

LYMPH VESSEL STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL UNITS - LYMPHANGIONS

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Summary. The lymphangion is a lymph vessel segment between two valves. This study encompasses hog gastric and intestinal lymphangions. Lymphangions are found at the post-capillary level. An important understanding of lymphangion motor function includes their calibre and volume. Our studies have shown that the volume increases (both in length and width) tend to increase as afferent lymph vessels become efferent. The largest lymphangions are found in the mesentarium and intestinal lymphatic trunks (up to 15,6 cubic mm). Lymphangions perform motor and reservoir functions.

Each lymphangion has three regions. In the muscular region, myocytes are arranged in spirals. The number of myocytes increases in postnatal ontogenesis as does the volume stated above. Extraorganic lymphangions receive blood supply from periadventitious capillaries and post-capillaries.