LYMPHATIC SYSTEM THE OTHER CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

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We are all familiar of our circulatory system but behind this, we also have this “other circulatory system” that we will just notice by the time something goes wrong in the transportation stuff in our bodies. Well, this is because instead of transporting blood in the parts of our bodies, the network of vessels known as lymphatic system will transport lymph (colorless interstitial fluid of the blood).

The lymphatic system has an immune mechanism and gets the fat from the villi of our interstitial tract and bringing them to our bloodstream. It also gathers and brings the fluids from the intercellular areas of our tissues and bringing it back by the help of our lymph vessels.

This system has lymph capillaries which don’t have holes though they are permeable to the substances that are being dissolved by the interstitial fluid. It also has collecting ducts and lymph vessels. And what are lymph vessels, anyway? They are the numerous capillaries, or specifically called as lymph capillaries, that gather the solutes, fluids, and other kinds of materials that are unknown in our bodies, draining into our lymphatic emptying ducts. Then, they will gather themselves to make lymphatic that are the principal vessels carrying the lymph to our bloodstream. The watery lymph is moved forward along the pressing of our muscles. It will also be altered in terms of pressure inside the thoracic cavity because of our breathing.

How about our lymphoid organs? What are the things that make them? They are the lymph nodes, thymus, spleen, tonsil, and the lymphoid tissues in our small intestines.

We can found the lymph nodes in our neck, armpits, head, abdomen, and groins. They are also made up of lymphatic tissues. These are the places in our bodies where lymph nodes are concentrated. The nodes are the mass of tissues that harbor numerous numbers of the main agents
of immune system, lymphocytes. The bacteria and other foreign materials that can harm in our bodies and dragged to the vessels will then be managed by the white blood cells. Sometimes, the nodes will enlarge because of the lymphocytes that are set off. Thus, swelling lymph nodes means an infection occurring in us.

Tonsil is an organ that is also consisting lymphatic tissues. Located in mucous membrane, the tonsils are masses of lymphoid tissues. Another organ that has lymphatic tissues is the thymus. Thymus gland can be found in the mediastinum. And we also have the spleen which is an organ, the largest organ, of the lymphatic system. It is placed below our diaphragms. In this organ, the lymphoid tissues are expelling the bacteria and the old blood vessels we have.

References: