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Is COVID-19 a Vascular Disease?

COVID-19 may be a vascular disease. A new theory suggests the virus enters through the lungs, roughs up the air sacs, but does the worst damage to the tiny capillaries that carry oxygen from the lungs into the bloodstream. A chemical reaction with the virus causes capillaries to constrict making oxygen exchange difficult. Damage to the inside of the capillaries causes tiny blood clots to form, which plug the capillaries, further restricting oxygen exchange. Thus, patient oxygen saturation levels plunge even though the patients breathe without difficulty.

These tiny clots have also been found in the brain and major organs of people who have died from COVID-19. This may be why people with vascular diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure are harder hit. I’m grateful for the doctors working hard to figure out this mysterious virus.