

What Are the Major Arteries of the Body?

Worksheet

The major arteries are the aorta and its main branches - including the coronary, carotid, subclavian, celiac, mesenteric, renal, and iliac arteries - which carry oxygenated blood from the heart to the body's organs and tissues.

Questions

1. Which artery is the largest in the human body?

- A) Aorta
- B) Femoral artery
- C) Pulmonary artery
- D) Carotid artery

2. Which major artery is the exception that carries deoxygenated blood?

- A) Aorta
- B) Pulmonary artery
- C) Renal artery
- D) Radial artery

3. Which arteries mainly supply blood to the head and neck?

- A) Vertebral arteries
- B) Common carotid arteries
- C) Renal arteries
- D) Femoral arteries

4. At about what vertebral level does the abdominal aorta split into the common iliac arteries?

- A) T4
- B) L1
- C) L4
- D) S2

5. A doctor checks a patient's pulse at the wrist. Which artery is being palpated, and what path does that blood take from the heart?

6. An abdominal aortic aneurysm forms just above where the aorta divides. Which two major arteries downstream could lose blood supply?

7. A stroke patient shows reduced blood flow to the back (posterior) part of the brain. Which arterial pathway is most likely involved?

8. Define: What is the aorta?

9. Define: Which arteries supply the heart muscle itself?

10. Define: Which major artery is the exception that carries deoxygenated blood?

Answer Key

1. A) Aorta - The aorta is the body's largest artery, carrying blood from the left ventricle to the systemic circulation.
2. B) Pulmonary artery - The pulmonary artery carries deoxygenated blood from the right ventricle to the lungs for gas exchange.
3. B) Common carotid arteries - The common carotid arteries branch into internal and external carotid arteries supplying the brain, face and neck.
4. C) L4 - The aortic bifurcation typically occurs around the fourth lumbar vertebra (L4).
5. The wrist pulse (thumb side) is the radial artery Trace backward: radial artery brachial artery axillary artery subclavian artery aortic arch So the pulse reflects blood flow from the heart through the aorta, subclavian, axillary and brachial arteries to the radial artery
6. The abdominal aorta bifurcates into the left and right common iliac arteries at roughly vertebral level L4 An aneurysm just proximal to this split sits upstream of both branches So compromised flow could affect both the left and right common iliac arteries, reducing supply to the pelvis and legs
7. The posterior brain circulation is supplied by the vertebral arteries, which join to form the basilar artery The vertebral arteries branch off the subclavian arteries So the likely pathway is subclavian artery vertebral artery basilar artery
8. The largest artery in the body; it carries oxygenated blood from the left ventricle to the rest of the body.
9. The coronary arteries, which branch off the ascending aorta.
10. The pulmonary artery - it carries deoxygenated blood from the right ventricle to the lungs.

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