

## A Model for Blood Flow in Capillaries and Its Numerical Solution

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**Abstract.** Developments in computing and experimental instruments help to solve problems of all medical sciences. Simulations of microcirculation have started to help scientists to make right decisions on microcirculation problems. In this study, earliest studies of the blood circulation in capillary region have been investigated and an existing numerical model of the blood flow in capillary has been studied and compared with the results from the available literature.

**Key words:** Blood flow; capillary; microcirculation; numerical model.

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### 1. Introduction

The necessities of tissues and cells are provided by a matter of exchange with blood in capillaries and thus one of the most important regions of blood circulation is in the capillary region. Investigations of blood flow on capillaries have been carried out from the 17th century to our time [1]. Even though, there had been many methods implemented to model of the system, since all involved methods have some borders and limitations, accurate and satisfactory results have yet to be obtained. Since high technological instruments cannot provide high accuracy on results from human body and even from microcirculation investigations, laboratory works and numerical models still play an important role on diagnosis and treatments. Investigations show that fluid mechanics approaches can examine the blood circulation and blood flow on living organisms. On the base of this remark, a numerical model is taken into consideration. The

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influence of exchange between blood and tissues and cells were considered to have a small affect on the flow and therefore it was ignored. Red blood cells were assumed to behave as in axial train model and laminar flow equations were derived considering the contraction of red blood cells due to the flow in capillaries. Implemented an existing model which then depends mainly on the idea of separating a capillary into equal segments in length, was implemented. To conclude the implementation, a FORTRAN code was used. By examining all the segments separately, pressure, speed, radius and flow rate values were calculated. Results were compared with the values on available references. As a result, implementation of numerical model on references had consistent values within themselves.

## **2. Short Literature Review for Blood Flow**

In bioengineering many mathematical models have been developed for different purposes and some of those models have been concentrated on the blood flow and microcircular systems [2,3,4,5]. The flow rate of blood in microcircular system is important in many cases. There are several approaches to measure blood flow in the system. For example, as explained in [6] flow measurements have been reported using techniques of scanning laser doppler imaging and anemometer, Doppler ultrasound system [7,8,9], dye dilution [10], endoscopies [11], and fluorescent-labelled microspheres [12]. Each of these methods has some inherent restrictions and limitations. Accurate scanning laser Doppler velocimetry measurements can be obtained only from blood vessels that are 40  $\mu m$  or more in diameter, and the measurements are not specific to red or white blood cells [13]. The dye dilution technique measures the flow of whole blood volume but not blood cells velocity. Endoscopy causes injury to the surrounding tissue from the insertion of the endoscope and does not account for the resultant change intraocular pressure. Because of their rigidity and spherical shape, fluorescent-labelled microspheres do not have exactly the same homodynamic properties as red blood cells. Moreover, the spheres used by Khoobehi et al., were smaller than red blood cells, being 1-2  $\mu m$  in diameter [12].

According to the results of the experimental studies, doing experiment on human subjects is not easy and they also have some assumptions and errors because of their difficulties. The other point for the experimental studies is that their set-ups are difficult and expensive. Theoretical studies and models have been carried out since 1842 as mentioned in [14]. Some of the mathematical models have lost their importance with development electronic test systems. However the value of right and precise models will never lost their importance, because of their guidance on the experimental studies.

In this study, an existing numerical model is going to be investigated with some improvements to determine flow properties for microcircular system.

### **2.1. A Brief Review for Capillary Flow Measurement Models**

There are several studies for blood flow in vessels. However, microcircular system has not been studied as much as an ordinary system. To reduce the number

of difficulties and number of experiments, precise models are necessary for the microcirculatory system.

Some models have been established and studied as mentioned in [14] and [2]. Most accepted and studied models have been investigated by Charm and Kurland who were published in 1974. Charm and Kurland's model has also been taken as a base for the model that is considered in this study which model will be investigated with some more details and with improvements in the following sections.

## **2.2. A Closure on Mathematical Models with Capillary Blood Flow**

There are some theoretical studies on the microvascular blood flow, which are based on only assumptions and mathematical calculations. They do not use any experimental results that may help the model accuracy. For example, some of the models assume that the system is an electrical network, there are some models using an iterative mathematical model of network blood flow [15,16,17] and some use finite element for computational fluid dynamics results [2,18].

The literature survey shows that capillary blood flow has been originated from relative movement of red blood cells in the plasma. The red blood cells have to be contracted in capillaries to move. For this reason, the red blood cells have to be specially considered [2,6,19].

With this basic background, an existing model has been taken in consideration as explained in [14] which is the most relevant and detailed model for this study. In the study [14] the analytical model has been investigated with a numerical approach and the results of the numerical approach have been compared with some experimental results from the literature.

## **3. Flow in the Capillaries**

Vessels of the circulatory system are not rigid. They respond to changes in internal pressure changing in their diameter. In larger vessels of the microcirculation (e.g. small arteries, arterioles, venules and veins), vessel wall diameter is principally responsive to nervous control rather than transmural pressure and wall elasticity. In capillaries, however, diameter is not subject to nervous control [14].

### **3.1. Derivation of Vessel Diameter in Capillary**

The relationship between pressure and radius in cylindrical vessels can be expressed with Laplace's equation [14,20].

$$(1) \quad \tau = P_t R_a$$

Where  $\tau$  is tension force/length,  $P_t$  and  $R_a$  are the transmural pressure difference and vessel radius respectively.

Although, equation (1) seems to be convenient expression, Laplace's equation does not consider the thickness of the vessel wall and thus omits an important parameter from consideration.

The properties of vessel wall material that determine the relationship between transmural pressure and vessel radius are the elastic modulus ( $E_w$ ) and the Poisson ratio ( $\epsilon$ ). The thickness of the vessel wall plays an important role in setting the relationship between vessel diameter and pressure.

The simplest relationship between elongation and stress, which is known as Hook's law is given by

$$(2) \quad S = E_w \epsilon$$

Where  $S$  and  $E_w$  mean, respectively, stress and the elastic modulus.  $\epsilon$  denotes the strain, which is the fractional elongation of an element, that is,  $\Delta L/L$  where  $\Delta L$  is the change in the length of the material with length  $L$ . The stress (or force/unit area) acting in the wall of a thin cylindrical vessel under pressure is defined by

$$(3) \quad S = \frac{P_t R_a}{T}$$

The strain in this case is  $\Delta R_a/R_a$ . The wall thickness  $T$  varies with the change in radius. The relationship between  $T$  and  $R_a$  is

$$(4) \quad \frac{dT}{T} = -\nu \frac{dR_a}{R_a} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{T}{T_0} = \frac{(R_a)^{-\nu}}{R_0}$$

Where  $\nu$  is Poisson ratio for material or vessel wall (for isotropic materials  $\nu = 0.25$ ),  $T_0$  denotes thickness of wall at "rest" radius  $R_0$ .  $R_a$  and  $R_0$  indicate cylinder radius with transmural pressure difference  $P_t$  and  $\nu$  cylinder rest radius or radius with zero transmural pressure respectively.

The vessel wall acts as a Hookian material for small changes in radius, and the relationship between transmural pressure in the vessel and the vessel radius defined as

$$(5) \quad R_a = \frac{P_t R_0^2}{E_w T_0} \left( \frac{R_a}{R_0} \right)^\nu + R_0$$

During the blood flow in a vessel filled with reduced radius, the pressure decreases, as it can be seen in equation (5). The shape of a vessel depends on the hydrostatic and osmotic pressure differences along its length and its elastic properties. With knowing the transmural pressure along the vessel, it is possible to calculate the vessel shape using equation (5).

### 3.2. Derivation of the Velocity of Red Cell in a Capillary

Cell in capillaries may flow in "stacked" flow as described in Figure 1. or the cells may orient "edge on" with the opposite sides of the cell pushed in and the

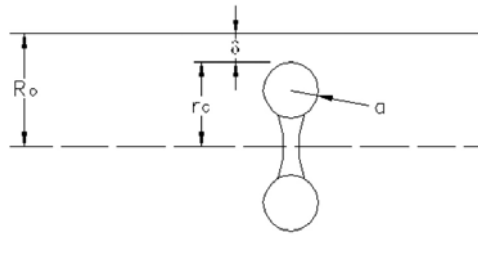
central part of the disc pushed out. The shape is cylindrical, with the leading edge convex and trailing edge concave. The type of orientation occurs at low velocities as 0.2 mm/sec and tube diameters less than cell diameters [14] and [21].



**Figure 1.** The shapes of cell during blood flow (stacked flow) [21]

Consider a capillary with a radius  $R_0$  which is larger than the rest radius of a cell  $r_c$ .  $\delta$  is the distance between the radius of a cell and capillary of radius (see Figure 2).

During the blood flow in capillary, the cell distorts under pressure, causing an increase in the gap between the cell and the wall (Figure 3). When the cells are oriented to move downstream in the same position, as in Figure 3., (stacked flow), the velocity profile must be a plug flow type, since the entire cell moves with the same velocity as at the cell edge. The velocity at the cell edge is determined by the plasma velocity that is undergoing laminar flow between the vessel wall and the edge of the cell. As pressure increases, the cell distorts, shortening the cell radius  $r_c$  by an amount  $\Delta r$ .



**Figure 2.** Vessel and a cell at rest [14]

The velocity of the cell in a capillary is the same as the velocity at the streamline at the edge of the cell, which is at a distance  $r_c - \Delta r$  from the center ( $r_c$  =cell radius at rest;  $\Delta r$  =change in cell radius due to distortion), see Figure 2.

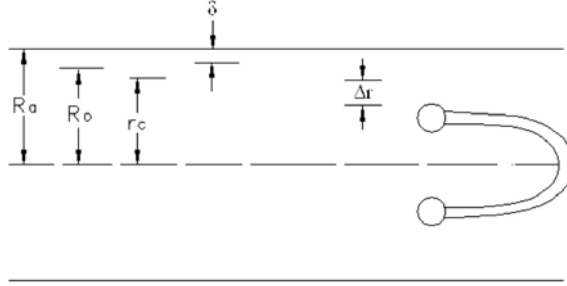
The velocity equation can be produced with assumption of full developed and laminar flow using control volume analysis [22]. The formulation detail of velocity equation can be found in [23].

The point velocity of the cell is found from

$$(6) \quad \frac{P}{2L} \int_{r_c - \Delta r}^{R_a} R dR = \mu_p \int_v^0 -dv$$

$$v_c = \frac{P}{4\mu_p L} \left[ R_a^2 - (r_c - \Delta r)^2 \right]$$

where  $\Delta r$  expresses change in projected radius of cell due to deformation under pressure and  $\mu_p$  is the plasma viscosity.  $r_c$  denotes the rest radius of cell.



**Figure 3.** Cell and vessel under pressure [14]

### 3.3. Derivation of the Flow Rate in the Capillary

The flow rate through the cell under these flow conditions may be calculated by integrating the incremental flow  $\delta Q$  through an annulus of radial width  $\delta r$  at radius  $r$  across the flow from  $r = 0$  to  $r = R$

$$\delta Q = v 2\pi r \delta r$$

$$(7) \quad Q = \int_0^R v 2\pi r dr$$

Substituting for  $v$  in to the above equation, and integrate over the conditions yields an expression as below.

$$(8) \quad Q = \frac{\pi}{8\mu} \left( \frac{\Delta P}{L} \right) \left[ R^4 - (r_c - \Delta r)^4 \right]$$

The flow rate through a capillary is slightly larger than cell as seen in equation (8).

### 3.4. Cell Distortion in Capillary

Cell distortion due to pressure gradient across a cell can be determined by considering the forces acting on a cell in a capillary. The cell is idealized to appear in cross section as in Figure 2. (i.e. a torus encircling a disc). When

a cell flow exists in a capillary, as in Figure 4., a net drag force  $S$  acts on the torus and a pressure load  $P/L(t_c)$  acts in the opposite direction on the central portions of the cell. In the Figure 4.,  $T$  is the force per unit of a circumference exerted on torus by the central membrane of the cell,  $a$  is the radius of the torus,  $r_c$  is the cell radius at rest, and  $S$  is the drag force [14].

Force acting on the torus in Figure 4. can be resolved into an equivalent force system of a horizontal component and a moment for  $S$  and a horizontal and vertical component for  $T$ . If the velocity of the cell is constant, there cannot be a net force acting on the cell, and is that  $S = T \sin \theta$  as can be seen in Figure 4. The moment  $Sa$  acts uniformly all around the torus and is therefore self-equilibrating. It is assumed that the twisting action of the distributed moment does not grossly deform the membrane. The distributed force  $T \cos \theta$  is the force of primary concern, since it causes a radial contraction of the torus. The circumferential stress in the torus is approximately

$$(9) \quad S_c = \frac{T r_c \cos \theta}{\pi a^2}$$

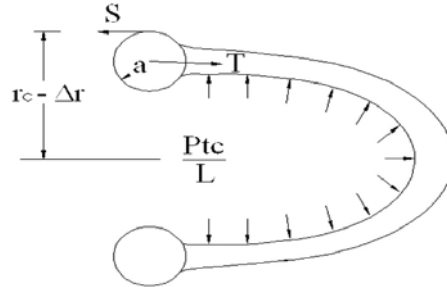
and the circumferential strain is

$$(10) \quad \frac{\Delta r}{r_c} = \frac{T r_c \cos \theta}{\pi E_c a^2}$$

or

$$(11) \quad \Delta r = \frac{T \cos \theta}{\pi E_c} \left( \frac{r_c}{a} \right)^2$$

It is necessary to relate  $T$  and  $\theta$  to the geometric and material properties and the applied loading  $P/L(t_c)$  across the cell.



**Figure 4.** Forces acting on an idealized cell in capillary flow [14]

Consider the central portion of the cell, it has previously been observed that red cells deform in the shape of a paraboloid. Thus,

$$(12) \quad w = \frac{P}{L} t_c \frac{r^2}{4T} + const$$

where  $w$  is the lateral displacement of membrane and  $r$  is the radial distance measured from axis of symmetry. After differentiating of  $w$  gives

$$(13) \quad \left( \frac{dw}{dr} \right)_{r=(r_c-\Delta r)} = \frac{Pt_c(r_c-\Delta r)}{2LT} \tan \theta$$

Assuming that  $\tan \theta$  can be replaced by  $\theta$  (for  $\theta \leq 300$  the error is 10%) it can be written

$$(14) \quad \theta = \frac{Pt_c(r_c-\Delta r)}{2LT}$$

Now  $T$  is related to the applied pressure by noting that an originally flat membrane loaded by a uniform pressure will deflect into a spherical segment and that

$$(15) \quad T = t_c \left[ \frac{E_c(r_c-\Delta r)^2(P/L)^2}{24(1-\nu_c)} \right]^{1/3}$$

If the paraboloid is shallow, the equation (15) is accurate, for under these conditions the distinction between a paraboloid and a spherical segment can be ignored. When the membrane deflection is large, a nonlinear analysis is required and equation (15) gives only an approximation. Assuming that the approximation is adequate for these purposes and substituting equations (15) and (14) into (11), then equation (16) is obtained,

$$(16) \quad \Delta r = \left( \frac{P}{LE_c} \right)^{2/3} \frac{r_c^2 t_c [(r_c-\Delta r)^2]^{1/3}}{\pi a^2 24(1-\nu_c)^{1/3}} \cos \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{P}{E_c L} (r_c-\Delta r) [24(1-\nu_c)] \right)^{1/3} \right\}$$

where the thickness  $t_c$  is a function of  $\Delta r$ . This relationship can be determined by assuming that the volume of the cell  $V_0$  is constant and that

$$(17) \quad V_0 = A t_c$$

where  $A$  is the surface area of one side of the cell and can now be found from a consideration of the surface of revolution generated by the trace of the paraboloid cell. Thus, it can be obtained by

$$(18) \quad A = \int_0^{w_{\max}} 2\pi r dw = \frac{P}{L} t_c \int_0^{r_c-\Delta r} \pi r \left( \frac{r}{T} \right) dr$$

$$(19) \quad A = \frac{\pi P (r_c-\Delta r)^3}{3L} \left[ \frac{24(1-\nu_c)}{E_c (P/L)^2 (r_c-\Delta r)} \right]^{1/3}$$

Substituting this for an in equation (17), solving for  $T_c$  and substituting for  $T_c$  in equation (16) can be found the change in cell radius due to stress distortion as follow,



$$(20) \quad \Delta r = \frac{3 V_0 r_c^2}{\pi a} \left[ \frac{\Delta P/L}{(r_c - \Delta r)^5 E_c 24(1 - \nu_c)^2} \right]^{1/3} \cos \left( \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\Delta P(r_c - \Delta r) 24(1 - \nu_c)}{E_c L} \right]^{1/3} \right)$$

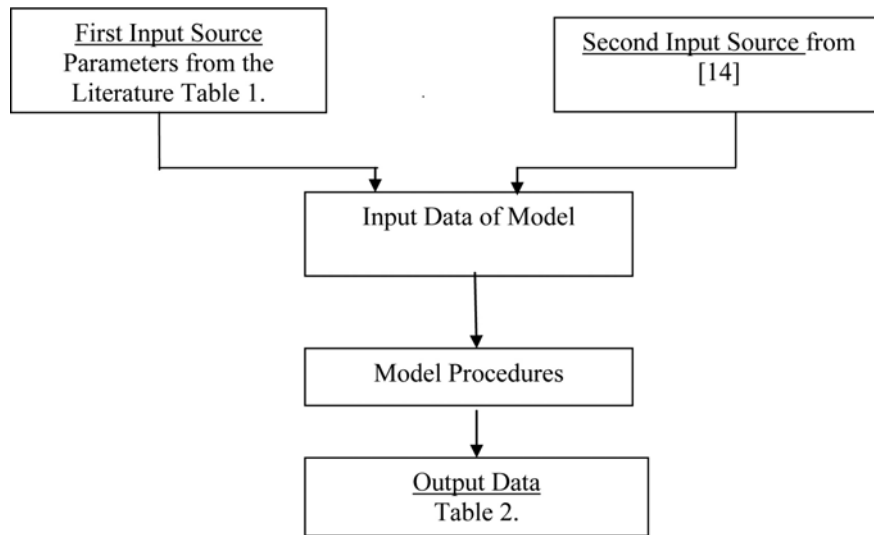
When the capillary wall is not fully rigid, this plays an important role on the elasticity of the cell. Although, the elasticity value of the cell is close enough the capillary elasticity, the cell elasticity is not important for the flow [3].

#### 4. Numerical Study of the Model

According to the previous explanations, Charm and placeKurland's numerical model may be investigated to determine of blood pressure, velocity, value of vessel diameter with some improvements. The original model [14] could be considered for some evaluations. These evaluations require separate unite calculations. This numerical model procedures and inputs have been explained as follows.

##### 4.1. Numerical Model Inputs

There are different input values that are required by the evaluated model. Averages of these input values have been used in the model. These inputs have been summarised in the Table 1. Elasticity and Poisson constants have been taken from [14] and these values are also used for the original model. The input data sources for the model and the output are shown in Figure 5. as a block diagram.



**Figure 5.** Basic concept of the model and data structure

| Reference Number | Capillary length<br><i>mm</i> | P osmotic<br><i>mmHg</i> | P in<br><i>mmHg</i> | P average<br><i>mmHg</i> | P out<br><i>mmHg</i> | cell velocity<br><i>mm/s</i> | cell radius<br><i>Micron</i> | wall thickness<br><i>Micron</i> |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| [24]             |                               | 28                       |                     | 30                       |                      |                              |                              |                                 |
| [25]             |                               | 26                       |                     | 32                       |                      |                              |                              |                                 |
| [26]             |                               |                          | 32                  | 25                       | 16                   | 0.3-1.0                      |                              | 0.5 - 1.0                       |
| [27]             | 1                             |                          | 35                  | 25                       | 16                   | 10                           | 8.0                          |                                 |
| [28]             |                               | 25                       | 28                  |                          | 14                   |                              | 8.0                          | 1                               |
| [29]             |                               | 28                       | 35                  | 17                       | 10                   |                              |                              | 0.5                             |
| [30]             |                               | 25                       | 35                  | 25                       | 15                   |                              | 8.0                          |                                 |
| [31]             |                               |                          | 32                  | 25                       | 16                   |                              | 8                            | 1                               |
| [32]             |                               |                          |                     |                          |                      |                              | 5.0 - 10.0                   |                                 |
| [33]             |                               |                          |                     |                          |                      | 0.7                          |                              |                                 |
| [14]             |                               | 25                       | 35                  |                          | 15                   |                              | 5                            | 1                               |
| [34]             | 1                             | 25                       | 35                  | 23                       | 10                   |                              |                              |                                 |
| [35]             |                               | 25                       | 32                  | 22                       | 12                   |                              | 6.0 - 8.0                    |                                 |
| [7]              |                               |                          |                     |                          |                      | 0.14 - 0.93                  |                              |                                 |
| [36]             | 0.615                         |                          | 32                  | 27                       | 22                   |                              |                              |                                 |
| [37]             |                               | 28                       | 35                  |                          | 15                   | 0.3                          | 5.0 - 7.0                    |                                 |
| [38]             | 0.655-0.947                   |                          |                     |                          |                      |                              | 4.57-5.95                    |                                 |
| [39]             | 1                             |                          |                     | 20                       |                      | 0.3                          | 10.0                         |                                 |
| [40]             | 1                             | 25                       | 32                  | 26                       | 20                   |                              |                              | 1                               |
| [41]             |                               | 25                       | 35                  | 25                       | 15                   |                              |                              |                                 |
| [6]              |                               |                          |                     |                          |                      | 0.9-4.8                      | 5.1 - 7.5                    |                                 |
| [42]             |                               | 25                       |                     | 24                       |                      |                              |                              |                                 |
| [43]             | 0.75                          |                          |                     |                          |                      |                              | 6.0                          |                                 |

Table 1. Using the Input Parameters from the Literatures

## 4.2. The Procedures in the Model

The procedures of the model are taken from the analytical model, which is used in the literature [14]. Within the procedures, two main improvements have been achieved from that model; first, the velocity equation is added to the developed model. The second difference is related to come from the fluid rate. In the analytical model [14], fluid rate has been used as a control parameter for conversion of the result. In the developed model, on the other hand, the fluid rate is taken as a constant value. In the analytical model total pressure difference and input/output pressure differences are compared with conversion the developed model pressure differences (from the literature) and determined pressure differences have been compared to conversion.

In this improved numerical model, first of all, the pressure difference ( $\Delta p$ ) is defined for the cross section. Transmural pressure ( $Pt$ ) is determined from assumed section pressure difference ( $\Delta p$ ) and osmotic pressure. First section radius has been calculated from the equation (5). This calculation requires iterations because of the radius function ( $R_a = f(R_a)$ ) has a recursive structure. This is started by an assumed  $R_a$  value, than the equation (5) calculates a new  $R_a$  value. The assumed and calculated  $R_a$  radiuses are expected approximate each other within a defined tolerance. This has been carried out an iterative structure.

Cell distortion (equation 20) which is a function of itself ( $\Delta r = f(\Delta r)$ ) has a similar structure to the radius calculation equation and its calculations are carried in a similar way as the radius calculations. This procedure has also a recursive structure. All these calculations are based on values for flow rate and velocity of first zone. The criteria of calculations are the number of sections on the model. A new pressure value of the cross section is the difference of the pressure and the pressure difference of the previous cross section ( $P(s) = P(s-1) - \Delta p(s-1)$ ). From these known values, the transmural pressure can be calculated easily. In the following stage, radius is calculated as previously explained. The calculations could be carried out, because the first pressure difference has already been assumed. However, other sections require pressure difference calculations for velocity and flow rate. There are no specific equations for pressure difference calculations. For this reason existing equations which is the equation (8), have to be considered.

In this model, it has been assumed that, there is not any material transfer (water, proteins, etc.) between capillary wall and tissues, which reminds that flow rate is constant for all sections. The pressure difference can be calculated from solutions of equation (8) and equation (20) together. From input data and calculated values, the velocity could be calculated easily using equation (6).

When the calculations are completed for all sections, the values are checked for integrity. This is a comparison between last section pressure and exit pressure, which is given as an input data values. If the differences between those values are out of tolerance, all the calculations need to be started from the beginning with a new assumed pressure difference. If differences are in tolerance of the calculations, procedure will be stopped.

For this model, a FORTRAN programming code has been completed that could handle precise values and iterations in a convenient way. The flow chart of the program is presented in the Appendix A.

### 4.3. Concluded Results from the Model and its Applications

The numerical model has ran with inputs that were gathered from related literature. These input values and results from the model have been shown in Table 2.

| Number of References | Input value of radius ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | Calculated value of radius ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | Relative error (%) | Input value of velocity (mm/s) | Calculated value of velocity (mm/s) | Relative error (%) | Calculated flow rate ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{s}$ ) |
|----------------------|---|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| [26]                 | 5                                       | 4.99   | 0.20               | 0.65                           | 6.1                                 | 838                | 0.35 E-3  |
| [27]                 | 8                                       | 8.02   | 0.25               | 10                             | 14.6                                | 46                 | 2.45 E-3  |
| [28]                 | 8                                       | 7.75   | 3.13               |                                | 7.6                                 |                    | 1.20 E-3  |
| [30]                 | 8                                       | 8.16   | 2.00               |                                | 15.3                                |                    | 2.54 E-3  |
| [31]                 | 8                                       | 8.02   | 0.25               |                                | 10.9                                |                    | 1.79 E-3  |
| [14]                 | 5                                       | 5.03   | 0.62               |                                | 8.1                                 |                    | 0.47 E-3  |
| [34]                 | 5                                       | 4.96   | 0.80               |                                | 10.7                                |                    | 0.56 E-3  |
| [35]                 | 7                                       | 6.90   | 1.43               |                                | 11.1                                |                    | 1.32 E-3  |
| [36]                 | 5                                       | 5.06   | 1.20               |                                | 6.6                                 |                    | 0.38 E-3  |
| [37]                 | 6                                       | 5.91   | 1.50               | 0.3                            | 9.3                                 | 3000               | 0.78 E-3  |

Table 2. Comparing the values of radius and velocities

This table also presents error percentages of the calculated values that have been based on related literature. Some of the percentages are relatively high because the values are very small and precise.

As seen from Table 2, calculated capillary diameters and gathered diameters (from available literature) are consistent. However, there are a few available velocity values in the literature; also the calculated velocities do not verify them. It is an advantage that the model provides a calculation approach for capillaries' velocity values. But the inconsistency between the literature and calculated velocity values forces the researchers for the reconsideration on the model and gathered values. Reasons for the differences will be explained in the section 4.3.2 in more details.

The radius and flow rate have a right proportion. They both increase and decrease. Pressure has no direct relation with flow rate as it can be seen in Table of App. B. These results have been presented in a tabular form (Table of App. B) that makes it easy to compare. Following graphics present calculated results and literatures values, they have been based input parameters from literature. However behaviour of [14] (from literature) may be accepted as the response of the model, since all the required parameters for the model cannot be found at the same time in the same literature. Necessary parameters may be gathered from [14] (see Figure 5.).

### 4.3.1. The Comparison of the Calculated Pressure Values

The calculated pressure values comparison has been presented in Figure 6. The pressure change through the capillary length has been calculated for different diameters from available references. When Figure 6. is investigated, the input pressures are from  $32\text{mmHg}$  to  $35\text{mmHg}$  ([31] and [35]), and they drop down to  $20\text{mmHg}$  until the end of the capillary for each references. This means that the pressure drops to  $20\text{mmHg}$  for metricconverterProductID1 mm1 mm capillary. This has similar change with body pressure as mention in [45]. The heart beats do not affect pressure change of the capillaries, the affect can only be observed on the veins. This also validates the model pressure calculations and their values.

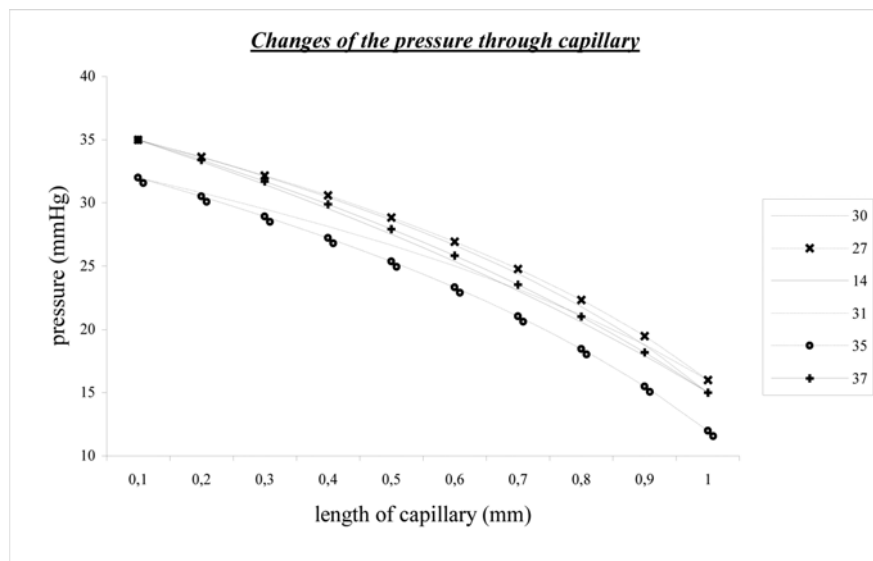
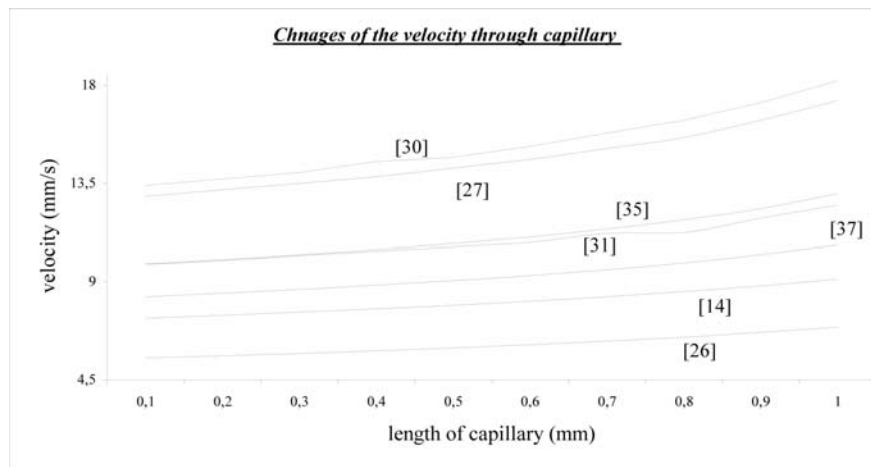


Figure 6. Comparison of the pressure changes

### 4.3.2. The Comparison of the Calculated Velocity Values

The velocities of red blood cells have been compared for different input parameters from different references as seen in Figure 7.

The calculated velocity values do not agree with each other when their input values are taken from different literature. This is usual as they have different input values in different body sections. The experimental measurements from retina show that the velocity ratio of capillary is 1/5 ratio [6]. The other source of disagreement is viscosity of the blood, it shows difference from  $7.5 - 15 \times 10^{-6} \text{mmHg/s}$  in different literature. This could also be source of the disagreements.

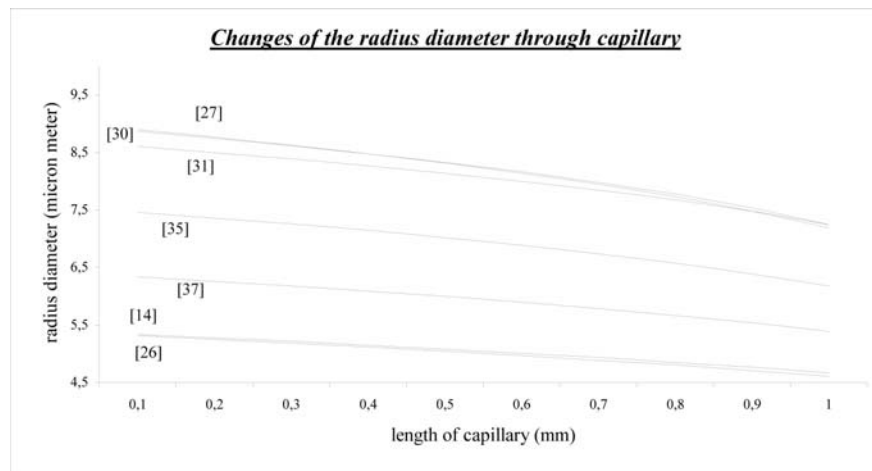


**Figure 7.** Comparison of the velocity changes

According to calculations the literature [26], velocity value starts with a low value and ends with small increment along capillary. However, in [30] velocity value starts with a high value and it ends with a high increment when it is compared with literature [26]. As a result of this and other elements of the graphic, when initial value is high the last velocity also is high; the difference between beginning and ending is related. When Table 2 is considered, stationary capillary diameter is high and its initial velocity value is high.

#### 4.3.3. The Comparison of the Calculated Radius Values

Figure 8 presents different calculated radius values through the capillary length. The calculations based on different input values of the available literature. The first concentration should be on stationary capillary radius values. These values are lined up as seen in Figure 8. The radius of capillary has a relationship with initial pressure value. When the pressure is high the radius also increases. The radius of capillary decreases with length of capillary. With the pressure decrements radius also decreases.



**Figure 8.** Comparison of the radius diameter changes

## 5. Conclusion

Studies and available references show that the capillaries and blood flow do not have the same features for different body sections. This is the main reason for that the studies not being able to be carried out on the capillary found on the same body section. The number of considerate parameters for calculations increases with daily improvements and this makes it impossible to get the same results for the calculations. Even though the study for parameters of the specific sections of the capillaries (brain, eye, etc) has been taken into consideration, the results do not have a clear agreement. This is usual because of the nature the subject matter.

These type numerical models and simulations may help to cut down the number experiments on the real measurements and testing of real systems. This type models may gain importance when they are used with electronic test systems and their applications.

The low cost of the model is the major advantage of the approach. Rather than producing final results, the model aims to steer some clinical experiments and reduce the number of experiments.

## 6. Further Works

More studies may be done to create more realistic models which can be taken into consideration the material transfer between capillaries and tissues. Also models and their solutions could be carried out for specific capillaries as brain, heart etc.

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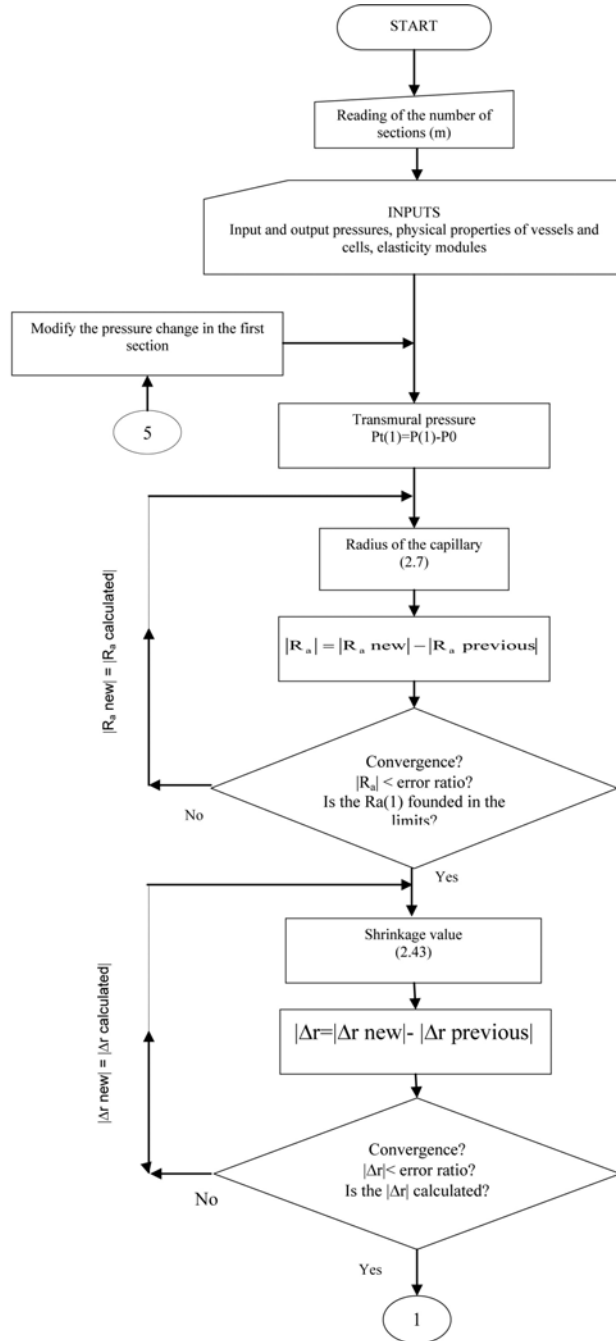
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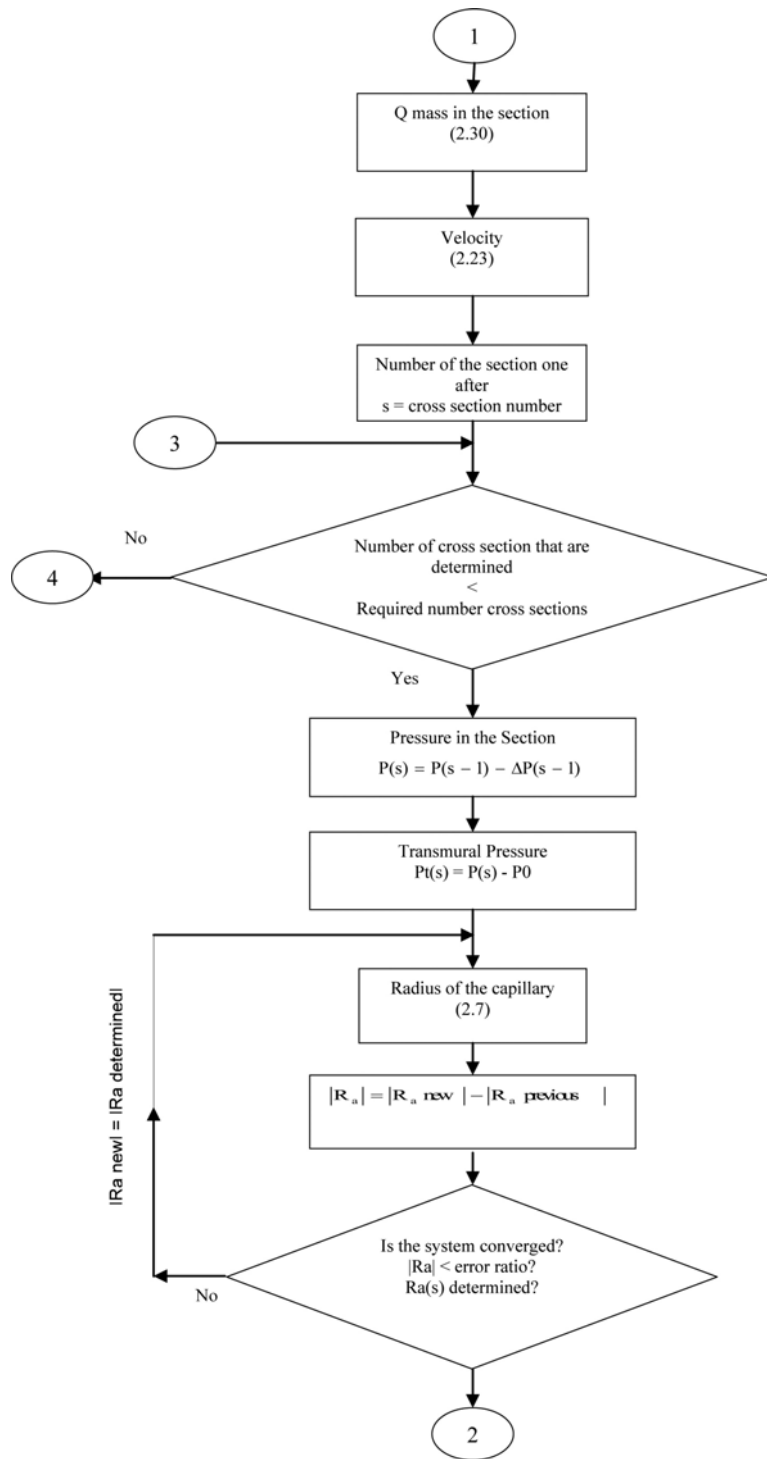


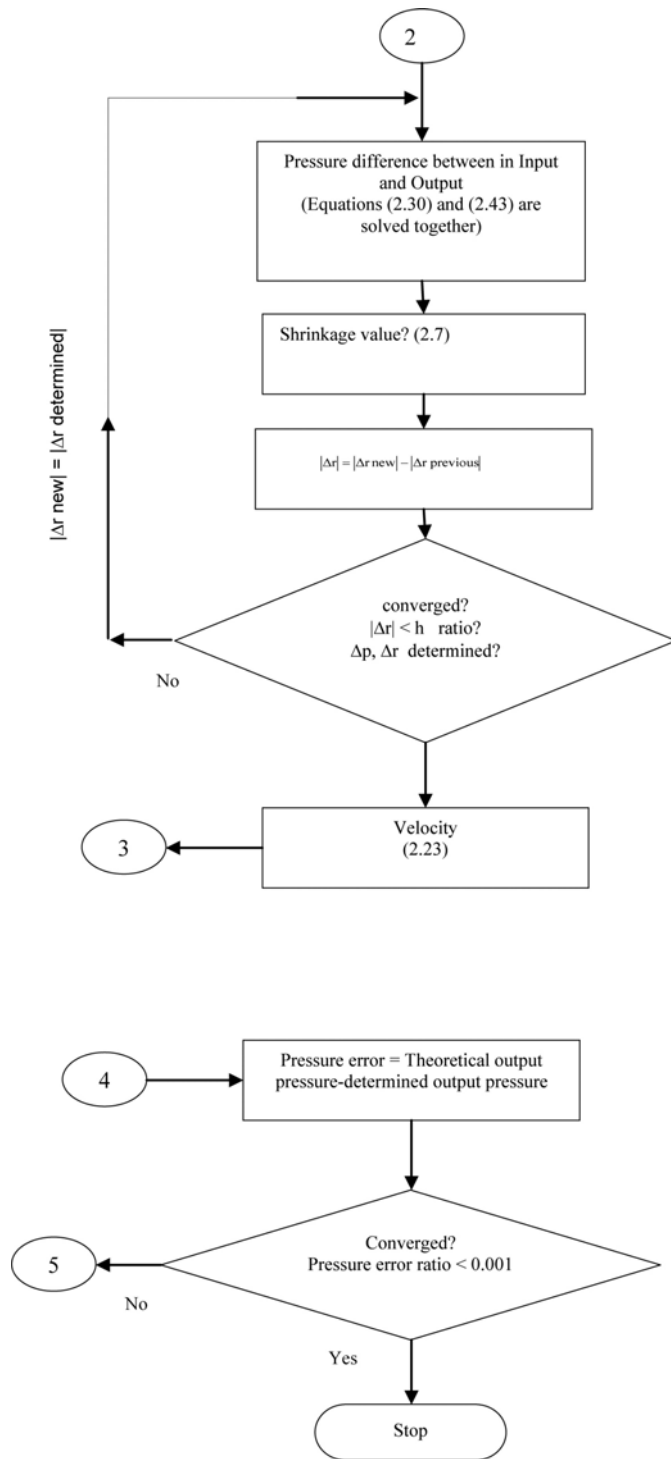
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Appendix A. Flow Cart of FORTRAN Code







Appendix B. Input and Output Data

Table B.1 The Comparisons of the Input and Output from the Literature

|   | [26]        | [27]        | [28]        | [30]        | [31]        | [16]        | [34]        | [35]        | [36]        | [37]        |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>KAYNAKLAR</b>                        |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>GIRDILER</b>                         |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Ewall                                   | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      | 750.06      |
| Ecell                                   | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    | 37503.08    |
| Posmo                                   | 25          | 25          | 25          | 25          | 25          | 25          | 25          | 25          | 25          | 28          |
| Pinput                                  | 32          | 35          | 28          | 35          | 32          | 35          | 35          | 32          | 32          | 35          |
| Poutput                                 | 16          | 16          | 14          | 15          | 16          | 15          | 10          | 12          | 22          | 15          |
| Wall Poisson ratio                      | 0.25        | 0.25        | 0.25        | 0.5         | 0.25        | 0.25        | 0.25        | 0.25        | 0.25        | 0.25        |
| Cross section length                    | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.0615      | 0.01        |
| Viscosity of plasma                     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     | 9.75E-6     |
| Poisson ratio of red blood cell         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         |
| Stationary vessel diameter              | 5.00E-03    | 8.00E-03    | 8.00E-03    | 8.00E-03    | 8.00E-03    | 5.00E-03    | 5.00E-03    | 7.00E-03    | 5.00E-03    | 6.00E-03    |
| Stationary red blood cell diameter      | 4.00E-03    | 7.00E-03    | 7.00E-03    | 7.00E-03    | 7.00E-03    | 4.00E-03    | 4.00E-03    | 6.00E-03    | 4.00E-03    | 5.00E-03    |
| Red blood cell diameter in tick section | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    |
| Wall thickness in stationary            | 7.50E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 1.00E-03    | 7.50E-05    | 1.00E-03    |
| Volume of red blood cell                | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     | 8.40E-8     |
| Input of diameter average               | 5           | 8           | 8           | 8           | 8           | 5           | 5           | 7           | 5           | 6           |
| Calculated diameter average             | 4.99        | 8.02        | 7.75        | 8.16        | 8.02        | 5.03        | 4.96        | 6.90        | 5.06        | 5.91        |
| Error ratio                             | <b>0.20</b> | <b>0.02</b> | <b>3.13</b> | <b>1.99</b> | <b>0.02</b> | <b>0.62</b> | <b>0.08</b> | <b>1.49</b> | <b>1.20</b> | <b>1.40</b> |
| Input of velocity average               | 0.65        | 10          |             |             |             |             |             |             | 0.7         | 0.3         |
| Calculated velocity average             | 6.1         | 14.6        | 7.6         | 15.3        | 10.9        | 8.1         | 10.7        | 11.1        | 6.6         | 9.3         |
| Error ratio                             | <b>838</b>  | <b>46</b>   |             |             |             |             |             |             | <b>7</b>    | <b>3000</b> |
| Debi                                    | 0.35 E-3    | 2.45 E-3    | 1.20 E-3    | 2.54 E-3    | 1.79 E-3    | 0.47 E-3    | 0.56 E-3    | 1.32 E-3    | 0.38 E-3    | 0.78 E-3    |