

The arteriovenous oxygen difference, or a-vO<sub>2</sub> diff, is the difference in the oxygen content of the blood between the arterial blood and the venous blood. It is an indication of how much oxygen is removed from the blood in capillaries as the blood circulates in the body. The a-vO<sub>2</sub> diff and cardiac output are the main factors that allow variation in the body's total oxygen consumption, and are important in measuring VO<sub>2</sub>. The a-vO<sub>2</sub> diff is usually measured in millilitres of oxygen per 100 millilitres of blood (mL/100 mL).

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