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 Biol2402 8
 Ch20 Lymphatic System
 Due _____

The Lymphatic System and Body Defenses

The lymphatic system, with its many lymphoid organs and vessels derived from veins of the cardiovascular system, is a rather strange system. Although both types of organs help to maintain homeostasis, these two elements of the lymphatic system have substantially different roles. The lymphatic vessels keep the cardiovascular system functional by maintaining blood volume. The lymphoid organs help defend the body from pathogens by providing operating sites for phagocytes and cells of the immune system.

The immune system, comprising the body's *specific defense system*, is a unique functional system made up of billions of individual cells, most of which are lymphocytes. The sole function of this defensive system is to protect the body against an incredible array of pathogens. In general, these "enemies" fall into three major camps: (1) microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, and fungi) that have gained entry into the body, (2) foreign tissue cells that have been transplanted (or, in the case of red blood cells, infused) into the body, and (3) the body's own cells that have become cancerous. The result of the immune system's activities is immunity, or specific resistance to disease.

The body is also protected by a number of nonspecific defenses provided by intact surface membranes such as skin and mucosae, and by a variety of cells and chemicals that can quickly mount an attack against foreign substances. The specific and nonspecific defenses enhance each other's effectiveness.

Chapter 12 tests your understanding of the functional roles of the various lymphatic system elements, and both the nonspecific and specific body defenses.

THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM

Lymphatic Vessels

1. Complete the following statements by writing the missing terms in the answer blanks.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| any cells } | <u>cap</u> _____ | 1. Although the cardiovascular system has a pump (the heart) and arteries, veins, and capillaries, the lymphatic system lacks two of these structures: the (1) _____ and (2) _____. Like the (3) _____ of the cardiovascular system, the vessels of the lymphatic system are equipped with (4) _____ to prevent backflow. The lymphatic vessels act primarily to pick up leaked fluid, now called (5) _____, and return it to the bloodstream. About (6) _____ of fluid is returned every 24 hours. |
| | <u>arteries</u> _____ | |
| | <u>veins</u> _____ | |
| | <u>valves</u> _____ | |
| | <u>lymph</u> _____ | |
| | <u>3L</u> _____ | |

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