

The Lymphatic System

Function:

- Removes interstitial fluids from tissues
- Works with immune system to destroy pathogens and filtering waste so that the lymph can be safely returned to the circulatory system
- Works with the circulatory system to deliver nutrients, oxygen, and hormones from the blood to the cells that make up the tissues of the body.
- Absorbs and transports fatty acids and fats from the digestive system
- Transports white blood cells to and from the lymph nodes into the bones

Parts and Organs:

* Lymphatic vessels and blood vessels allow for the transportation of leukocytes (white blood cells) which fight against diseases and unwanted bacteria.

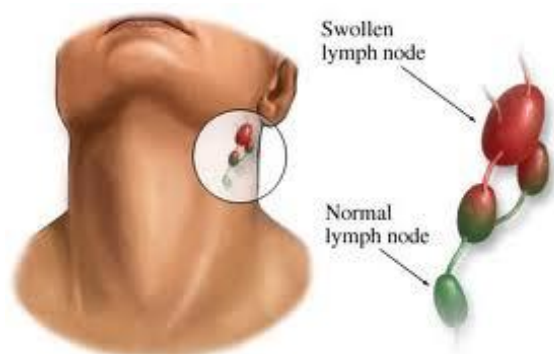
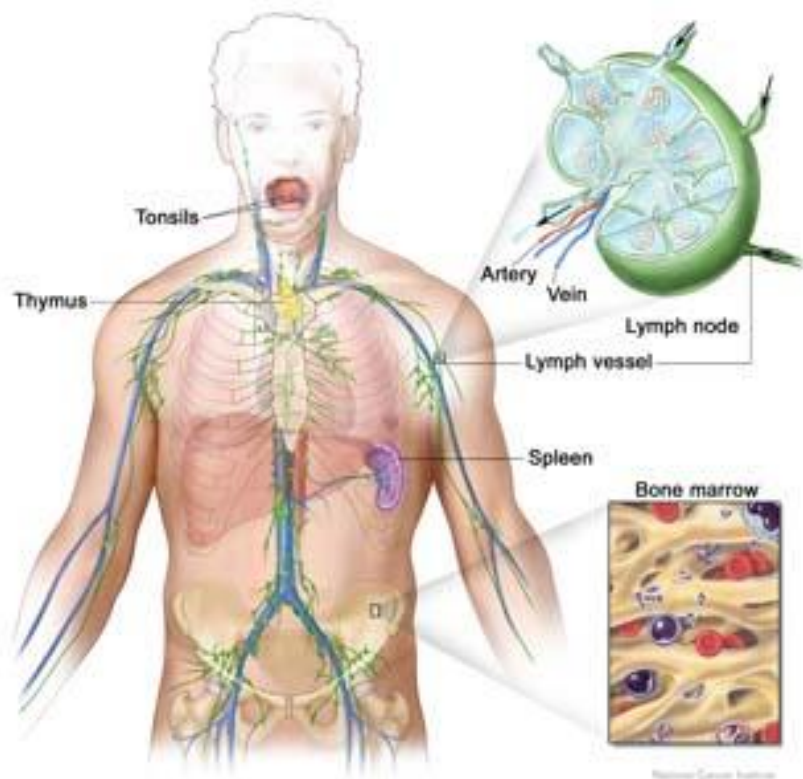
* The thymus gland allows lymphocytes to mature and establishes the immune system from gestation until puberty.

* Lymph nodes make immune cells, so that they help the body fight infections or drive out diseases like cancer.

* Lymph nodes do become swollen when they are fighting infections because lymphocytes are being produced to fight the bacteria/infections.

* Veins and arteries carry blood in and out of the lymph nodes.

* Lymph capillaries are what drain the lymph from the tissues.



* The spleen manufactures white blood cells that fight infection (especially macrophages and lymphocytes which are certain types of white blood cells).

* Also, the Red Bone Marrow in the ribs makes macrophages and lymphocytes.

* Another job that the lymphatic system does is remove waste from cells and collects excess fluid that is passing from blood capillaries into the tissues. This extra liquid is called lymph. The lymph vessels that are going along with the blood vessels allow lymph to return to the bloodstream.

* The tonsils near the mouth destroy eaten/inhaled bacteria.

* The Right and Left lymphatic duct empties lymph into the right and left subclavian vein, which draws blood from the arm that can be brought back to the heart.

* The lymphatic system's objective is to defend the body from infections and disease, and these organs help do this.

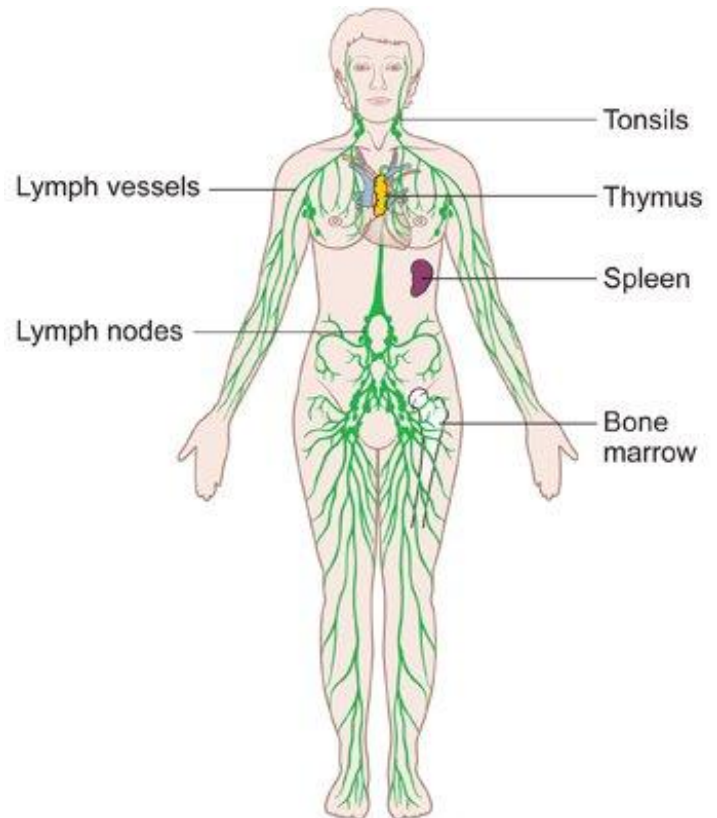


Diagram of the lymphatic system
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