

*Table 10-1* Features of Blood Vessels

Feature	Vessel Type					
	Aorta	Large Arterial Branches	Arterioles	Capillaries	Large Veins	Venae Cavae
Number	One	Several hundred	Half a million	Ten billion	Several hundred	Two
Wall thickness	2 mm (2,000 $\mu\text{m}$ )	1 mm (1,000 $\mu\text{m}$ )	20 $\mu\text{m}$	1 $\mu\text{m}$	0.5 mm (500 $\mu\text{m}$ )	1.5 mm (1,500 $\mu\text{m}$ )
Internal radius	1.25 cm (12,500 $\mu\text{m}$ )	0.2 cm (2,000 $\mu\text{m}$ )	30 $\mu\text{m}$	3.5 $\mu\text{m}$	0.5 cm (5,000 $\mu\text{m}$ )	3 cm (30,000 $\mu\text{m}$ )
Total cross-sectional area	4.5 $\text{cm}^2$	20 $\text{cm}^2$	400 $\text{cm}^2$	6,000 $\text{cm}^2$	40 $\text{cm}^2$	18 $\text{cm}^2$
Special features	Thick, highly elastic, walls; large radii		Highly muscular, well-innervated walls; small radii	Thin walled; large total cross-sectional area	Thin walled; highly distensible; large radii	
Functions	Passageway from the heart to the tissues; serve as a pressure reservoir		Primary resistance vessels; determine the distribution of cardiac output	Site of exchange; determine the distribution of extracellular fluid between the plasma and interstitial fluid	Passageway to the heart from the tissues; serve as a blood reservoir	