



Functions and Organization of the Respiratory System



Red: very important.

Green: Doctor's notes.

Pink: formulas.

Yellow: numbers.

Gray: notes and explanation.

Physiology Team 436 – Respiratory Block Lecture 1

Lecture: If work is intended for initial studying.

Review: If work is intended for revision.

Objectives

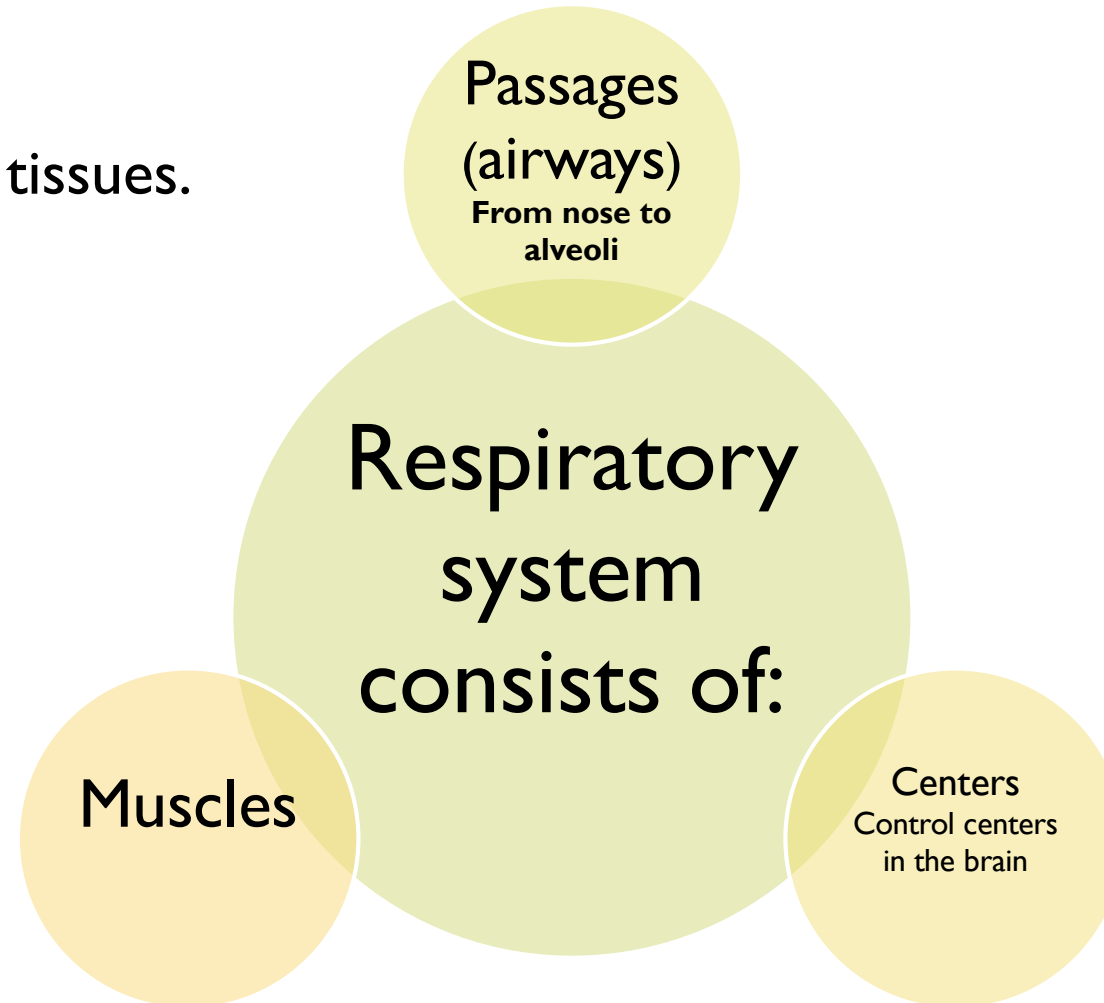
(Here is a [video](#) with a great overview of this block's lectures.)

- Describe the structures and functions of the conductive and respiratory zones of airways.
- Distinguish the difference between Internal and external respiration.
- Discuss the functions of the respiratory system, including non-respiratory functions, like clearance mechanism by mucus and cilia, production of surfactant and its physiological significance.

The Main Goal of Respiration

Is to:

- 1- Provide **oxygen** to tissues.
- 2- Remove **CO₂** .



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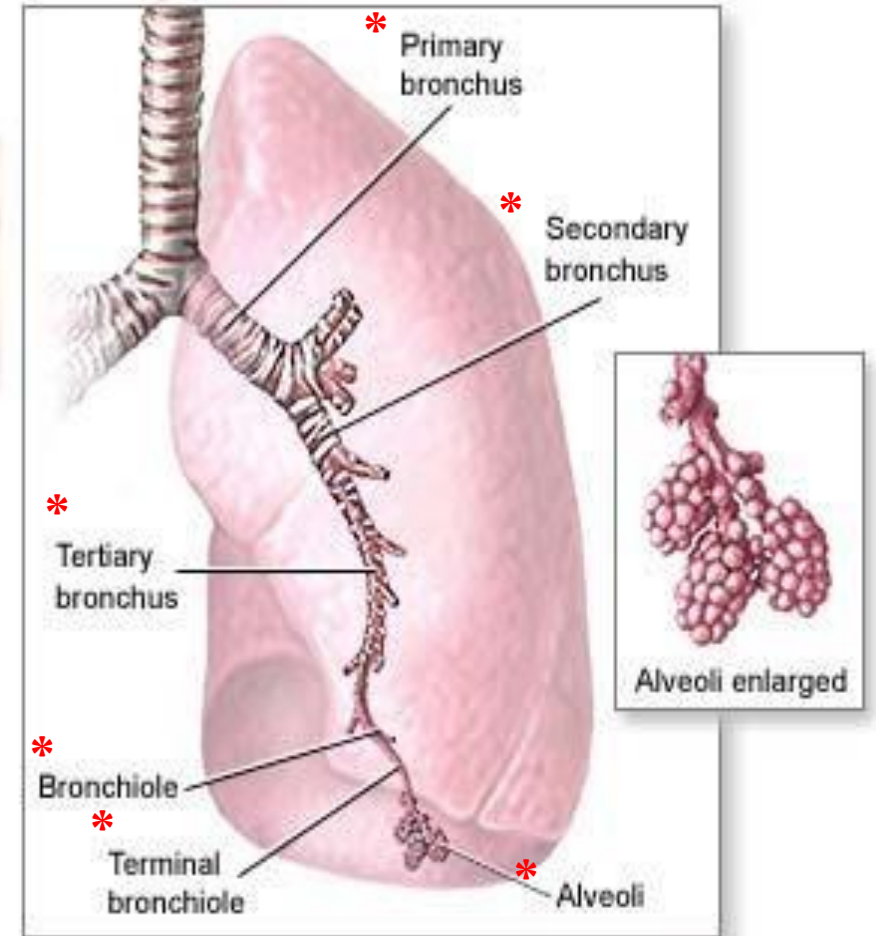
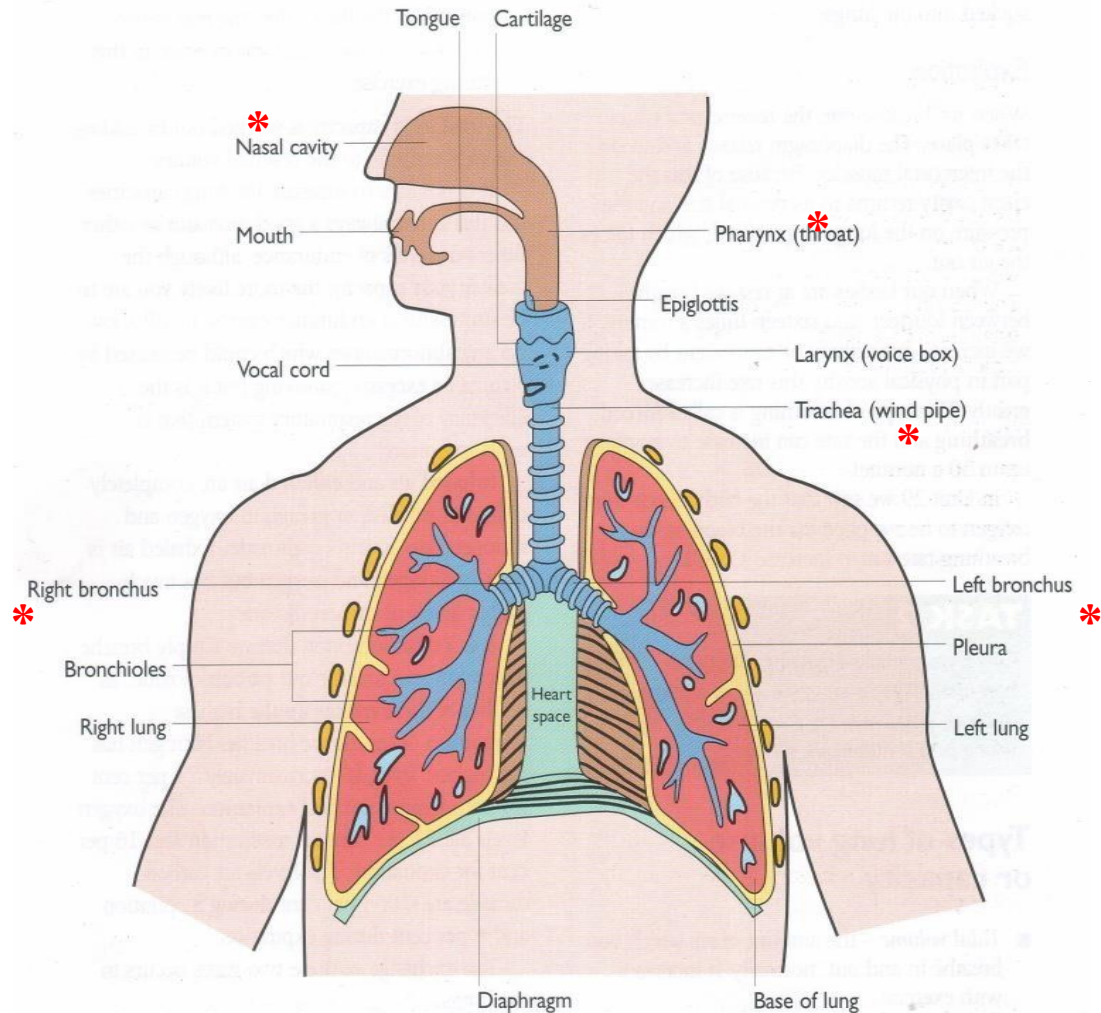


Other Functions of the Respiratory System

1. Gas exchange (**respiratory function**).
2. Phonation: the production of sounds by the movement of air through the vocal cords.
3. Pulmonary defense (**protective functions**):
 - Immunoglobulin A (Ig A).
 - Alpha-1 antitrypsin (protects the respiratory system from being ingested by trypsin).
 - The pulmonary macrophage in the alveoli: engulf smaller particles which pass through the muco- ciliary barrier filter.
4. Angiotensin* I is converted to angiotensin II with the help of **angiotensin converting enzyme** formed by the lungs.
5. Regulating the acid- base status of the body by washing out extra carbon dioxide from the blood (via hyperventilation).
6. Secretion of important substances like **surfactant**.

*Angiotensin protein is very important in blood pressure regulation (it tends to raise blood pressure) it also promotes the secretion of aldosterone (a corticosteroid hormone which stimulates reabsorption of sodium by the kidneys and therefore regulates water and salt balance). Angiotensin breaks up into angiotensin I (inactive) then it is converted into angiotensin II (active) **by ACE**.

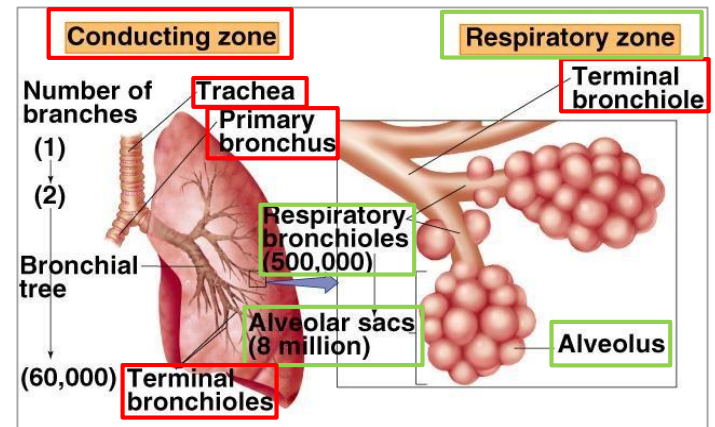
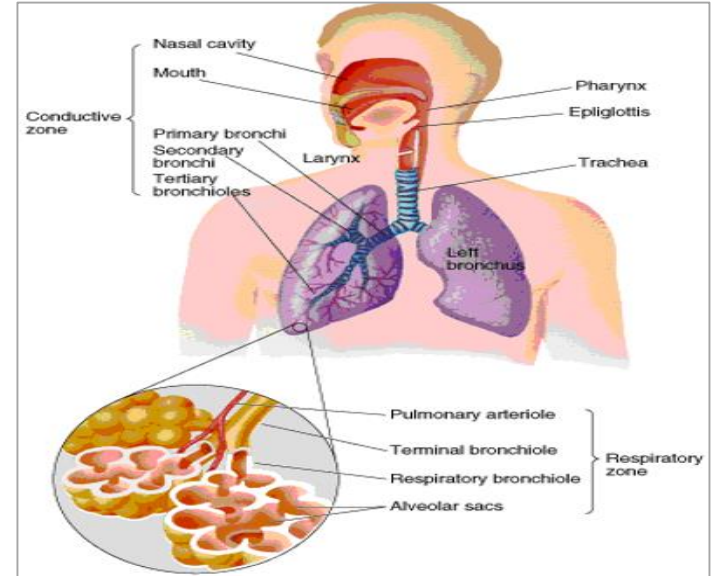
Respiratory Passages (Airways)



Respiratory Passages (Airways)

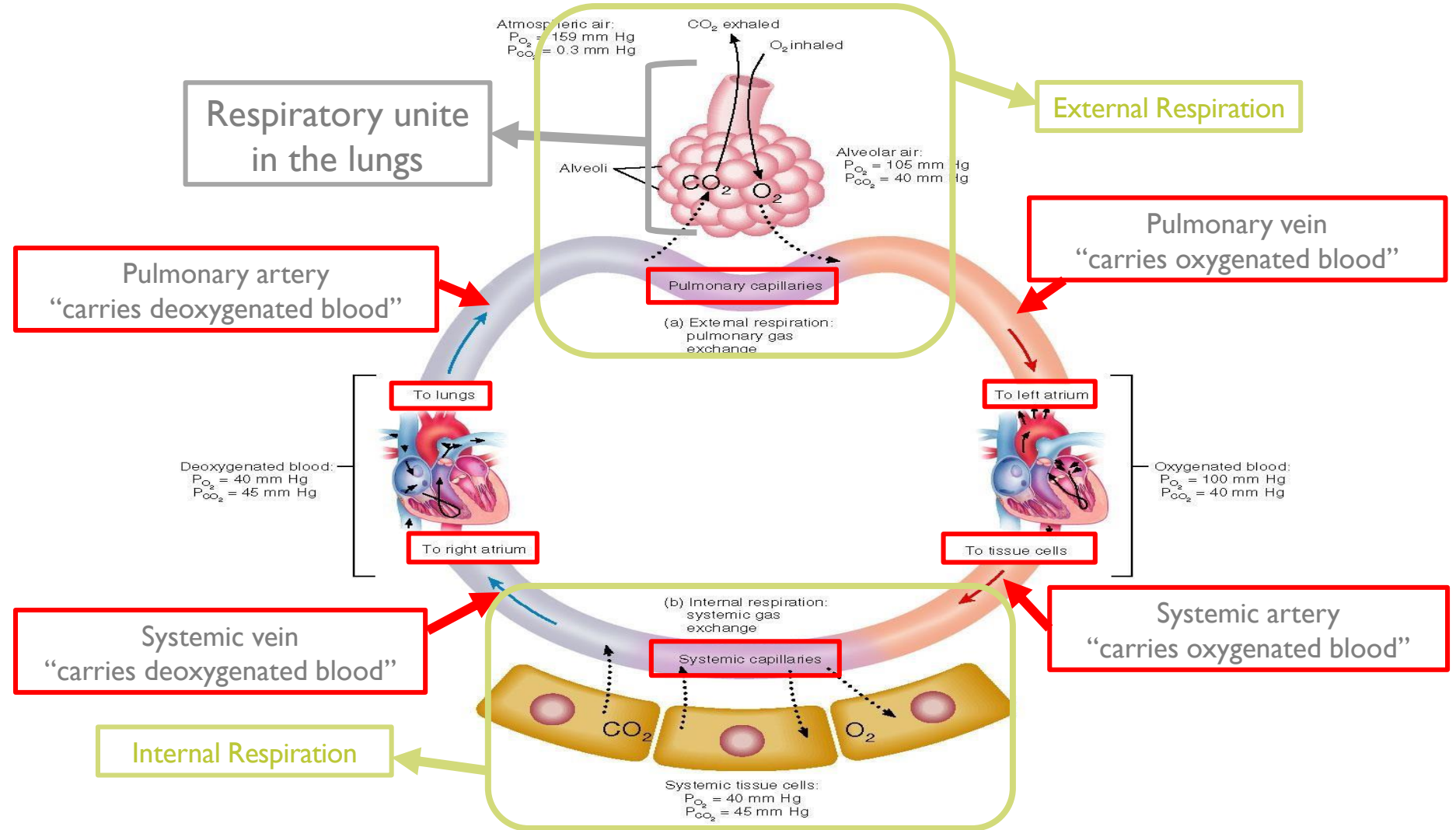
Respiratory passages (airways) can be divided into:

	Conductive Zone توصيل	Respiratory Zone (Respiratory unit)
Functions of each zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help warming, humidification, filtration of inspired air. ○ Contains the olfactory receptors for smell sensation. ○ Conducts the sound during speech (phonation). ○ Protective function by cough and sneezing reflexes (removal of foreign bodies). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gas exchange (main function of the respiratory system)
Structures in each zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Starts from nose to the end of terminal bronchioles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respiratory bronchioles ○ Alveolar ducts ○ Alveolar sacs ○ Alveoli ○ Atrium

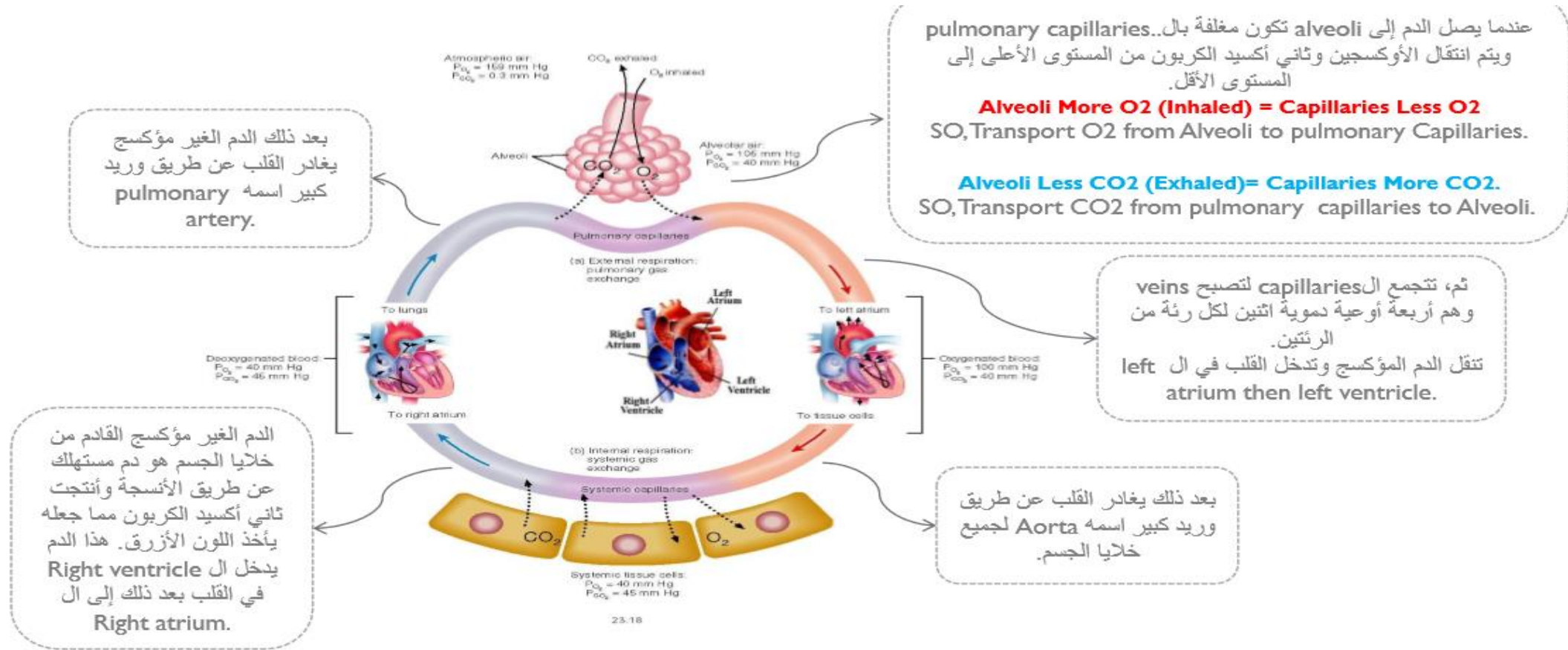


External & Internal Respiration

- External respiration is gas exchange at the lung level.
- Internal respiration is gas exchange at the tissue level.
- Vessels which go to the heart (veins)
- Vessels which travel from the heart (arteries)
- Arteries always come out of ventricles.
- The aorta travels from the left side of the heart carrying oxygenated blood to the body.



External & Internal Respiration (Extra notes from team 435)



** The systemic arteries are: **Oxygenated blood**, and the systemic veins are **deoxygenated blood**.

** The pulmonary arteries are: **deoxygenated blood**, and the pulmonary veins are: **Oxygenated blood**.

External & Internal Respiration

3 major functional events occur during respiration

1. Pulmonary ventilation (external respiration)

(التهوية او الشهيق والزفير)

Inward and outward movement of air between lung and atmosphere.

2. Diffusion (internal respiration)

(gas exchange)

Diffusion of oxygen and CO₂ between the alveoli (through alveolar walls) and the pulmonary capillary blood.

3. Transport (internal respiration)

Transport of O₂ & Co₂ in the blood and body fluids to and from the cells.

4. Regulation of Ventilation*

Regulate the air concentration, and it depends on the number of surfactant available

Respiration could be either:

- **Resting:** normal breathing during resting conditions.
- **Forced:** (*maximal*): during exercise, in patients with asthma, allergy, or any other pulmonary problems.

*In some references (such as Guyton); regulation and ventilation is considered to be the 4th function of the respiratory system.

Lining Cells of The Alveoli

Type I Alveolar Cells

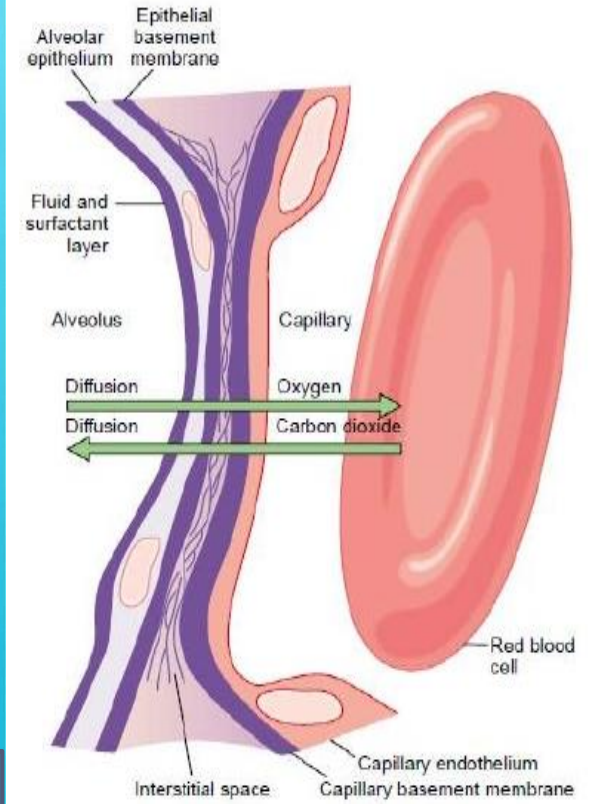
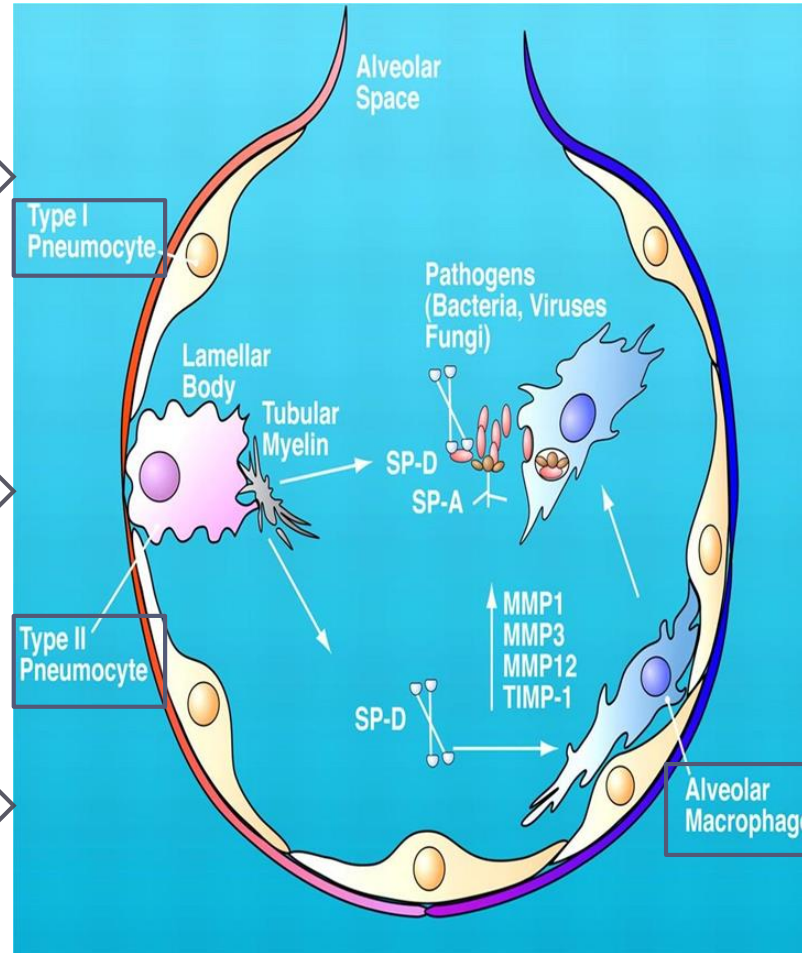
- Also called Type I pneumocyte.
- Participates in the respiratory (pulmonary) membrane.
- High percentage of surface area.
- Surrounded by capillaries and participates in gas exchange.

Type II Alveolar Cells

- Also called Type II pneumocyte.
- Secretes surfactant.

Alveolar Macrophages

- Engulfs the foreign bodies that reach the alveoli.



Extra picture:
for understanding the respiratory membrane.

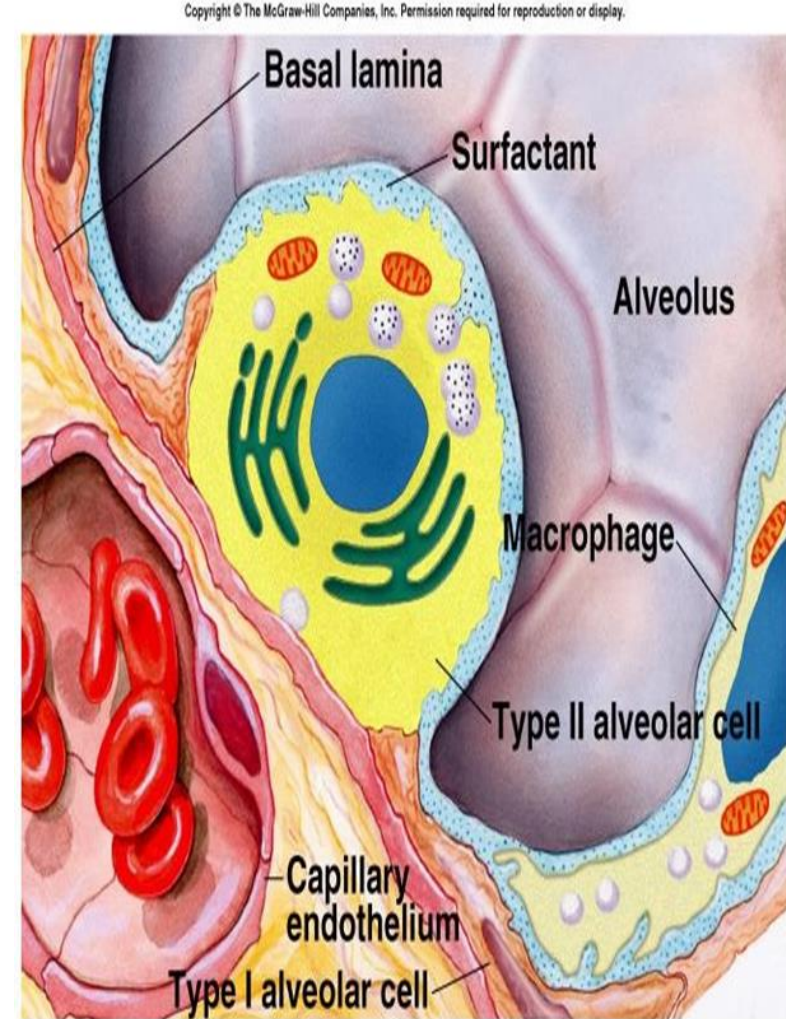
Respiratory membrane = the layers crossed by gas, type I pneumocytes, and basement membrane of the cells and the capillaries, and endothelial cells lining the capillary.

Surface Tension التوتر السطحي

- ▶ H_2O molecules at the surface are attracted to each other by attractive forces that resist distension called **surface tension**.
- ▶ It is the attractive force between adjacent water droplets.
- ▶ Surface tension increases (water droplets stick to each other) in contact with air.
- ▶ Surface tension tends to oppose alveoli expansion.
- ▶ Increased surface tension (water molecules are together) will constrict the alveoli.
- ▶ In respiratory functions we decrease the surface tension of water molecules to be able to inflate the alveoli rather than collapsing them.
- ▶ Pulmonary surfactant reduces surface tension.

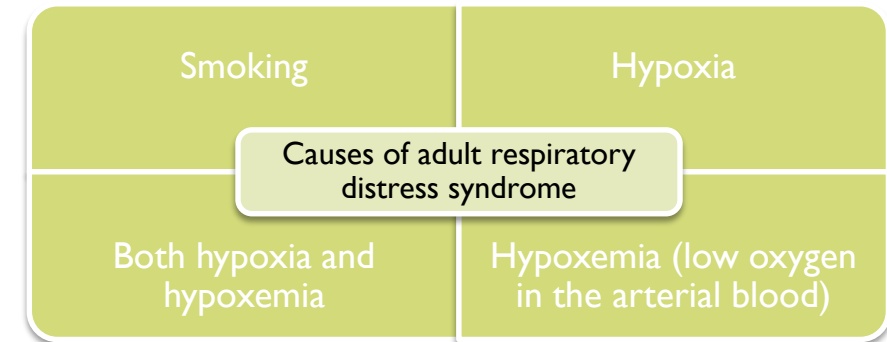


التوتر السطحي يسبب انكماش وتضييق الالفبولاي
ودور السيرفكتانت انه يمنع تكون التوتر السطحي
وبالتالي يساعد على سهولة زيادة حجم الالفبولاي ويصير
التنفس وتبادل الغازات اسهل



Surfactant

- ▶ Surfactant is a complex substance containing phospholipids and a number of apoproteins.
- ▶ It lines the alveoli from the inside, which separates the air found in the lumen of the alveoli from water droplets on cells.
- ▶ It is secreted by **Type II alveolar cells**. The earliest detection from fetal alveoli (of surfactant) begins between the (surfactant secretion starts at the) **6th-7th month (24th-28th week)** but this could be delayed in others to **week 35 of intrauterine life**.
- ▶ at week **35** surfactant is mature and begins to function.
- ▶ Babies born before week **35** can be considered premature (before full maturation of surfactant) have immature surfactant, so the baby is vulnerable to alveolar collapse (RDS).
- ▶ Full term pregnancy: **38 ±2 weeks**.
- ▶ Premature babies: born between weeks **28 – 35** (approximately/no exact number).
- ▶ Importance of surfactant is to reduces surface tension throughout the lung, prevents alveolar collapse, decreases airway resistance to inflation and decreases the **work*** of breathing and increases surface area for normal breathing.
- ▶ Allergies increase airway resistance.
- ▶ Work of breathing = the energy consumed during respiration.



More about this topic in next slide.

اي ممر للتنفس فالجسم لديه مقاومة بسيطة لمرور الهواء عبره، باعتبار ان الهواء جسم غريب والطبيعي تكون هناك مقاومة للجسام الغريبة. المقاومة تتم عن طريق الـ Smooth muscles وهذا شيء طبيعي لكن، لو زادت انقباضات العضلات بالتالي يصير عندي increase airways resistance وهذا مايجعل مادة الـ Surfactant نقل.

*How is surfactant related to the work of breathing? More surfactant -> less resistance -> air flows in easily -> with one breath a good amount of air flows in (e.g. 0.5 ml) -> less energy -> less work.

Less surfactant -> more resistance -> air **does not** flow in easily -> you need more breaths to be able to reach the amount of air taken in by one normal breath (e.g. 0.5 ml) -> therefore putting in more energy -> more work.

Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome:

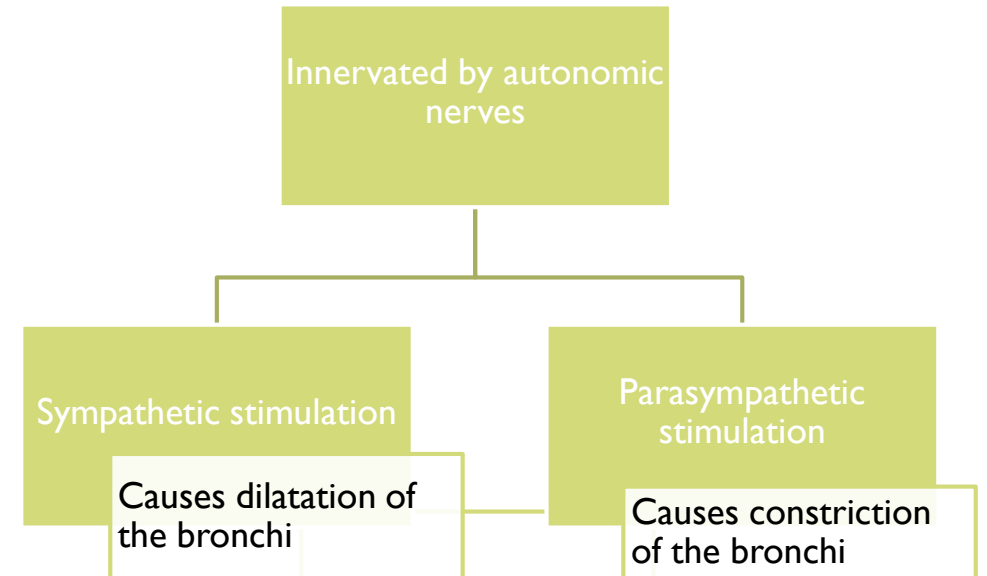
Also known as: Hyaline Membrane Disease.

Deficiency in premature babies causes respiratory distress syndrome of the new born (RDS) which is a hyaline membrane disease. Here the surfactant is lacking. In the developing fetus. Infants born before week 24 will *never* have surfactant. Without surfactant, small alveoli have increased surface tension and increased pressures, and will collapse (**atelectasis**). Collapsed alveoli are not ventilated and therefore, cannot participate in gas exchange.

Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome:

Smoking in adult, hypoxia or hypoxemia (low oxygen in the arterial blood) or both, decrease the secretion of surfactant and cause adult respiratory distress syndrome. All causes of adult respiratory distress syndrome decrease the secretion of surfactant, or destruct surfactant, which causes the syndrome.

Innervations of Lungs and Bronchi



- ▶ Locally secreted factors: Histamine, slow reacting substances of anaphylaxis (SRSA) by mast cells, due to allergy (as in patients with asthma) often cause bronchiolar constriction and increased airway resistance.
- ▶ They are substances produced locally by the mast cells in the lungs in response to irritation caused by entry of smoke or dust or any foreign antigens.
- ▶ SRSA like bradykinin. (Anaphylaxis = allergy)

Quiz

- ▶ <https://www.onlinequizcreator.com/functions-and-organization-of-the-respiratory-system/quiz-249077>
-

[Link to Editing File](#)

(Please be sure to check this file frequently for any edits or updates on all of our lectures.)

References:

- Girls' and boys' slides.
- Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology (Thirteenth Edition.)

Thank you!

اعمل لترسم بسمة، اعمل لتمسح دمة، اعمل و أنت تعلم أن الله لا يضيع أجر من أحسن عملا.

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