ALL CHRONIC EDEMA INDICATES AN INADEQUACY OR FAILURE OF LYMPHATIC FUNCTION

The Revised Starling Principle^{1,2}

Classical Model (Now known to be inaccurate) BLOOD CAPILLARY from o venul arteriole Hydrostatic pressure **Oncotic pressure** ~ 90% drives reabsorption drives filtration Interstitial Fluid Return ~ 10% LYMPHATIC CAPILLARY fluid enters through to lymphatic one-way valves vessel 100 Traditionally (and still often explained incorrectly), it was taught that 90% of interstitial fluid is reabsorbed by the venous system.

Modern View: Glycocalyx Model



1. Levick JR, Michel CC. Microvascular fluid exchange and the revised Starling principle. Cardiovasc Res. 2010;87(2):198–210.

2. Mortimer, P. S., Rockson, S. G. (2014) New developments in clinical aspects of lymphedema disease. Journal of Clinical Investigation. March 2014; 124(3): 915-921.