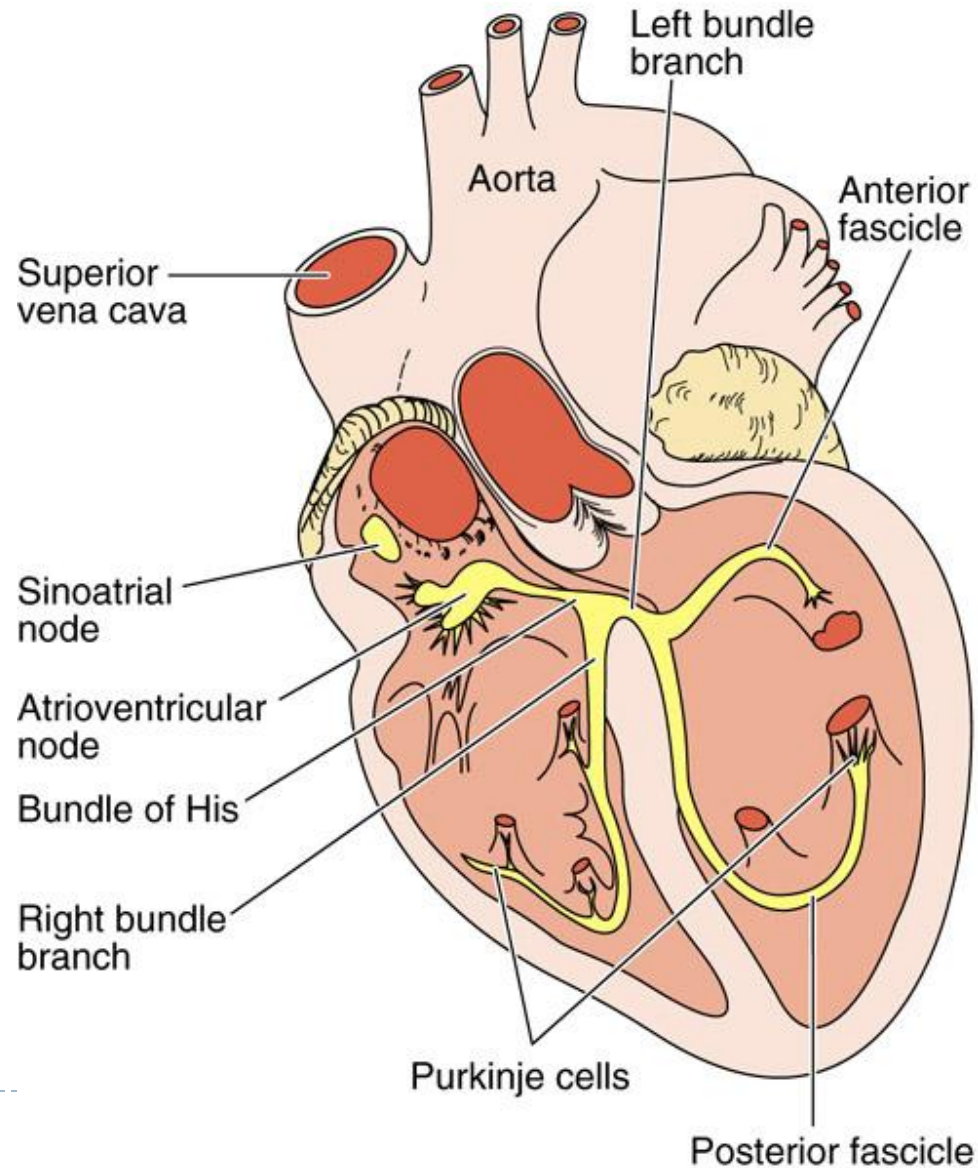


Heart

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Heart impulse-generating and -conducting system.



Red blood cells

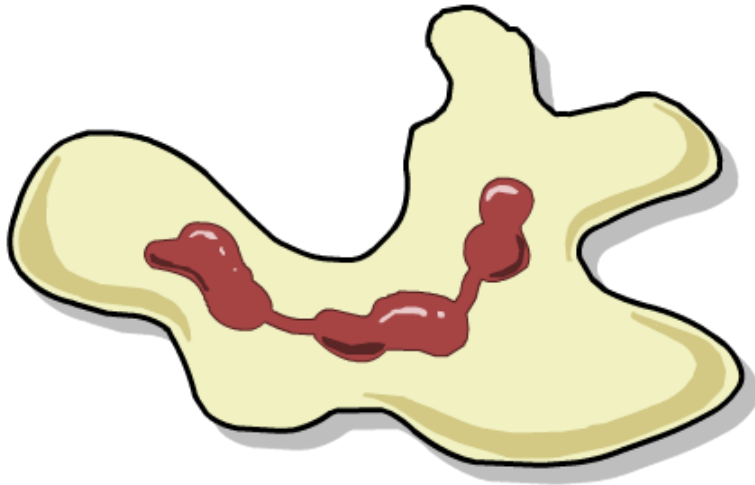
Blood is made up of a number of different elements.
The most common cell in blood is the **red blood cell**.

- Also called **erythrocytes**.
- **Disc-shaped**.
- Made in the **bone marrow**.
- Contain a red-coloured compound called **haemoglobin** which bonds with oxygen to form **oxyhaemoglobin**.
- Transport oxygen to the tissues.



White blood cells

Blood also contains **white blood cells**.



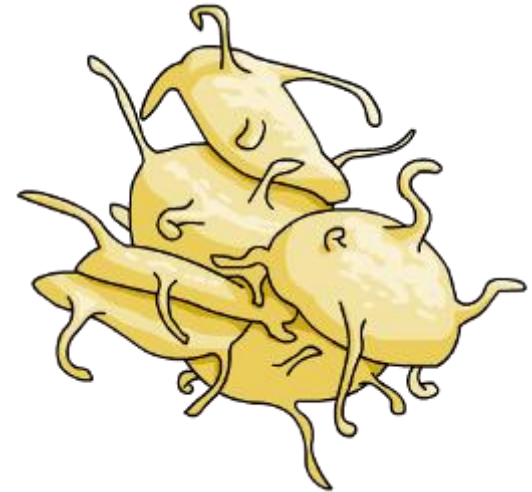
- Also called **leucocytes**.
 - They are bigger than red blood cells and have large nuclei.
 - Act as the body's **defence system**.
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- Some white blood cells **surround and consume** harmful microbes.
 - Some produce chemicals called **antibodies** that fight infection.



Platelets

Platelets are also carried in the blood.

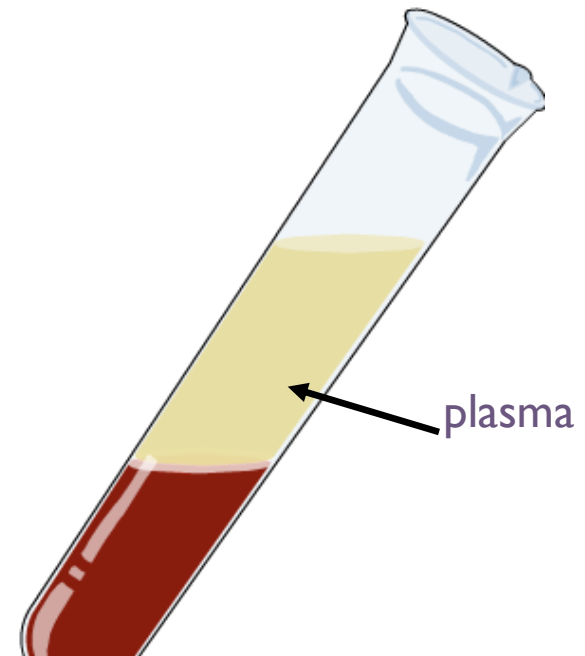
- Formed in red bone marrow.
- Produce **thrombokinas** – a chemical needed for blood clotting.
- Platelets help to repair tissues and **close wounds** both internally and externally.
- When needed, they grow into irregular shapes and stick together to form a **plug** over the wound.



Plasma

The blood cells and platelets are suspended in a substance called **plasma**. Plasma is made up of:

- 90% water
- inorganic salts
- glucose
- antibodies
- urea and other waste products
- plasma proteins.



Plasma can be separated from the other components of blood using a centrifuge.

