

Q- A hypodermic syringe is attached to a needle that has an inner radius of 0.305 mm and a length of 3.00 cm. The needle is filled with a solution of viscosity 2.01×10^{-3} Pa.s. It is injected into a vein at a gauge pressure of 16.6 mm of Hg.

(a) What must the pressure of the fluid in the syringe be to inject the solution at a rate of 0.252 mL/s?

(b) What force must be applied to the plunger which has an area of 1.03 cm^2 ?

The flow of fluid through a capillary is given by Poiseuille's equation which is given as

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{\pi R^4 \Delta P}{8\eta L}$$

Where dQ/dt is rate of flow i.e. the volume flowing per unit time, R is the radius of the tube, Δp is the pressure difference at the two ends, L is the length of the tube and η is the coefficient of viscosity of the fluid.

(a) The Poiseuille's equation will give

$$\Delta P = \frac{8\eta L}{\pi R^4} * \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

Here $R = 0.305 \text{ mm} = 3.05 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}$

$L = 3.00 \text{ cm} = 3.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}$

$\eta = 2.01 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Pa.s}$

$dQ/dt = 0.252 \text{ mL/s} = 2.52 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$

Now if the pressure inside the syringe be P_1 and that in vein be P_2 then the pressure difference will be given by

$$P_1 - P_2 = \frac{8\eta L}{\pi R^4} * \frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{8 * 2.01 \times 10^{-3} * 3.00 \times 10^{-2}}{3.14 * (3.05 \times 10^{-4})^4} * 2.52 \times 10^{-7} = 4.47 \times 10^3 \text{ Pa}$$

Now the pressure in the vein (gauge pressure)

$$P_2 = 16.5 \times 10^{-3} * 13.6 \times 10^3 * 9.8 \text{ Pa} = 2.20 \times 10^3 \text{ Pa}$$

Hence the gauge pressure of the fluid in the syringe is given by

$$P_1 = P_2 + \Delta P = 2.20 \times 10^3 + 4.47 \times 10^3 = \mathbf{6.67 \times 10^3 \text{ Pa}}$$

The absolute pressure in the syringe = gauge pressure + Atm pressure

$$= 6.67 \times 10^3 + 1.01 \times 10^5 = 1.08 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$$

(b) As the flow rate in the syringe is very small the force required to create this excess pressure is given by

$$F = P * A = (6.67 \times 10^3 \text{ Pa}) * (1.03 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2) = \mathbf{0.69 \text{ N}}$$