

Blood Vessels

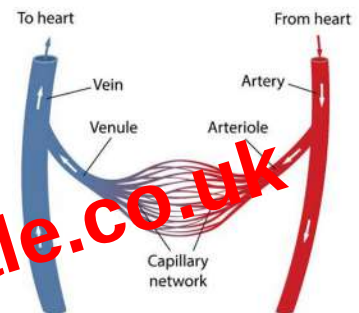
The body contains 5-6 litres of blood that pass through the blood vessels. There are three types of blood vessels.

1. Arteries
2. Capillaries
3. Veins

Arteries:

Arteries transport oxygenated blood away from the heart. This excludes the pulmonary artery. Arteries branch and become smaller and smaller until they reach the arterioles. They carry blood away at high pressure and act as a reservoir that moves blood during diastole.

Blood circulation system



Capillaries:

Arterioles become smaller and smaller until they become a network of capillaries. Capillaries is where the exchange of substances occurs (gases, nutrients and waste product). The lumen of the capillaries are very small meaning that red blood corpuscles are forced to travel in a single file.

Veins:

Veins transport deoxygenated blood to the heart. This excludes the pulmonary vein. Capillaries branch out into venules which come together to form veins that transport deoxygenated blood to the heart. The blood pressure is very low.

