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## Sommario/riassunto

The cardiovascular system is the first functional organ system to develop in the vertebrate embryo. Embryonic growth and differentiation essentially depend on transport of nutrients and waste through the early vasculature, and certain events in morphogenesis are thought to be influenced by the hemodynamic forces of the beating heart. The vasculature not only serves as a 'nutrient and waste pipeline' but is also a major communication system between distant organs and tissues. The vascular endothelial cell mediates vascular growth, permeability, integrity and interactions with blood cells. In mo

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