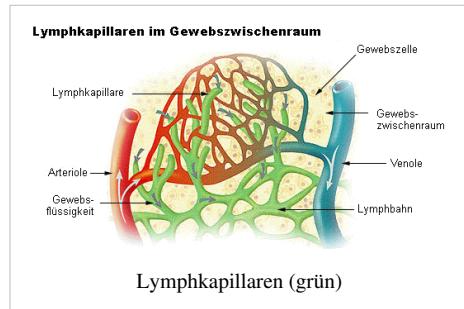


# Lymphatisches System

Das **Lymphatische System** (lat. *Systema lymphaticum*, auch **Lymphsystem**) (Lymphe = Körperwasser, zu griech. *lympe*: klares Wasser) ist ein Teil des Abwehrsystems (Immunsystem) der Wirbeltiere gegen Krankheitserreger, Fremdpartikel und krankhaft veränderte Körperbestandteile (z. B. Tumorzellen). Es gliedert sich in die lymphatischen Organe und das Lymphgefäßsystem. Das Lymphgefäßsystem hat neben der Funktion im Abwehrsystem auch eine Bedeutung im Flüssigkeitstransport und steht in enger Beziehung zum Blutkreislauf.



## Lymphatische Organe

Die lymphatischen Organe sind spezialisierte Organe zur Differenzierung und Vermehrung der Lymphozyten. Sie werden in primäre und sekundäre lymphatische Organe unterteilt.

In den *primären lymphatischen Organen* erfolgt die Differenzierung von Vorläuferzellen in immunkompetente T- bzw. B-Lymphozyten:

- Thymus
- Knochenmark bzw. Bursaäquivalentes Organ bei Säugetieren, Bursa Fabricii bei Vögeln

In den *sekundären lymphatischen Organen* wird durch Zusammentreffen von Antigenen und immunkompetenten Lymphozyten eine spezifische Immunantwort ausgelöst:

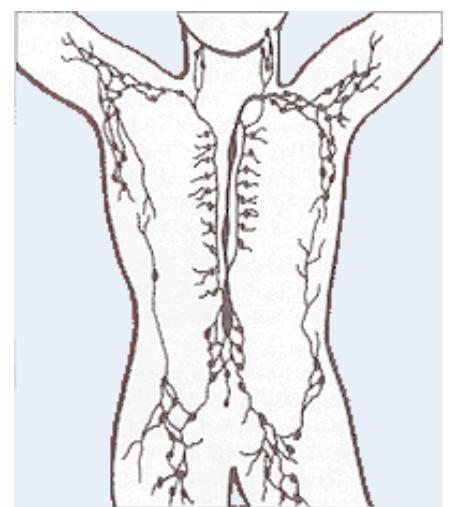
- Lymphfollikel
- Peyer-Plaques
- Mandeln
- Milz
- Lymphknoten
- Wurmfortsatz (Anhang des Blinddarms, oft fälschlich bei der Wurmfortsatzresektion als der „Blinddarm“ bezeichnet)

Milz und Knochenmark übernehmen darüber hinaus noch Funktionen bei Bildung, Speicherung und Abbau des Blutes.

Nach der Gewebszusammensetzung unterscheidet man lymphoepitheliale und lymphoretikuläre Organe.

## Lymphgefäßsystem

Das Lymphgefäßsystem beginnt als Lymphkapillaren in der Peripherie, diese enden also „blind“. Die Lymphkapillaren vereinigen sich zu größeren Lymphgefäßen. In diese Lymphgefäße sind die Lymphknoten als Filterstationen integriert. Dadurch dienen Lymphgefäße auch der Verbreitung der Lymphozyten. Die Lymphgefäße vereinigen sich zu Lymphsammelstämmen, die in die Venenwinkel und damit in die obere Hohlvene und somit in das Venensystem münden. Im Gegensatz zum Blutkreislauf gibt es also keinen „Lymphkreislauf“. Im Lymphsystem werden pro Tag etwa 2 Liter Lymphflüssigkeit transportiert. Der Transport der lymphpflichtigen Flüssigkeit erfolgt entweder passiv durch die Bewegung der Gliedmaßen und das Zusammenpressen der Lymphgefäße, sowie aktiv durch die nicht geordneten Kontraktionen der einzelnen Lymphangione (Lymphherzen). Lymphangione sind Lymphgefäßabschnitte mit verdickter Wand, begrenzt durch Ventilkappen, deren glatte Muskulatur sich etwa 10-mal pro Minute zusammenzieht. Die Lymphflüssigkeit folgt dann dem geringsten Widerstand in Richtung der sich nach proximal erweiternden Lymphgefäße. Durch eine manuelle Drainage und intermittierende Kompression können die Lymphangione angeregt werden und somit etwa 60-mal pro Minute kontrahieren.



Das Lymphgefäßsystem des Menschen

Neben der Bedeutung bei der Lymphozytenzirkulation spielt das Lymphgefäßsystem eine wichtige Rolle für den Flüssigkeitsabtransport aus den verschiedenen Körperteilen. Teile des Blutes treten im Kapillarbett der Gewebe als interzelluläre Flüssigkeit (Gewebewasser) aus. Diese *Gewebsflüssigkeit* wird zum einen über die Venen, zum anderen Teil aber als Lymphe über die Lymphgefäße abgeleitet. Die über das Lymphgefäßsystem transportierte Flüssigkeit mündet schließlich in die obere Hohlvene, womit beide Körperflüssigkeiten (Lymphe und Blut) wieder vereint sind. Die Abfallstoffe werden über den Dickdarm ausgeschieden. Über das Lymphgefäßsystem werden auch die im Darm resorbierten Fette in den Blutkreislauf transportiert.

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