What Are the Major Veins of the Body?

Worksheet

The major veins are the superior and inferior venae cavae and their tributaries - including the jugular, subclavian, hepatic, renal, and iliac veins - which return deoxygenated blood from the body's tissues to the right atrium of the heart.

Questions

1. Which vein returns blood from the head, neck and upper limbs to the heart?

A) Inferior vena cava
B) Superior vena cava
C) Hepatic portal vein
D) Femoral vein

2. Which major vein is the exception that carries oxygenated blood?

A) Renal vein
B) Pulmonary veins
C) Hepatic vein
D) Jugular vein

3. What does the hepatic portal vein carry, and where does it go?

A) Oxygenated blood to the heart
B) Nutrient-rich blood from the digestive organs to the liver
C) Blood from the kidneys to the vena cava
D) Blood from the lungs to the left atrium

4. Which vein is the longest in the human body?

A) Femoral vein
B) Internal jugular vein
C) Great saphenous vein
D) Renal vein

5. Trace the path of blood returning from the brain to the heart.

6. A nutrient absorbed in the small intestine needs to reach the liver before general circulation. What venous route does it take?

7. Trace the path of blood returning from the foot to the heart.

8. Define: What does the superior vena cava drain?

9. Define: What does the inferior vena cava drain?

10. Define: Which major vein is the exception that carries oxygenated blood?

Answer Key

1. B) Superior vena cava - The superior vena cava collects blood from the upper body and drains it into the right atrium.

2. B) Pulmonary veins - The pulmonary veins carry freshly oxygenated blood from the lungs to the left atrium.

3. B) Nutrient-rich blood from the digestive organs to the liver - The hepatic portal vein routes blood from the stomach, intestines, spleen and pancreas into the liver for processing before it reaches general circulation.

4. C) Great saphenous vein - The great saphenous vein runs superficially the length of the leg, from the foot to the groin.

5. Blood drains from brain tissue into the dural venous sinuses Sinuses drain into the internal jugular vein The internal jugular joins the subclavian vein to form the brachiocephalic vein The brachiocephalic veins merge into the superior vena cava, which empties into the right atrium

6. Nutrient enters intestinal capillaries, which drain into the superior mesenteric vein The superior mesenteric vein joins the splenic vein to form the hepatic portal vein The hepatic portal vein carries the nutrient-rich blood directly into the liver (not the heart first) After liver processing, hepatic veins drain into the inferior vena cava, then the right atrium

7. Blood from the foot enters the posterior tibial and great saphenous veins These drain into the popliteal vein behind the knee, then the femoral vein in the thigh The femoral vein becomes the external iliac vein, which joins the internal iliac vein to form the common iliac vein Common iliac veins merge into the inferior vena cava, which empties into the right atrium

8. Blood from the head, neck, upper limbs and thorax, returning it to the right atrium.

9. Blood from the legs, pelvis and abdomen, returning it to the right atrium.

10. The pulmonary veins - they carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the left atrium.