

Suspension two-layered blood flow through a bell shaped stenosis in arteries

Amit Medhavi*

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kamla Nehru Institute of Technology, Sultanpur, India

Abstract. The present study concerns with the effects of the hematocrit and the peripheral layer on blood flow characteristics due to the presence of a bell shaped stenosis in arteries. To account for the hematocrit and the peripheral layer, the flowing blood has been represented by a two-layered macroscopic two-phase (i.e., a suspension of red cells in plasma) model. The expressions for the flow characteristics, namely, the velocity profiles, the flow rate, the impedance, the wall shear stress in the stenotic region and the shear stress at the stenosis throat have been derived. The quantitative effects of the hematocrit and the peripheral layer on these flow characteristics have been displayed graphically and discussed briefly.

Keywords: Hematocrit, impedance, shear stress, throat, erythrocytes, suspension

1. Introduction

The frequently occurring cardiovascular disease, stenosis or arteriosclerosis means narrowing of any body passage, tube or orifice, is known to be responsible for many of the serious consequences (cerebral strokes, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cardiac arrests). Although, the etiology of the initiation of disease is not well understood, however, it is believed that the disease occurs due to the deposits of the cholesterol, fatty substances, cellular waste products, calcium and fibrin in the inner lining of an artery. It is also well established that once the constriction has developed, it brings about the significant changes in the flow field, particularly, the pressure distribution, the wall shear stress and the impedance (flow resistance). With the knowledge that the cardiovascular disease, stenosis is closely associated with the flow conditions and other hemodynamic factors, a large number of researchers including Young [41, 48], Young and Tsai [39], Caro et al. [7], Shukla et al. [29], Ahmed and Giddens [1],

Sarkar and Jayaraman [28], Pralhad and Schultz [27], Jung et al. [11], Liu et al. [13], Srivastava and Raastogi [33, 34], Misra and Shit [21], Ponalagusamy [26], Layek et al. [12], Joshi et al. [10], Mekheimer and El-Kot [18], Tzirtzilakis [38], Mandal and coworkers [14, 15], Politis et al. [23, 24], Singh et al. [30], Biswas and Chakraborty [4, 5], Medhavi [17], Mishra and Siddiqui [20], Nadeem et al. [22], Mekheimer et al. [19], Ponalagusamy and Selvi [25], Bandyopadhyay and Layek [2, 3], Srivastava et al. [36] and many others have addressed the stenotic development problems under various flow situations since the first investigation of Mann et al. [16].

Being a suspension of corpuscles, at low shear rates blood in general behaves like a non-Newtonian fluid in small diameter tubes. The experimental observations of Cokelet [8] and theoretical investigation of Haynes [9] indicate that blood can no longer be treated as a single-phase homogeneous viscous fluid while flowing through narrow arteries (of diameter $\leq 1000 \mu\text{m}$). Skalak [31] concluded that an accurate description of the blood in small vessels requires the consideration of erythrocytes as discrete particles. In addition, Bugliarello and Sevilla [6], Cokelet [8] and Thurston [37] have shown experimentally that for

*Corresponding author: Amit Medhavi, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kamla Nehru Institute of Technology, Sultanpur-228118, India. E-mail: amitmedhavi@yahoo.co.in.

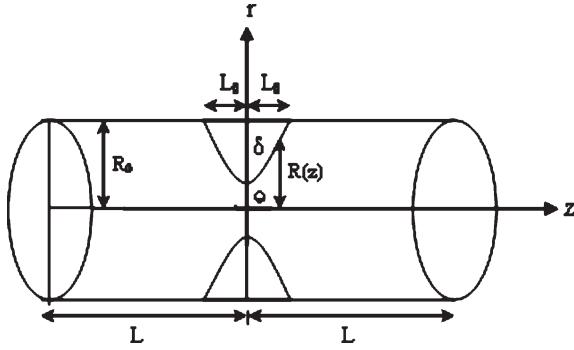


Fig. 1. The geometry of an arterial bell shaped stenosis.

blood flowing through small vessels, there is a cell-free plasma (Newtonian viscous fluid) layer and a core region of suspension of all the erythrocytes. Haynes [9] presented a two-fluid model for blood, consisting of a core region of suspension of all the erythrocytes as a homogeneous Newtonian viscous fluid and a cell-free plasma layer as a Newtonian fluid of constant viscosity (equal to the viscosity of water) and concluded that the significance of the peripheral layer increases with decreasing blood vessel diameter. A brief discussion and survey on suspension modeling of blood flow has been presented in Srivastava [32].

It is also known from the published literature that stenoses may develop in series (multiple stenoses), may be of irregular shapes, overlapping, bell shaped, composite in nature, axially symmetric or non-symmetric, etc. The majority of the studies conducted have used axially symmetric and non-symmetric stenoses. The present work is devoted to discuss the flow through a bell shaped stenosis assuming that the flowing blood is represented by a two-layered suspension model [32]. The theoretical model used to conduct the study enables one to observe simultaneous effects of the hematocrit and the peripheral layer on flow characteristics of blood due to the presence of a bell shaped stenosis in arteries. The artery length is considered large enough as compared to its radius so that the entrance, end and special wall effects can be neglected.

2. Formulation of the problem

Consider the axisymmetric flow of blood in an artery of circular cross-section of radius R with an axisymmetric bell shaped stenosis. Assuming that the

flowing blood is represented by a two-layered suspension model consisting of a central layer of suspension of all the erythrocytes (i.e., a suspension of red cells in plasma) of radius R_1 and a peripheral layer of plasma (a Newtonian viscous fluid) of thickness $(R - R_1)$. The stenosis geometry [21] and the shape of the central layer, assumed to be manifested in the arterial segment, are respectively described in Figs. 1 and 2, as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(R(z), R_1(z))}{R_0} \\ &= 1 - \frac{(\delta, \delta_1)}{R_0} \exp\left(\frac{-m^2 \varepsilon^2 z^2}{R_0^2}\right), \quad -L_0 \leq z \leq L_0, \\ &= (1, \alpha), \quad \text{otherwise,} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where R_0 is the radius of the arterial segment in the non-stenotic region, $R(z)$ is the radius of the stenosed portion located at the axial distance z from the left end of the segment, δ is the depth of stenosis at the throat and m is a parametric constant, ε is the relative length of the constriction defined as the ratio of the radius to the half length of the stenosis, i.e., $\varepsilon = R_0/L_0$.

The equations describing a two-layered suspension blood flow [32] in the case of a mild stenosis ($\delta/R_0 < 1$), are given as

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - C) \frac{dp}{dz} &= (1 - C) \frac{\mu_s(C)}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) u_f \\ &+ CS(u_p - u_f), \quad 0 \leq r \leq R_1, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$C \frac{dp}{dz} = CS(u_f - u_p), \quad 0 \leq r \leq R_1, \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{dp}{dz} = \frac{\mu_0}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) u_0, \quad R_1 \leq r \leq R, \quad (4)$$

where r is the radial coordinate measured normal to the artery axis and p denotes the pressure, (u_f, u_p) are the axial velocity of (fluid, particle) phases in the core region ($0 \leq r \leq R_1$), (μ_0, u_0) are (viscosity, axial velocity) of fluid (plasma) in the peripheral region ($R_1 \leq r \leq R$), $\mu_s(C) \cong \mu_s$ is the suspension viscosity (apparent or effective viscosity) in the core region, C denotes the constant [35] volume fraction density of the particles (called hematocrit), S is the drag coefficient of interaction exerted by one phase on the other, and the subscripts f and p denote the quantities associated with the plasma (fluid) and erythrocyte (particle) phases, respectively. The limitations and the usefulness

of the present theoretical model are discussed briefly in Srivastava [32]. The expression for the viscosity of suspension, μ_s and the drag coefficient of interaction, S for the present study are selected [35] as

$$\mu_s \cong \mu_s(C) = \frac{\mu_0}{1 - qC},$$

$$q = 0.07 \exp \left[2.49C + \left(\frac{1107}{T} \right) \exp(-1.69C) \right], \quad (5)$$

$$S = 4.5(\mu_0/a_0^2) \frac{4 + 3[8C - 3C^2]^{1/2} + 3C}{(2 - 3C)^2}, \quad (6)$$

where T is measured in absolute scale of the temperature (K), μ_0 is the constant plasma viscosity and a_0 is the radius of an erythrocyte.

The boundary conditions are the standard no slip conditions of velocities and the shear stresses at the tube wall and the interface, and are stated as

$$u_0 = 0 \quad \text{at } r = R, \quad (7)$$

$$u_0 = u_f \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_p = \tau_f \quad \text{at } r = R_1, \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_f}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial u_p}{\partial r} = 0 \quad \text{at } r = 0, \quad (9)$$

where $\tau_p = \mu_0 \partial u_0 / \partial r$ and $\tau_f = (1 - C)\mu_s \partial u_f / \partial r$ are the shear stresses of the peripheral and central layers, respectively.

3. Analysis

The expressions for velocities, u_0 , u_f and u_p obtained as the solutions of Equations (2)–(4), subject to the boundary conditions (7)–(9), are given as

$$u_0 = -\frac{R_0^2}{4\mu_0} \frac{dp}{dz} \left\{ (R/R_0)^2 - (r/R_0)^2 \right\}, \quad R_1 \leq r \leq R, \quad (10)$$

$$u_f = -\frac{R_0^2}{4(1-C)\mu_0} \frac{dp}{dz} \left[\mu \left\{ (R_1/R_0)^2 - (r/R_0)^2 \right\} + (1-C) \left\{ (R/R_0)^2 - (r/R_0)^2 \right\} \right], \quad 0 \leq r \leq R_1, \quad (11)$$

$$u_p = -\frac{R_0^2}{4(1-C)\mu_0} \frac{dp}{dz} \left\{ \mu \left[(R_1/R_0)^2 - (r/R_0)^2 \right] + (1-C) \left[(R/R_0)^2 - (r/R_0)^2 \right] + \frac{4(1-C)\mu_0}{SR_0^2} \right\}, \quad 0 \leq r \leq R_1, \quad (12)$$

where $\mu = \mu_0 / \mu_s$.

The flow flux, Q is now calculated as

$$Q = 2\pi \left\{ \int_{R_1}^R ru_0 dr + \int_0^{R_1} r \left[(1-C)u_f + Cu_p \right] dr \right\} = -\frac{\pi R_0^4}{8(1-C)\mu_0} \frac{dp}{dz} \left\{ (1-C) \left[(R/R_0)^4 - (R_1/R_0)^4 \right] + \mu (R_1/R_0)^4 + \beta (R_1/R_0)^2 \right\}, \quad (13)$$

with $\beta = 8C(1-C)\mu_0/SR_0^2$, a non-dimensional suspension parameter.

Using the fact that the total flux is equal to the sum of the fluxes across the two regions (peripheral and core), one determines the relations [32]: $R_1 = \alpha R$ and $\delta_1 = \alpha \delta$. In view of these relations, the pressure drop, Δp ($= p$ at $z = -L$, $-p$ at $z = L$) across the stenosis between the sections $z = -L$ and $z = L$, using the expression for $(-dp/dz)$ obtained from Equation (13), is derived as

$$\Delta p = \int_{-L}^L \left(-\frac{dp}{dz} \right) dz = \frac{8(1-C)\mu_0 Q}{\pi R_0^4} \psi, \quad (14)$$

$$\text{where} \quad \psi = \int_{-L}^{-L_0} [\phi(z)]_{R/R_0=1} dz + \int_{-L_0}^{L_0} \phi(z) dz + \int_{L_0}^L [\phi(z)]_{R/R_0=1} dz,$$

$$\phi(z) = \frac{1}{\eta (R/R_0)^4 + \beta \alpha^2 (R/R_0)^2},$$

$$\eta = (1-C)(1-\alpha^4) + \mu \alpha^4.$$

The first and third integrals in the expression for ψ obtained above are straight forward whereas the evaluation of the second integral in closed form is a

formidable task and thus will be evaluated numerically. Using now the definitions from Srivastava and Rastogi [34], the expression for the impedance (flow resistance), λ the wall shear stress, τ_w and the shear stress at the stenosis throat, τ_s are obtained in their non-dimensional form as

$$\lambda = (1 - C) \left\{ \frac{1 - L_0/L}{\eta + \beta\alpha^2} + \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L_0}^{L_0} \frac{dz}{\eta (R/R_0)^4 + \beta\alpha^2(R/R_0)^2} \right\}, \quad (15)$$

$$\tau_w = \frac{(1 - C)}{\eta (R/R_0)^3 + \beta\alpha^2(R/R_0)}, \quad (16)$$

$$\tau_s = \frac{(1 - C)}{\eta (1 - \delta/R_0)^3 + \beta\alpha^2(1 - \delta/R_0)}, \quad (17)$$

where

$$\lambda = \bar{\lambda} / \lambda_0, (\tau_w, \tau_s) = (\bar{\tau}_w, \bar{\tau}_s) / \tau_0,$$

$$\bar{\lambda} = \Delta p / Q, \bar{\tau}_w = (-R/2) dp/dz,$$

$$\bar{\tau}_s = [- (R/2)(dp/dz)]_{R/R_0=(1-\delta/R_0)},$$

$$\lambda_0 = 16\mu_0 L / \pi R_0^4, \tau_0 = 4\mu_0 Q / \pi R_0^3,$$

λ_0 and τ_0 are the impedance and shear stress in a normal (no stenosis) artery for a Newtonian fluid (i.e., $C = 0$), and $(\bar{\lambda}, \bar{\tau}_w, \bar{\tau}_s)$ are (impedance, wall shear stress, shear stress at the stenosis throat) in their dimensional form.

When the core mixture behaves like a Newtonian fluid of constant viscosity, μ_1 (different from μ_0), the results obtained above reduce to the case of a two-fluid model of Newtonian fluid as

$$\lambda_t = \gamma \left\{ 1 - L_0/L + (1/L) \int_{-L_0}^{L_0} \frac{dz}{(R/R_0)^4} \right\}, \quad (18)$$

$$\tau_{wt} = \frac{\gamma}{(R/R_0)^3}, \quad (19)$$

$$\tau_{st} = \frac{\gamma}{(1 - \delta/R_0)^3}, \quad (20)$$

with $\gamma = 1/[1 - (1 - \mu')\alpha^4]$, $\mu' = \mu_0 / \mu_1$. The second subscript t denotes the quantities associated with the two-fluid model of Newtonian fluids.

In the absence of the peripheral layer (i.e., $\alpha = 1$), the expressions for the flow characteristics obtained in Equations (15)–(18), derive the corresponding results for the case of a single-layered macroscopic two-phase blood flow as

$$\lambda_m = (1 - C) \left\{ \frac{1 - L_0/L}{\mu + \beta} + \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L_0}^{L_0} \frac{dz}{\mu (R/R_0)^4 + \beta (R/R_0)^2} \right\}, \quad (21)$$

$$\tau_{wm} = \frac{(1 - C)}{\mu} (R/R_0)^3 + \beta (R/R_0), \quad (22)$$

$$\tau_{sm} = \frac{(1 - C)}{\mu (1 - \delta/R_0)^3 + \beta (1 - \delta/R_0)}, \quad (23)$$

The second subscript m stands for the quantities associated with the flow of a single-layered macroscopic two-phase blood flow. Further, it is interesting to note that in the absence of the particle phase in the core region, the two-phase fluid in the core region reduces to the same fluid as in the peripheral region and consequently the role of the interface automatically disappears and one obtains the expressions for the blood flow characteristics for a single-layered Newtonian fluid as

$$\lambda_N = 1 - L_0/L + \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L_0}^{L_0} \frac{dz}{(R/R_0)^4}, \quad (24)$$

$$\tau_{wN} = \frac{1}{(R/R_0)^3}, \quad (25)$$

$$\tau_{sN} = \frac{1}{(1 - \delta/R_0)^3}, \quad (26)$$

where the second subscript N stands for single-layered Newtonian fluid.

4. Numerical results and discussion

In order to discuss the results of the study quantitatively, computer codes are developed to evaluate analytical results obtained in Equations (2.19)–(2.21) at the temperature of 37°C in an artery of radius 0.01 cm for various parameter values [34, 35, 40]

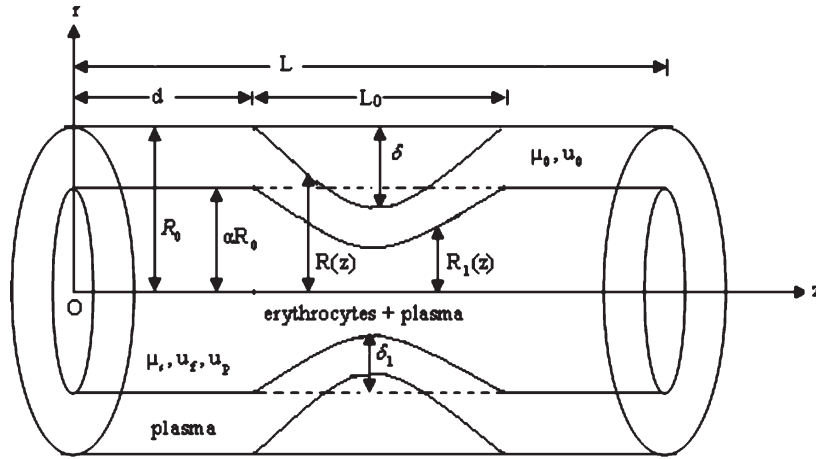
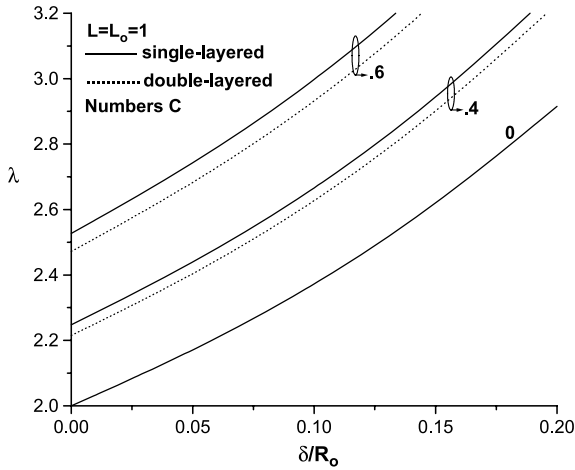
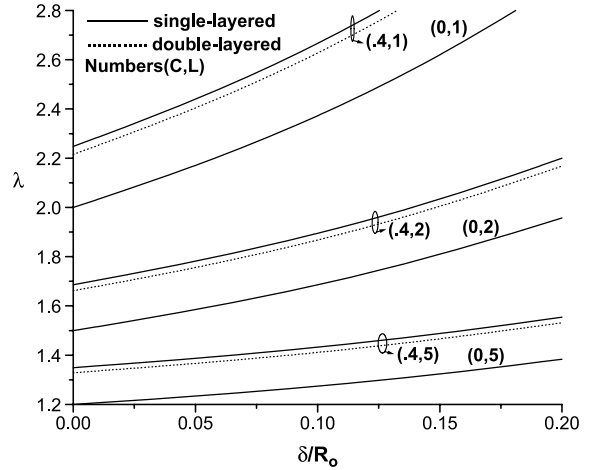


Fig. 2. The shape of the central layer.

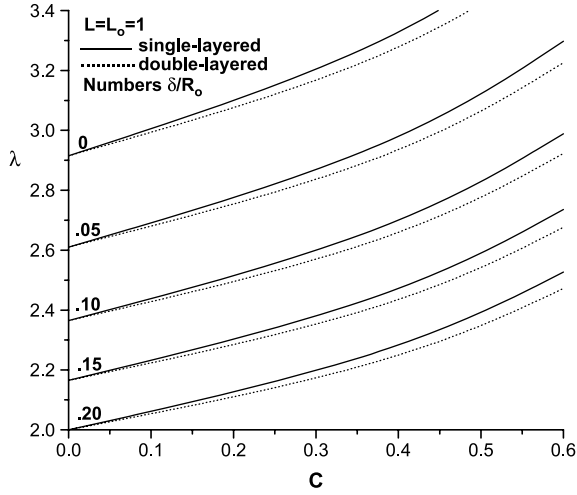
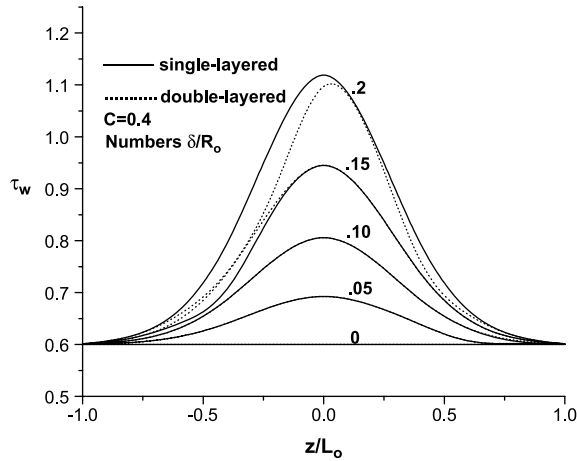
Fig. 3. λ vs δ/R_0 for different, C .Fig. 4. λ vs δ/R_0 for different C and L .

selected as: $L_0(\text{cm})=1$; $L(\text{cm})=1, 2, 5$; $C=0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6$; $\delta/R_0=0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, 0.20$. Some of the critical results obtained are displayed graphically in Figs. 3–8. In view of the fact that the peripheral layer thickness strongly depends on the core suspension viscosity (i.e., on erythrocyte concentration; [6, 32]), we choose $2a_0$ (diameter of a red cell) $= 8 \mu\text{m}$, the peripheral layer thickness, $\varepsilon (\mu\text{m}) \cong \varepsilon(C) = 6.18, 4.67, 3.60, 3.12, 2.58, 2.18$ corresponding to the hematocrit, $C=0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6$, respectively [9]. The value of the parameter, α is then calculated from the relation: $\alpha = 1 - \varepsilon/R_0$.

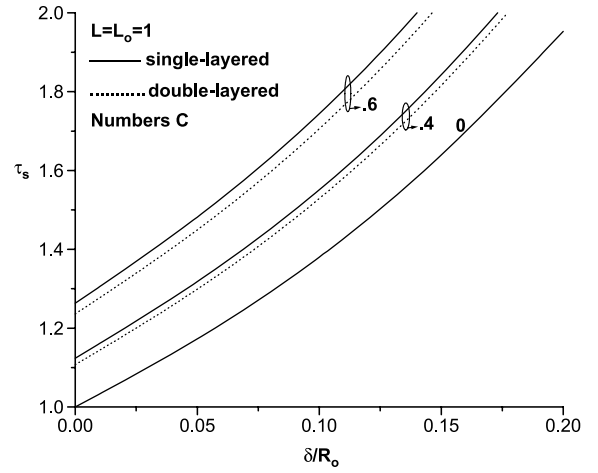
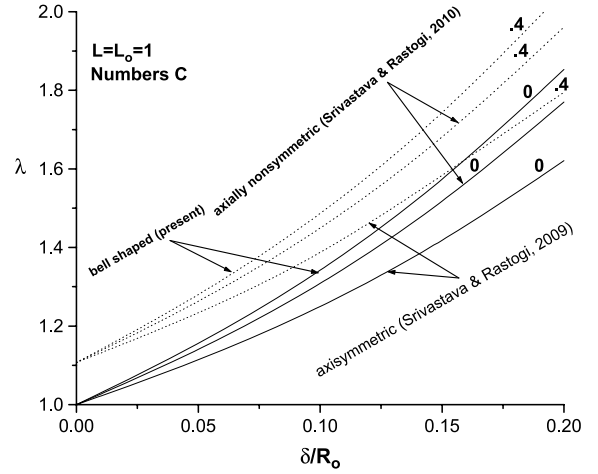
The resistance to flow, λ increases with the hematocrit, C as well as with the stenosis height, δ/R_0 (Fig. 3). The impedance, λ decreases with the

increasing length of the tube which in terms implies that the impedance, λ increases with the stenosis length, $2L_0$ (Fig. 4). The blood flow characteristic, λ increases steeply with the hematocrit, C for any given set of other parameters (Fig. 5). The flow characteristic, λ assumes lower magnitude in two-layered analysis than its corresponding value in single-layered model (Figs. 2–5).

At any axial distance the wall shear stress in the stenotic region, τ_w increases with the hematocrit, C and stenosis height, δ/R_0 (Fig. 6). The blood flow characteristic, increases rapidly in the up stream of the stenosis throat and attains its peak magnitude at the throat located at $z/L_0 = 0$, it then decreases rapidly in the down stream of the throat and attains its approached value (i.e., at $z/L_0 = -1$) at the end point of the

Fig. 5. λ vs C for different δ/R_0 .Fig. 6. τ_w vs z/L_0 in stenotic region for different δ/R_0 .

constriction profile located at $z/L_0 = 1$ (Fig. 6). It is to note here that for small stenosis height, $\delta/R_0 \leq 0.1$, 19% stenosis by area reduction), the magnitude of the shear stress, τ_w in two-fluid analysis follow closely the magnitude of the shear stress, τ_w in one-fluid analysis but considerable difference between the two is clearly observed increasing stenosis size. In addition, one notices that the peak point of the shear stress in two-layered analysis occurs slightly right to the peak point of the shear stress in one-layered analysis. The shear stress at the stenosis in throat, τ_s also increases with the hematocrit, C and the stenosis height, δ/R_0 (Fig. 7). An inspection of Figs. 2–4, 6 and 7 reveals

Fig. 7. τ_s vs δ/R_0 for different C .Fig. 8. λ vs δ/R_0 for different stenosis geometry.

that the shear stress at the stenosis throat, τ_s possesses the characteristics similar to that of the flow resistance, λ with respect to any parameter.

To emphasize further on the significance of the present work, a comparison of the results (impedance) obtained in the case of the present bell shaped stenosis with those obtained in an axisymmetric stenosis [34] and axially non-symmetric stenosis [33] has been presented in Fig. 8 for the same values of the various parameters. For any stenosis height, δ/R_0 the flow resistance, λ assumes considerably higher magnitude in the present bell shaped stenosis as compared to other geometries (symmetric or non-symmetric).

The condition that $\delta/R_0 \ll 1$ limits the usefulness of the present study to very early stages of the vessel constriction, which allows the use of fully developed flow equations and closed form solutions; the use of parameter δ/R_0 is restricted to the value up to 0.15 (i.e., 28% stenosis by area reduction) as beyond this value a separation in the flow may occur [40].

5. Conclusions

To observe the effects of hematocrit on blood flow characteristics due to the presence of a mild stenosis, a macroscopic two-phase model of blood has been used to discuss the flow through a bell shaped stenosis. The blood flow characteristics (the flow resistance, the wall shear stress in the stenotic region and the shear stress at the stenosis throat) increase with the hematocrit as well as with the stenosis size (length and height). The shear stress at the stenosis throat possesses the characteristics similar to that of the impedance with respect to any parameter. The two-phase fluid (particle-fluid suspension) seems to be more sensitive to the stenosis than a single-phase fluid. The flow characteristics assume considerably higher magnitude in the present bell shaped stenosis than its corresponding valve in axisymmetric and non-symmetric stenoses. The flow characteristics assume lower magnitude in two-fluid analysis than its corresponding magnitude in one-fluid study which concludes that the peripheral layer helps in functioning of diseased arteries.

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