
Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	
Module 1: The Cardiovascular System	
Introduction	1-1
Section 1: Overview of the Cardiovascular System	1.1-1
Section 2: Anatomy and Physiology of Blood Vessels	1.2-1
Section 3: Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart	1.3-1
Section 4: Function and Composition of Blood	1.4-1
Module 1 Test	
Module 2: The Urinary System	
Introduction	2-1
Section 1: Anatomy of the Urinary System	2.1-1
Section 2: Physiology of the Urinary System	2.2-1
Module 2 Test	
Module 3: Diagnostic Tests and Interventions	
Introduction	3-1
Section 1: Diagnostic Tests and Interventions	3.1-1
Module 3 Test	
References	
Glossary	

Drug List and Tables of Normal Values accessible only in PDF format on CCPE's website at: www.ccpe-cfpc.org

Introduction

Introduction

Every cell in the body requires a supply of oxygen and nutrients, and must get rid of the waste products of cellular metabolism. The cardiovascular system is responsible for distributing oxygen and nutrients to cells throughout the body, and for transporting waste products from the cells to the organs of elimination.

The cardiovascular system is a closed system composed of the heart, blood vessels and blood. Although the heart weighs less than a pound and is only slightly bigger than a clenched fist, the heart is a very efficient pump that forces the blood through the many blood vessels with enough force to ensure that blood is circulated through the body to meet the body's metabolic needs.

Blood transports nutrients, oxygen, and other substances to body cells and helps rid the body of waste materials. The lungs supply the circulating blood with oxygen and the digestive organs supply nutrients required for normal cellular function. Gaseous waste products such as carbon dioxide are delivered by the cardiovascular system to the lungs, while non-gaseous metabolites are transported to the kidneys for elimination in the urine.

The lymphatic system is related to the cardiovascular system, both in structure and function. Lymphatic vessels work in conjunction with the cardiovascular system to drain excess tissue fluid that does not return to the blood capillaries, and return the fluid to the blood stream.

In this unit, we discuss the anatomy and physiology of the components of the cardiovascular system. It is important that you become familiar with the normal physiology of the cardiovascular system so that you are better able to understand the pathophysiologic states that are discussed in the other three units of this course.

Unit Structure

This unit is divided into 3 modules:

Module 1: The Cardiovascular System

Module 2: The Urinary System

Module 3: Diagnostic Test and Interventions