

Hydrostatic Pressure

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Definition. Hydrostatic pressure is the pressure exerted on immersed objects.

Properties

1. Pascal's law states that the pressure exerted by fluid on an immersed object is equal on all surfaces of the object.
2. As the density of water and depth of immersion increase, so does hydrostatic pressure.

Clinical Significance

1. Increased pressure reduces or limits effusion, assists venous return, induces bradycardia, and centralizes peripheral blood flow.
2. The proportionality of depth and pressure allows patients to perform exercise more easily when closer to the surface.

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