

Freeze-Fractured Capillaries

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Eye of Science

SEM image of a freeze-fractured sample of tissue containing capillaries, some of which contain red blood cells (erythrocytes). A capillary is the smallest type of blood vessel, often only just large enough for red blood cells to squeeze through. The oxygen transfer occurs in capillaries, where carbon dioxide is also removed and then taken to the lungs for exhalation. In this freeze fraction, the wall of the blood vessel (endothelia) clearly shown, and the core (red) is also visible. Magnification: 3,000× (at 15 x 12cm image size)

