- Adventitia - loose connective tissue that contains nerve fibers and the vasa vasorum
- Endothelium - circular muscle layer that aids in vasoconstriction
- Media - the single layer of cells that is directly adjacent to blood flow
- Intima - all vessels have the same gene expression profile for this layer
- External elastic membrane - the major muscular component of both veins and arteries

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- The tunica media of arteries is not as well organized as the tunica media of veins.
- The amount of tissue in each layer is greater in arteries.
- The capacitance of the arterial lumen is greater.
- Veins have two main layers, while arteries have three.

- It allows the arterial system to be a high-pressure system and the venous system to be a low- capacitance system.
- It allows the arterial system to be a low-pressure system and the venous system to be a low- capacitance system.

- It allows the arterial system to be a high-pressure system and the venous system to be a high-capacitance system.
- It allows the arterial system to be a low-pressure system and the venous system to be a high- capacitance system.
- It allows the arterial system to be a high-capacitance system and the venous system to be a high-pressure system.

- It allows the arterial system to facilitate the closing of the tricuspid valve.
- It allows the arterial system to contain a majority of the blood as it returns to the heart.
- It allows the arterial system to contain a majority of the blood volume as it is pumped from the heart.
- It allows the arterial system to regulate blood pressure and flow.
- It allows the arterial system to increase resistance in the aorta.

- Arterioles
- Venules
- Capillaries
- Lymphatics
- Arteries

- Capillaries
- Venules
- Arterioles
- Large veins
- Large arteries
