## **TOPIC: SECONDARY LYMPHOID ORGANS: THE SPLEEN**

## **Function of the Spleen**

◆ Spleen: the	lymphoid organ; located o	n side of abdom	nen.
◆ Functionally similar to	o lymph nodes EXCEPT the spleen f	ilters, NOT ly	ymph.
<ul><li> and/or recycles abnormal erythrocytes, platelets, debris, &amp; pathogens from blood.</li></ul>			
▶ Provides a site for lymphocyte proliferation & to generate immune responses.			
• erythrocytes, platelets & monocytes to be released in the bloodstream in emergencies.			
<ul><li>Under certain cond</li></ul>	litions, the spleen can serve as a site	e for <i>hematopoiesis</i> (	of blood cells).
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**Note:** Splenectomy = surgical removal of spleen. Liver & bone marrow can help take over most its functions.

#### **EXAMPLE**

During which of the following emergency situations would the spleen be able to assist the body?

- a) A sudden increase in blood glucose concentration in a diabetic person.
- b) A sudden decrease in the number of erythrocytes & platelets in circulation.
- c) A sudden decrease in blood glucose concentration in a diabetic person.
- d) An inability to secrete functional digestive enzymes.

#### PRACTICE

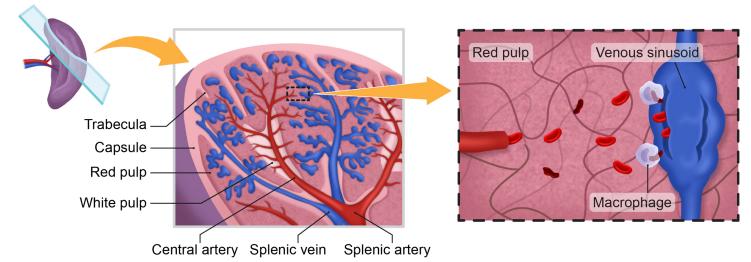
What is a common outcome among people who've had a splenectomy (spleen removal)?

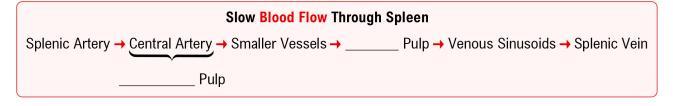
- a) Increased susceptibility to infection.
- b) Increased risk of blood disorders.
- c) Impaired hemostasis.
- d) All of the above.

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## Structure of the Spleen

◆ Like lymph nodes, the spleen is externally covered by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & has inward extensions (trabeculae).
◆ A \_\_\_\_\_\_ artery & vein carry blood into & out of the spleen at the \_\_\_\_\_\_ (indentation).
◆ Internally, the spleen has \_\_\_\_\_ different types of tissue: 1) White Pulp & 2) Red Pulp.
◆ White Pulp: has lots of \_\_\_\_\_ blood cells & lymphoid follicles filtering pathogens from the blood.
◆ Red Pulp: has lots of \_\_\_\_\_ blood cells & macrophages with a reticular fiber framework (splenic cords).
- Venous \_\_\_\_\_ : enlarged, discontinuous, & permeable capillaries in red pulp of spleen.





## **EXAMPLE**

The spleen's white pulp is composed primarily of .

- a) Macrophages.
- b) Platelets.
- c) Splenic sinusoids.
- d) Lymphocytes.

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## PRACTICE

What is the primary function of red pulp in the spleen?

- a) Filtering & removing old/defective erythrocytes.
- b) Activating the adaptive immune response when a pathogen is identified.
- c) Producing new leukocytes.
- d) Gas exchange.

## PRACTICE

Which of the following statements about the spleen is true?

- a) It is a primary producer of red blood cells.
- b) It plays a role in both blood filtration & immune response.
- c) It only plays a major role in the immune system, but not blood filtration.
- d) It plays a role in the respiratory system.