Rheology of blood circulation

1. Basic physical laws of liquids

Law of Pascal

Liquid column causes a pressure (hydrostatic pressure) that is directly proportional to the height of the liquid column (h), density of the liquid (and gravitational acceleration (g).



Effect of gravity on arterial and venous pressure

$\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Per each 10 cm} \\ \Delta p = \Delta h. \rho_{krve}. g = 0, 1 \ . \ 1 \ 065 \ . \ 9, 81 \\ = 1 \ 045 Pa \ = \ \ 7.8 \ mm \ Hg \end{array}$





Law of Laplace

Relation between distending pressure (P $[N/m^2]$) and tension in the wall of hollow object (T [N/m]):

$$\mathbf{T} = \frac{\mathsf{P}}{\left(\frac{1}{\mathsf{R}_1} + \frac{1}{\mathsf{R}_2}\right)}$$

R₁ and **R₂** are the biggest and the smallest radii of curvature

For vessel:

$$R_2 = T = P \cdot R$$

For sphere:

$$R_1 = R_2 \qquad T = P \cdot R/2$$



Considering thickness of vessel wall (h [m]): T=P•R/h [N/m²]



Characteristics of vessels

	Р	R R	P.R	h	P.R/h
vessel	P [kPa]	radius	tension (N/m)	wall thickness	tension (N/m²)
aorta	13,3	13 mm nebo méně	170	2 mm	85000
arteries	12	5 mm	60	1 mm	60000
arterioles	8	150–62 μm	1,2-0,5	20 µm	40000
capillaries	4	4 µm	$1, 6.10^{-2}$	1 µm	16000
venules	2,6	10 µm	$2, 6.10^{-2}$	2 µm	13000
veins	2	200 μm a více	0,4	0,5 mm	800
vena cava	1,33	16 mm	21	1,5 mm	14000

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Continuity equation

The volume of fluid flowing through a tube (vessel) per unit of time (Q [l/s]) is constant.



v – velocity S – area

Average blood velocity in vessels

$$v = \frac{Q}{S}$$

Q_{rest}≈ 5.6 l/min

V₁

 S_1

V₂

 S_2



Relation between total cross-sectional area of vessels and mean blood flow velocity







The flow of liquid in the cylindrical tube (Q) is directly proportional to the pressure difference between two ends of the tube $(\Delta P = P_A - P_B)$, to the fourth power of the tube radius (r) and inversely proportional to tube length (*I*) and to the viscosity of liquid (η)

Limitation:

For stationary flow in Newtonian fluids where viscosity is constant and independent on flow velocity.

$$\mathbf{Q} = \frac{\pi \cdot \Delta \mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{r}^4}{\mathbf{8} \cdot \mathbf{I} \cdot \eta} \qquad \mathbf{Q} = \frac{\Delta \mathbf{P}}{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{v}}}$$

Vascular resistance (R_v) : a consequence of the friction between fluid and vessel wall.

$$R_{v} = -\frac{\Delta P}{Q} = \frac{8 \cdot I \cdot \eta}{\pi \cdot r^{4}}$$

Parallel arrangement of vessels



Series arrangement of vessels

$$\mathbf{R}_1$$
 \mathbf{R}_2 \mathbf{R}_3

 $R_c = R_1 + R_2 + \dots$

pro $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = R_n$ $R_c = R \cdot n$

Relation between vessel radius and peripheral resistance



Total peripheral resistance (TPR) of vascular system



2. Rheological features of blood and vessels



Other factors causing increase of viscosity:

decrease of blood flow velocity

elevation of plasma proteins

Laminar and turbulent flow

Velocity profile in laminar and turbulent flow



The character of the flow is determined by Reynolds number

laminar flow Re<2000

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{e}} = \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{\rho} \cdot \mathbf{r}}{\eta}$$

turbulent flow Re>3000



Pathological states causing turbulent flow: aneurisma, stenosis, arteriosclerosis, decreased blood viscosity, .

Velocity profile of the blood flow in vessels



- In small arteries (at $r < 100 \mu m$), the central movement of erytrocytes causes a piston-like profile of the blood flow.
- In bigger arteries (at $r > 500 \mu m$), the laminar flow prevails and the velocity profile of the blood flow has a parabolic shape.
- In big arteries (especially in aorta), a higher cardiac output causes a turbulent flow ($R_e > 3000$) and the parabolic profile of the blood flow changes to the piston one.

Elasticity of vessels









Pulse wave velocity (PWV)



Moens-Korteweg (1878)

PWV =
$$\sqrt{\frac{E_{inc} \cdot h}{2 \cdot r \cdot \rho}}$$

In aorta PWV = 4 - 6 m/s

Share stress in vessel wall



• Share stress in vessel wall may lead to a tear in endothelial layer and to arterial dissection.

Mechanisms of venous return





3. Blood circulation and pressure

Blood circulation



Blood pressure

Blood pressure (BP) is the pressure exerted by circulating blood upon the walls of blood vessels.



Dependence of blood pressure on cardiac output and vascular parameters





Model of blood pressure changes in aorta

