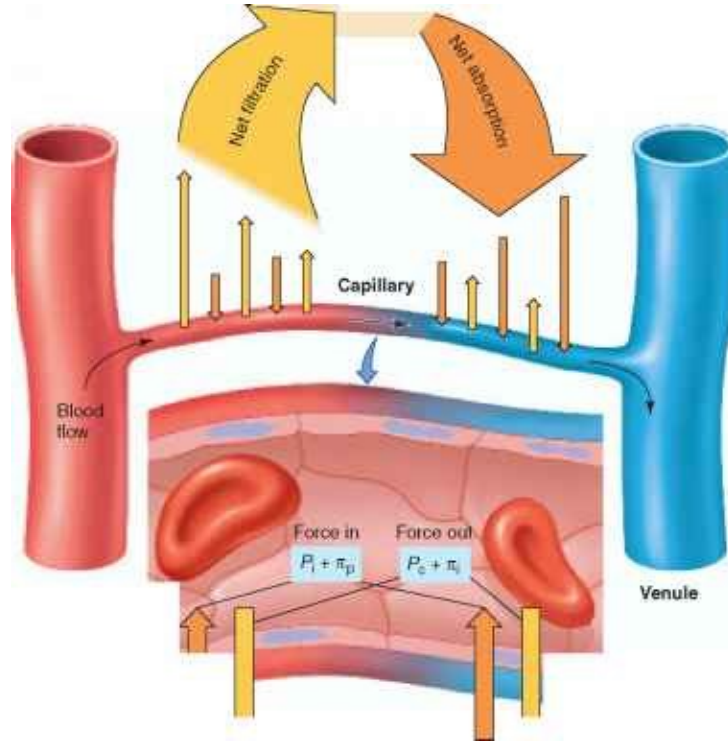


Learn to Teach:

Know more, teach better

ROD HACKWITH, MS ED, NRP



Starling's Law of Trans capillary Exchange

$$Q_f = L_p \times A[(P_{cap} - P_{pl}) - \sigma_d(\pi_{cap} - \pi_{pl})]$$

Q_f = liquid movement

L_p = filtration coefficient /unit area of the membrane

A = surface area of the membrane

σ_d = solute reflection coefficient for protein
(membrane's ability to restrict passage of large molecules)

P = hydrostatic pressures

π = oncotic pressure

Learn to teach: Microcirculation and fluid exchange

Questions:

- “What causes edema, in the lungs, periphery or brain?”
- “What is the relationship between dehydration and DKA?”
- “What causes various fluid shifts, such as in burns?”

Objectives:

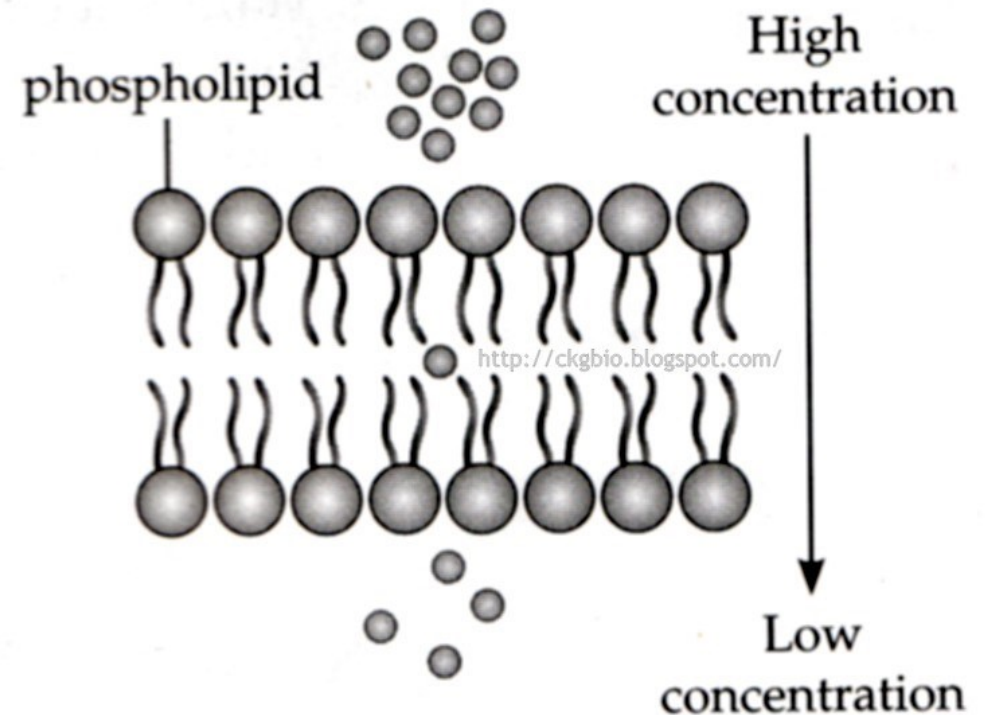
- To develop an understanding of how substances move across a capillary bed
- To apply physiological concepts to commonly encountered prehospital conditions

“What make’s things go back & forth”

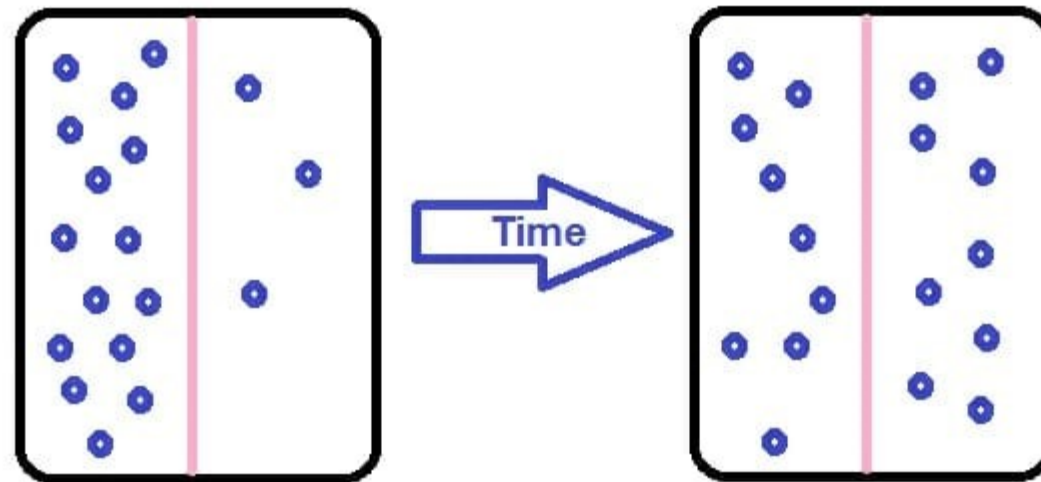
- Osmosis - water
- Diffusion – substances
- Concentration gradients – high to low
- “Starling’s Law of Transcapillary Exchange”

Movement through the capillary wall

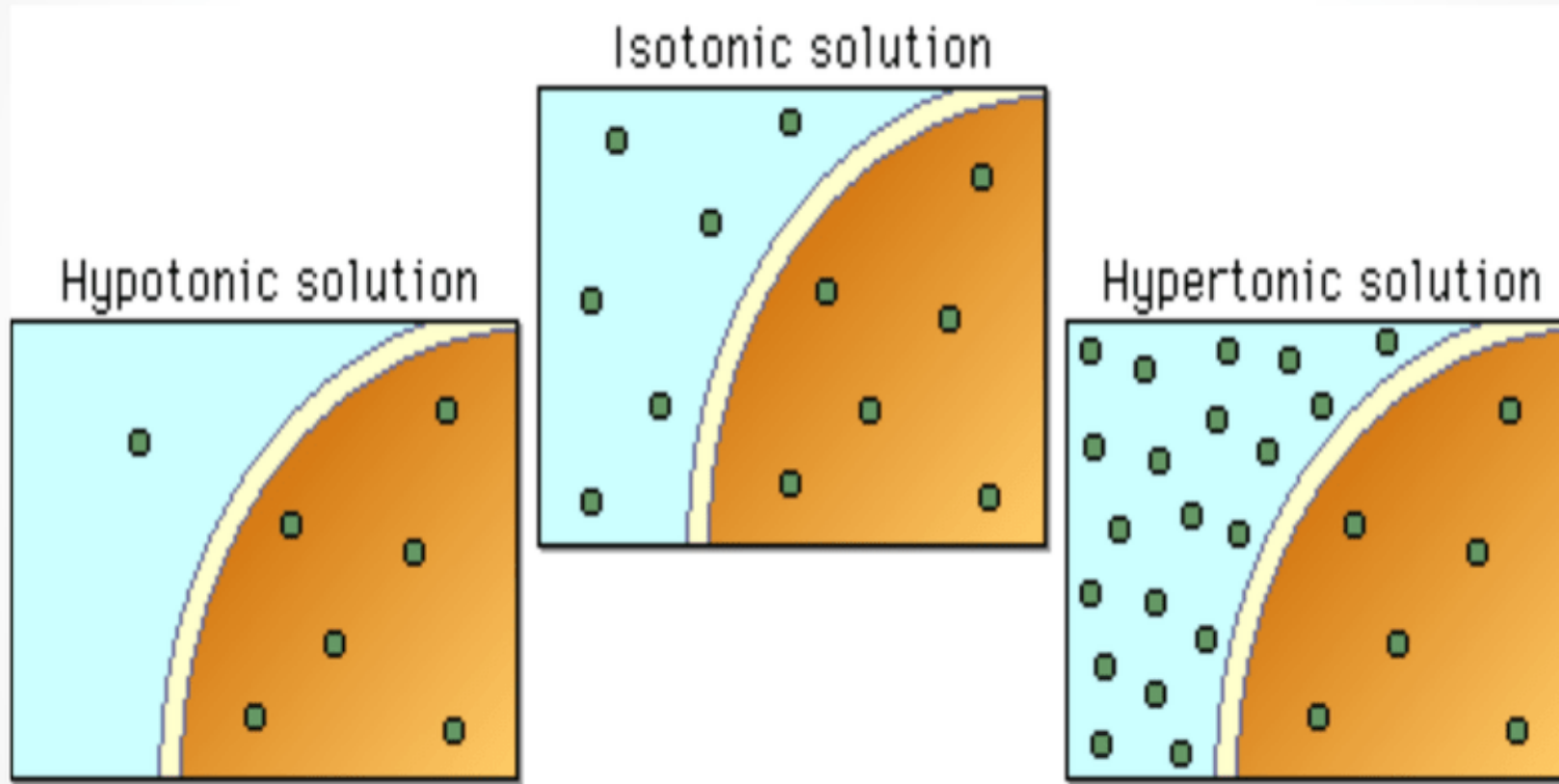
1. By diffusion for fat-soluble substances (O₂, CO₂, etc.)
2. Micro-pores for large or fat-insoluble substances (H₂O, glucose, Na⁺, proteins, etc.)



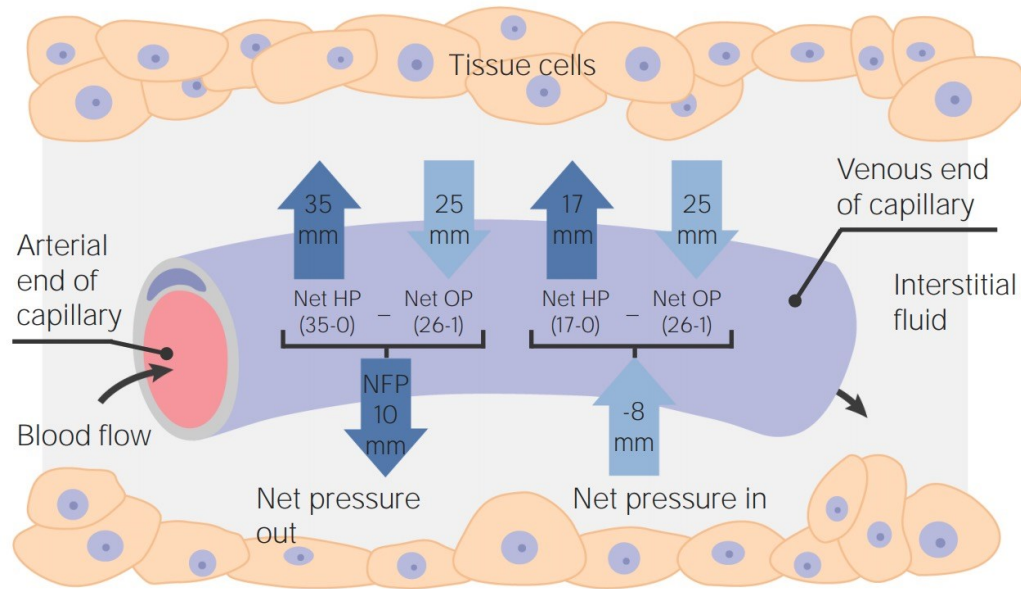
Diffusion



Hypertonic, Hypotonic and Isotonic



Starling's Law of Transcapillary Exchange



Starling's Law of Trans capillary Exchange

$$Q_f = L_p \times A [(P_{cap} - P_{pl}) - \sigma_d (\pi_{cap} - \pi_{pl})]$$

Q_f = liquid movement

L_p = filtration coefficient /unit area of the membrane

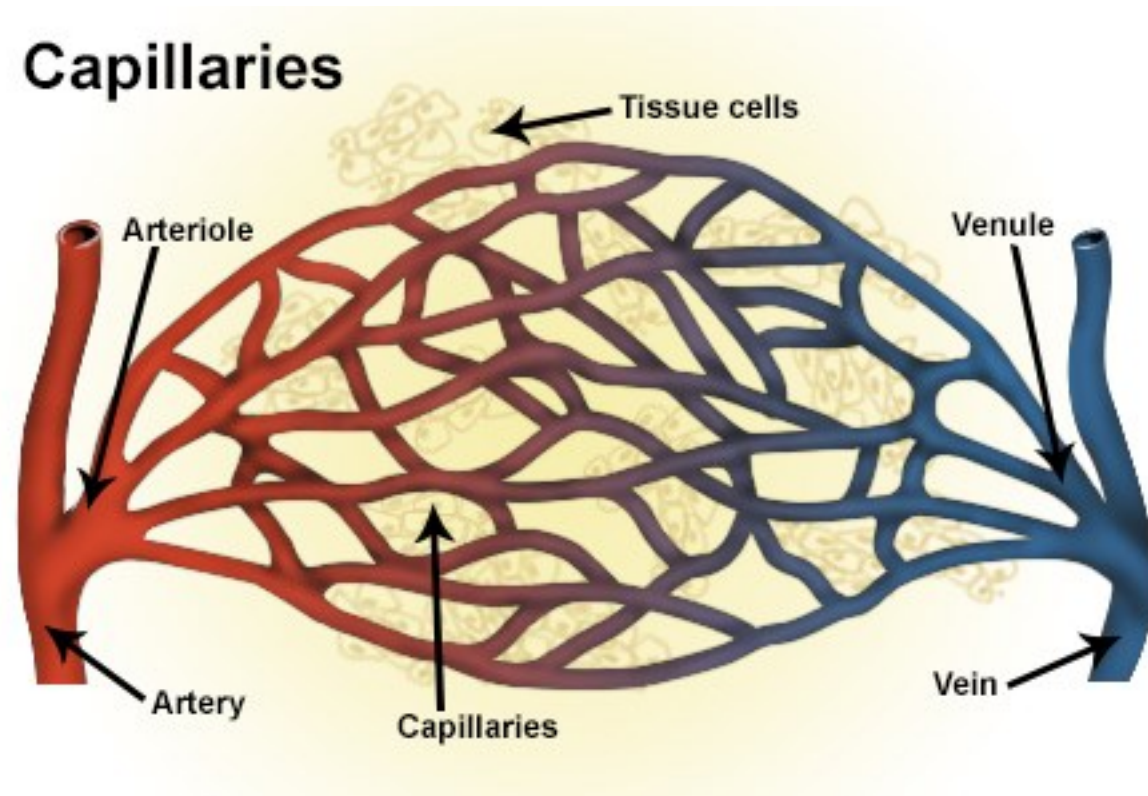
A = surface area of the membrane

σ_d = solute reflection coefficient for protein
(membrane's ability to restrict passage of large molecules)

P = hydrostatic pressures

π = oncotic pressure

Process occurs at all capillary beds

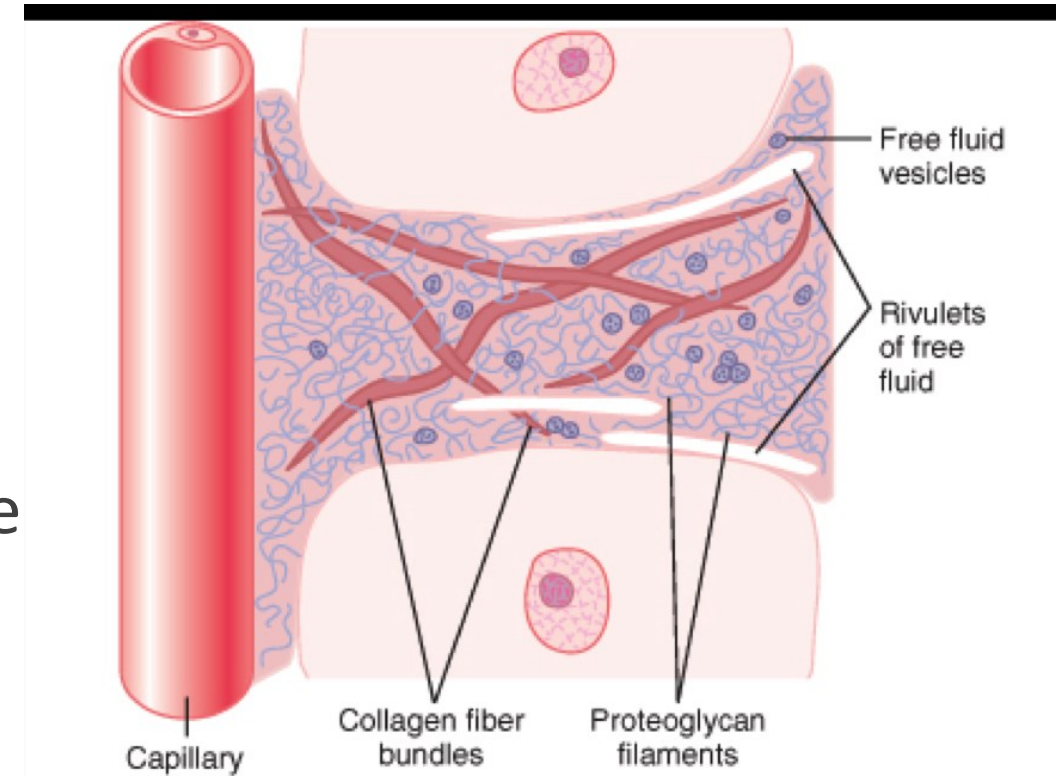


The capillary bed: Key concepts

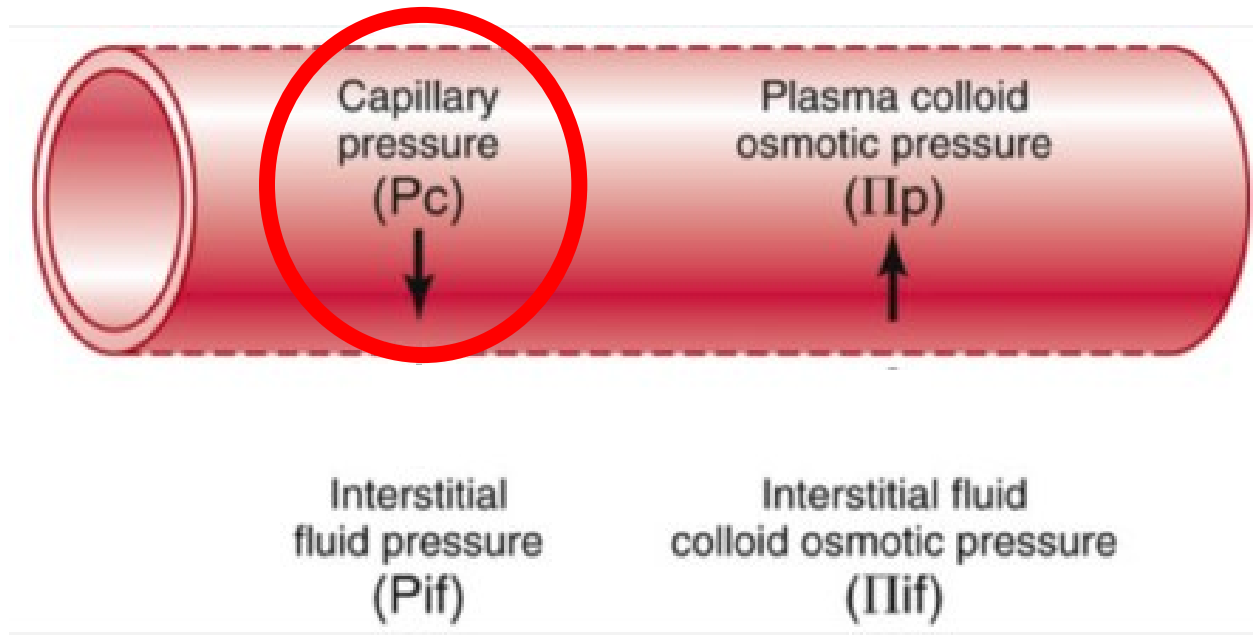
- **Function: Transport of nutrients to tissues and removal of cell waste**
- Single cell thick
- Typically only wide enough to allow 1 RBC at a time to travel through the bed
- Movement of substances through the vasculature wall is site dependent upon need and function:
 - Liver: large molecules (glucose, fibrin, O₂, wastes)
 - Brain: small molecules (CO₂, O₂)

Movement: Four forces

1. Capillary hydrostatic pressure
2. Interstitial hydrostatic pressure
3. Interstitial fluid colloid osmotic pressure
4. Plasma colloid osmotic pressure



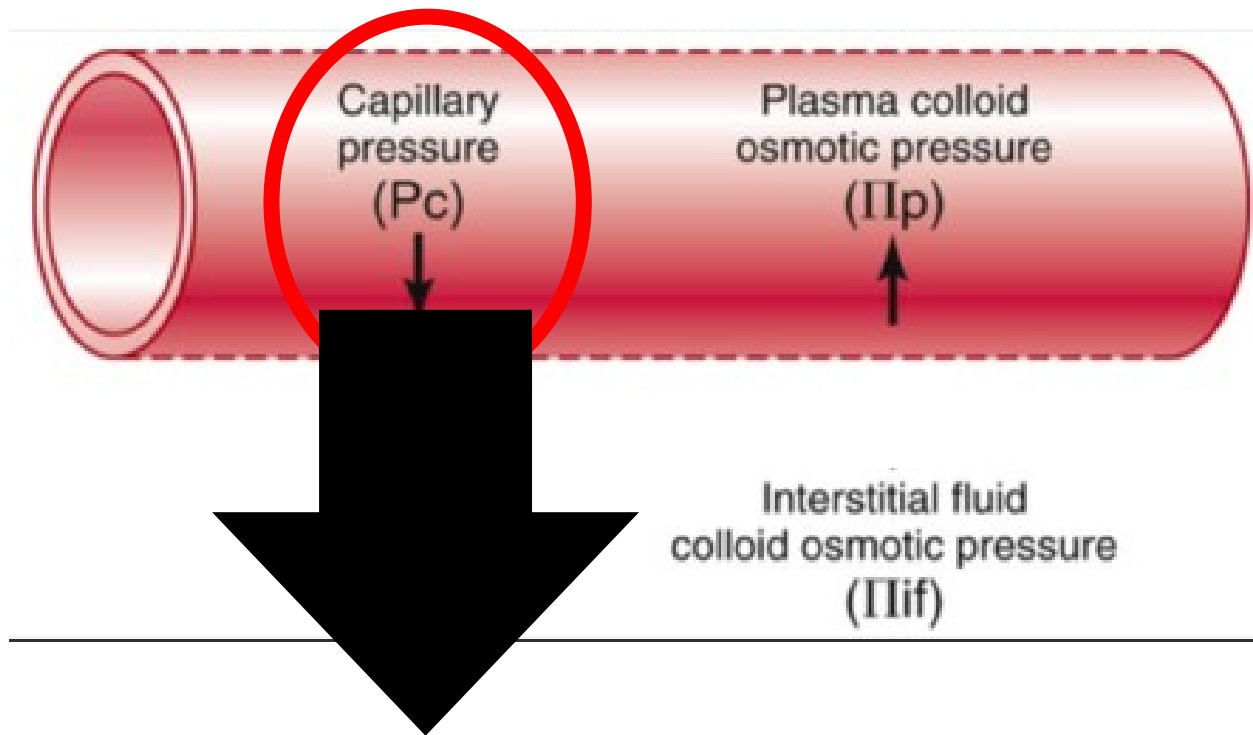
#1: Capillary hydrostatic pressure



A direct function of blood pressure

- A “pushing pressure” (out)
- High BP = ↑ movement outward
- Low BP = ↓ movement outward
- Normal pressures average about **18 mmHg**

#1: Capillary hydrostatic pressure



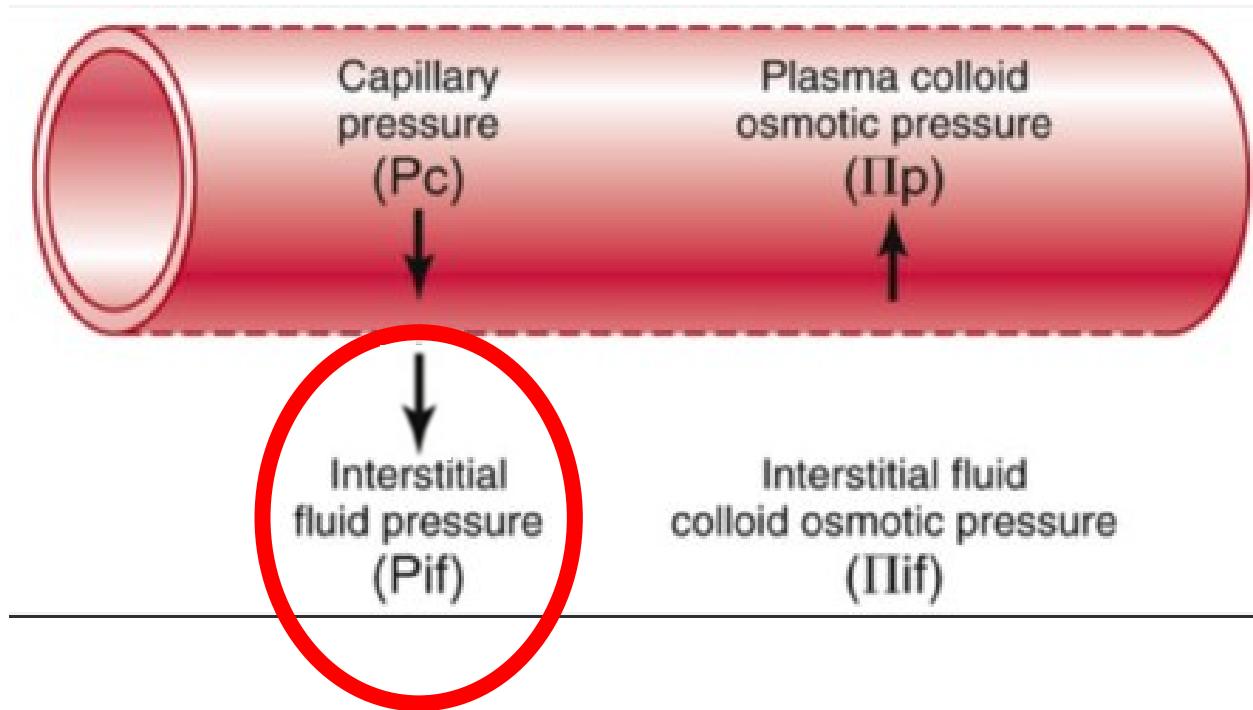
Interstitial space edema:

- High BP lungs = pulmonary edema
- High BP brain = cerebral edema
- High BP in liver = ascites
- High BP in kidneys = high output
- Low BP = no movement, limited waste exchange

#2: Interstitial hydrostatic pressure

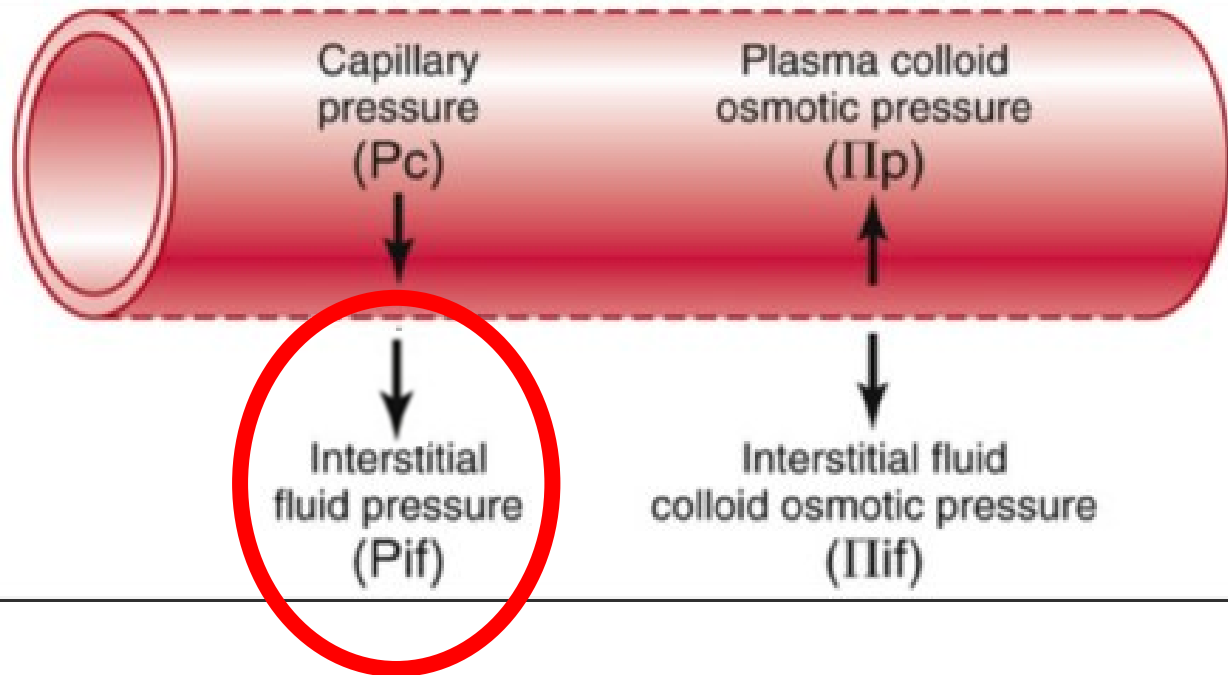
Pressure exerted by fluid (water) in the interstitial space

- A “sucking” pressure (into vessel)
- **Normal = -3 mmHg**
- When the value is a negative number, it acts like a vacuum and **sucks** fluid from the vessel, having a **positive** influence on fluid moving OUTWARD



#2: Interstitial hydrostatic pressure

Pressure exerted by fluid (water) in the interstitial space

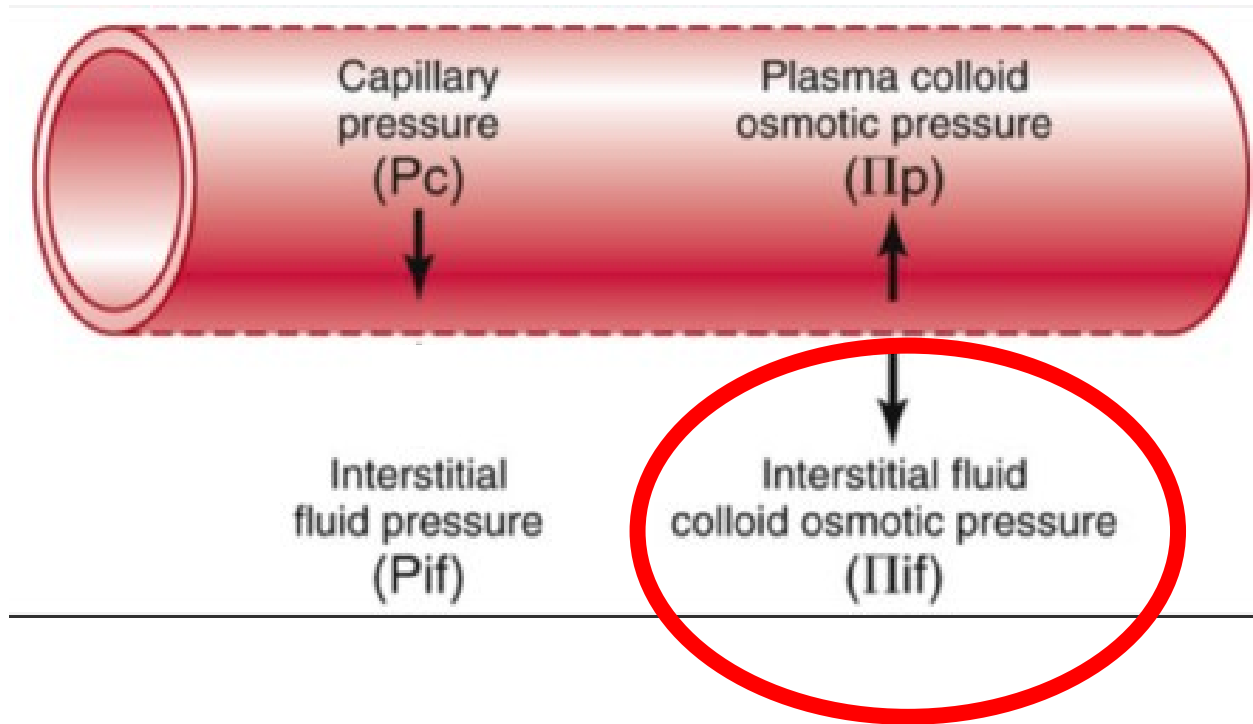


- If the number is positive (+5 mmHg), it **OPPOSES** fluid coming out of the blood vessel
- If the number is extremely negative (-10 mmHg), it will **SUCK** fluid even more (i.e. dehydration, low skin turgor)

#3: Interstitial (tissue) colloid pressure

Pressure created by large molecule proteins (colloid) or sugar in the interstitial space

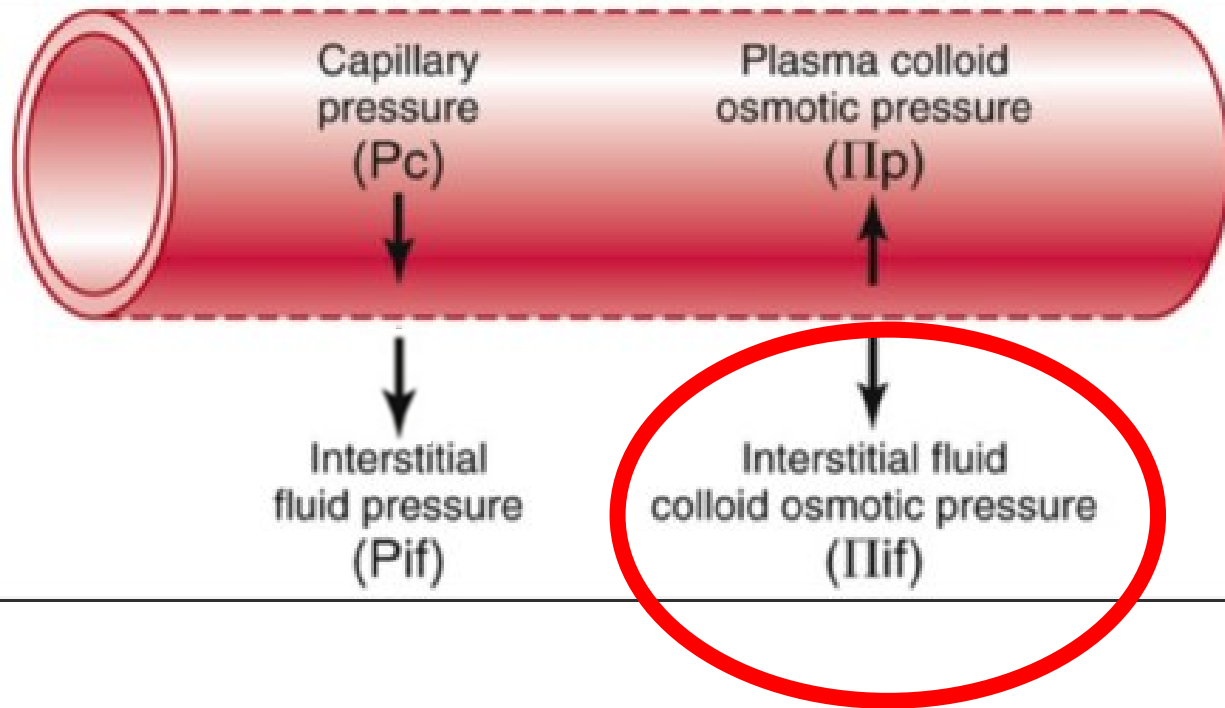
- A “sucking” pressure
- Due to the few proteins/sugars that leak out of the vessel into the interstitial space
- **Normal = 8 mmHg**



#3: Interstitial (tissue) colloid pressure

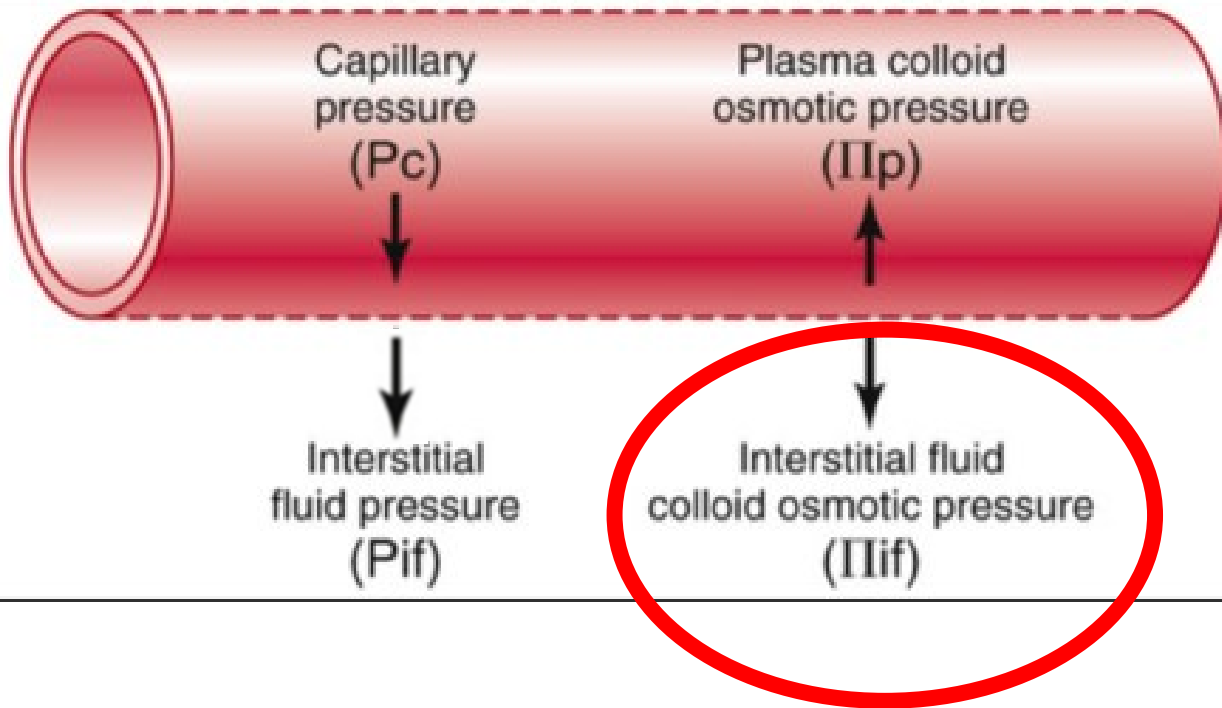
Pressure created by large molecule proteins (colloid) or sugar in the interstitial space

- If the number is positive, it will **DRAW** excessive fluid **OUT** of the vessel
- Burns/rhabdomyolysis = damaged vessels, proteins leak out into interstitial space → fluid leakage



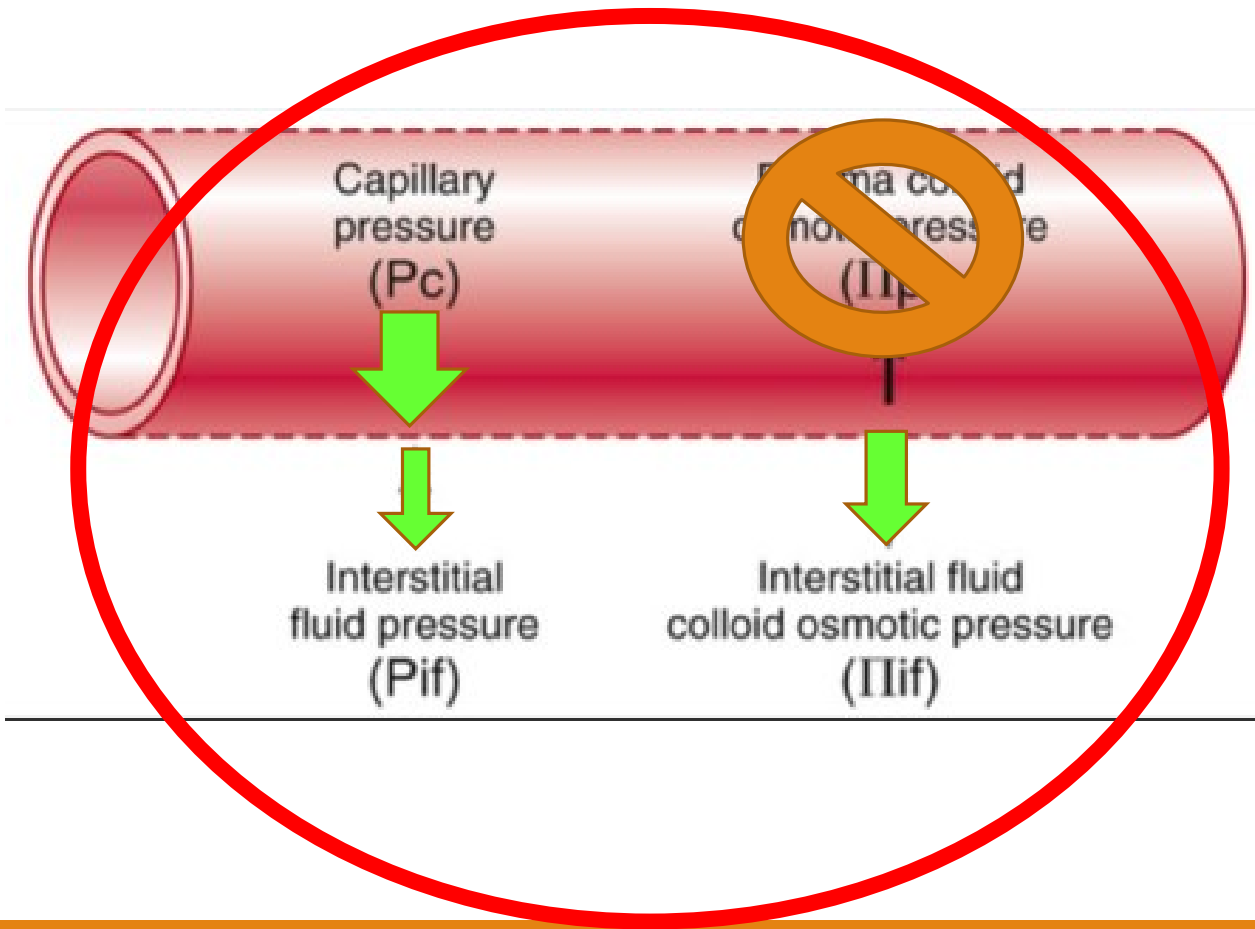
#3: Interstitial (tissue) colloid pressure

Pressure created by large molecule proteins (colloid) or sugar in the interstitial space



- If the number is lower than normal, additional fluid will stay in the vessel

Total **OUTWARD** effect



Adding the pressures together that influence the shift of fluid **OUT** of the vessel:

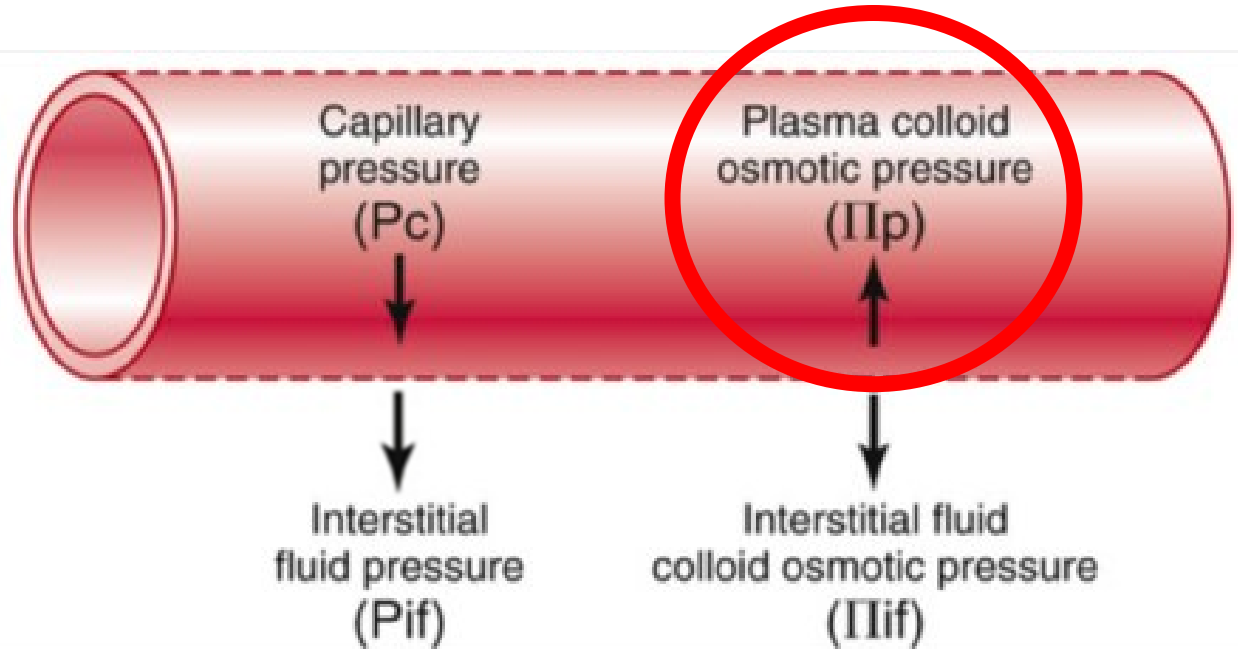
+18 mmHg (pushes out)

(-)+3 mmHg (is negative, so sucks out)

+8 mmHg (pulls out)

29 mmHg

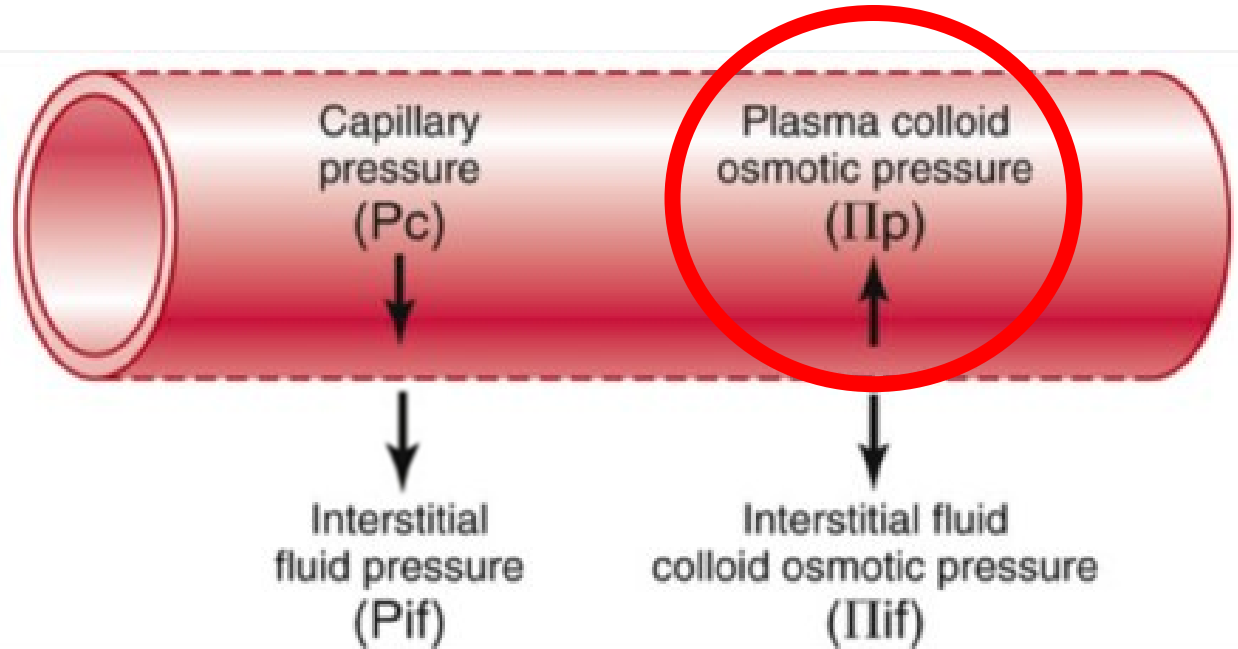
#4: Capillary colloid osmotic pressure



Pressure exerted by the presence of large molecule proteins or sugars IN the blood vessel

- A “sucking” pressure back INTO the capillary
- Normal = 28 mmHg

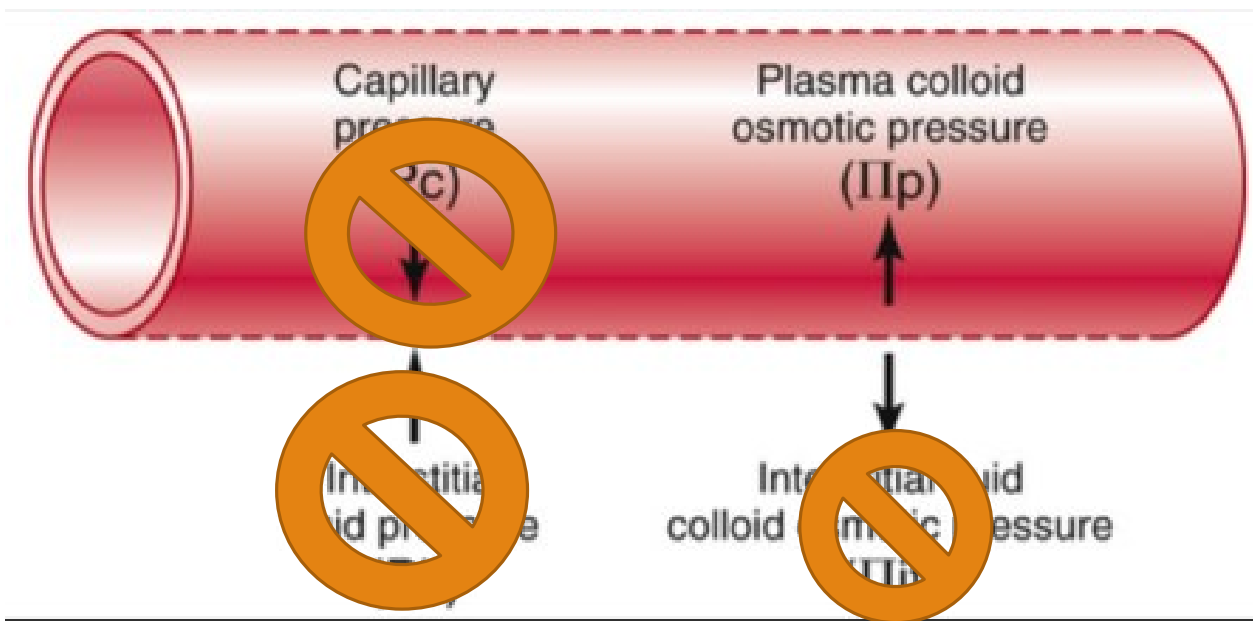
#4: Capillary colloid osmotic pressure



Pressure exerted by the presence of large molecule proteins or sugars **IN** the blood vessel

- If the number is too low (burns, kidney disease) it won't draw enough fluid back into the blood vessel
- If the number is too high, it will **SUCK** fluid into the vessel even more

Total INWARD effect

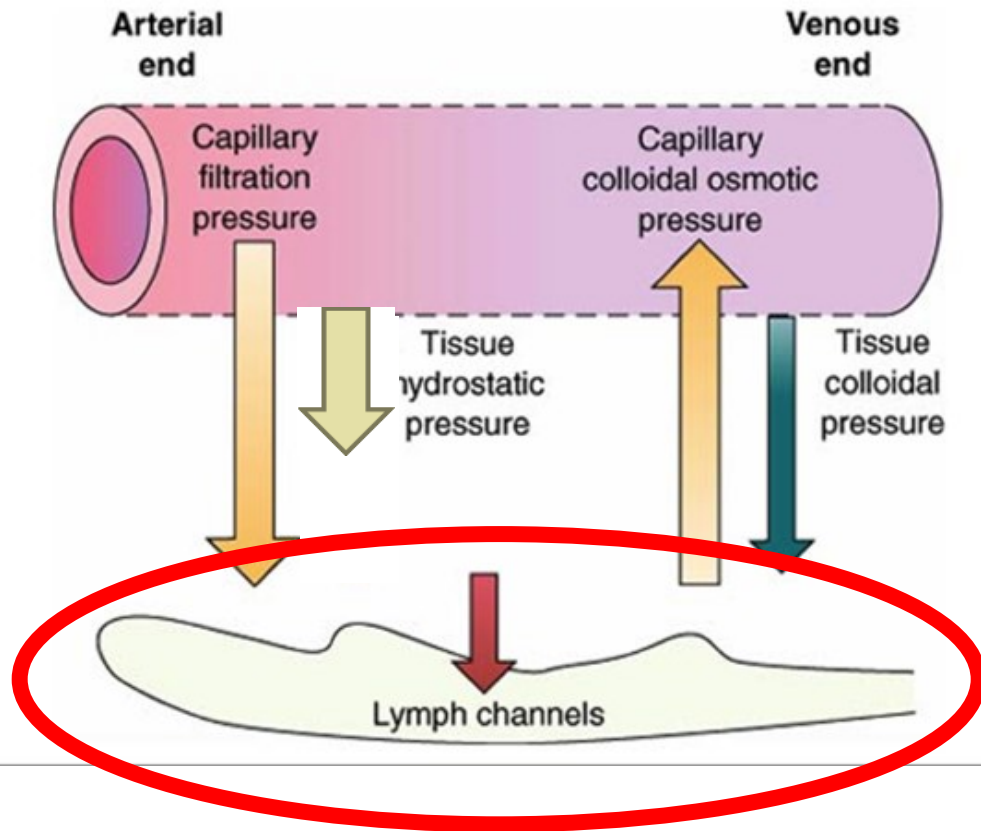


Adding the pressures together that influence the shift of fluid INTO the vessel:

+28 mmHg

28 mmHg

Total **net** effect



29 mmHg **OUT** of the vessel

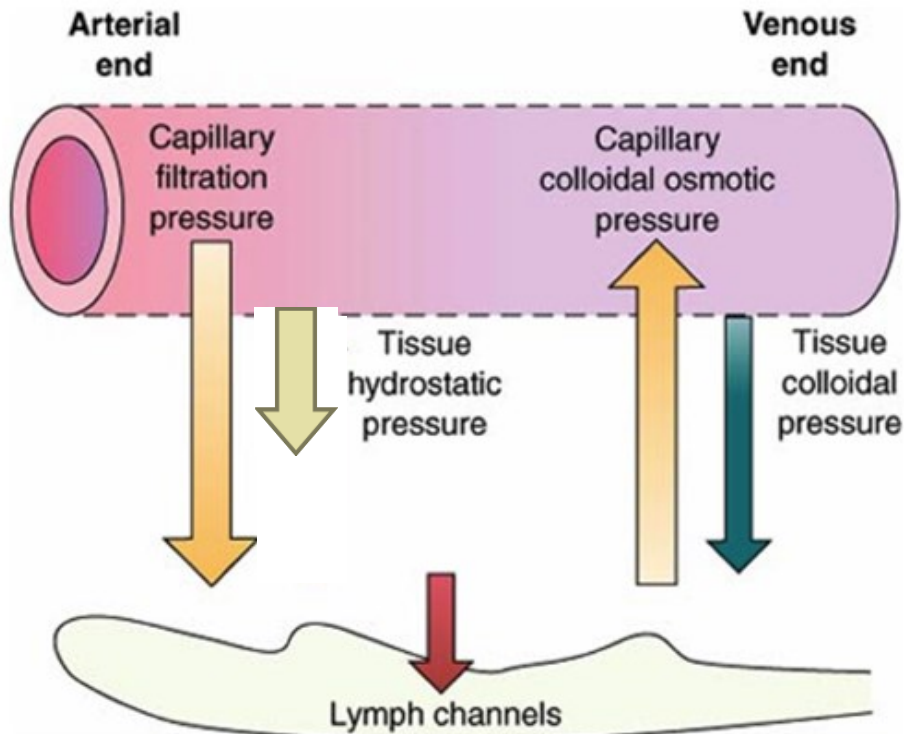
-28 mmHg **INTO** the vessel

1 mmHg picked up by the lymph system

APPLICATION: Back to our questions:

- “What causes edema, in the lungs, periphery or brain?”
- “What is the relationship between dehydration and DKA?”
- “What causes various fluid shifts, such as in burns?”

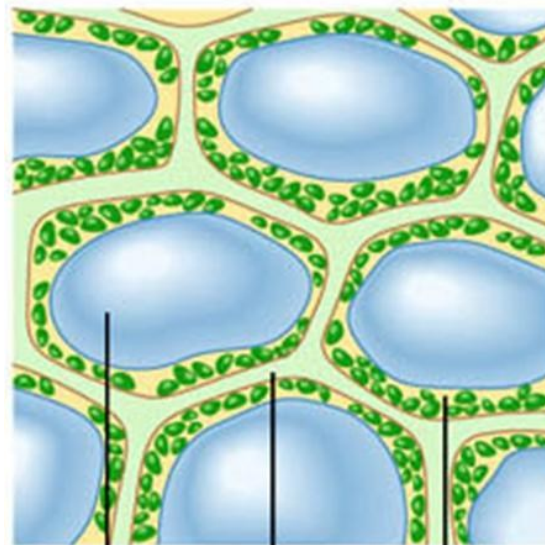
APPLICATION: Back to our questions:



- “What causes edema in the lungs, periphery or brain?”
- “What is the relationship between dehydration and DKA?”
- “What causes various fluid shifts, such as in burns?”
- “Why does a mastectomy pt have swelling in her arm?”

HEAD SCRATCHER?

Does a dehydrated cell have a high **osmotic** pressure or high **hydrostatic** pressure?

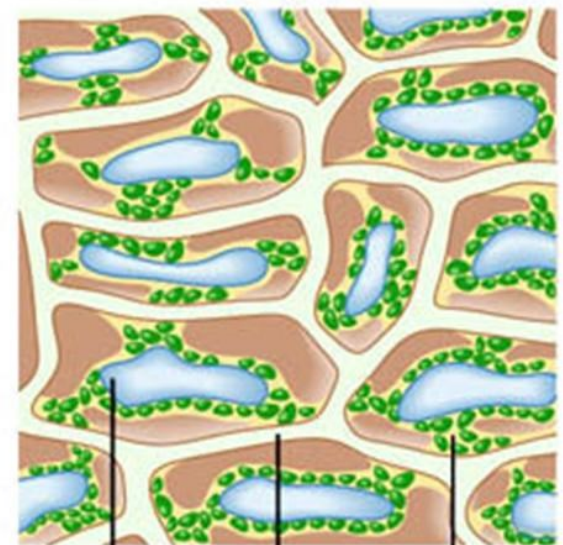


Vacuole

Cell wall

Cytoplasm

Normal Hydrated Cells



Vacuole

Cell wall

Cytoplasm

De-Hydrated Cells

Pathophysiology

FORMATION OF EDEMA

Decreased plasma osmotic pressure
(starvation, protein wasting renal disease)

Increased interstitial hydrostatic pressure
(gravity, venous obstruction, CHF)

Increased osmotic pressure (inflammation,
trauma)

Lymphatic obstruction/removal

HTN

Cerebral edema post DKA

TISSUE DEHYDRATION

Reduced capillary pressures (BP)

High sugars/proteins in blood (DKA, burns,
rhabdomyolysis)

References

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Yartsev, A. (2020). *Starling forces and fluid exchange in the microcirculation*. Deranged physiology. Retrieved from <https://derangedphysiology.com/main/cicm-primary-exam/required-reading/cardiovascular-system/Chapter%20471/starling-forces-and-fluid-exchange-microcirculation>