

Extracellular interstitial fluid

Extracellular [interstitial fluid](#) is a thin layer of fluid that surrounds the body's cells.

Although there is no [lymphatic system](#) in the [central nervous system](#) (CNS), there seems to be a mechanism to remove [macromolecules](#) from the brain. [Cerebrospinal fluid](#) (CSF) and [interstitial fluid](#) (ISF) are thought to be parts of this [pathway](#), but the details are not known.

Since substance exchange occurs between the CNS extracellular interstitial fluid (ISF) and CSF, it is assumed that CSF serves as a sink for the removal of various metabolites out of the CNS by its unidirectional pulsatile flow and [absorption](#)¹⁾ ²⁾ ³⁾

see [Cerebrospinal fluid physiology](#).

¹⁾

Davson H, Welch K, Segal MB. The physiology and pathophysiology of the cerebrospinal fluid. 1st edition. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone; 1987.

²⁾

Fishman AR. Cerebrospinal fluid in disease of the nervous system. Philadelphia: W B Saunders Co; 1991.

³⁾

Irani DN. Cerebrospinal fluid in clinical practice. Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier; 2009.

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