



ARTERY AND VEIN wiseGEEK

From your assigned readings, please address the following:

1.) Name 2 general purposes of the vascular system.

Arteries (except for the pulmonary artery) carries oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body. Veins (except for the pulmonary veins) carry deoxygenated blood from tissues and organs throughout the body back to the heart / lungs to get oxygenated.

2.) Name 3 differences between an artery and a vein.

Arteries have a thick muscular and elastic walls to propel blood throughout the body, whereas veins are large in diameter and have thin walls since it is a low pressure but high volume system. Larger veins have semilunar valves at intervals to maintain blood flow back to the heart. Large arteries may also contain smooth muscle along with elastic muscle.

3.) Name 2 changes that occur to your vessels as a result of the aging process.

Arterial stiffening and thickening occurs because of the loss of elastin in arterial walls, which causes an increase of the systolic blood pressure and diminished pulses. Venous tortuosity is also increased with aging which can lead to inflamed and painful varicosities.