

Lymphatic System

I. Fluid Balance

A. Fluid diffuses out of blood with nutrients, some diffuses back in with waste, the rest gets back into the blood through lymph vessels.

B. Lymphatic capillaries carry it to Lymph vessels to the blood.

1. one-way valves prevent back flow

C. Lymph Nodes contain lymphocytes and macrophages for protection

1. immune system may be activated

2. clustered in armpit, groin, neck

D. Vessels empty into veins in upper chest through right lymphatic duct (drains right arm and right head) and thoracic duct (drains rest).

II. Fat Absorption – from small intestines

III. Defense – filter out microorganisms

IV. Thymus

A. bi-lobed, triangle shaped behind the sternum

B. Production of Lymphocytes.

V. Spleen

A. clenched fist size, left superior corner of the abdominal cavity

B. filters blood and removes damaged blood cells and bacteria.

C. Blood reservoir

VI. Tonsils – immunity protection