Lymphatic System

A. Functions

1.

2. of various substances back to cardiovascular system

A) Lipids, lipid-soluble vitamins (A, E, D, K) & leaked proteins

3. of excess interstitial fluid

A) Returns it to the bloodstream to assure adequate volume

B. Components

1. Lymphatic Vessels

A)

1) Closed-ended with mini-valves

a) Substances can flow in but not out

b) Lymph

2) Found interwoven between tissue

3) Found in all tissues except bones & bone marrow, teeth and the central nervous

system

4) – specialized lymphatic capillaries found in the intestinal mucosa

within the villi

B)

1) Have the same structure as veins but

2) Function as a conduit for lymph

C)

1) Formed by the union of the largest collecting vessels

2) Responsible for

3) Often named for the region of the body where they receive lymph from

a) Lumbar (2) , bronchomediastinal (2) , subclavian (2) , jugular (2), and

intestinal (1)

D)

1) Receive lymph from the trunks and

2) 2 ducts in the body

a)

i) Receives lymph from right arm and the right side of the head and

thorax

ii) Empties into

b) – larger of the 2

i) Receives lymph from all other locations

ii) Empties into

2. Lymphatic Transport

A)

B) Driven by same skeletal muscle and respiratory pumps that help venous return

C) Smooth muscle within the lymphatic trunks and the thoracic duct also help pump

lymph

D) Accounts for about (equal to the loss from the capillaries)

3. Lymphatic Cells & Tissues

A) Lymphatic cells

1) – warriors of the immune system arise in the bone marrow

and mature into 1 of 3 types

a) which attack and destroy foreign cells

b) which become plasma cells that release antibodies

c) which kill cells that have been bound by

antibodies or cells that exhibit abnormal traits

2) – engulf and destroy foreign cells

3) – similar to fibroblasts; produce reticular fibers that

supports other cell types

B) Lymphatic tissue

1) Composed of reticular fibers with a large number of macrophage & lymphocytes

2) Provides a site for lymphocyte proliferation and a surveillance vantage point for

lymphocytes and macrophage

a) Macrophage live on the fibers while lymphocytes “patrol” the spaces between

them

3) Predominant in all lymphatic organs except the

a) 2 types of arrangements

i) – consist of a few scattered reticular

elements & cells and is found in virtually every body organ

(a) Most common in

ii) – solid spherical bodies consisting of tightly

packed reticular elements and cells

(a) Form part of

(b) Isolated clusters are also found within the intestinal wall (Peyer’s

patches) and in the appendix & tonsils

C) Lymphatic organs

1) Primary lymphatic organs

a)

i) Site of leukocyte production

b)

i) Located between aorta and sternum

ii) Site of

2) Secondary lymphatic organs

a)

i)

(a) Found clustered along lymphatic vessels

ii) Often deep in connective tissue but large clusters are located in the

inguinal, axillary and cervical regions

iii) Many macrophages & lymphocytes

iv)

b) – largest lymphatic organ

i) Served by the splenic artery and vein

ii) Provides a site for lymphocyte proliferation, immune surveillance &

Response, and blood cleansing

(a)

iii) It has 3 other important functions

(a) Stores products from the breakdown of RBC for later use (ex. iron)

(b) Produces RBC in the developing fetus

(c) Stores platelets

c) Tonsils

i) Protective rings of lymphatic tissue around the entrance to

ii) Appear as swellings of the mucosa

iii) These trap bacteria and foreign matter where most are destroyed

iv) Early exposure helps develop immunity

v) Named for their location

(a)

(i) Found on both sides of the posterior oral cavity

(ii)

(b)

(i) Cluster at the base of the tongue

(c)

(i) Found on posterior wall of nasopharynx

d) Aggregations of lymphatic nodules

i) Found in **all**

ii) Composed entirely of lymphocytes

iii) 3 types of arrangements

(a) – large clusters of lymphatic nodules found in

the walls of the small intestine

(b) – nodules heavily concentrated in the junction

between the small intestine and large intestine

(c) (MALT) – patches of

lymphatic nodules in the walls of the digestive & respiratory tracts

C. Disorders of the Lymphatic system

1. Elephantiasis – parasitic infection of the lymph nodes causing them to become clogged.

Improper drainage of lymph results in massive edema, especially of lower regions of the

body.

2. Tonsillitis – inflammation of the tonsils usually caused by a bacterial infection

3. Appendicitis – inflammation of the appendix usually caused by a bacterial infection

4. Lymphoma – any tumor (benign or malignant) of lymphatic tissue

A) Hodgkin’s disease (15%) – a malignancy of the lymph nodes

B) Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (85%) – all cancers of lymphatic tissue except

Hodgkin’s disease