

Cardiovascular Physiology

Arterial Blood Pressure & Its Regulation

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Types of Blood Pressure

Depending on the nature of the blood vessels

Arterial Blood Pressure.

Venous Blood Pressure.

Capillary Blood Pressure.





Arterial Blood Pressure







Arterial Blood Pressure Lecture Objectives

Concept & definition of blood pressure.

Normal values of systolic & diastolic blood pressure.

Physiological variations in arterial blood pressure.

Pulse & Mean arterial pressures.

Factors affecting & determining blood pressure.

Relationships between blood pressure, Cardiac Output, & Total Peripheral Resistance.



Definition of Arterial Blood Pressure

It is the lateral pressure force exerted by the blood flow on the arterial wall against any unit area of the vessel wall.



The force of blood flow is created by the pumping force of the heart.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J97G6BeYW0I



- Arterial blood pressure (BP) is one of the most important vital signs.
- It is important to keep normal levels of blood pressure for proper blood flow to the body's organs & tissues.
- Measured in (mmHg), & sometimes in (cmH₂O). (1mmHg = 1.36 cmH₂O)



Arterial Blood Pressure

Systolic Blood Pressure

The maximum force exerted by the blood flow against any unit area of the vessel wall while the heart is maximally contracting (Systole).
= 120 mmHg.

Diastolic Blood Pressure

The minimum force exerted by the blood flow against any unit area of the vessel wall while the heart is maximally relaxing (Diastole).
= 80 mmHg.

Normal arterial blood pressure = 120 mmHg systolic/80 mmHg diastolic.

Guyton and Hall, pp 174



Normal Levels of Arterial Blood Pressure

In normal adult \approx 120/80 mmHg

- **Top number (Systolic Pressure):**
 - = Arterial Pressure recorded during maximum contraction of the heart.

Bottom number (Diastolic):

= Arterial Pressure recorded during maximum relaxation of the heart.

Both numbers are important to determine the state of the heart health.

Arteries are Pulsatile.

- **Normal Arterial Pressure range:**
 - 90 120 mmHg systolic.
 - 60 80 mmHg diastolic.

Greater numbers than the ideal range indicate that the heart is working too hard to pump blood to the rest of the body.

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Pressure Changes Throughout Systemic Circulation

- Blood flows down a pressure gradient.
- Pressure is highest at the heart (driving Pressure), & decreases over distance.
- Pressure decreases more than 90% from aorta to vena cava.
- Greatest drop in pressure occurs in arterioles which regulate blood flow through tissues.
- No large fluctuations of pressure in capillaries & veins.
- BP averages 120 mmHg in aorta & drops to 2 mmHg in Right Atrium.





Blood Pressure Changes



Blood pressure in different parts of the circulatory system. Guyton and Hall, pp 171.

Pulse and Mean Arterial Pressures





Arterial pressure is pulsatile, so a single value is used to represent the overall driving pressure. This is called the Mean Arterial Pressure.

Pulse and Mean Arterial Pressures



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Arterial Blood Pressure Guidelines



Adult BP range: 90 – 120 / 60 – 80 mmHg

Blood Pressure Chart

American Heart Association

Blood Pressure Categories under new guidelines

Blood Pressure Categories

SYSTOLIC mm Hg DIASTOLIC mm Hg BLOOD PRESSURE CATEGORY (upper number) (lower number) NORMAL LESS THAN 120 and LESS THAN 80 ELEVATED 120 - 129and LESS THAN 80 HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE 130 - 13980 - 89or (HYPERTENSION) STAGE 1 HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE 140 OR HIGHER 90 OR HIGHER or (HYPERTENSION) STAGE 2 HYPERTENSIVE CRISIS **HIGHER THAN 180** and/or **HIGHER THAN 120** (consult your doctor immediately) CAmerican Heart Association

heart.org/bplevels

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=what+is+blood+pressure&&view=detail&mid=A54D3D66D3 EF07C8A18AA54D3D66D3EF07C8A18A&&FORM=VRDGAR

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Stroke

Association.

American

Heart



KNOW YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE -AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

By AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NEWS



The newest guidelines for hypertension:

NORMAL BLOOD PRESSURE

*Recommendations: Healthy lifestyle choices and yearly checks.

ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE

*Recommendations: Healthy lifestyle changes, reassessed in 3-6 months.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE / STAGE 1

*Recommendations: 10-year heart disease and stroke risk assessment. If less than 10% risk, lifestyle changes, reassessed in 3-6 months. If higher, lifestyle changes and medication with monthly follow-ups until BP controlled.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE / STAGE 2

*Recommendations: Lifestyle changes and 2 different classes of medicine, with monthly follow-ups until BP is controlled.

*Individual recommendations need to come from your doctor. Source: American Heart Association's journal Hypertension Published Nov. 13, 2017

Physiological Factors Affecting Arterial Blood Pressur



- **Sex:** Male > Female ... (equal at menopause)
- Age: BP rises with age, elderly > children ... (due to atherosclerosis, diabetes, ...
- Body mass index: BP rises with body size.
- Emotions: BP ([↑]) due to neural & hormonal factors.
- **Exercise:** (↑) BP due to ↑ venous return.
- Hormones: Some hormones like adrenaline, noradrenaline & thyroid H ([↑]) BP.
- Gravity: BP is higher in lower limbs than upper limbs.
- Race: (? dietary factors, or stress)
- **Sleep:** BP (\downarrow) due to \downarrow venous return.
- **Pregnancy:** BP (\uparrow) due to \uparrow in metabolism.
- **Temperature:** BP (↓) with Heat due to vasodilatation, & (↑) with Cold due to vasoconstriction.



Physiological Factors Affecting Arterial Blood Pressure: Age



Guyton and Hall, pp 183 Changes in systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial pressures with age. The shaded areas show the approximate normal ranges.



Factors Determining Arterial Blood Pressure

- Cardiac output (Flow.)
- Peripheral Resistance.
- Blood volume.

Blood Pressure = Cardiac Output X Peripheral Resistance





CO = Stroke volume X Heart rate (SV) X (HR) Heart Rate (↑) Stroke Volume (↑) (↑) CO

(Increase) Blood Pressure (MAP)

(个) Blood Volume

Blood Volume depends on: Fluid intake & Fluid loss

Regulation of Stroke Volume

Stroke Volume = End-diastolic Volume – End-systolic Volume (EDV) (ESV)

- Stroke volume (SV) is regulated by 3 variables:
 - I: End diastolic Volume (EDV): Affected by the preload (venous return).
 - II: Contractility (Strength of contraction): Affected by Starling's law & sympathetic innervation.
 - III: Total peripheral resistance (afterload).

Factors Affecting End-diastolic Volume

End-diastolic pressure is affected by the pre-load (venous return), which is affected by:

- 1. Blood volume.
- 2. Pressure gradient.
- 3. Gravity.
- 4. Veno-constriction: caused by sympathetic nervous system.
- 5. Presence of valves in the large veins.
- 6. Skeletal muscles pump.
- 7. Respiratory activity (breathing).

Factors Affecting End- systolic Volume

End- systolic volume (ESV) is determined by:

I: Cardiac contractility:

SV

Intrinsically affected by: end diastolic volume (EDV) & Frank Starling's law of the heart.

Extrinsically affected by sympathetic stimulation, hormones and drugs.

 $\uparrow \uparrow \text{ contractility} \rightarrow \uparrow \uparrow \text{ SV} \rightarrow \downarrow \downarrow \text{ ESV}$ $\downarrow \downarrow \text{ contractility} \rightarrow \downarrow \downarrow \text{ SV} \rightarrow \uparrow \uparrow \text{ ESV}$

II: Total Peripheral Resistance (Afterload):

In response to all regulatory mechanisms,

↑↑ resistance (Vasoconstriction) → ↓↓ Flow → ↓↓ SV → ↑↑ ESV ↓↓ resistance (Vasodilatation) → ↑↑ Flow → ↑↑ SV → ↓↓ ESV

Regulation of the Heart Rate

HR is regulated by:

HR

Autonomic nervous system through <u>cardiac control</u> <u>centers</u> in medulla oblongata in the brain stem:

Cardiac-accelerator Center (Vasomotor center) ... Sympathetic nerve fibers.

Cardiac-inhibitory Center ... Parasympathetic nerve fibers.

Hormones/Drugs.



Regulation of Cardiac Output

Afterload (Mean arterial blood pressure)

Cardiac Output = Stroke Volume X Heart Rate



Starling's law of the heart – the more the cardiac muscle is stretched, the stronger the contraction



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The Heart Rate

- Normal heart rate (HR) = 60-100 beats/min
- □ > 100 beats/min → Tachycardia
- \Box < 60 beats/min \rightarrow Bradycardia

Autonomic nervous system:

- Sympathetic nerves, increase HR.
- Parasympathetic nerves (vagus nerve), slow HR.

Hormones or Drugs:

- Epinephrine & thyroxine, increase HR.
- Decrease blood calcium, decreases HR.



Blood Flow: Affecting factors

- Blood flow is the amount of blood moving through a vessel in a given time period.
- Generally is equal to the Cardiac output (CO).
- Affected by the pressure difference & the resistance:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \frac{\mathbf{\Delta}\mathbf{P}}{\mathbf{R}}$$

Directly proportional to the pressure difference.

Inversely proportional to the resistance.



Blood Flow and Pressure

Pressure difference is directly proportional to the Flow

• Blood flows down a pressure gradient.

Resulting pressure is called the driving pressure in vascular system

• Absolute value of pressure is not important to flow, but the difference in pressure (DP or gradient) is important to determining flow.





How does the flow differ in these two vessels?





Resistance (R) and Flow: Affecting Factors

Resistance = tendency of vascular system to oppose flow.

 $Flow = \frac{1}{R}$

Resistance is influenced by:

Length of the tube (L), radius of the tube (r), & viscosity of the blood (η)

In a normal human, length of the vascular system is fixed, so blood viscosity & radius of the blood vessels have the largest effects on the resistance.

Poiseuille's Law

 $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{8}\eta \mathbf{L}/\pi r^4$



Effect of Radius (r) on flow & Pressure

Directly proportional to flow.

Vascular tone - effects

- · Increased tone in a segment of blood vessel
- · e.g. increased arteriolar tone
- → decreased radius of arteriole
- → greatly increased resistance to blood flow
- → greatly decreased blood flow across the arteriole
- → the effects on blood volume
 - Increased upstream (in the artery)
 - Decreased downstream(in the capillaries)



Inversely proportional to pressure.





Factors Affecting Vessel Diameter: Radius (r)

Vasodilator agents:

- CO2 & other metabolites.
- Nitric oxide.
- Histamine.
- Atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP).
- Prostacyclin; PGI₂.

Vasoconstrictor agents:

- Oxygen (O2).
- Norepinephrine.
- Angiotensin II.
- Vasopressin.
- Endothelin-1.
- Thromboxane A₂.
- Cold.





Effect of Viscosity (η) on flow

- Blood viscosity is the thickness & stickiness of the blood.
- It is an important factor that determines the resistance of blood to flow.
- Human blood is five times more viscous than distilled water.
- Viscosity of the whole blood is mainly due to cells, & that of plasma is due to plasma proteins.
- Viscosity is inversely proportional to the flow.





Effect of Length (L) on Flow



Q = 10 ml/sec



Length is inversely proportional to the flow.

N.B. In a normal human, length of the vascular system is fixed.³⁴



Flow and Poiseuille's Law

- Fluid Flow (Q) through Cylindrical Tubes.
- Flow decreases (↓) when resistance increases.
- Flow resistance decreases (\downarrow) when vessel diameter increases. Q = <u>AP</u>



Vascular system possesses different mechanisms for promoting continuous flow of blood to the capillaries:






Total Peripheral Resistance (TPR): Affecting Factors

 $\mathbf{R} = \Delta \mathbf{P}$

Systemic Circulation

Pulmonary Circulation

TPR = <u>Aortic Pressure - RAP</u> Flow

TPR = <u>120 - 2 mmHg</u> 83.3 ml/sec (5 L/min)

TPR = 1.2 (PRU's)

PulR = Pulmonary Pressure - LAP Flow

PulR = <u>15 - 3 mmHg</u> 83.3 ml/sec (5 L/min)

PulR = 0.12 (PRU's)

TPR= Total Peripheral Resistance; Pul R= Pulmonary Resistance; RAP= Right Atrial Pressure; LAP= Left Atrial Pressure; PRU= Peripheral Resistance Units.



Resistance to Flow in the Cardiovascular System





R= Resistance; R_{Total}= Total Resistance.

Cross-Sectional Area



King Saud University As diameter of vessels ↓, the total crosssectional area ↑ & velocity of blood flow ↓

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Total crosssectional area

Velocity of blood flow (mL/s)



Velocity: Affecting Factors



V= Velocity; Q= Flow; A= Cross Sectional Area.



Compliance of Blood Vessels: Affecting Factors

Compliance = Distensibility.

Compliance is the volume of blood that the vessel can hold at a given pressure.

$C = \frac{V}{P}$

Venous system has a large compliance & acts as a blood reservoir (high volume & low pressure). • Venous system has the highest compliance, while the arterial system has a low compliance.



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Summary: Physiological Factors Affecting Arterial Blood Pressure







Regulation of the Arterial Blood Pressure







Lecture Outcomes

Recognize short, intermediate & long- term regulatory mechanisms of ABP.

Recognize different neural & hormonal mechanisms that regulates ABP.

Baroreceptors regulatory mechanism of ABP.

Chemoreceptors regulatory mechanism of ABP.

Role of Kidney in long- term regulation of ABP.



Regulation of Arterial Blood Pressure

- Maintaining BP is important to ensure a steady blood flow (perfusion) to the tissues.
- Inability to regulate blood pressure can contribute to diseases.

In order to regulate the blood pressure, determining factors should be regulated:

- Cardiac Output.
- **Peripheral Resistance.**
- **Blood Volume.**



Mechanisms Regulating Mean Arterial Pressure





Neurally-Mediated Regulation of ABP

Fast Response (Short- Term)



Concerned in regulating Cardiac Output & Peripheral Resistance



Rapidly Acting Control Mechanisms

- Acts within sec/min.
- Concerned in regulating CO & PR.
- Reflex mechanisms that act through autonomic nervous system:
 - **Centers in Medulla Oblongata:**
 - Vasomotor Center (VMC)
 ... Sympathetic nervous system.
 - Cardiac Inhibitory Center (CIC)
 ... Parasympathetic nervous system.





Short Term ABP Regulatory Reflex Mechanisms

Baroreceptors reflex.

Chemoreceptors reflex.

Atrial stretch receptor reflex.

Thermo-receptors.

Pulmonary receptors.



Baroreceptor Reflex

Mechano-stretch receptors.

Located in the wall of carotid sinus & aortic arch.

Fast & neurally mediated

Provide powerful moment-to-moment control of arterial blood pressure

Stimulated in response to blood pressure changes



The baroreceptor system for controlling arterial pressure.



Baroreceptor Reflex









Baroreceptor Reflex Mechanism During Changes in Body Posture

- Immediately on standing, arterial pressure in the head & upper part of the body tends to fall ... ? cause loss of consciousness.
- Falling pressure at the baroreceptors elicits an immediate reflex, resulting in strong sympathetic discharge throughout the body.
- This minimizes the decrease in pressure in the head & upper body.



Chemoreceptor Reflex

Closely associated with the baroreceptor pressure control system.

Chemoreceptor reflex operates in much same way as the baroreceptor reflex, EXCEPT that chemoreceptors are *chemo-sensitive cells* instead of stretch receptors.



Chemoreceptor Reflex

- Chemoreceptors have high blood flow (1200 ml/min/g tissue), which make it easy for these cells to detect changes in O₂, CO₂, & H⁺.
- Reduced blood flow (due to reduced MAP) stimulates the chemoreceptors through oxygen lack, increased hydrogen ions or carbon dioxide.
- Chemoreceptors are stimulated when the MAP is lower than 60 mmHg.
- Their response is excitatory, NOT inhibitory; mainly through activation of sympathetic nervous system.



Chemoreceptor Reflexes: Two Types

Peripheral chemoreceptors:

Periphearl

- Sensory receptors located in carotid & aortic bodies.
- Sensitive to O_2 lack (\downarrow) , CO_2 $(\uparrow \text{ or } \downarrow)$, & pH $(\downarrow \text{ or } \uparrow)$
- Chemoreceptors' stimulation excite nerve fibers, along with baroreceptor fibers.

Central Chemoreceptors:

Sensory receptors located in the medulla itself.

Central

Very sensitive to CO₂ excess (↑) & (↓) pH in medulla.



Peripheral Chemoreceptor Reflex





Peripheral Chemoreceptor Reflexes



CNS Ischemic Response: "Last ditch stand" pressure control mechanism

- It is not one of the normal regulatory mechanisms of ABP. It operates principally as an emergency pressure control system to prevent further decrease in arterial pressure
- It's one of the most powerful activators of the sympathetic vasomotor (vasoconstrictor system) nervous control areas in medulla oblongata.
- It acts rapidly and very powerfully.
- It acts whenever blood flow to the brain ↓ dangerously close to the lethal level (MAP < 20mmHg with high accumulation of local CO₂ & lactic acid), in order to prevent further decrease in arterial pressure (MAP).



Other Vasomotor Reflexes

1. Atrial stretch receptor reflex:

 Receptors in large veins close to heart, walls of the atria (response of blood volume).

↑ Venous Return (increase blood volume) \Rightarrow ++ stretch atria & activate atrial stretch receptors \Rightarrow sensory afferent nerves to medulla \Rightarrow inhibiting the cardiovascular center \Rightarrow reflex decrease in blood volume & \downarrow ABP through:

(a) \downarrow sympathetic drive to kidney:

- \rightarrow dilate afferent arterioles \rightarrow \uparrow glomerular capillary hydrostatic pressure \rightarrow \uparrow GFR \rightarrow \downarrow blood volume (towards normal).
- - ↓ renin secretion (Renin is an enzyme which activates angiotensinogen in blood). Inhibition of renin secretion → inhibit RAAS → inhibit aldosterone production → ↓ Blood volume (towards normal)
- (b) \downarrow ADH secretion $\rightarrow \downarrow$ blood volume (towards normal).
- (c) Atrial Natriuretic Peptide (ANP) causes loss of blood volume.



Other Vasomotor Reflexes

2. Thermo-receptors: (in skin / hypothalamus)

- $\Box \quad Exposure to heat \Rightarrow vasodilatation.$
- $\Box \quad Exposure to cold \Rightarrow vasoconstriction.$

3. Pulmonary receptors:

Lung inflation \Rightarrow vasoconstriction.



Hormonally- Mediated Regulation of ABP

Slow Response (Long- Term)

Concerned in regulating blood volume



Long- Term Regulation of ABP

- Hormonally mediated.
- Takes few hours to begin showing significant response.
- Mainly renal: Acts if BP is too low
 - 1. Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System.
 - 2. Vasopressin [Anti-diuretic hormone (ADH)] Mechanism.
- **Others:**
 - **3.** Atrial Natriuretic Peptide Mechanism (Low-pressure volume receptors.)
 - 4. Erythropoietin (EPO).



1. Renin – Angiotensin Aldosterone System





2. Anti-diuretic hormone (ADH), or vasopressin:

- Hypovolemia & dehydration stimulates Hypothalamic Osmoreceptors.
- ADH will be released from posterior pituitary gland:
 - Promotes water reabsorption at kidney tubules ... blood volume.
 - Causes vasoconstriction, in order to 个 ABP.
- Thirst stimulation.
- Usually, when secreted aldosterone is secreted.



3. Low-pressure volume receptors:

Atrial Natriuretic Peptide (ANP) hormone:

- Hormone released from cardiac muscle cells (wall of right atrium) as a response to an increase in ABP in order to decrease the blood volume.
- Simulates an ↑ in urinary production, causing a ↓ in blood volume & blood pressure.



4. Erythropoietin (EPO)

- Secreted by the kidneys when blood volume is too low.
- Leads to RBCs formation $\rightarrow \uparrow$ blood volume.



Intermediate Mechanisms Regulating ABP



Intermediate Mechanisms: Activated within 30 min to several hrs.

- 1. Renin-angiotensin vasoconstriction mechanism.
- 2. ADH vasoconstriction mechanism.
- 3. Fluid-Shift mechanism.
- 4. Stress-relaxation of the vasculature.
- During this time, the nervous mechanisms usually become less & less effective.



1. Angiotensin Vasoconstriction System


2. ADH Vasoconstriction System



3. Fluid Shift Mechanism

- Movement of fluid from interstitial spaces into capillaries in response to volume.
- Conversely, when capillary pressure 1 too high, fluid is lost out of circulation into the tissues, reducing blood volume as well as all pressures throughout circulation.





4. Stress-Relaxation Mechanism

- Adjustment of blood vessel smooth muscle to respond to changes in blood volume.
- When pressure in blood vessels becomes too high, they become stretched & keep on stretching more & more for minutes or hours; resulting in fall of pressure in the vessels toward normal.
- This continuing stretch of the vessels can serve as an intermediate-term pressure "buffer."



control mechanisms at different time intervals after onset of a disturbance to the arterial pressure.



